

## Thoughts on the Problems of Adhering to the National Leading Mechanism in the Construction of Social Ethics

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### Abstract

Our society consists of its subjects—people who conduct activities. With the development of society, the composition and characteristics of the subjects of social ethics have undergone profound changes. Faced with realistic problems, it is of significance to adhere to the national leading mechanism in the construction of social ethics. Adhering to the national leading mechanism is adhering to the Chinese Communist Party’s political dominance, the Marxism ideological dominance and the dominance of the socialist core value system.

**Key words:** Social ethics; Political dominance; Ideological dominance; The dominance of value system

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### INTRODUCTION

Society is a coalition consisting of its subjects—people who conduct activities. With the development of society, as the subjects in social ethic construction,

their composition and characteristics have undergone profound changes. Faced with complex issues in reality, it is of positive significance to adhere to national leading mechanisms in the construction of social public ethics.

## 1. ADHERING TO THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY’S POLITICAL DOMINANCE

Chinese Communist Party’s political dominance is to insist on positive political options in our society, economy, culture, life, etc., to play its role in safeguarding political orientation, political norms and political order of the proletariat and the socialist national interests. In the reality of our country, to strengthen the political dominance is the responsibility of the ruling party, the Communist Party of China, but also the development requirements in the construction of social ethics. It is mainly reflected in the following aspects.

### 1.1 Adhering to the Development Direction of Socialist Society

The political dominance of Chinese Communist Party is first to make sure the dominance of the development direction of socialism. Combined with the current reality, especially the major issues exposed in social development in China, to be targeted to ensure the correct direction is the most important issue in the construction of public social ethics. Deng Xiaoping once said: “adhering to the socialist direction of reform is a very important issue.” (*Selected Works of Deng Xiaoping [Vol. ], 1993, p.138*) Our party has always been paying attention to maintaining the correct orientation by politics leading the economy and society. From the practical point of view of reform and opening up, in the new situation, “wary of Western hostile forces’ plot to ‘westernize’, ‘differentiate’ us...boycott of the erosion of decadent feudalism and bourgeois culture” (Chinese Communist Party Literature Research Center,

1997, p.549), we must not leave any opportunities for “non-Marxist and anti-Marxist.” (Jiang, 1999) Therefore, in the complex and challenging situation, in front of the major issues of principles, the direction of social ethic construction must be guided by politics. Therefore, we need to ensure the political dominance in the development direction of socialism. That is to say, in the construction of social ethics, to educate people staunch communist ideals and socialist beliefs, to educate people to adhere to the common ideal of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and to establish the Marxist outlook on world, life and value, to combine the realization of their own value with serving the people, to consciously safeguard the authority of the CPC Central Committee, and to maintain consistent with the party in politics, ideology and actions.

### 1.2 Adhering to Depending on the People and Serving the People

People are the creators of history and the masters of history. In our country, to achieve victory in the revolution and modernization is inevitably inseparable with the participation and support of the people; therefore, the construction of social ethics must also rely on the people so as to achieve tangible results. Mao Zedong pointed out that, to get the endorsement and support of the masses, “then we need to be the people together and to mobilize the enthusiasm of the masses.” (*Selected Works of Mao Zedong [Vol. 1]*, 1951, pp.138-139) A general increase in public ethics is closely linked to the e majority people’s ideological and moral qualities, and therefore, in the construction of social ethics, we must pay attention to people’s issues, sincerely concern for the welfare of the people and solve various issues that people are concerned about, which is also an expression of adhering to the political dominance of the Chinese Communist Party. Hu Jintao made further development of the mass line and mass viewpoint, and he pointed out that, “to believe whom, to rely on whom and whether to always stand on the position of the overwhelming majority of the people is the watershed to distinct materialist and idealist concept of history, but also the touchstone to determine the Marxist party.” (Hu, 2003) Xi Jinping also pointed out that, the Communist Party of China comes from the people, is rooted in the people and serves the people; the party’s roots are in the people; the blood is in the people; the power is also in the people. The construction of social ethics would not be possible without the endorsement and support of the people. In order to withstand the tests of reform and opening up, the market economy and the network environment in our social ethic construction, we must always be in close contact with the masses. In any case at any time, the construction of social ethics must be the stand of the people, and the purpose of serving the people wholeheartedly cannot be changed, and the materialist concept of history that people are the force to promote the progress cannot be missed.

### 1.3 Adhering to Keeping Pace With Times

“Our theory is a theory of development, rather than a dogma having to be recited by heart and repeated mechanically.” (*Selected Works of Marx and Engels (Vol. 4)*, 1995, p.681) Long years of revolution and practice have accumulated rich and valuable experience for the Chinese Communist Party members. Keeping pace with the times has become a necessary theoretical quality in the construction of social ethics. Under the new situation, the struggle in the ideological field has become increasingly profound, which makes the construction of social ethics must inherit and develop the basic theory of Marxist ideology. The current social ethic construction needs to be guided by the Marxist theory; according to the requirements of the development of the Internet age, we need to keep pace with times and progressively innovate construction theory, and use Marxism with Chinese theory to guide the practice of ethic construction. This is how social ethics reflects its promotion of social development and improvement of the quality of the people. In the construction of social ethics, we must combine the universal truth of Marxism with the reality of Chia, starting from China’s special national conditions, adhering to the guidance of the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, to improve and develop the socialist system with Chinese characteristics and to promote the modernization of national governance system and governance capacity. To keep pace with the times to construct social ethics, it will inevitably promote China’s economic, political, cultural and social development and ecological civilization. As long as the practice of social ethic construction evolves, the process of Marxism in China will continue. Theory and practice of social ethic construction are built based on an accurate grasp of the current social characteristics to follow the development of the times to propose innovating theory so as to reflect Marxist theory’s quality of keeping with the time.

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## 2. ADHERING TO THE MARXIST IDEOLOGICAL DOMINANCE

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Marxism is our party’s guiding ideology. With the reform and opening up, economic development, social transformation, cultural prosperity and environmental complexity, complex changes have appeared in the ideological field of our country. With a variety of social thoughts into the horizon of people with the opening of the society, thereby the mainstream ideology is affected. Most of the ideological theory in these social thoughts are introduced from the West, with a clear “West-centered theory”, which has produced a big impact on contemporary China. In the construction of social ethics, Marxist ideology is the dominant ideology, which provides the motive power for the construction of social ethics. Adhering to the dominant position of Marxist ideology

is an important task of socialist social development and important work to build a harmonious society as well as an important part of the construction of social ethics. In the current Internet social environment, the construction of social ethics must adhere to the ideological dominance of Marxism and adhere to the unified guiding ideology of Marxism.

### **2.1 To Strengthen the Theoretical Research of Marxist Ideology**

In a more opening up, open and transparent information society, people's autonomy, selectivity and difference increase and social awareness appears a diversified trend. In the construction of social ethics, we are in more need to strengthen the construction of Marxist theory. To achieve the vital interests of people, we also need to play the integration role of Marxism to provide theoretical support for the construction of people's moral values

In the practice of the construction of social ethics, we continue to play the function of Marxism, conduct innovation to it and realize its continuing development. The construction of social ethics must be based on the characteristics of the current era and China's reality to reveal the theoretical value and practical significance of Marxism in moral aspect so that people learn to use the Marxist stand, viewpoint and method to analyze the social problems, economic issues, political issues, people's livelihood issues faced in our society. Globalization, informatization and networking make the construction of social ethics face a variety of tests. When facing challenges, people need to have the firm belief in Marxism; when facing new problems, we need to use contemporary Chinese Marxism as a guide so that we can achieve personal development and progress to ensure the socialist direction in the construction of social ethics; in conflict with intertwined pluralistic values, we should have the Marxist ideology play a leading function, promote the healthy development of the mainstream ideology in the construction of social ethics, and guide the direction of a variety of social thoughts.

### **2.2 To Play the Active Public Opinion Guiding Role of New Media Such as the Internet**

Currently, the network society has become people's second living space. Ideology has been more widely spread through new media such as network. It will inevitably lead to some media offensive, and thus have an impact on the construction of social ethics. Science and technology advances. New media such as network play an extremely important role in the information transfer process and they have become an important position in strengthening the ideological propaganda and one of the important information sources of people's outlook in value and life.

In the construction of social ethics, we first need to adhere to the construction of the network position of

Marxist ideology, through the new media such as network to conduct positive publicity for the construction of social ethics, spread positive energy, play a positive influence and create a network position favorable to mainstream ideological propaganda. Second, we need to regulate the development of the Internet and other new media, develop and improve relevant laws and regulations and protect the healthy development of the network environment and reality environment in the construction of social ethics. Finally, we need to develop science and technology and promote the development of IT-related industries, "IT and network advantages are the material basis for Western countries to penetrate ideology to China, and they are also the material basis to maintain the safety of our ideology." (Yuan, 2008) In terms of publicity, we should consolidate the appeal and cohesion of mainstream public morality, and play the important guiding role of public opinion. Public opinion work "is tied to the future and destiny of the party and the country."<sup>1</sup> Therefore, in the construction of social ethics, we must continue to strengthen the construction of public opinion environment of the network and other new media to make network and other new media promote advanced culture, guide in a positive direction, build a good public opinion environment, guide people's behavior and values with the dominant ideology, and enhance the attractiveness of the mainstream ideology in the construction of social ethics.

### **2.3 To Develop Advanced Culture**

Since the reform and opening up, the construction of social ethics in China has achieved some results, including the formation of a large number of advanced socialist cultures with Chinese characteristics. Socialist culture with Chinese characteristics is the main carrier of the Marxist ideology. Facing complex situations, in a comprehensively deepening reform period, to ensure the correct direction of the construction of social ethics, we must vigorously develop advanced socialist culture, and play the dominant feature of mainstream culture in the construction of social ethics.

China's core advanced culture is Marxism, which is also the guiding ideology in the construction of social ethics. Currently, the social environment is complex and diverse and pluralistic values vary. In the construction of social ethics, we must grasp the direction of socialist advanced culture, adhere to the unified dominance of Marxism, and refrain from pluralism in guiding ideology. The Third Plenary Session of the 18<sup>th</sup> Central Committee of the Communist Party of China has clearly pointed out that: to build a socialist cultural power and enhance national cultural soft power, we must adhere to the direction of socialist advanced culture, adhere to the cultural development road of socialism with Chinese

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<sup>1</sup> Jiang Zemin's Speech when Visiting the *People's Daily* (1996, October 21). *People's Daily*.

characteristics, cultivate and practice the socialist core values, consolidate the guiding status of Marxism in the ideological field, and consolidate the common ideological basis for the unity and struggle of the whole party and people of all nationalities.

### 3. ADHERING TO THE DOMINANCE OF SOCIALIST CORE VALUE SYSTEM

Currently the construction of social ethic is actually facing the reality that the dominant social moral values are correct and positive, but there are also a variety of moral value orientations. In the formation and development process of public morality in society, moral concepts of different nature, different orientations and different levels manifest in different ways and forms, which have produced shocks and adverse effects on the construction of social ethics. The socialist core value system, as an important theoretical innovation of contemporary Chinese Marxism, is proper in the construction of social ethics.

#### 3.1 To Pay Attention to It in the Construction

The so-called social morality value system is based on the needs of its subjects to form moral values according to the integrated relationship between the subjects and the objects, which epitomizes the main pursuit, ideals, needs and fundamental interests of social moral subjects. Adhering to the socialist core value system is the soul and the banner in the construction of social ethics, is the direction and the guideline to guide and standardize social diversity and individual characteristics, and is the ideological foundation and guarantee to promote social and individual development. "If there are no dominant values in a society, individuals are free to choose to accept certain norms or values and randomly give up things that they do not agree on. This is subversive to social existence." (Xia & Yang, 2006) In the situation that our social ethics faces diverse value orientations, during the construction of social ethics, adhering to the dominance of socialist core value system is the objective needs of social development and people's overall development and the common aspiration of people of all nationalities. Because holistic and overarching socialist core value system with a clear direction has a dominant role in insisting in the right direction, pointing to a clear goal, providing a powerful ideological force and following the basic norms of behavior in the construction of social ethics; therefore, it must be the dominant value for the direction and the norms of social ethics to be followed and the construction of public ethics.

#### 3.2 To Adhere to Diverse Development in Practice

Today's society is a culturally diverse society. Facing the reality of diverse moral value orientations, in the

construction social ethics, we must correctly handle the contradictions of adhering to the dominance of the socialist core value system and the diverse development of social value. In culturally diverse and diverse value environments, to adhere to the dominant position of the socialist core values, the key is to adhere to the fundamental value orientation of the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics. The socialist core value system has clarified the ideological beliefs, the goal, source and norms of construction for people to understand and effectively implement it. It is the banner of the construction of social ethics, but also a personal code of ethics to follow. With the expansion of opening up and the acceleration of the process of globalization, multiculturalism and diverse values are objective existences. The construction of social ethics should be proactively and positively deal with and guide these objective existences; therefore, in the construction of social ethics, we should absorb all kinds of beneficial ingredients in ethical culture and moral development. To use socialist core value system to dominate the construction of social ethics is to ensure that for all moral subjects, in the process of self-choice and self-development, they are able to consciously adhere to the socialist core value system, while achieving the personal value of social moral subjects. For those who deviate from the dominant socialist core value system and have wrongdoings to break through legal and ethical regulations, we must regulate and treat them. This is the necessary measure to ensure the healthy development of social ethics.

#### 3.3 To Internalize Into the Conscious Pursuit

At present, in the process of the reform and opening up and globalization, social ethics subjects have unprecedented autonomy and to pursue anything and to choose anything are decided freely by individuals. However, this does not mean arbitrary autonomy and freedom without any restriction. "We are not starting from things what people say, imagine or envisage ... Our starting point is people who engage in practical activities." (*Selected Works of Marx and Engels [Vol. 1]*, 1995, p.73) Therefore, only starting from the present situation of the construction of social ethics, the real moral value orientation of subjects of social ethics to research the development changes of moral values and their achieving ways can we properly grasp the dialectical relationship between the dominant value and the diverse values. The subjects of social ethics are vastly different. They receive different objective impacts and the most important part is that their subjective moral concepts are different; therefore, in the construction of social ethics, if we only limit to personal value orientation for their own interests, we will be out of the actual situation and depart from the dominant value of social ethics. Therefore, we must guide the subjects of

social ethics to follow the socialist core value system, go beyond the confines of their own experience and personal interests, master theoretical basis and basic principles in choosing moral values and ethical behavior, combine the personal development and social development, the actual needs and future practice, material interests and spiritual power together to form a comprehensive goal system, behavioral norms and value orientation in the construction of social ethics. In this way, the construction of social ethics can advance in the right direction and towards the goal.

To conclude, in the construction of social ethics, we must adhere to the political dominance of the Communist Party of China to ensure the socialist development direction of social moral construction, closely tie with the masses, always rely on the people, serve the people, and according to the development of the times, keep pace with the times to conduct innovation in the construction of social ethics. In the construction of social ethics, we must adhere to the ideological dominance of Marxism, strengthen theoretical study of Marxist ideology, play a positive function of the Internet and other new media in guiding public opinions, and develop socialist culture with Chinese characteristics. In the construction of social ethics, we must adhere to the dominance of socialist core value system, pay attention to it in the subjective aspect, insist diverse development in practice, and eventually

make the subjects of social ethics internalize it into their own conscious pursuit.

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