

The Realizing of Equality Needs a Security System

(Outline)

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Equality is a kind of dreams, beliefs, and principles. The Great France Revolution printed freedom, equality and loves on the banner of the revolution, and became the goal of liberation that human beings pursued in the declaration.

Equality is a dream that human beings always pursued. From <The Republic> by Plato, and <The Journey to Peach Garden> by Tao Yuanming, to the <Utopia> by utopian socialists Thomas Moore in 500 years ago, humans endeavored themselves with difficulty, but there is a long way to go and the task is very hard.

As a kind of rights, principles and creeds and a conversion from the ideal to the realism, it can be said that equality impacts the changes in modern society from the beginning of Rousseau, and becomes the principle that human beings can realize their dreams when they are living in this world. The goal that equality pursues is the freedom based on it.

1. Equality is a kind of rights and principles

Equality is an affirmation of the life and the existence of human beings and an ideal description of the social relationship between peoples, closely related to the freedom and liberation. Citizens should enjoy the same rights of equality. Because of the social division of the labor and the different ways possessing the social resources, there are different classes existing in the society, resulting in unequal social status among the human beings. Regardless of the Proletarian Revolution or Bourgeois Revolution, the first requirement is the right for equality.

Modern Social development divides the equality into 4 levels:

- (1) Foundation Equality: Foundation equality believes like humans are born to equal, the value of each people is the same as others.

- (2) Formal Equality: The equality in terms of rights and qualifications in formal entitlements among the members in society. e.g. “Legal Equality” “Political Equality”
- (3) Equality of Opportunity: Everyone has the same starting point and the chance of life. It recognizes the differences in people’s ability and situation.
- (4) Equality of Outcome: The equal distribution of income. (There is controversial between left-wing and right-wing political)

The first kind of equality stressed on the respect of life among the human beings. It is the recognition and basic of the equal rights, only by doing this can the second kind of equal be achieved. Based on the fact that there are differences between individual abilities and self-realization, the equality of opportunity is mentioned. It emphasized on the development opportunities for everyone is opened for all status and positions and is not depended on race, origin, wealth, gender and sec orientation.

About the principles of equality of opportunity, it has a limited scale in the modern society because of the different resources that the society owned. This is also the principle of “Intellectual Elite”, which itself contains the inequality factors.

Struggled for the equal rights and applied the principles to specify the equality of opportunity illustrates the real existing of inequality. It scales from the internationals to the individuals, and one can’t change the social environment solely and we need to change it through social movements and to establish a good regime. For example, the efforts made by Nelson Mandela, the Women’s Movement, the protection for the legal system, the establishment of the employment law, the rights for homosexuals and so on. We need to fight for it and to establish a society with fair and justice.

John Rawls pointed out that the justice is the foundation of the social system and is the “First Virtue of social institutions” in his <Theory of Justice>. Justice is not only a part of social ideals in human beings, but also an important method for regulating conflicts of interest in the society. It plays the roles of purposes and means. “All of the

primary good things in the society—freedom, opportunity, income, wealth and the basis of self-esteem—should be allocated equally unless a kind of distribution for some or all of the primary good things can help the most disadvantaged one,” said by Rawls. It reflects two principles of justice:

Rawls argues that the first principle is the principle of equality and freedom that emphasizes the basic equality and freedom of citizens by the rules of the social system, which is the most basic creed of liberation.

The second principle is the principle of justice. It recognized the inequalities existing in reality in the social and economics, and came up with the result that we should pay attention to the difference between the distributions of benefits so that those who benefit the least will get some improvement in the situation. The principle of equal opportunity is the premise and it emphasized the universal principle of fairness is “Open to Talent”. But due to the different on talents themselves, for example the abilities, skills, family environments, social statuses and luck are not the same, resulting in a difference between the allocation of the resources. Rawls put forward the “Social Cooperation” paradigm, to compensate someone who is in the disadvantageous state. According to the difference principle, anyone who has nature ability should be regard as a common asset and a shared interest. Therefore, the people born with advantages, no matter whom they are, only in the conditions that improving the situations of the people who is in a disadvantageous state can they get benefit with their lucky.

2. Equality and Moral Responsibility

Liberalism originates in the philosophy of Rawls. In Rawls’s view, the concept of equality is not simply always to tolerate the “All people’s Freedom Equally”. Equality is associated with a higher principle, that is, as a desire to “Respect” to others, not just as a free enthusiasts. In the <Government>, Rawls clearly recognized the right of personal freedom exceeds the purely personal gain, and it contained the moral responsibility to help others for living. That is, the equality of the respect others

paradigm should be equally treated with the equality of the human beings. Regardless of economic or political, the equality is related to “The Power and Authority of Reciprocal”. Under the principles of respecting the interests of others, “No One would have” the unrestricted social and political power “More than others”.

The concept of “Respect” mentioned by Rock requires that individuals should care others’ interests demand in the process of pursuit the interests of the society. From Rock’s view, the right is not the accumulation of the maximum of wealth, nor the any other self interest’s realization, but is a moral responsibility to others that we can realize. This point of view was mistakenly criticized by the traditional liberalists and the right-wing laissez-faire nationalists.

Equality is the respect given to the personality and a moral responsibility given to others. The status equality is a process of practice; it needs the efforts of individuals and the actively helping from the countries. Firstly, the country needs to provide the security of basic equal rights: the right to live, the right to enjoy economic live and interests, the right to education, the right to employment and health, the right of housing, the right of living and developing in the environment. Secondly, the country needs to construct the infrastructures of social life to provide equal basic services, to secure the society and to regulate the marker order. Thirdly, the country needs to set a series of special polities to protect the development of special groups, such as children, women, ethnic minorities and homosexuals.

3. The Realizing of Equality Needs a Fair Security System in the Society

Establishing the consciousness of equality requires education and the equality of rights need to strive and legal’s escort. The construction of a equal social environment needs to build a social fair security system in the main content of “Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities and Equal Rules”.

Chinese traditional society hasn't the concept of equality. In the <Book of Rites: Biography> in West Zhou Dynasty, it said that “You need to get close to your

families. You need to respect ones you need to respect. You must treat the people who born earlier than you as elder. There are differences between men and women and it must remain unchanged.” It affects people’s relation and status.

At the beginning of the 20th Century, in the flood of new thought of concepts pouring into China, the agitated practices of equality, freedom, history and improvement changing the value system of social life in China over 100 years.

Now Chinese social development and social progressing is fast and has made great achievements especially since the reform and opening up. But the problems such as unequally development among regions, the differences between urban and rural areas, the serious society polarization, and the discrimination in the employment, the declination of women’s status, the people can’t afford to medical treatment or buy a house, the abusing of the public rights and so on influences the construction of a fair and justice society, and shaking the groundwork of socialism. Chinese struggled in fighting for the changing the state of social unfair over 100 years.

The recently held The Third Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee made a <Decision> “to promote social fairness and justice, to improve the well-being of people as the starting point and the foothold.” And it pointed out that: (1) From the security, reforming and improving the modern market system to guarantee all kinds of market subjects are in an equal competition and an equal interest-making, resulting in benefit the peoples; (2) Through the deepening of the reform and the taxation system to promote social fairness and justice, to adjust the distribution of national income, and gradually reverse the trend of widening income gap; (3) To build a new relationship between urban and rural areas, between the agricultural and the industries of the system, to promote the integration of urban and rural areas, to secure farmers can equally participated and shared the results of modernization; (4) To construct the new open economy system, promoting coordinated development, narrowing the development gap between regions; (5) To deepen the reform of social undertakings, to protect and improve people's livelihood, and provide institutional guarantee for the

development of achievement can more equally benefit all people. (This including education reforming, employment and entrepreneurship mechanism, orderly pattern of income distribution, pension, medical care, the minimum standard of living, the people left in rural areas, the rights of the disabled, family planning and other social security system)

The implementation is a process of hard working and equality needs a constantly construction.