

The Influence and Reflection on Marxist International Relations Theory under the Background of Economic Globalization

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Abstract: The purpose of this study is to explore the impact and reflection of economic globalization on Marxist international relations theory. In Chapter 1, we introduced the background, purpose, and significance of the study, and proposed the research methods and framework. Chapter 2 mainly discusses the concept, development process, and main characteristics of economic globalization. Chapter Three introduces the basic principles of Marxist theory of international relations, including its origin, development, basic concepts and principles, as well as the main representative figures. Chapter Four explores the challenges posed by economic globalization to Marxist international relations theory, including its impact on national sovereignty, class and class struggle, and the structure of international relations. Chapter 5 analyzes the impact of economic globalization on Marxist international relations theory, including challenges to internal and external environments, core concepts, and principles, and discusses its possible revisions and developments. Chapter 6 reflects on the Marxist theory of international relations in the context of economic globalization, and discusses its reflection and future development trends. Finally, Chapter 7 summarizes the main conclusions of the study and points out the limitations and prospects of the research.

1. Introduction

Economic globalization refers to the acceleration and deepening of cross-border economic activities brought about by the development of information and communication technologies, as well as the enhancement of exchanges, cultural integration, and political interaction between countries. It increasingly interweaves various fields such as economy, society, and politics, forming a closely interdependent global system. In the context of economic globalization, Marxist international relations theory, as an important theoretical framework, has significant importance in analyzing and explaining economic, political, and social phenomena in international relations. The core principle of Marxist theory of international relations is based on class struggle and the development of social productive forces. It emphasizes that economic relations between countries are determined by class contradictions and conflicts of interest, and that the behavior of countries and the structure of the international system are both products of economic foundations. The

Marxist theory of international relations holds that the globalization process of the capitalist economic system has led to the capitalization of international relations, and the position and role of a country in the global economy depend on its position and role in the global capitalist system.^[1]

2. The concept and development of economic globalization

2.1. Definition of Economic Globalization

Economic globalization refers to the acceleration and deepening of cross-border economic activities brought about by the development of information and communication technologies. It involves the global flow and exchange of factors such as goods, funds, labor, and knowledge, as well as the interdependence and influence of economic policies between countries. Economic globalization has made the economies of various countries more interconnected, forming a globalized economic system. In the context of economic globalization, international trade and cross-border investment have become important driving forces for global economic development. Through trade and investment, countries have achieved complementarity in resources, technology, and markets, promoting productivity and economic growth. In addition, the popularization of information technology and the globalization of transportation networks have enabled instant transmission of information and commercial activities on a global scale, accelerating the process of globalization. Economic globalization is not only the globalization of economic activities, but also involves globalization in other fields. The exchange and cooperation in areas such as culture, education, technology, and environment have also been strengthened. The rise of multinational corporations and the formation of global supply chains have further deepened economic connections and cooperation among countries.^[2]

2.2. The Historical Evolution of Economic Globalization

The historical evolution of economic globalization can be traced back to the ancient period of trade and imperial expansion. However, the starting point of modern economic globalization can be traced back to the first industrial revolution and the period of new imperialism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. During this period, industrialization and technological innovation significantly reduced production and transportation costs, promoting the cross-border flow of goods, capital, and labor. During the period of neoimperialism, European powers achieved control over resources and markets around the world through colonial systems and trade relations. International trade and capital flows have gradually become important components of global economic relations. However, the global economic relations during this period were mainly concentrated between Europe and its colonies. In the second half of the 20th century, with the rapid development of technology and information technology, the global economy became more closely interconnected. The liberalization of international trade and the opening of financial markets have accelerated the integration of the global economy. In addition, the rise of multinational corporations and the formation of cross-border production chains have also promoted deep integration of the global economy. At the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century, the process of globalization further accelerated. Further information technology revolution, especially the development of the Internet and e-commerce, has made global communication and business activities more convenient and rapid. Multinational corporations and investors have established closer cooperation and competitive relationships on a global scale. In addition, the global economic system underwent structural changes during this period. The rise and development of emerging market economies have made the global economic landscape more diversified. The position and influence of southern countries in the global industrial chain are constantly increasing, forming a new pattern of South South cooperation

and North South cooperation.

2.3. Main characteristics of economic globalization

Firstly, globalization has expanded the scope and scale of the market. The liberalization of international trade and the opening of capital markets have enabled goods and capital to flow more freely on a global scale, expanding market size, and making supply and demand more globalized. This has led to an increase in multinational corporations and cross-border investment, as well as the formation of global industrial chains. Secondly, globalization has accelerated the division of labor in industries and the formation of global supply chains.^[3] Different countries specialize in specific industries and links based on their own advantages and competitiveness, forming cross-border production chains. Through the organization of global supply chains, countries have achieved rational allocation of production factors and intermediate products, improving economic efficiency. Thirdly, globalization has intensified international competition and cooperation. The integration of the global economy has intensified competition among countries, and through trade, investment, and technological innovation, countries seek to gain competitive advantages in the global market. At the same time, globalization has also promoted international cooperation, and countries need to solve common challenges through cooperation, such as climate change, terrorism, financial crises, etc. Fourthly, globalization has led to cultural exchange and integration. Communication between different countries is becoming more frequent, and the dissemination of cultural products and values is becoming more widespread. This cultural exchange and integration not only brings about cultural diversity, but also issues of cultural conflict and cultural identity. Fifthly, globalization has also brought new political and social challenges. The integration of the global economy limits national power and sovereignty, and enhances the role and influence of international organizations. At the same time, globalization has also exacerbated the wealth gap and social inequality, leading to social instability and conflicts.^[4]

3. Basic Principles of Marxist International Relations Theory

3.1. The Origin and Development of Marxist International Relations Theory

The Marxist theory of international relations originated from the basic principles of Marxist philosophy and political economy, and gradually developed and strengthened in the field of international relations research. The formation and development of Marxist theory of international relations can be traced back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when capitalism had become the dominant global economic system and international relations had entered a new stage. At this time, Marxists began to explore and analyze the fundamental causes of international relations, and attempted to find ways to solve international problems.^[5] Among them, Lenin was one of the important founders of Marxist theory of international relations. In his work "Imperialism", Lenin proposed the concept of imperialism and analyzed the essence of imperialism and war. He believes that imperialism is the highest stage of capitalist development, a special economic form formed by monopolistic capitalism, which leads to contradictions and conflicts between imperialist countries, and thus triggers wars. Lenin's theory provided an important foundation for the development of Marxist theory of international relations. In recent years, with the changes in international social relations and the acceleration of globalization, Marxist theory of international relations has continued to develop and grow. Scholars around the world have proposed a series of new concepts and perspectives based on Marxist international relations theory, combined with contemporary international situations and issues, such as "globalization", "multipolarity", "global governance", etc. These new concepts and perspectives provide new ideas and methods for the further development of

Marxist theory of international relations.

3.2. Basic Concepts and Principles of Marxist International Relations Theory

(1) Historical Materialism and Class Struggle: Marxist theory of international relations adheres to the basic principles of historical materialism, believing that the development of international relations is a historical and dynamic process, and is part of class struggle. The main contradiction in international relations is the contradiction between imperialist countries and oppressed countries, and the basic driving force of international relations is class struggle. (2) Imbalance and instability: Marxist theory of international relations emphasizes the imbalance and instability in international relations, believing that international relations are imbalanced and that there is an unequal relationship between imperialist countries and developing countries. The instability of international relations is caused by contradictions and conflicts between imperialist countries. (3) Imperialism and War: Marxist theory of international relations holds that imperialism is the fundamental cause of war. Imperialist countries constantly engage in wars and aggression in order to compete for markets, resources, and spheres of influence. War is a manifestation of contradictions and conflicts between imperialist countries. (4) The opposition between socialist and imperialist countries: Marxist theory of international relations emphasizes the opposition between socialist and imperialist countries. Socialist countries are the opposite of imperialist countries, and there are contradictions and conflicts between the two. At the same time, Marxist theory of international relations also emphasizes unity and cooperation among socialist countries. (5) The International Proletarian Union: Marxist theory of international relations advocates the International Proletarian Union, which believes that the ultimate goal of the international socialist revolution is to establish a socialist international system. ^[6]In this international system, the proletariat of various countries will unite to promote the global development of socialism.

3.3. Main representatives of Marxist theory of international relations

(1) Karl Marx (1818-1883): As the founder of Marxism, Marx provided a basic ideological framework for the analysis and theory of international relations. His analysis of capitalism and imperialism in his works "The Communist Manifesto" and "Capital" laid the foundation for the later development of Marxist international relations theory. (2) Vladimir Lenin (1870-1924): Lenin was one of the important founders of Marxist theory of international relations. He proposed the concept and analysis of imperialism in "Imperialism", further developed Marx's theory, and put forward important views on the imbalance and instability of international relations. (3) Joseph Stalin (1878-1953): Stalin was a leader of the Soviet Union and made significant contributions to the development of Marxist international relations theory. In his work "On the Basic Issues of Leninism", he further developed and inherited Lenin's theory of imperialism, and put forward a series of important viewpoints, such as "the opposition between socialist countries and imperialist countries". (4) Otto Powell (1891-1970): Powell was the leader of the German Communist Party and had a significant influence on the development of Marxist international relations theory. In his work "The New Stage of Imperialism", he proposed the concept of "super imperialism" and emphasized the new development stage of cooperation and monopoly capitalism among imperialist countries. (5) Antonio Gramsci (1891-1937): Gramsci is one of the important representatives of Italian Marxist theory of international relations. In his work "Analysis of the World System", he proposed the analysis methods of world system theory and capitalist world economy, providing important ideas for the study and theory of international relations.

4. The Challenge of Economic Globalization to Marxist International Relations Theory

4.1. Challenges of economic globalization to national sovereignty

Economic globalization poses certain challenges to national sovereignty. With the deepening development of globalization, countries are no longer the leaders of economic activities, but are constrained by global economic forces. The rise of multinational corporations and the increase in cross-border capital flows have limited the ability of countries to make decisions and control economic activities. The country is facing the dilemma of being unable to control the global economy, and its sovereignty has been weakened to some extent. In addition, the rise of international financial institutions and multinational corporations also poses a threat to national sovereignty. International financial institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, exert influence and pressure through means such as loans and aid. The behavior of multinational corporations often goes beyond the laws and regulations of individual countries, causing countries to lose a certain degree of autonomy in economic decision-making and resource allocation.^[7]

4.2. The Impact of Economic Globalization on Class and Class Struggle

On the one hand, globalization has enabled multinational corporations and capital to accumulate enormous wealth and power on a global scale, exacerbating class division and wealth inequality. In the process of globalization, developed countries have relatively stronger economies, while developing countries are in a weaker position in the global economic system, and poverty and inequality issues are more prominent. On the other hand, globalization has also provided new opportunities and platforms for the working class and vulnerable communities, enabling them to better organize and fight for their own rights. The globalization of information technology and communication methods has provided a wider range of communication and organizational channels for the working class, enabling the development of transnational labor and social movements.^[8]

4.3. Changes in the structure of international relations caused by economic globalization

Economic globalization has brought profound changes to the structure of international relations. Globalization has accelerated the trend of multipolarity in international relations, prompting emerging countries to rise on the global stage. Globalization has enhanced the economic strength of countries such as China, India, and Brazil, and these emerging powers have become important participants in international affairs, shifting the pattern of international relations from a unipolar or bipolar pattern to a multipolar pattern. In addition, globalization has also promoted the complexity and increased interactivity of international relations. Globalization has brought about an increase in cross-border exchanges and cooperation, and closer connections between countries. The degree of economic dependence between countries has deepened, mutual influence has increased, and the interaction between international politics and economy has become closer. Therefore, the development of international relations has become more complex and diverse.

5. The Impact of Economic Globalization on Marxist International Relations Theory

5.1. The Impact of Economic Globalization on the Internal and External Environment of Marxist International Relations Theory

The impact of economic globalization on Marxist international relations theory is mainly

reflected in its internal and external environment. Firstly, in terms of internal environment, economic globalization has provided a broader research field and object for Marxist international relations theory. With the continuous deepening of economic globalization, international economic relations are becoming increasingly close, and the degree of interdependence between countries is increasing. This provides more empirical objects and cases for international relations theory. The Marxist theory of international relations studies and analyzes the capitalist logic in economic globalization, as well as the competition and cooperation between capitalist countries, revealing the profound impact of economic globalization on international relations. Secondly, in terms of external environment, economic globalization has triggered changes in the international system, posing new challenges to Marxist international relations theory. The traditional international system mainly focuses on countries as research objects, but with the development of economic globalization, the status and role of non-state entities such as multinational corporations and international organizations in international affairs continue to strengthen. This requires the Marxist theory of international relations to re-examine the composition and evolution of the international system, and to adapt to the research needs of international relations in the new situation. In addition, economic globalization has also intensified competition and conflicts between countries. International relations theory needs to analyze the root causes and evolution of international conflicts more deeply, as well as how to resolve conflicts and maintain international security through international cooperation and mechanism building.

5.2. Challenges of Economic Globalization to the Core Concepts and Principles of Marxist International Relations Theory

Economic globalization poses challenges to the core concepts and principles of Marxist international relations theory. The traditional Marxist theory of international relations emphasizes the role of the state as the leader and decision-maker of economic activities, while globalization weakens the economic dominance of the state. State power is constrained by international financial institutions and multinational corporations, limiting the autonomy of the state in economic decision-making and resource allocation. In addition, globalization has also made class and class struggle more complex and diverse. In the process of globalization, on the one hand, multinational corporations and capital have accumulated enormous wealth and power, exacerbating the wealth gap and class differentiation; On the other hand, globalization has also provided new opportunities and platforms for the working class and vulnerable communities, enabling them to better organize and fight for their own rights.

5.3. Economic Globalization's Revision and Development of Marxist International Relations Theory

On the one hand, it is necessary to further emphasize the analysis and interpretation at the global level, and study the impact of the economic structure and forces of globalization on international relations. On the other hand, it is necessary to pay attention to the impact of globalization on national sovereignty and class struggle, and study the reconstruction and changes of state and class relations caused by globalization. In addition, it is necessary to pay attention to the impact of globalization on developing countries, study the impact of globalization on the North South gap, and how to achieve a just global economic order. Marxist theory of international relations should be committed to providing theoretical guidance for achieving global socialism and international class struggle, and pursuing fairness and equality in international relations. Therefore, in the process of revision and development, Marxist theory of international relations needs to pay more attention to the principles of globalization, practicality, and impartiality.^[9]

6. Reflection on Marxist International Relations Theory in the Context of Economic Globalization

6.1. Reflection on Marxist International Relations Theory from the Perspective of Economic Globalization

In the context of economic globalization, Marxist theory of international relations needs to be reflected and scrutinized. Globalization has accelerated international economic connections and exchanges, changing the pattern and characteristics of international relations. In this context, Marxist international relations theory needs to re-examine its core concepts and principles in order to better explain the changes and challenges brought about by globalization. Firstly, Marxist theory of international relations needs to rethink the concept of national sovereignty. Globalization has weakened the dominant position of countries in economic affairs, and the influence of international financial institutions and multinational corporations has increased. Traditional national centrism cannot explain well the position and role of countries in international relations in the era of globalization. Therefore, Marxist international relations theory needs to conduct in-depth research on the new dynamics of global governance and rethink the relationship between national sovereignty and global governance. Secondly, Marxist theory of international relations needs to rethink the concepts of class and class struggle. Globalization has brought about an intensification of wealth inequality and an increase in class differentiation, but at the same time, it has also provided new opportunities and platforms for the working class and vulnerable communities. Marxist theory of international relations needs to pay more attention to class analysis in the context of globalization, and comprehensively consider the impact of global and domestic class forces on international relations. Finally, Marxist theory of international relations needs to rethink the concept of the structure of international relations. Globalization has made the international relations landscape more complex and diverse, and traditional international relations structures cannot effectively explain the phenomena of the globalization era. Marxist theory of international relations needs to focus on the evolution of global governance structures and international systems, and study the relationships between different countries and alliances of nations.

6.2. Development Trends of Marxist International Relations Theory

Firstly, Marxist theory of international relations will place greater emphasis on global level analysis and interpretation. Globalization has made international relations more complex and diverse, and research on international relations should not only focus on the national level, but also require in-depth study of the forces and structures at the global level. Therefore, Marxist international relations theory will strengthen research on global economy, politics, culture, and other aspects to better explain the impact of globalization on international relations. Secondly, Marxist international relations theory will place greater emphasis on class analysis in the context of globalization. Globalization has intensified the wealth gap and class division, and Marxist international relations theory will pay more attention to the impact of global and domestic class forces on international relations. At the same time, more attention will be paid to the study of the working class and vulnerable communities, in order to explore their ways of fighting and advocating for their rights in the process of globalization. Finally, Marxist theory of international relations will place greater emphasis on the study of the structure of international relations. [10]Globalization has made the international relations landscape more complex and diverse, and traditional international relations structures cannot effectively explain the phenomena of the globalization era. Marxist theory of international relations will study the relationships between different countries and alliances of nations, focusing on the evolution of global governance

structures and international systems.

7. Conclusion

In the context of economic globalization, Marxist theory of international relations faces new challenges and opportunities. Economic globalization has accelerated international economic connections and exchanges, changing the pattern and characteristics of international relations. Marxist theory of international relations needs to constantly reflect and keep up with the times in order to better respond to the changes and challenges brought about by globalization. In the future development, Marxist theory of international relations will continue to face challenges and changes, and will continue to develop and improve through continuous reflection and adjustment. It needs to pay more attention to research and analysis at the global level, paying attention to changes in global governance structures and international systems. At the same time, it is also necessary to conduct in-depth research on class analysis in the context of globalization, comprehensively considering the impact of global and domestic class forces on international relations. Through continuous revision and development, Marxist theory of international relations will provide important theoretical guidance for us to understand and solve global problems.

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