

The Idea of Communication and Its Contemporary Value in the German Ideology

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Abstract: The German Ideology is the first masterpiece of Marx and Engels to systematically explain historical materialism (here in after referred to as the form). In this work, Marx and Engels mentioned “communication” many times and made a profound analysis of “communication”, expounding the significance and role of communication in the development of human society. Today, “the form” still has important practical value. Marx and Engels’ communication ideas have important theoretical value and practical significance for global communication in the 21st century and in the context of the new era to promote the development of China and the progress of human society.

Keywords: The German Ideology; Communication Theory; Community of Human Destiny; Contemporary Values

1. Introduction

Whether it is the change of history or the change of the times, “communication” has always been the basis of historical changes and the progress of the times. In Marxism, “communication” is richly elaborated, and “the form” uses a lot of space to explain the interaction. “Marx and Engels explained the definition and background of communication in “the form”, content, form and results.”^[1] Communication theory almost runs through the full text of the form. With the deepening of globalization, the connection between human society is also getting closer and closer. As Xi Jinping pointed out, “In this world, the degree of interconnection and interdependence among countries has deepened as never before, and human beings are living in the same global village, in the same space and time where history and reality meet, and are increasingly becoming a community of destiny in which there is a part of you, and a part of me, and there is a part of you in me.”^[2] Communication plays an important role in the development of human society. Based on the thought of communication, combined with China’s national conditions and specific reality, the study of communication theory is of great practical significance for promoting the diplomacy of a major socialist country with Chinese characteristics, comprehensively deepening the form and opening up, and promoting the construction of a community with a shared future for mankind.

2. Communication Thoughts in “the form”

2.1 Definition and significance of communication in the form

“The form” has a wide interpretation of communication, which is generally defined as “a certain way of material communication” and “the sum of material communication”. In Marx and Engels’ view, communication is a part of human society, and even the foundation of human society’s development and existence.

2.2 Types and characteristics of communication in the form

Marx and Engels have two expressions of communication in the form, one is “material communication” and the other is “spiritual communication”. Material exchange is the exchange, distribution, consumption, etc of materials in human society. Spiritual communication is as said in the form: “People’s imagination, thinking and spiritual communication are still the direct products of people’s material actions here. The same is true of spiritual production manifested in the politics, law, morality, religion, metaphysics and other languages of a nation.”^[3] Spiritual communication is reflected in the spiritual level of human interaction.

3. The role of communication ideas in the form

Marx and Engels summarized the historical role of communication in the evolution of world history and the development of productive forces in the form, and concluded that universal communication is the basis for the free and all-round development of human beings.

3.1 The communication ideas in “the form” have promoted the development and progress of society

Marx and Engels believe that communication is very close to the development of society, and the the form, degree and content of communication affect the development of society. For example, in primitive society, productivity is relatively low, and the scope of people’s communication is correspondingly limited, so the social structure is relatively simple. With the improvement of social productivity and the progress of science and technology, people’s communication methods are diversified. In addition, social development also has a significant impact on communication, and the degree and structure of social development affect the mode, content and degree of communication.

3.2 The communication ideas in “the form” promote the improvement of social productivity

Communication is the basis for the development of productive forces. Marx believes that “production itself is premised on the interaction between individuals, and this the form of interaction is determined by production.”^[4] The development of productivity needs to be based on communication, and the degree and the form of communication directly affect the level and efficiency of productivity. For example, the improvement of productivity in primitive society was limited by the limitations of communication. In modern society, with the change of communication the forms and the improvement of the level, productivity has been greatly improved. In addition, communication is also counterproductive to the development of productivity. The content of communication can promote the development of the division of labor and thus improve production efficiency.

4. The contemporary value of communication ideas in the form

Because of communication, human society has established various social relations and promoted the evolution and replacement of history. Communication has extraordinary practical value and far-reaching historical significance for human society. The communication ideas in the form provide us with important theoretical guidance.

4.1 Deepen the form and opening up in an all-round way and promote major country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics

First of all, the communication ideas between Marx and Engels emphasize the social and historical nature of human beings. They believe that human society is a continuous development process. Therefore, in the process of the form and opening up, we need to pay attention to exchanges and cooperation between people, strengthen economic and cultural exchanges between countries, and promote the development of globalization and multilateralism. Secondly, the communication ideas of Marx and Engels also emphasized the importance of practice. Communication is a practical activity that is affected by various social and historical conditions. Therefore, in the process of deepening the form and opening up, we need to pay attention to the role of practice, test the truth through practice, and constantly improve the theoretical system. Finally, the interaction between Marx and Engels also emphasized the the formation process of world history. They believe that the the formation of world history is caused by the gradual expansion and deepening of exchanges between ethnic groups. Therefore, in the process of the form and opening up, we need to pay attention to the promotion of globalization, strengthen dialogue and exchanges, and promote socialist great-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics.

4.2 Integrate into the trend of world exchanges and promote the construction of a community with a shared future for mankind

In the context of globalization, the concept of global connection and interaction emphasized in the form is of great guiding significance for promoting the construction of a community with a shared future for mankind. In the 21st century, every country and every nation no longer exists as an isolated individual.^[5] Countries should abandon prejudices and stereotypes, enhance mutual understanding and trust through equal exchanges and dialogues, jointly promote the construction of a community with a shared future for mankind, strive to turn the planet we live on together into a warm home, and turn the yearning of people around the world for a better life into reality. The idea of “universal communication” in the form provides theoretical support for understanding this international relationship, which is of positive signifi-

cance for promoting global governance and building a community with a shared future for mankind.

4.3 Promote world exchanges and promote the improvement of the global governance system

The material interaction emphasized in the form plays an important enlightening role in promoting the improvement of the global governance system. As Marx said, “Only through this interaction with other people can we achieve the development of our own life, achieve the conscious enjoyment of this life, and obtain our own happiness.”^[6] The material exchange ideas emphasized in “the form” have important guiding significance for promoting the improvement of the global governance system. Only by strengthening the sense of interdependence and strengthening equal dialogue and cooperation among countries can we effectively respond to global challenges and promote the improvement and development of the global governance system.

5. Conclusion

In the form, Marx and Engels pointed out that communication is the basic phenomenon of human society from many angles. Communication ideas are of great value for understanding the development of human society, international relations in the era of globalization and solving problems in contemporary society. In contemporary society, the degree of interdependence between countries is deepening and the exchanges are getting closer and closer. We should earnestly grasp the ideas of communication in the form and promote the development of our country and the progress and development of human society.

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