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On the Chinese Scale for Measuring the Timeline Throughout the History of Socialist Thought

Ren Ping

Abstract: Xi's Report to the 19th CPC National Congress quotes, we should pursue a just cause for common good, to illustrate CPC's original aspiration and manifest the Chinese tradition of the thought on socialism with Chinese characteristics as well as the Chinese position and the Chinese scale for measuring the timeline throughout the history of socialist thought. Socialism with Chinese characteristics does not just fall out of the sky, but evolves in a long history, in particular from Chinese 5000 years' civilization. It does not only originate from 500 years' European socialist tradition, but also has the ancient Chinese socialist tradition of over 5000 years; thus it is a combination of two in the present China. It is not advisable to favor the 500 years' history of socialism originating from Europe, taking socialism with Chinese characteristics as merely a foreign product from Europe with ignorance of the history of Chinese original socialist thought. The ancient Chinese ideology contains systematic socialist thought dating back to ancient cultural legacy, *The Book of Songs*, the Confucian thought of 'one community of the whole world', the Taoist *Scripture of the Great Peace*, the Buddhist claim of equality of all living beings, and Communism. The Chinese traditional socialist tradition is different in base, content and role from the European socialist tradition. In the transit from the Chinese traditional socialist thought to socialism with Chinese characteristics, which is analogous to that from European utopian socialism to scientific socialism, creative transformation and innovative development has taken place.

Keywords: history of socialist thought; the Chinese position; the Chinese scale; the Chinese traditional socialist thought