

The Three Historical Turns of the Communist Party of China Is the Concentrated Reflection of the Live Soul of Mao Zedong Thought

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Abstract

The 90 years course of the Communist Party of China (CPC) has experienced historical setbacks for three times. In those key historical times, the August 7th Conference, Zun Yi Conference and the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee of the CPC were held, saving the endangered CPC, which is the concentrated reflection of the live soul of Mao Zedong Thought, seeking truth from facts, the mass line, acting independently and keeping the initiative. Thus, the CPC can draw lessons from it and apply the live soul of Mao Zedong Thought in the new historical time.

Key Words: the Communist Party of China (CPC); leadership of the Party; seeking truth from facts, the mass line, independence

The CPC has developed over 90 years with 3.7 million grassroots party cells and nearly 80 million party members. She has been the ruling party for over 60 years. The CPC is not the idol of the history or the natural leader or the ruling party. She doesn't have such glory at the very beginning, but finally achieve success and victory through several tests and even failure. As the general secretary Xi Jinping said, "Everything goes forward but the past cannot be forgotten. No matter how far you go, how glorious future you would have, you still can't forget the past. " During the 90 years course of trials and hardship, it has experienced three historical setbacks. At those crisis time, it carries on three historical turns, thus it found the new way out for the development of CPC.

1. The three historical turns of the CPC

1.1 The first historical turn: from the failure of the Great Revolution in China to the rise of Land Revolution War

In the middle of 1920s, during the National Revolution, under the cooperation of the CPC and Kuomintang (KMT), Chiang Kai-shek has launched a series of activities of anti-Communist and split Party to get the power of Party, government and army, for instance, the Zhongshan-Warship Event, the Quarrel Over Capital's Relocation and the Case of Arranging Party Affairs. Immediately after that, Chiang Kai-shek launched April 12th counter-revolution coup and Wang Jingwei launched July 15th coup. They officially broke with the CPC, then slaughtered and combed out the revolutionaries and Communist, and its ruthlessness get one's hackles up. For instance, the founder of our Party Li Dazhao was strangled by the enemy and Cai Hesen's hands and legs were nailed on wall by the enemy and his body were cut piece by piece. At that time, the Communist and the revolutionaries of ideals and integrity were nearly wiped out by the KMT and reactionary feudal warlords. According to statistics, the population of the CPC members were suddenly dropped from 60 thousand to 10 thousand. As a newly-established Party, the leaders had no experience, once errors were made, the revolution would fall in impasse and the revolutionary of ideals and integrity would be killed. In front of the severe historical test, they were not frightened, conquered or exterminated, but crawled up from the ground, wiped the blood on body, buried companies' body and joined in the war again. This time, the CPC members can do nothing but arm and resist. Thus, at the point of the life or death, the Mao Zedong CPC members convened the famous August 7th Conference, completely cleared Chen Duxiu's Rightist-inclined Errors, emphasized the combination of armed struggle and Land Revolution and proposed "The most important task of the CPC is to have a systematic plan to prepare the general uprising of the peasants in the vast areas."^{[2][P225]} In the speech of the conference, Mao Zedong proposed a scientific thesis that the CPC from now on "should pay close attention to the military, and notice regime is achieved by the barrel of a gun."^{[3][P47]} Thus they established the general policy to start Land revolution nationally and armed to struggle with the reactionary clique. The August 7th Conference of the CPC pointed a way forward for the CPC who was lax in organization and confused in thought and inspired them to have the courage to fight. The conference gave a great contribution to save the Party and revolution. From now on, the revolution of China initiated the historical turn from the failure of the National Revolution to the rise of Land Revolution War.

1.2 The second historical turn: from the failure of the Central Red Army against the Fifth Encirclement and Suppression War to the rise of the War of Resistance

Because of the failure of the Great Revolution and the enemy's cruel slaughter of the revolutionaries of ideals and integrity, the ungovernable impatience was grown among the Communist. Among the leading group, there were people who sought instant success and quick profits but only few of them introspected and understood China's actual conditions. Thus, there were continuously Leftist-inclined Errors inside the Party. Especially the prevalent third Wang Ming Left dogmatism in 1934, which made the revolution of China fall into impasse again. It was mainly embodied in the failure of the Red Army against the Fifth Encirclement and Suppression War, the sharp cutoff of the force of the Red Army and the loss of the bases of the Chinese

revolution that built in a hard way. According to the “resolutions on the history of the Party since the founding of the People’s Republic of China (PRC)”, the national bases had been lost 90% of it, and the work of the White areas got nearly damaged. The Red Army’s population dropped from 300 thousand to 30 thousand, and the CPC members’ population dropped from 300 thousand to 40 thousand.^{[4][P180]} If the error can’t be corrected, the revolution of China would be ruined. In order to save the Party and the Red Army, Mao Zedong as representative of CPC again made great efforts to summon the famous Zunyi Conference at Zunyi, Guizhou, which solved the problem of military affairs and organization and ended the wrong leading of the third Leftist-inclined Errors in Party Central Committee (PCC). It also established the leading position of Mao Zedong in PCC and formed the first leading group of the CPC. The "resolution on several historical issues" mentioned the Zunyi Conference which focused its efforts to correct the errors in the military and organization. The conference started with the new leadership of the Central Committee headed by Comrade Mao Zedong. This is the most historical change inside the Party in China.”^{[5][P22]} It is thus clear that the Zunyi Meeting is the vital turning point of the Party and the obvious symbol that the CPC reached mature. Before this, all of the errors that made by our Party were solved by the people sent from Communist International (CI). However, the Zunyi Conference solved the problem independently by the Chinese Communists. Thus the Zunyi Conference was referred as the second historical turn. After the Zunyi Conference, under the leading of the PCC presented by Mao Zedong, the Chinese revolution turned the corner. The Long March of the Red Army changed from its passive position to active position and got great victory. Then it analyzed correctly the situation of revolution from fighting against Jiang to forcing Jiang to fight finally associating Jiang to fight, then realized the second cooperation with the KMT. It established Chinese united front against Japanese aggression with the Kuo Min Dang (KMT) and all revolutionary class and progressive political parties. The War of Resistance is catching on like fire throughout the country. After 8 years’ hard struggle, the great victory of China's first anti-imperialist aggression of the national liberation war was made.

1.3 The third historical turn: from the severe setback of the "Cultural Revolution" to the rise of the new situation of the Reform and Opening-up

The “Cultural Revolution” caused by the Leftist-inclined Errors during 20 years’ construction of socialism was one of the big setbacks after the CPC’s founding of our country, it also was the third setback of the development of the Party. From 1949 to 2015, the CPC has been ruling for 66 years. There were 20 years’ Left Error, 10 years’ internal disorder of the “Cultural Revolution”, which caused huge loss for the Party country and people. Politically, the power of the Party and country had been weakened and the democratic legality had been wantonly trampled. The country and nation was in random. The unjust, false, and erroneous cases were piled up like a mountain. Economically, the national income got lost a lot and the national economy was on the verge of falling apart. The living condition of people dropped suddenly. For instance, on December 20th, 1917, on the National Planning Conference, Li Xiannian said, The 10 years’ turmoil of the Cultural Revolution, Lin Biao and Gang of Four made more severe damages. Besides the disasters caused to the nation and people politically, according to some comrades, economically the national income had lost 5 hundred billion.^{[6][P313-314]} Culturally, a lot of intellectuals were persecuted, the scientific,

educational and cultural undertakings were damaged more severely. Innumerable Chinese nation's fantastic cultural heritage were experienced great calamity. Thus, Deng Xiaoping had evaluated Cultural Revolution objectively and fairly in different situations and occasions. In 1980, he met with Yoshikatsu Takeiri, the chairman of the committee of New Komeito Party and said "now on the whole Cultural Revolution is definitely an error, for Cultural Revolution didn't bring us anything good." [7][P6] In the second year, he met with Jin Richeng, the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Korean Workers Party and the state president, and pointed again, from every aspect, "Cultural Revolution" is incorrect. When talking about the severe influence of 'Cultural Revolution', Deng Xiaoping said, "Cultural Revolution held up one generation. Actually, it's no more than one generation, anarchism and out-and-out egoist overflowed at that time and ruined social morals seriously." [8][P87] But in 1976, after the smash of "Gang of Four" and "the standard of truth big discussions", our country didn't set out a new journey, but experienced 2 years' wander. It was mainly influenced seriously by 20 years' Leftist-inclined Errors. All aspects shall be restored to order or there is no way to set out a new journey. Thus, PPC leaders represented by Deng Xiaoping were facing the obstacle of stereotyped thinking, finally they broke through obstructions, made vigorous efforts to turn the tide and led people to discuss the standard of truth. They started with deliberation and held the right thought high. They started with politic, restored things to order, took measures for reforms and figured out the relationship between Mao Zedong Thought and the errors of Mao Zedong in his late years. On this basis, the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee of the CPC was convened which restored again the course of our country's development. It also summoned thoroughly the experience and lessons of socialism construction which restored things to order from the perspective of guiding ideology. The Third Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee of the CPC become the turning point of our country's history. From then on, our country entered the new spring of reform and opening up.

2. The Three Historical Turns of the Communist Party of China is the Concentrated Reflection of the Live Soul of Mao Zedong Thought

During the 95 years' development of the CPC, it went through many setbacks and tribulations. The three largest of them were the failure of the National Revolution before the founding of the country, the failure of the Fifth Encirclement and Suppression War and the setback of Cultural Revolution which was under the background of the founding of the PRC in the Cold War and the appearance of international communist movement revisionist errors. It did not collapse or disappear but grew more stronger mainly due to the fact that the party has always insisted on Mao Zedong Thought as the guiding ideology. These three setbacks and three historical turns were exactly the concentrated reflection of the live soul of Mao Zedong Thought. Seeking truth from facts, the mass line and acting independently and taking initiative are the three parts of Mao Zedong Thought, are the most essential core and vital things of Mao Zedong Thought and also the position, viewpoint and method to solve all kinds of problems in the Chinese revolution and construction.

2.1 The three historical turning points of the Party embodies the ideological line of seeking truth from facts of Mao Zedong Thought.

The ideological line of emancipating mind and seeking truth from facts is to proceed according to reality in everything, integrate theory with practice and adhere to Marxist science practice view. Seeking truth from facts is the fundamental Marxist view, the basis and premise of Mao Zedong Thought and the core of CPC's ideological line and the live soul of Mao Zedong Thought. In 1978, on the Working Conference of the CPC Central Committee, Deng Xiaoping said, "Seeking truth from facts is the basis of the proletarian world outlook and the ideological foundation of Marxism. In the past, all the victory we had in the revolution was based on seeking truth from facts; now we are to achieve the four modernization which also in great need."^{[9][P143]} The 90 years' development has witnessed errors and three serious setbacks made by CPC. The fundamental reason is that the guiding ideology of that time got divorced from the reality of China. Eventually the Party relies on its own and the people's power to correct the error and overcome the setbacks on a new starting point, a new journey. The fundamental reason is to restore and insist the ideological line of emancipating mind and seeking truth from facts. This is also the understanding of the results of the rule of the Chinese revolution and construction in line with the realistic thinking of the Party. Thus, the ideological line of seeking truth from facts is the important ideological support for CPC that stood up and started Land Revolution when the Great Revolution failed on the verge of extinction, overcame and corrected Chen Duxiu's Rightist-inclined Errors and made the correct military route, political line and organizational line. It is the Party in line with the ideological line of seeking truth from facts so that Zunyi Conference was held and the wrong tendency of Marxist dogmatism was corrected and the experience of sanctification of the international communist movement saved the Party, the Red Army and revolution in the crisis moment. As Deng Xiaoping said, "The basic point of Mao Zedong Thought is seeking truth from facts and the concrete practice of the universal principles of Marxism-Leninism with the combination of Chinese revolution."^{[9][P126]} Thus, after the "Cultural Revolution", when summarizing the former 30 years' error, Deng Xiaoping made no efforts to hide his errors, which reflects that party leaders have nothing to hide and the concrete embodiment of the Party's ideological line of seeking truth from facts and the style of criticism and self-criticism. Therefore, the ideological line of emancipating mind and seeking truth from facts is the fundamental reason that the Party and its revolution and construction business step forward and always maintain its vigor and vitality.

2.2 The three historical turning points of the Party reflects the mass line of Mao Zedong Thought.

The mass line is the ideological line, political line and organizational line of the CPC and the fundamental method of working and overall leadership is determined by the fundamental purpose of serving the people wholeheartedly. According to historical materialism, all the material wealth and spiritual wealth of human society after all is created by the masses. Historical activity is the cause of the masses and the masses are the masters of history.^{[10][P35]} Since the founding of the CPC, it always represents the fundamental interests of the most Chinese people, always adheres to the mass line of "all for the masses; all rely on the masses; from the masses to the masses.", which also is the important magic weapon of the Party to defeat the three major setbacks and keep winning. The history of the 90 years Party has made a full explanation: if the masses and people are contacted and served well, the Party would develop and advance victoriously; if

divorcing from the masses and people, the Party would suffer setbacks and even failure. As Comrade Jiang Zemin stressed the Party's work style: always keeping in close contact with the masses is the fundamental guarantee of our Party to overcome difficulties and risks and make continuous success.^{[11][P643]} In the National Revolution and the Fifth Encirclement and Suppression War, the revolutionary forces were both reduced. But the Party always represents the fundamental interests of the most Chinese people. Therefore, when the time comes, the people will help the Party to save the revolution and make the revolution move towards the beneficial direction. In the start-up period of socialist construction, although our Party made 20 years of Leftist Errors and the gradual destroy of the democratic centralism within the Party, even more serious, finally led to the decade of unprecedented upheaval Cultural Revolution. Then the mass line of our Party's fine traditions had been under unprecedented destruction. However, our Party always serve the people wholeheartedly, boldly correct errors, restore things to order, recover and develop the Party's mass line which were understood and supported by the masses. Deng Xiaoping said, "The masses are the source of our strength, the mass line and mass concept is our family heirloom."^{[9][P368]} The three historical setbacks and turning points demonstrate that the mass line is a great magic weapon for our Party to defeat the enemy, overcome difficulties and win. It is a general and fundamental working route and leadership that we must resolutely implement at all levels of leadership. At the same time, we must be closely linked with the people and draw wisdom and strength from the masses to safeguard our socialist modernization to go on and win.

2.3 The three historical turning points of the Party embodies the independent principle of Mao Zedong Thought.

Independence means that in order to achieve the revolution and socialism construction success every country must start from the reality of the country and combine the concrete practice of the universal principles of Marxism with the country's revolution and construction, embark on a correct path suited to their national conditions based on the basis of self-reliance and rely on the strength of their own people to fight for the victory of revolution and construction.^{[12][P304]} Independence is an important principle of our Party and country building and one of the live soul of Mao Zedong Thought. On this principle, the general secretary Xi Jinping pointed out, "with regard to being independent, we must adhere to principle that China's affairs must be decided and run by the Chinese people themselves."^[1] In the early years, the CPC was established with the help of Lenin and the Communist International (CI) which functioned as a branch of the CI and under the guidance of the CI to carry out revolutionary work. But Chinese Communists represented by Mao Zedong gradually realized the failure of the Great Revolution, the necessity and importance to start from the reality of China and independently explore the road of Chinese revolution. Thereby, on the basis of practice, according to their own experience, they proposed the theory of encircling the cities through rural areas and seizing power by armed people. The two major setbacks that our Party suffered in the revolutionary era, is due to one of the reasons, the CI's improper intervention and Wang Ming Left Dogmatism Error. The convening of the Zunyi Conference is out of touch of the CI. It combines with the reality of our country's revolution which is the first time to adopt the universal principle of Marxism-Leninism to solve the Chinese revolution's line, principles and policies as well as to identify our Party's new starting point for solving major problems independently. In the period of socialism construction, especially after the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee of the CPC, the independent

principle that Mao Zedong has consistently advocated in his lifetime has been firmly adhered to and carried out in all fields. In the complex and volatile international environment, the CPC always adhere to proceeding from actual conditions in China, keep close contact with the masses, adhere to the principle of independence, and follow the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics, at the same time, continuously enhance political concentration and the confidence on road, theory and system.

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