Journal of Education and Educational Research
ISSN: 2957-9465 | Vol. 1, No. 2, 2022

Enlightenment of Lenin's Cultural Revolutionary Thought in Later Life on the Cultivation of National Cultural Confidence

Dongdong Wang

Chongqing University of Science & Technology, Chongqing, 401331, China

Abstract: Lenin's call for "cultural revolution" in later life on Soviet Russia is the result of deep reflection on the strategic importance of cultural issues. In order to understand Lenin's of socialist cultural revolutionary thought in later life, the connotation of "cultural revolution" Lenin said need to be made clear, explore the formation of the "last thought" of cultural revolution by returning to the text and history, grasp the main contents of both making and breaking, gradual improvement, laying stress on the key points, inculcation and guidance, and analyze its times value.

Keywords: Cultural revolutionary thought; Political will; Cultural confidence.

1. Introduction

As the main founder of the world's first socialist state, Lenin, in later life, based on in-depth analysis and thought on the modernized construction practice in Soviet Russia, proposed that in order to consolidate socialist state power, promote socialist economic development and achieve "complete socialism", cultural development must come first in various socialist cause, and form the thought of "cultural revolution". A complete and exact understanding of Lenin's socialist cultural revolutionary thought in later life is of vivid time value to countries that are economically and culturally backward in making cultural changes, enhancing their cultural soft power, and strengthening the cultivation of cultural confidence.

2. Analysis of the "Cultural Revolution" in the "Political Will

Lenin put the issue of socialist culture in a very important position in his "political will" before he died, he stressed the need to promote the socialist construction of Soviet Russia in the form of "cultural revolution", and proposed that "as long as this cultural revolution is achieved, our country will become a fully socialist country". Based on this, we use "cultural revolutionary thought" to summarize Lenin's discussion on culture in later life, and clarify the connotation of "cultural revolution" which Lenin said is the theoretical premise and basis for understanding Lenin's cultural revolutionary thought.

Lenin did not define the word "culture" conceptually, but from the relevant discussions on culture in his later years, especially in his "political will", it is easy to find that the "culture" in Lenin's "cultural revolution" is more culture in the narrow sense of the practice of spiritual production of people and its results. The "culture" in Lenin's "cultural revolution" refers more to the culture in the narrow sense of people's spiritual production practices and their results, namely the pure culture that does not include material culture. For example, Lenin used "culture" in his Diary Extract when he talked about the literacy of Russian residents, it is mainly the knowledge, education and language that people have mastered, when analyzed the influence of Russia's past history on the development of the present society, the "culture" mentioned in "less but better" is mainly the traditional psychology, way of thinking, and habits of the nation, etc. To Lenin's eye, "revolution" is the fundamental way to solve the cultural problems in the process of socialist construction. The word "revolution" is usually used as a political term, which is the highest form of class struggle, and is a stormy way to promote the qualitative transformation of social life. Based on this, many Soviet scholars advocate understanding and grasping the concept of "cultural revolution" from the perspective of ideology, believes that "cultural revolution" is to achieve fundamental changes in the social spiritual culture and build purely socialist proletarian culture. However, from returning the discussion of Lenin's "political will" and its historical background, the "revolution" Lenin said was an urgent expression of his desire to change Russia's backward culture, in essence, it is a cultural "change" to inherit the best traditional Russian culture and fully learn about the best of Western culture. For example, in the Diary Extracts, Lenin criticized the "proletarian culturalists" who talked about creating a purely proletarian culture in Russia: for culturally backward Russia, the state of bourgeois culture was also very poor, and "How much rough work must we do to reach the level of an ordinary civilized country in Western Europe". Exaggerating high-profile of carrying out "revolution" in the cultural sphere will inevitably lead society to indulge in the illusion of the "proletarian culture", leading to irreparable suffering and even the loss of the revolutionary gains already achieved.

Unlike economics and politics, cultural development has its own special laws, culture has a stronger historical inheritance and is transformed more slowly. The October Revolution devastated the old system and order in Russia and established a new Soviet power, however, the old customs and backward culture formed under the feudal despotic rule and serfdom still profoundly influenced the thinking and actions of the Russian people, and even the leaders of the revolution were deeply affected by them. Lenin keenly recognized that in order to promote the ancient Russia to completely put an end to ignorance, semi-barbaric civilization, make the nation grow into a truly cultured people, achieve the transformation

of social culture, a stormy revolution will not solve the problem completely, it must go through a long period of gradual cultural change in order to achieve "the people improve a whole stage in culture".

3. Formation of the "Last Thought" of the Cultural Revolution

Cultural change is the forerunner of a country or nation towards modernization. For example, in England and France, first, there was the ideological enlightenment movement represented by the Renaissance and the religious reform, then there was the bourgeois political revolution, and the greater the achievement of cultural change, the more thorough the political change. Lenin's thought and practice on cultural issues run through Lenin's leadership of the Russian socialist revolution and construction, especially after the implementation of the New Economic Policy in 1921, he found the way to the transition to the socialist economic stage, Lenin felt that "the current key (link of the chain) = the disconnection between the task proposed and material poverty with cultural poverty", carried out a series of thinking and discussions on the issue of socialist cultural change, until the last days of his life, he proposed to establish complete socialism through "cultural revolution".

After the implementation of the new economic policy, Soviet Russia became economically stable and the country's development direction was basically set. Lenin paid more and more attention to and thought about the "cultural revolution" in Soviet Russia, in his "Letter to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Russia in Care of Molotov on the Outline of the Political Report of the Eleventh Party Congress", he pointed out that "the new economic policy fully guarantees that it is possible for us to establish the foundation of the socialist economy economically and politically, the problem 'only' lies in the cultural strength of the proletariat and its vanguard". The report of the Eleventh Congress of the Russian Communist Party (CPSU) in 1922 stated: "What do we lack? Political power is completely enough..... the main economic power is in our hands ..... the economic power in the hands of the Russian proletarian state is completely enough to ensure the transition to communism. What do we lack? What is lacking is clear: those communists who are managing lack culture." In the "Last Will", Lenin widely discussed the significance of carrying out cultural change in culturally backward socialist countries for socialist construction in a large space, and proposed specific measures of cultural revolution. In the "Diary Extract ", Lenin discussed the urgency and importance of the "cultural revolution" from the fact of data statistics and proposed to reduce illiteracy, raise the status of teachers and increase investment in education, etc.; in the "Discussion on Cooperatives", he summarized the actual cultural development in the first years of the Soviet regime, and further pointed out the need to carry out a "revolution" in the cultural sphere, only in this way can we truly realize cooperation and complete the "two epoch-making main tasks" before us; in "Discussion on Our Revolution", Lenin criticized the pedantry of reformism led by Sokhanov, analyzed the particularity of the Russian socialist revolution, and further discussed the relationship between the "cultural revolution" and political changes; in "How Can We Reorganize the Workers' and Peasants' Procuratorate" and "less but better", Lenin discussed the importance of the "cultural revolution" for the reform of state organs and proposed to continuously strengthen the cultural construction of the ruling party.

The "final thought" on the "cultural revolution" and the wide discussion show that Lenin, the pioneer of the world socialist revolution, already considered cultural development as a prerequisite for socialist political and economic reforms in backward countries, believed that only the "cultural revolution" could change the backward cultural situation in Russia and could really change the backwardness of Russia. Unfortunately, after Lenin died, his thought of "cultural revolution" and the practice of socialist cultural change in Soviet Russia under the guidance of this thought did not continue well, and the cultural authoritarianism promoted by Stalin led to the extreme closure and backwardness of Soviet culture.

4. Enlightenment of the "Cultural Revolution" to the Cultivation of National Cultural Confidence

Lenin's call for "cultural revolution" on Soviet Russia in later life reflected his deep thinking on building socialism in a culturally backward country, which was a model of combining Marxist cultural theory with Russian practice, inherited and developed the cultural theory of Marx and Engels, and opened up a new chapter of "cultural revolution" in culturally backward countries, it is of great theoretical guidance and practical reference value for culturally backward countries to solve their cultural problems and cultivate cultural confidence.

There is breaking and making, and drawing the best cultural achievements of all mankind. Cultural development is a process of inheritance and innovation, absorption and learning, the "cultural revolution" cannot be separated from the inherent cultural reality and create a super-realistic, super-class culture. To Lenin's eye, the "cultural revolution", in addition to trying to overcome the negative inertia of the original culture, should never simply sweep the original culture into the "waste cluster of history", but should acquire all the valuable things left behind by history, take all science and culture in hand, "only on this basis and in this direction, continuing work inspired by the practical experience of the dictatorship of the proletariat, can it be considered the development of a genuine proletarian culture." The "cultural revolution" must be based on all the cultural achievements of the past, especially the bourgeois era, and must be based on the social practice of abandoning the existing culture, and promote cultural development and innovation. In the world today, the cultures of various countries and nations are different, and have originality, the cultivation of national cultural confidence must not lie in the "old paper pile" of the original culture, but must inherit the excellent traditional culture of the country, give it a new connotation of the times, and give play to its contemporary value, moreover, draw on the best foreign cultural achievements and stimulate the nation's own cultural creation vigor.

Step by step, respecting the laws of cultural development. Culture is the most durable human bond, an extremely long-lasting reality, its uniqueness lies in its historical continuity. After the October Revolution, it was urgent for Soviet Russia to carry out "cultural revolution" and build an advanced socialist culture. However, Lenin clearly understood that cultural change is a relatively slow process, and said repeatedly that "impatience and audacity are the most harmful

in cultural matters". To Lenin's eye, for Soviet Russia was exceptionally backward economically and culturally, not to mention the building of proletarian culture, it might take a whole era at best to throw off the extremely bad culture before bourgeois system and reach the level of an ordinary civilized country in Western Europe. The deep-rooted influence of culture on human society determines that it is impossible to fundamentally transform society and culture at one go, there must be a long-term subtle influence on the people. The cultivation of national cultural confidence must also respect the special laws of cultural development, and only when enough quantitative transformation is achieved can it ultimately lead to the qualitative transformation of culture, so that the establishment of culture does not go to extremes or in the wrong direction.

Highlighting priorities and grasping the main contradictions of cultural reform. Cultural change is a complex and tough task, and it is necessary to grasp its main contradictions, clear the mind for solving them, and start from key areas and links. According to the cultural reality of Soviet Russia, Lenin stressed that the "cultural revolution" must focus on the rural areas, developing national education as the key point, and wiping out illiteracy and popularizing literacy as the breakthrough. In his view, for Russia where the rural population has a thumping majority, the culture of the peasants constitutes the main body of the social spiritual structure, only by grasping the key point of national education, enlightening the people, making everyone become literate and receiving education, can it fundamentally transform the social culture and achieve the true distillation of national and social culture. To strengthen the cultivation of national cultural confidence must be based on the cultural reality of the country, focus on solving the weak links of cultural problems, put education high on the strategic position, and continuously increase the education investment, and put emphasis on the culturally backward areas in rural areas.

Indoctrination and guidance, strengthening the cultural cultivation force. The backward cultural situation in Russia did not achieve a rapid transformation due to the victory of the October Revolution, and after the implementation of the new economic policy, social thought was once confused due to the flock of various bourgeois thought. Lenin believed that there was never a Great Wall between the workers and the old society, the workers also retained the traditional psychology of the old society, and the workers' movement could not spontaneously generate the consciousness to overcome this backward cultural state, but could only give indoctrination and guidance from outside. Lenin stressed the need to strengthen the construction of the cultural workforce, find talents and "love them like an eye", should properly make use of intellectuals, overcome exclusive attitude towards bourgeois experts, and guide and give play to their cultural activism and creativity. Furthermore, Lenin also attached great importance to the cultivation of proletarian intellectuals and experts through various forms, stressed the need to increase the number of intellectuals of this class origin in the the working class, and grasped the right to cultural initiative and voice. Strengthening the cultivation of national cultural confidence also need to pay attention to the cultivation of the cultural workforce, so as to achieve fruitful ideological, political and organizational leadership on cultural sphere.

5. Conclusion

The world today is in a period of great development, change and adjustment, various ideological and cultural exchanges and confrontation become more frequent, and the importance of culture for nations and peoples is becoming more and more prominent. In-depth understanding of Lenin's socialist cultural revolutionary thought in later life and drawing the experiences and lessons of the Soviet Union's socialist cultural revolution. In order to strengthen the cultivation of cultural confidence, economically and culturally backward countries must adhere to the current situation of national cultural development, make good use of historical and cultural achievements, respect the laws of cultural development, seize the key areas of the cultural revolution, and continue to promote the construction of advanced culture that reflects the requirements of the times progress and the expectations of the people.

References

[1] Lenin Selected Works (Vol.4) [M]. Beijing: People's Publishing House, 1995: 670-784.

[2] The Collected Works of Lenin (Vol. 43) [M]. Beijing: People's Publishing House, 1987:63.

[3] Gu Yulan. The Strategic Implication and Contemporary Value of Lenin's Thought of "Culturalism" in His Later Years [J]. Journal of Changshu Institute of Technology, 2022(03): 29-34.

[4] Jia Shupin, Yang Yingyin. The Theoretical Essence of Lenin's Thought of Cultural Leadership and Its Contemporary Value[J]. Contemporary World and Socialism, 2022(05):68-75.

[5] Lin Wenjun, Ning Deye. The Causes of Formation， Core Contents and Realistic Enlightenment of Lenin's Thought of Cultural Construction [J]. Theory Horizon, 2021(01):9-15.

[6] Sun Shicong. Reinterpretation of Lenin's Theory of Cultural Leadership [J]. Marxism & Reality, 2017(06): 65-70.