

Evaluation of Marxism

Asst. Prof. Dr. Rungson Singhalert

Historic movement is not only a fight for a certain group of ethic, but it also includes struggle for political ideologies, and the results could be a great victory and a severe failure. Marxism is a great example of the matter as Russian leaders such as Lenin, Stalin, and Khrushchev used it in their regimes. All of the mentioned ruled the region with ambitions meaning to establish themselves as supreme leaders of the state; however, their power could be restored at last.

Introduction

The reviewed print (Chayanut, 1973) complied Marxism in 1973. The book reflected perspectives of Karl Marx (1818-1883) that influenced Soviet Union before being transformed to Russia in present. Three influent leaders – Lenin, Stalin, and Khrushchev, revolutionists, and struggles in power were presented in the print. The book was presented in 5 chapters including 1) Marxism, 2) Leninism: An Absolutism Ideology, 4) Marxism or Leninism, 4) Stalinism: An Unfinished Revelation, 5) Khrushchev: Development or degradation. The 5 chapters could be concluded below.

Marxism is an ideology that is developed to be a political belief that affects people at the global level. The establisher was Karl Marx, a philosopher from Jena. Marx published various types of prints including philosophy, economy, politic, and society. Especially in a co-work with Friedrich Engels – Capital, Engels complied the second and third editions of the book. Therefore, it should be more correct if we mention Marxism as a co-ideology of Marx and Engels. However, this also leads to controversy in the ideology interpretation.

Dialectic is a social critique that Marx proposed to society, economy, and politic. The idea was influenced by Engels as it employed the Theory of the Union of Opposites as a tool leading to the ultimate truth. Where there is a thesis, there

are antithesis and conformance. However, synthesis could be the preferable outcome. On the other hand, there was more liberalism in Marx's theory. To indicate, Marx noticed changes in social, economic, and political systems especially conflicts with feudalism (Capitalists). He could not accept the oppressing system and published the book entitled "The German Ideology" in order to give an explanation of hidden agendas in human history. It pointed out differences between human and animals that human could be manufacturers, producers of means of subsistence, and settlers of division of labors. There are four main components in capitalism economy including lands (material), labors, capital, and entrepreneurs. Marx excluded labors from the components claiming that it was the origin of value and an important factor in manufacture. Sur plus was generated by the system for the capitalists.

In such a circumstance, labors, payments, price, and profits are controlled by the capitalists. The profits from the economic system are barely resourced to labors. Moreover, groups of capitalists always snatch for the resources in manufacturing. The groups with more capital could absolutely control the system. Marx considered the circumstance as labor oppression, and for Marx, there must be a revolution of the labor class to reach the goal according to principles of socialism communism eventually.

Leninism: An Absolutism Ideology – A chapter about profile of Vladimir Lenin starting from pre authority era. Apart from political life, Lenin was accepted to be a decent philosopher in his era. He applied Marxism in governance of socialism Russia in transformative era of industrial revolution. There were differences between the Leninism and Marxism. In Marxism, farmers are not regarded to be as much important as labors. However, Leninism praised farmers to be at the same role as labors. There was also a clear role of farmers in the revolution.

Marxism or Leninism- A chapter related to revolutionists in Lenin era. The names of Trotsky, Bernstein, and Luxemburg were mentioned. Each revolutionist presented political ideas that both opposed and agreed with Marx.

Stalinism: An Unfinished Revelation – A chapter about authoritarian leaders Joseph Stalin leading the Union between 1920-1953. Ioseb Dzhughashvili was born in Georgia – a part of Russian Empire. Entering Soviet politic as member of Communist Party of the Soviet Union, he changed his last name to “Stalin” which means steel in Russian. Struggling in power from Leon Trotsky, Stalin reached the top of Soviet politic after the death of Lenin. Stalin used Commun system in governance prohibiting people to own their property. The people itself also belonged to Commun. Stalin led Soviet Union to WWII and gain victory in the war. He played a great part in develop the union to be one of the most powerful nations in the globe. His Stalinist theory was also influenced by Marxism.

Khrushchev: Development or degradation—a chapter about Nikita Khrushchev a remarkable leader of Soviet Union. Nikita Khrushchev was born in a poor laborious family. His noticeable political role was the First Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union from 1953 to 1964. Khrushchev sought power using his position until become the leader of the state in 1956. His era was the combination of Marxist Leninism and Stalinism which was appropriate to Russian society at the time. The idea also led to ideological conflict in Marxism interpretation.

It could be concluded that the author illustrated influences of Marxism on Soviet Russian politics. Even though it was adapted to apply in the county from time to time, it could not be denied that Marxism became a remarkable point in Russian history. The ideology also spread to the other parts of the world. The existence of Communist Party of Thailand was a good example of socialism political movement.

References

Chayanut, N. (1973). **Evolution of Marxism in Commoner University Book.**
Bangkok: Thailand.