

# Explore Marx's concept of historical science

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**Abstract:** Exploring Marx's concept of historical science can fully tap its rich implication. The concept of history and the concept of science were popular in Germany in the 19th century. The merging process of the two combined with Hegel's historical science system and became the premise of Marx's concept of historical science. However, Marx's concept of historical science surpasses Hegel's concept of history and can never be understood in accordance with Hegel's way in theory. In this regard, the author explores Marx's concept of historical science in order to provide a valuable reference for understanding Marx's concept of historical science.

**Key words:** Marx; The concept of historical science; Exploration

Marx's concept of historical discipline is the starting point of the generation and development of historical materialism, which plays a role in laying the foundation. Since its formation, Marx's concept of history has been evolving continuously in the long process of practice. Instead of declining, it has become more and more progressive and perfect, showing its rich meaning and vitality. Marx's historical materialism has a huge impact on the way modern people understand history, and can still stimulate the enthusiasm of scholars and students to explore today. As a contemporary college student, the author is well aware that his understanding of Marx's concept of historical science is still shallow, so he needs to remain modest and continue to explore Marx's concept of historical science.

## 1. Formation and evolution of Marx's concept of historical science

On the basis of Hegel's research, Marx put forward another interpretation of historical science, which was influenced to some extent by Hegel's philosophy, but was higher than Hegel's philosophy and closer to reality.

### (1) Formation - Marx's concept of historical science

Marx's concept of historical science was formed in a special historical period, that is, the stage of the integration and transformation of the special historical consciousness and the universal historical consciousness, the original science and the reflection and science. In the aspect of historical concept, the special historical consciousness and the universal historical consciousness were in a state of interaction, blending and competition, and people would choose to prefer a certain theory, but would not accept the whole. In this period, famous figures such as Held, Kant and Hegel were born. From the perspective of the development of discipline concepts, Marx is in the critical transitional period, and all disciplines are in the transition, shape and other stages of change, while scientists and researchers are constantly digging new things in their own fields. From the perspective of historical scientific concepts, Hegel's philosophical system has been formed and has exerted a great influence on Marx. From the perspective of the historical background in which Marx lived, his thought covered the universal historical consciousness and was a macroscopic observation of the whole process of human history. It is also philosophically scientific, providing a unified basis for all sciences.

### (2) Development -- Marx's concept of historical science

In 1844, Marx set out the concept of a unified science in his manuscript, which was based on the historical sensibility and included Hegel's critical philosophy, and which adopted an approach that differed markedly from that of the author's later major works. In his 1844 manuscript, Marx provided a basis for unity in all sciences, and this basis is also perceptual. Marx pointed out that sensibility is the basis of all science, and only by starting from nature can it be a realistic science. Marx then pointed out that history itself is a part of nature. What Marx said about nature was not simply external nature, but humanized nature. He believed that the unity of science could not be carried out from a purely speculative point of view. There was only the will to combine but no ability to combine. This kind of science is thoroughly humanist and naturalistic, combining idealism and materialism. It can be seen that Marx's view of historical science is very similar to the view of history in Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*, and Marx criticizes its dialectics. Marx thought that although Hegel's dialectics are criticism in essence, it is abstract, formal and unrealistic in reality. It can be seen that Marx was influenced by Feuerbach and took sensibility as the basis of science, but relevant sources also show that Marx did not copy Feuerbach's views. In Marx's view of historical science, we need to recognize from the perspective of sensibility that nature originally belonged to man, but in modern times, nature has become a different side from man. Human history itself is generated by human labor, and various historical events occur in the process of constant change.

### (3) Formation -- Marx's concept of historical science

Marx's concept of historical science went through three representative stages, namely, the unified science based on sensibility; Unified science based on history; And the historical science of man and society. From the three stages, we can also derive three different meanings of historical science. First, from the perceptual point of view, the concept of historical science includes the natural field and the social field, which is a kind of historical unified science. Second, from the historical point of view, it examines the unified science of man, society and nature. Third, it incorporates materialism and examines man and society from a historical perspective. The third is closer to the empirical approach to the field of man and society. By 1932, the Soviet Union had collated and published Marx's manuscripts, which once again

aroused people's enthusiasm for research and greatly enriched people's understanding of Marx.

## 2. The modern interpretation of Marx's concept of historical science

The author is still in the exploratory stage of understanding Marx's concept of historical science, and there are many things to be learned. From this stage, the author has some views on some modern interpretations, and summarizes as follows.

### (1) The evaluation of the existing multiple interpretations

First, it elevates the status of the concept of historical science in Marx's theory. Among the many "elevated" interpretations, the most representative one is a sentence in Form, which was deleted by the author. In the process of studying Marx's system of thought, if we canonize the original ideas that Marx had and abandoned, it is a meaningless exaltation, and it does not fully and seriously take into account the author's original intention.

Second, it is equated with the materialist view of history. Historical science and historical materialism are two different categories, and in some contemporary interpretations, many people interpret "historical science" as historical materialism, confusing two different concepts together. However, from the works of Marx and Engels, we can see that every time they used the term "historical science", they had a very clear intention and never placed it in a sense that could be freely switched with historical materialism. Therefore, from the present situation, the wrong interpretation of contemporary people has obscured the meaning of the concept of historical science itself.

Third, it is regarded as the same as history. This phenomenon is mainly popular in the academic field, and the relatively one-sided use of Marx's remarks to explain the theoretical basis of the discipline of history is more aimed at elevating the status of history, rather than to present the essence of history. However, as we can be seen from the above, historical science is a science integrating natural science, humanities and society, which covers far more than the scope of historical academic research. Therefore, in some academic fields, the interpretation of this concept is one-sided and purposeful.

### (2) The practical significance of Marx's concept of historical science

In contemporary society, Marx's concept of historical science still has a very important practical significance, in addition to the empirical significance of common concern, but also the significance of knowledge unity.

First of all, in the context of people's continuous pursuit of professional research, there are still many scholars trying to unify all knowledge from a historical perspective. In the process of inquiry, Marx's concept of historical science has been widely applied. In the development of knowledge in various disciplines, time is an indispensable dimension, and it is because of this dimension that it is possible to explain the world from a historical perspective. For example, in today's many works concerned with nature, authors have studied the content of a certain branch of the world, and completed related works such as a brief history of the Earth. From this we can see that the development of human society has never been regarded as a whole, but as a branch or a discipline. In the real world, the same thing still happens, for example, historians of natural sciences and scientists do almost the same thing, but there is not much correlation and interaction between historians of law and other legal research work. In the field of humanities, historical consciousness plays an important role, but the historical dimension cannot accommodate all problems.

Secondly, the initiative of the historical subject is limited. In Marx's view, history and nature cannot achieve complete unity, but can only achieve limited unity to a certain extent, which determines that humanized nature and historicized nature are by no means completely unified with man. Therefore, in the course of historical development, man will inevitably be limited by the external nature in material production activities, and it is impossible to obtain complete freedom.

Finally, the singularity and discontinuity of history. In Marx's view, the subject of history can only be the actual individual, and the single historical subject is actually an idealist fiction. History alternates through the ages, and the combination of earlier and later history give it purpose and meaning. In this case history becomes an end in itself. However, the meanings, purposes, and forms of life that have been assigned to earlier history are only abstract concepts derived from the reference of later history. The subject of history, therefore, is by no means homogeneous, but inescapably discontinuous. If there is no single history, there can be no single historical necessity, so it is impossible for the historical subject to determine the course of history.

## Epilogue

To sum up, Marx's concept of historical science not only created a scientific concept of history with rich implications, but also showed people that his understanding of history has gone deep into its essential level, and through various works, the contemporary people have reference materials for in-depth research. The scientific revelation of the essence of history by Marx's concept of history has a vital guiding significance for the development of human history at any time. The author has benefited a lot from the exploration of Marx's concept of historical science, and has a deeper understanding of the true spirit of Marx's historical materialism.

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