Brief talk on the Guiding Significance of Mao Zedong’s Anti-corruption Thought to Current Anti-corruption Struggle

Yiwen Shi
Shaanxi Vocational and Technical College, Xi'an, 710100, China

Keywords: Mao Zedong's Anti-corruption Thought; anti-corruption; guiding significance

Abstract. Mao Zedong Thought is derived from a series of original experience of China's long-term revolution and construction practice, which is a kind of scientific guiding ideology suitable for Chinese national condition and is a performance of Marxism-Leninism with Chinese characteristics and provides an important theoretical foundation for Chinese Anti-Fascist War, national independence as well as establishment and construction of county. This paper describes guiding significance of Mao Zedong's Anti-corruption Thought to current anti-corruption work.

0. Introduction

Mao Zedong Thought is a result of combination of universal principles of Marxism-Leninism and China's revolutionary practice, is a performance of Marxism-Leninism with Chinese characteristics and best ideas of Chinese communist party. Anti-corruption thought is not only key part of Mao Zedong Thought, but also important thought for guidance of development of Chinese Communist Party. Mao Zedong’s Anti-corruption Thought has important guiding significance in current anti-corruption work.

1. Formation of Mao Zedong’s Anti-corruption Thought

Mao Zedong’s Anti-corruption Thought is a result of the combination of Marxism-Leninism and China's actual conditions, which is a key part of Mao Zedong Thought and is formed by special reason.

1.1 Mao Zedong’s Anti-corruption Thought is derived from thought of clean government of Marxism-Leninism

Any theoretical system should draw on the results of previous studies. Mao Zedong’s Anti-corruption Thought is formed based on thought of clean government of Marxism-Leninism. In the development of capitalist society, proletariat began on the political stage. So Marx and Engels jointed into labour movement. In the guidance of labour movement, they realized that the proletarian party must build a clean government to keep its sound development and exuberant vitality, and then after a lot of practice eventually formed social public servant theory that is theoretical basis of serving the people wholeheartedly thought of Mao Zedong Thought.

1.2 Mao Zedong’s Anti-corruption Thought drew lessons from the thought of clean government of Chinese traditional culture

CPC led by Mao Zedong continue to absorb outstanding historical thoughts of Chinese nation and to draw lessons from the thought of clean government of Chinese traditional culture, which provides rich theoretical materials for formation of Mao Zedong’s Anti-corruption Thought.

Mao Zedong, a great thinker, politician, was appreciated by people due to honest in performing his official duties. Mao Zedong always believed that if you want to win the trust and ensure political stability must be adhered to the principle of integrity. He attached great importance to the Chinese traditional culture of an honest and clean government, combined with the transformation of Marxism-Leninism and gave a new meaning to culture of an honest and clean government. He transformed the thought of “people being the most important” into people who are the motive force for pushing forward the advance of history; developed “be near to worthies and keep away from mean fellows” into party cadres standard with professional competence; interpreted “self-discipline fulfils the rites” as serving the people wholeheartedly, transformed concept “self cultivation, family harmony, country management and world peace” into the party's ideological and moral exercise.
The long history of anti-corruption culture provides an important theoretical material for Mao Zedong Thought.

1.3 Mao Zedong’s Anti-corruption Thought came from a profound reflection to the social reality.

In old China, government management was corrupt and opaque, the tax of people was serious and society was divided into different classes. Since the establishment of the Communist Party of China, the ultimate aim is to overthrow the old, corrupt and opaque regime and to build an equitable, bright, classless society without exploitation and to liberate all mankind. After a decades-long practice, Mao Zedong’s Anti-corruption Thought gradually formed and improved.

2. The Development Process of Mao Zedong’s Anti-corruption Thought

A mature thought system requires constant development, experiencing from germination to outcome process. So did Mao Zedong’s Anti-corruption Thought. Mao Zedong Thought arose from China’s long-term revolutionary struggle, and then continued to be improved and developed. Therefore, Mao Zedong’s Anti-corruption Thought in this paper will be divided into two historical phases, namely: before the founding of the PRC and after the founding of the PRC.

2.1 Development of Mao Zedong’s Anti-corruption Thought before the founding of the PRC

Before the founding of the PRC, the Communist Party of China aimed to overthrow the corrupt old regime. Only a revolutionary way could help Communist Party of China to complete this task. If you want a revolution to get victory, the main requirement is a party leadership that shall be established relying on revolutionary theory and style of Marxism-Leninism and shall be honest and fair and serve the people wholeheartedly. Mao Zedong was aware of these conditions and developed Mao Zedong’s Anti-corruption Thought.

Since the founding of the Communist Party of China, the party members required to have dedication. For the one with impure motives are not allowed to join the party firmly. The party's purpose is to serve the people wholeheartedly and the criteria for the communist party dedicate their whole lives to the realization of communism, which is starting point and destination for Mao Zedong’s Anti-corruption Thought. In Agrarian Revolution period, Mao Zedong developed Three Rules of Discipline and Eight Points for Attention according to actual work experience to ensure the purity of the party and not infringe upon the interests of the people. During long-term revolutionary struggle, Mao Zedong has been working vigorously on anti-corruption, solving founded problems without forgiveness. So he made great achievements in this work, which made Mao Zedong’s Anti-corruption Thought further developed. Even though in difficult time (1927-1949), the first generation of the communist party represented by Mao Zedong put the anti-corruption work as an important work with purpose of prevent from corruption, which offered an important theoretical basis for Mao Zedong’s Anti-corruption Thought. In other words, Mao Zedong’s Anti-corruption Thought has been got rapid development and improvement during this period.

2.2 Development of Mao Zedong’s Anti-corruption Thought after the founding of the PRC

After the founding of the PRC, even in the case of all work required from scratch, Mao Zedong still pay close attention to anti-corruption work. He put forward a lot of constructive ideas to raise awareness of the importance of this work. For example, the top priority of party's style construction is to carry out anti-corruption work by people's fight against corruption, establishment of supervision mechanism. Meanwhile, it also implements criticism and self-criticism mode to mange party members’ life. These provided an important practical basis for further perfect of Mao Zedong’s Anti-corruption Thought after the founding of the PRC. Along with Mao Zedong’s Anti-corruption Thought development, it provides the ideological guidance for anti-corruption work and guarantees the right direction of development process and effectively prevents a lot of corruption problems.

3. The Main Content of Mao Zedong’s Anti-corruption Thought

Anti-corruption Thought occupies a significant proportion in Mao Zedong Thought, with rich contents. According to actual work of the Party, it discusses the dangers of corruption and seeks
effective method to anti-corruption work.

3.1 Strengthen their self-cultivation and create a clean environment

Mao Zedong very hated corruption. According to his research, corruption, pleasure seeking and serious internal political struggle are the key factors of demise of the state. Therefore, Mao realized that strengthen self-cultivation and create a clean environment could improve effectiveness of anti-corruption work.

Mao realized that internal changes will lead to external changes. The phenomenon of corruption was mainly from internal ideas from party members and cadres, so he proposed that party members shall strengthen their ideological training. First, to ensure the purity of thought could prevent the occurrence of various kinds of bourgeois style. Secondly, we must avoid complacency and all party members required to be prudent. Mao conducted serious governance on corruption of Party organs and guided party members from pride and urged them to perform duties. Finally, the party members were required to be realistic to avoid subjective ideological problems. Mao has always emphasized that people make mistakes due to poor management of subjective thinking. Only strengthen management of subjective thinking, accurately determine the right direction and adopt proper strategy can avoid significant errors.

3.2 Strengthen thought construction of Communist Party of China and establish supervisory mechanism

Thought construction of Communist Party of China is an important aspect of party building, so strengthen ideological education is an effective means of anti-corruption work. Mao Zedong’s Anti-corruption Thought has always stressed the importance of thought construction to prevent qualitative change of party members and cadres’ idea, which educates party members and cadres long-term to improve party spirit.

There are several aspects of ideological building. First, we should strengthen education of CPC party guidelines and policies to make party members clearly in the correct direction and to understand their responsibilities. Second, we should strengthen education of Marxism-Leninism to improve ourselves and to get rid of vulgar taste. Third, we should develop proletarian ideology and serve the people wholeheartedly. Fourth, we should do good example education and correct typical character that will be learned by party members.

3.3 Appoint people by abilities as cadres

We should appoint people by abilities instead of cronyism, which could help CPC to build a law-abiding, honest and upright contingent of cadres. In the time of war, selecting cadres usually followed the principle of both ability and integrity. This is why we got a victory of the revolution. In the time of economic construction, the cadres shall have high comprehensive quality and both ability and integrity. This will make leading cadre team with strong technology, high moral character. We should be able to appoint and love cadres as well as guide and help cadres to solve the worries of cadres and to avoid the occurrence of corruption.

4. The guiding significance of Mao Zedong’s Anti-corruption Thought to current anti-corruption work

In the 21st century, China's economy has made tremendous development and people's living standards have improved significantly. But the CPC has been working to strengthen the construction of anti-corruption work. In the contemporary context, Mao Zedong’s Anti-corruption Thought has important guiding significance to current anti-corruption work.

4.1 Prevent the occurrence of corruption

To further strengthen study of Mao Zedong’s Anti-corruption Thought can be conducted current anti-corruption work orderly and provide good condition for establishment of supervisory mechanism, including surveillance by the masses, inner-party supervision and supervision by public opinions. This will form a good social atmosphere and effectively prevent the occurrence of corruption. Corruption generally has a process from outside to inside. Once we have a favorable external environment will the objective conditions cease to exist, which can promote cadres to resist corruption and build a barrier of corruption.
4.2 Be better able to deal with corruption

A clean government system is key part of Mao Zedong’s Anti-corruption Thought, which could prevent and tackle corruption. Mao Zedong Thought has been emphasized serving the people wholeheartedly, so the actions that harm the interests of the people will be punished. With economic development, some cadres began to forget themselves and produced corruption. For this case, we should punish it timely with a purpose of good support system for smooth progress of anti-corruption work.

4.3 To maintain party’s progressiveness

Party’s progressiveness determines the leadership and core of CPC. So we should prevent damage from party’s progressiveness and prevent the party spirit metamorphic. Party has always represented the interests of the masses of the people. In order to keep that Chinese communist party is the pioneer of Chinese working class and Chinese nation, Mao Zedong’s Anti-corruption Thought provides scientific thought for avoiding corruption. Corruption is bound to damage interests of the people directly and reduce the party's good image in the minds of the masses. Therefore, we should always focus on style building, carry out anti-corruption activities and punish corruption to get the support of the people and to keep party’s progressiveness.

5. Conclusion

The content of Mao Zedong’s Anti-corruption Thought is rich and deep. No matter how the times change and how social development, it could provide theoretical guidance for our anti-corruption work and provide ideological guidance to promote sound development and harmonious development of the society. To study Mao Zedong’s Anti-corruption Thought not only enhance individual's spiritual cultivation, but also could promote smooth progress of the work for party and whole society.

References