

# The Contemporary Value of Marx's Theory of Surplus Value

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**Abstract:** *Marx's surplus value theory is one of the greatest theoretical achievements of Marx's life, and it is also the core and cornerstone of Marx's political and economic theory. It plays a dominant role in Marx's masterpiece "Capital". Marx's surplus value theory has rich theoretical connotations and lasting contemporary value, and has a scientific theoretical guiding function for the construction of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era. Based on Marx's "Theory of Surplus Value", this article discusses the main ideological content of Marx's surplus value theory and the value of the current era from two perspectives, in order to deeply analyze the ideological connotation and practical significance of Marx's surplus value theory.*

**Keywords:** Surplus value theory, The Contemporary Value, Profound connotation.

## 1. Introduction

Marx's surplus value theory is a scientific and complete theoretical system that contains the essence of all theoretical political economics of Marxism, and a theoretical system of far-reaching significance. Marx's surplus value theory is the central theory of Marx's political economics, and it still has far-reaching influence and contemporary value in today's newly developed world and China in the new era. The surplus value theory is a "barometer" and "golden key" to reveal the essence of capitalist exploitation and to deeply understand the basic contradictions of capitalist production. In capitalist society and even socialist society, the surplus value theory still plays an important and indelible role in theoretical guidance and promotion. When evaluating Marx's surplus value theory, Engels said, "The solution to this problem is an epoch-making achievement of Marx's works. It has brought the bright sunshine to the economic field that socialists had been groping in the deep darkness like bourgeois scholars. Scientific socialism began from then on and developed with this as the center." The surplus value theory is a theoretical system that keeps pace with the times. With the progress of the great practice of socialism with Chinese characteristics entering a new era, it has achieved a qualitative change, showing more powerful vitality and vitality, and playing an increasingly important role.

## 2. The Theory of Surplus Value Provides a theoretical Support for the Reform of the Socialist Market Economic System

The world's economic development and progress are at a critical stage, and my country's socialist construction and development have also entered a new and important period. Building a high-level socialist market economic system is a strategic choice to actively respond to the great changes that have not been seen in a century and overcome various risks and challenges on the road to economic advancement. Marx's surplus value theory is not only applicable to the special economic fields of capitalist society, but also to the general fields of all market economies. The socialist market economy is a highly developed socialist commodity economy. Therefore, the socialist market economy cannot do without the theoretical guidance of the surplus value theory. In the 40

years of reform and opening up, my country's socialist market economic system has undergone many reforms, from the national planned economy to the discovery of the role of the market to the organic combination of macroeconomic regulation and market economy. The reforms and promotions again and again are the latest achievements of the organic combination of theory and practice. The reform and development of the economic system cannot be separated from the guidance and leadership of the theoretical system. The surplus value theory is the theoretical basis for the reform of my country's socialist market economic system. Engels pointed out: "Socialist society is not a static thing, but should be regarded as a society of constant change and reform, just like any other social system." Socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era, and the reform of the market economy system has ushered in a new historical period. The Fourth Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee pointed out that "we should improve and develop the socialist system with Chinese characteristics and promote the modernization of the national governance system and governance capacity." This has also provided opportunities and advanced conditions for the gradual improvement and development of the social market economy system. To improve the socialist market economy system, we should give full play to the decisive role of the market in allocating resources and establish a healthy, orderly, effective and moderately developed market economy system. Therefore, we should make full use of the role of surplus value theory in promoting the development of social productivity, encourage commodity owners to improve production technology, improve the efficiency of labor production, create more surplus value, realize the expansion of product benefits, maximize product benefits and maximize labor capacity, and then promote the improvement of social productivity and the accumulation of social wealth, so as to better promote the overall layout of "five in one" and coordinate the promotion of the strategic layout of "four comprehensives", and lay a solid economic foundation and economic accumulation to meet the people's growing needs for a better life, and finally realize the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, the dream of enriching the people with common prosperity for all people, and the dream of a strong country with economy and technology gradually ranking among the world. Marx's surplus value theory provides a powerful theoretical guide and civilization paradigm for the reform of my country's socialist

market economic system, truly realizes the organic integration of Marxist political and economic theory with China's reality, and greatly provides theoretical guidance and traction for the liberation and development of social productivity and the socialist market economy.

### **3. Surplus Value Theory Lays the Material Foundation for the Development of Socialist Market Economy**

The basic characteristics of my country's socialist market economic system are an economic system that adheres to public ownership as the main body, multiple ownership economies develop together, distribution according to work as the main body, and multiple distribution methods coexist. The 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China made moderate adjustments to the socialist market economic system. Understanding and grasping the theory of surplus value and the law of surplus value movement will help improve the socialist market economic system and highlight the basic characteristics of the economic system more clearly. The value purpose of capitalists in pursuing surplus value is to obtain surplus value, further realize capital accumulation, and promote the continuous progress of social reproduction. Social reproduction is the foundation and basis of the existence, development and progress of human society. Material consumption is an inevitable operation in society. Production determines consumption. Therefore, social production cannot stagnate. The development of socialist society cannot remain on the basis of inherent primary production. In order to obtain more social wealth that meets the needs of the people, it is necessary to expand social reproduction. This is the fundamental path of social development. Under the conditions of my country's socialist market economy, expanded reproduction is reproduction achieved by relying on the value role of surplus value. The purpose of the owners of the means of production and the producers of commodities is to pursue the interests of the economy and the expansion of wealth. Under the huge attraction of wealth, the producers of commodities gradually improve their production technology level, change the development path, promote innovation-driven development, expand the scale of production, increase the input of production materials, spiritual materials, and human resources, and ensure the smooth progress and development of expanded reproduction. Under the guidance of the theory of surplus value and the law of surplus value, in order to obtain greater benefits and pursue excess profits, the producers of commodities rely on and rely on scientific and technological improvements and the introduction of professional talents, gradually improve labor production efficiency, and then reduce product production costs, ensure the claim of excess profits, complete their own pursuits, and achieve a perfect leap for commodity producers. "Science and technology are the primary productive forces." The development of the socialist market economy is inseparable from the progress of science and technology. Therefore, under the role of the law of surplus value and the guidance of the theory of surplus value, the level of science and technology is constantly innovating, the development path is rapidly changing, the economic mode is optimized and upgraded, and the development momentum is constantly innovating, which has promoted the leap of my country's productivity and truly

realized the shift of economic development from focusing on efficiency and quality to focusing on benefits, providing a material foundation for the construction of all aspects of our society and the people's needs for a better life.

### **4. Surplus Value Theory Provides Talent Guarantee for the Development of Socialist Market Economy**

Marx's surplus value theory has promoted the development and utilization of talents in my country's socialist economic construction and provided a talent mechanism guarantee for the development of the socialist market economy. In the surplus value theory, Marx clearly pointed out that "the labor commodity itself has a special use value", which fully affirmed the status and role of laborers, that is, people, in the socialist market economy. The transformation of labor into a commodity is the fundamental and prerequisite for the transformation of money into capital. Therefore, the surplus value theory is crucial to the cultivation and development of talents. Under the influence of the socialist market, the socialist market economy has been established for nearly 30 years. In the summary of the positive and negative experiences of more than 30 years, we found that the development of the socialist market economy requires the gathering and support of talents from all aspects, and the perfection of talents is the direct factor for the progress of the socialist market economy. Socialism with Chinese characteristics is in a new era, and the development of the socialist market economy has ushered in a new "fierce battle". Attaching importance to the cultivation of talents is more prominent for the development of the socialist market economy. We should vigorously develop the strategy of rejuvenating the country through science, education and talents, and attach importance to the cultivation and education of professional talents at different levels, stages, levels and aspects. First, we must deepen the reform of the education and science and technology system and continuously improve the scientific and cultural quality of the entire people; second, we must focus on implementing the talent-first development strategy, vigorously promote the training of technical personnel, strengthen professional knowledge teaching and training, and continuously enhance the professional and technical quality of the entire people; third, while building and developing the socialist market economy, we should pay attention to the cultivation and construction of the ideological and moral qualities of talents. The ultimate core goal of economic development is to achieve comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable development with people as the core. We should strengthen the cultivation and construction of moral ethics, truly realize the socialist market economy and moral construction moving in the same direction and advancing in coordination, and continuously establish the ideological and moral quality of the entire people; finally, Marx's exposition of the surplus value theory and the revelation of the exploitation and oppression relationship hidden behind the employment contract have the ultimate goal of realizing the free and all-round development of human beings. Therefore, the development of the socialist market economy should focus on cultivating high-quality, high-level and high-tech talents with all-round development of morality, intelligence, physical fitness, aesthetics and labor, implement a mechanism for mutual coordination between economic

development and all-round progress of human beings, and continuously improve the comprehensive quality of the entire people. Therefore, on the one hand, my country should strive to pursue the creation and acquisition of surplus value, which is the economic foundation for talent cultivation and progress. On the other hand, we should focus on continuously cultivating talents for all-round progress, stimulating the potential of workers, mobilizing the "two natures" of workers, realizing the cultivation, development and utilization of talents, and truly maximizing the functions of talents.

In summary, this article takes Marx's surplus value theory as the starting point to explore the rich ideological system and theoretical content of Marx's surplus value theory, and on this basis briefly discusses the contemporary value of Marx's surplus value theory in guiding the socialist market economy in the new era. Marx's surplus value theory is a theoretical system that keeps pace with the times. It has a timeless theoretical value for guiding the development of capitalist social economy and socialist social economy. We should adhere to Marx's surplus value theory as a guide, further build a socialist market economy, enhance our country's comprehensive national strength, ensure the continuity, stability and development of the socialist market economy, and promote the socialist market economy to achieve a new leap and enter a new situation.

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