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ABSTRACTS

Scientific Judgments on the Historic Juncture and Developmental Stages of Contemporary China and Their Evolutionary Logic

Jiang Hui and Lin Jianhua • 13 •

Grasping the laws and stages of society's development is an important issue. Any form of society, including socialist society, goes through a historical process of constant change and long-term development, which occurs through evolutionary stages and developmental steps. In the context of modern China, the Communist Party of China (CPC) united and led the Chinese people making the historical decision to choose socialism in course of their unremitting struggle and arduous exploration. In the process of socialist revolution, construction and reform, the CPC, in accordance with Marxist theories on social development and stage division, summed up the positive and negative experiences of the world socialist movement, and, on the basis of the actual social development of contemporary China, creatively explored the laws of Chinese social development and proactively explored and made scientific judgments on the historical position, developmental stages, major contradictions and historical tasks of Chinese society in different historical periods, thus ensuring that the Party's theories and policies were correct at critical periods in China's historical development. Since the founding of the PRC in 1949, and especially since reform and opening-up, the CPC has made a number of important judgments on China's historic juncture and developmental stages, such as the primary stage of socialism, the New Era of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics, and the new stage of development. It embodies the dialectical unity of continuity and distinctive stages as well as the quantitative and qualitative changes in China's social development, and is of great theoretical and practical significance for its consciously pursuing the developmental laws and the logic of evolution of contemporary China, exercising historical dynamism and taking historical initiative, following social development trends to promote staged leaps forward, and advancing the rule-governed development of Chinese society.

Why Was China's Economy Able to Grow?

Lu Feng • 36 •

The upsurge in China's economic growth in the first decade or so of the 21st
• 204 •

century is an epochal event in world history. However, the reasons for this high growth have so far not been fully discussed. Studies have shown that the main driver of China's long-term economic growth has been the cumulative development of the system of useful knowledge and social capacity embedded in the industrial system, with the infrastructure the PRC possesses as a big country. This cumulative process has been uninterrupted since 1949, and the high growth rate at the beginning of the 21st century is largely due to the favorable conditions that have allowed the energy contained in the Chinese industrial system and the Chinese people to burst forth. The economic mechanism inherent in this energy can be explained by incremental rewards, and the social conditions that allow this to be fully exploited are the widespread participation of the people brought about by reform and opening up. Therefore, the answer to the question of whether China's economy can continue to grow at a relatively high speed is a definite yes, for sure. The "golden age" of China's economic growth is still within reach.

Stigmatization and Scientific Inquiry in Tracking the Great Influenza Pandemic of 1918 in the United States

Tao Feiya, Zou Zetao and Yang Enlu • 63 •

The United States was hard hit by the Great Influenza Pandemic of 1918. Its "war-priority" national policy, unprecedented military training and worldwide troop movements and engagements created the conditions for the wide spread of the pandemic and at the same time severely weakened US preparedness. The unprecedented influenza pandemic threw American society into a state of extreme panic, giving rise to all kinds of hypotheses about its geographic origin. Some media turned scientific "tracking of the flu" into a succession of pejorative geopolitical exonyms such as "Spanish flu," "Russian flu," "German poison," "Chinese plague," etc. The groundless ascription of a geographic origin to the influenza pandemic was questioned at the time by insightful American medical professionals and even by Chinese medical experts. In the aftermath of the influenza pandemic, its tracking became a specialist issue in pure medical science, with the search for the pathogen of the pandemic becoming a priority. The discovery and genetic sequencing of the 1918 influenza pandemic virus by scientists in the US and other countries led to landmark advances in the discovery of the pathogen, so that the importance of tracing it back to its place of origin has taken a back seat. Although evidence of the geographic origin of the 1918 influenza pandemic is not conclusive, medical science has developed enough to disprove the ridiculous "geographical tracking" in the US during the pandemic. Historically, the ill-considered media statements during the pandemic not only

hindered the scientific exploration of its origins and spread, but also disrupted normal international cooperation and international relations. We should learn the lesson of these events.

The Contemporary Interpretation of Information and Its Basic Characteristics

Wang Tian'en • 90 •

As information technology develops, information research has undergone a process whereby our understanding of information has shifted from source to signal and finally to receiver. These three basic perspectives have laid the foundation for a paradigm shift in the understanding of information. Treating them as three “bridge piers” can help build a bridge toward a more adequate understanding of information, one that goes beyond the present widely held form of understanding with its emphasis on information coding. In terms of big data and artificial intelligence, the receptivity relationship of information has become more apparent: information is neither matter nor energy, but a relationship of receptivity based on material energy. Its mature form is the process of the receptivity relationship between receiver and source. As products of the interaction between machine receiver and source, big data and artificial intelligence, together with their development, have driven the continuous expansion of information. This process not only involves a basic paradigm shift in the integration of philosophy and science but can also systematically bring out the basic characteristics of information, including the nature of information creation, emergence, reciprocity, and sharing. As a basic fact of information, the understanding of the basic characteristics of information and its receptivity relationship constitutes a two-way interpretation which not only manifests receiver practice at the information level, but also allows us to hope for an integrated theoretical and practical basis for decoding the mystery of consciousness, the development of the generalized utilization of artificial intelligence, and giving people a deeper understanding of themselves.

Depopulation and Secular Stagnation: A Theoretical Discussion of Japan and Its Lessons for China

Yin Jianfeng • 114 •

Literature on demographic problems and secular stagnation suggests that population aging will cause an excess of desired savings and a dearth of desired investment, thus leading to persistent stagnation. Therefore, expansionary fiscal and monetary policies are required to stimulate investment. However, the literature on

this issue to date has overlooked the critical phenomenon of its negative population growth. Among major economies, Japan stands out as an example of secular stagnation and the first country to face depopulation. Using the example of Japan, we build a simple overlapping generations model (OLG) on the basis of non-negative investment constraints (NNIC) and zero lower bound interest rates (ZLB) and discuss a non-equilibrium mechanism where, in the context of depopulation, capital-to-output ratio continues to increase and the marginal product of capital (MPK) and the relative price of capital continue to decline, resulting in a persistent economic downturn. Monetary policy fails because it cannot stop the fall in the relative price of capital, and expansionary fiscal policy aimed at spurring investment only creates a more serious excess of capital. During the negative population growth, the only viable way to raise MPK and restore economic equilibrium is to increase the labor force, which is a relatively scarce factor of production compared with the excessive capital stock. Given this, fiscal policy can be effective when maternity subsidies are provided and spending on education, scientific research and healthcare are increased.

On the Interactive Integration of the Yi and Huaxia

Wang Zhenzhong • 132 •

The early civilizations in the middle reach of the Yellow River (the Central Plains) and those in the lower reaches of the Yellow River (the Haidai region) evolved through interaction. The peoples in each area underwent both independent development and interactive integration. The Huaxia emerged in the Central Plains because the “barbarians of the four quarters (*siyi*)” gathered in the region and became integrated. From the era of the Five Emperors to the Xia, Shang, and Zhou dynasties, and, further, in the Spring and Autumn and Warring States periods, the relationship between the Dongyi and the Huaxia experienced both “embedded” integration, when one side migrated to the other, and integration resulting from military clashes or territory annexed in war. However the integration occurred, it was never a matter of one-way assimilation, but always involved mutual development. The final result of Dongyi-Huaxia interactive integration was that the Huaxia snowballed into a large force while the Haidai Dongyi became fewer and fewer. By the Qin and Han dynasties, the Dongyi had disappeared, having completely integrated into the Huaxia.

On the So-Called *Zhaomu* System

Zhu Fenghan • 158 •

The *Zuozhuan* and the *Guoyu* were composed in the early to mid-Warring States

period, but are based in the main on histories dating from the Spring and Autumn period. In these texts, the term *zhaomu* describes the clan patrilineal order. It is used either as a rhetorical device, identifying one's seniority in the family, or in the form of the "zhao of A" and the "mu of B (B here is the zhao of the last quote)," where both *zhao* and *mu* broadly referred to the sons' generation. Ritual texts composed during the mid-Warring States period and the Han dynasty commentaries on them preserved this meaning, but they also took a step further, interpreting *zhao* and *mu* as terms that indicated rank order, assigned rotationally to a clan's male members according to their respective patrilineal standing. This order was repeated every other generation in what is known as the *zhaomu* system. Correspondingly, *zhaomu* became the system of rules for the arrangement of clan temples and tombs and for the use of representatives of the dead in sacrificial rituals. What we call the *zhaomu* system deviated somewhat from the term's original meaning, and to date has not been supported by inscriptions, archaeological excavations or investigative material. The system should be regarded as a Confucian derivation and interpretation of the term *zhaomu* from the mid-Warring States period and the Han dynasty, used in order to strengthen ethical concepts and the rule of ritual and to maintain social and political order and the patriarchal hierarchy.

"Reason" in German Enlightenment Philosophy

Zhang Renzhi · 186 ·

Under the influence of English philosophy, the second stage of German Enlightenment philosophy was pluralistic, and this intellectual setting constituted the intellectual realm in which Kant's critical philosophy emerged and developed. At this stage, resort to "common sense reason" was the major consensus of German Enlightenment philosophers, and it was through the critique and review of such "common sense reason" that Kant developed his critical philosophy; at the same time, it constituted the self-reflection of the German Enlightenment. Clarification of the relationship between "common sense reason" and "critical reason" was not only a core issue at this stage of German Enlightenment philosophy, but also the intellectual source of the development of Kant's critical philosophy. The central questions of Kant's critical philosophy were answered in his successive debates with the English and German empiricists (the Scottish School of Common Sense and the German Populärphilosophie). In German Enlightenment philosophy, reason was both (or primarily) a *Probirstein* (a touchstone, or common sense reason), and (or more importantly) a *Kompaß* (a compass, or critical reason).