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MEGA² in China*

The First Appearance and Introduction of MEGA² in China (End of 1970's)

The history of MEGA² in China dates back to the end of 1970's. With the publication of the first volumes of MEGA² at the time, the Chinese theoretical circle began to give attention to this edition of Marx/Engels Works. In 1978, the second issue of journal *Publishing Work* (now *China Publishing Journal*) published a newsletter titled "Soviet Union and East Germany are cooperating on the editing of international *Marx/Engels Gesamtausgabe*",¹ introducing very briefly the four sections of MEGA², the writings to be included and the separation of text volume from apparatus volume (Apparat). In the same year, the second issue of *Philosophical Translations* (now *World Philosophy*) published an article by Lev Golman and Richard Sperl, "Comment on the Publication of the New *Marx/Engels Gesamtausgabe*".² This article introduces the main characteristics of MEGA² (as complete as possible, in original language, in historical or chronological order and with scientific apparatus), section of the four parts and examines in detail the content of the lately published volumes, namely, vol. I/1 and vol. III/1. Thus, as the earliest academic translation on MEGA², this paper marked the opening and beginning of MEGA² studies in China.

The Initial Translation and Introduction of MEGA² in China (from the 1980's to the beginning of 21st Century)

Initially the scale of translation and introduction of MEGA² in China is quite small. This cause was almost totally undertaken by the staff of Central Com-

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¹ *Soviet Union and East Germany Are Cooperating on the Editing of International Marx/Engels Gesamtausgabe*, in: *Publishing Work*, No. 2, 1978, p. 29.

² Lev Golman and Richard Sperl, *Comment on the Publication of the New Marx/Engels Gesamtausgabe*, in: *Philosophical Translations*, No. 2, 1978, pp. 17–21. Partly translated from: Lew Golman, Richard Sperl, *Zum Erscheinen der ersten Bänden der neuen Marx-Engels-Gesamtausgabe*, in: *Deutsche Zeitschrift für Philosophie*, Nr. 1, 1976, S. 58–73.

pilation & Translation Bureau (CCTB), whose main task is to edit, compile and publish the writings of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin. Here we need to mention four successive internal journals published by CCTB, namely, *Compiled and Translated Materials of Works on Marxism-Leninism* (1978–1981, hereinafter to be referred as *Compiled and Translated Materials*), *Research Materials on Marxism-Leninism* (1982–1989, hereinafter to be referred as *Research Materials*), *Marx/Engels Studies* (1989–1995) and *Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin Studies* (1996–2006, hereinafter to be referred as *MELS Studies*). Since the aim to publish these journals was merely to provide materials for the translating work of Chinese edition of *Marx/Engels Collected Works* (MECW), they are not publicly published, but only internally utilized by staff of CCTB.

Compiled and Translated Materials were first published in December 1978. From the title we can see that it aims to translate and introduce the works, articles on Marxism and Leninism. From end of 1978 to end of 1981 this journal published altogether 18 volumes. Apart from the first volume published in 1978, in 1979 vol. 2–5 were published, and in 1980 volume 6–12, and in 1981 volume 13–18. Just in this journal, the introductions to the MEGA² volumes were first translated and published, such as the introduction to vol. II/1 (vol. 3, 1979), vol. II/3.1 (vol. 6, 1980).

In 1982 *Compiled and Translated Materials* was changed into *Research Materials*. Obviously the journal pursued to not only translate, but also research the works and articles concerning Marxism and Leninism. It is noteworthy that the volume number of the journal was consistent with the former *Compiled and Translated Materials*. That means the first issue of *Research Materials* was numbered 19. Thus from 1982 to 1989, 40 volumes were published (from 1982 to 1985 bimonthly and from 1986 to 1989 quarterly published). In this journal we can still find some translations of the introductions to MEGA² volumes, such as those to volume IV/2 (vol. 28, 1983; vol. 30, 1983), II/3.5 (vol. 29, 1983), I/2 (vol. 32, 1984), IV/7 (vol. 35, 1984), etc.

In 1989 *Marx/Engels Studies* appeared. It was a quarterly published journal,³ mainly including the new discovered manuscripts of Marx and Engels, the researches on their works, thoughts and theories, academic discussion on certain problems and newsletters. In this internal journal, the introductions and relevant scientific materials of MEGA² were extensively translated. The introductions that were translated are:

³ In 1989–1990, two volumes of the journal were published each year. In 1991, three volumes were published. From 1992 on the journal was published quarterly. Until 1995 altogether 23 volumes had been published.

Section I: vol. I/1 (vol. 2, 1989), I/2 (vol. 6, 1991), I/3 (vol. 20, 1995; vol. 21, 1995), I/10 (vol. 3, 1990), I/11 (vol. 5, 1991), I/12 (vol. 6, 1991), I/13 (vol. 7, 1991), I/18 (vol. 7, 1991), I/20 (vol. 19, 1994), I/22 (vol. 21, 1995), I/24 (vol. 10, 1992), I/25 (vol. 4, 1990), I/26 (vol. 16, 1994), I/27 (vol. 13, 1993);

Section II: vol. II/3.1 (vol. 23, 1995), II/4.2 (vol. 20, 1995), II/6 (vol. 5, 1991), II/7 (vol. 6, 1991), II/8 (vol. 6, 1991), II/10 (vol. 11, 1992);

Section III: vol. III/1 (vol. 5, 1991), III/2 (vol. 13, 1993), III/3 (vol. 15, 1993), III/4 (vol. 11, 1992);

Section IV: vol. IV/4 (vol. 12, 1993), IV/8 (vol. 18, 1994), IV/9 (vol. 18, 1994), and also the general Introduction to MEGA (vol. 1, 1989).

Scientific materials that were translated are: the writing and publishing process of *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte* (vol. 8, 1992) and *Socialism: Utopian and Scientific* (vol. 23, 1995), the birth and dissemination of *The Great Man of the Exile* (vol. 9, 1992), etc.

In 1996, *Marx/Engels Studies*, together with *Lenin Studies* and *Stalin Studies*, became a new journal: *MELS Studies*, further publishing the articles concerning Marxism and Leninism. By 2001 the translations concerning MEGA² were: Introductions to vol. II/2 (vol. 6, 1997), II/3.2 (vol. 18, 2000), II/3.5 (vol. 1, 1996), II/5 (vol. 22, 2001), III/5 (vol. 22, 2001), IV/1 (vol. 22, 2001) and the scientific materials to 1884 and 1892 editions of *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State* (vol. 2, 1996; vol. 8, 1998).

Apart from the translations of the introductions and scientific materials of MEGA², the four internal journals had also published many articles by foreign scholars, including some outstanding MEGA² experts and editors, such as: “Die Theorie des relativen Mehrwerts im Manuskript ‘Zur Kritik der politischen Ökonomie’ (Manuskript 1861–1863)” by Jürgen Jungnickel (*Compiled and Translated Materials*, vol. 6, 1980),⁴ “Marxismus-Marx-Geschichtswissenschaft: Der Fall der sog. ‘ökonomisch-philosophischen Manuskripte aus dem Jahre 1844’” by Jürgen Rojahn (*Research Materials*, vol. 32, 1984),⁵ „Die Entwicklung der Werttheorie von der 1. zur 3. Auflage des ersten Bandes des Kapitals von Karl Marx (1867–1883)“ by Rolf Hecker (*Marx/Engels Studies*, vol. 4, 1990),⁶ „Reaktionen bürgerlicher Ideologen auf Marx’ ‚Elend der Philosophie‘ im 19. Jahrhundert“ by Eike Kopf (*Marx/Engels Studies*, vol. 9, 1992),⁷ “‘Marx in Marx’ Worten’? – Zu Engels’

⁴ Originally published in Marx-Engels-Jahrbuch, Band 1, 1978, S. 307–325.

⁵ Originally published in International Review of Social History, vol. 28, 1983, pp. 2–49.

⁶ Originally published in Marx-Engels-Jahrbuch, Band 10, 1986, S. 147–196.

⁷ Originally published in Beiträge zur Marx-Engels-Forschung, Heft 24, 1988, S. 117–128.

Edition des Hauptmanuskripts zum dritten Buch des *Kapital*” by Carl-Erich Vollgraf and Jürgen Jungnickel (*MELS Studies*, vol. 1, 3, 8, 9, 1996–1998),⁸ “Überlegungen zur langerwarteten Veröffentlichung des Marxschen Originals zum dritten Buch des *Kapital*” by Teinosuke Otani (*MELS Studies*, vol. 6, 1997),⁹ “Manuskripte und Drucke der ‘Deutschen Ideologie’ (November 1845 bis Juni 1846). Probleme und Ergebnisse” (*MELS Studies*, vol. 20, 2001) and “Die Überlieferungsgeschichte der Manuskripte der ‘Deutschen Ideologie’ und die Erstveröffentlichungen in der Originalsprache” (*MELS Studies*, vol. 21, 2001) by Inge Taubert,¹⁰ “Kapitalismus und Krisen. Geschichte und Theorie der zyklischen Krisen in Marx’ ökonomischen Studien 1857/58” by Michael Krätke (*MELS Studies*, vol. 20, 2001),¹¹ “Zur Gründungsgeschichte der *Neuen Rheinischen Zeitung*. Neue Dokumente und Fakten” by François Melis (*MELS Studies*, vol. 21, 2001),¹² etc.

We can see that since the middle of 1980s the scope of translation and introduction of MEGA² in CCTB had become much wider and wider. A major reason for that is: in July 1986, with the approval of the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee, the task to edit the second Chinese edition of MECW was written in the work agenda of CCTB. It is well known that the first Chinese edition of MECW was translated from the second Russian edition of MECW. “It did not include the works and documents later found, and also included some works authored neither by Marx nor Engels. Now relevant research institutions of Soviet Union and other countries are editing and publishing the original edition of Marx/Engels Gesamtausgabe... This edition will include all the writings of the founders of Marxism, of which the part concerning notebooks is mostly first published. These valuable archives should be partly added to the Chinese edition of MECW.”¹³ From this report of Marx/Engels Cabinet of CCTB, we can conclude that already in the middle of 1980s, the high academic quality of MEGA² had attracted the attention of Chinese experts who were engaged in the translation and compilation of Marx/Engels Works, therefore they recommended MEGA² as the translating basis for the second Chinese edition of MECW. Thus MEGA² began to exert great influence on Chinese Marxism.

⁸ Originally published in MEGA-Studien, 1994/2, S. 3–55.

⁹ Originally published in Beiträge zur Marx-Engels-Forschung. Neue Folge 1996, S. 209–221.

¹⁰ Originally published in MEGA-Studien, 1997/2, S. 5–31 and S. 32–48.

¹¹ Originally published in Beiträge zur Marx-Engels-Forschung. Neue Folge 1998, S. 5–46.

¹² Originally published in MEGA-Studien, 1998/1, S. 3–63.

¹³ Marx/Engels Cabinet of CCTB, *Second Chinese Edition of MECW Is in the Course of Editing and Translation*, in: Marxism and Reality, No. 1, 1990, p. 136.

In the course of preparing and editing the second Chinese edition of MECW, CCTB also took part in the editing activities of MEGA². In 1991, the deceased famous scholar Liangxun Zhou became a member of Advisory Board of International Marx/Engels Foundation (IMEF), and in 1992 the former director of CCTB Jianhua Wei became a member of the Editing Commission of IMEF.¹⁴ They both wrote some articles on MEGA². “We should shoulder the historical responsibility to publish MEGA – On International Marx/Engels Foundation”¹⁵ by Wei and “MEGA: Brighter Prospect with Still Many Difficulties”¹⁶ by Zhou reflect the hard situation confronted by MEGA² at the beginning of 1990s. Zhou’s article “The Plan of MEGA after the Revision”¹⁷ introduces the new publication plan after the establishment of IMEF, which marks a new era of MEGA². Furthermore, Zhou wrote the article “The Birth, Characteristics and Current Status of Second Historical-Critical Edition of Marx/Engels Gesamtausgabe”,¹⁸ examining not only the prehistory, birth and characteristics of MEGA², but the status and organizations of IMEF. In addition, Wei had written three special articles, introducing respectively the main constituents of apparatus volume of MEGA²: correction table (Korrekturenverzeichnis), name index (Namenregister), notes (Erläuterungen).¹⁹ Those are the representative articles on MEGA² during its initial translating and introducing period in China.

¹⁴ Now Jianhua Wei is a member of Advisory Board of IMEF and Fangguo Chai, a famous Marxist translator and also the incumbent vice-director of CCTB, is a member of Editing Commission of IMEF.

¹⁵ Jianhua Wei, *We Should Shoulder the Historical Responsibility to Publish MEGA – On International Marx/Engels Foundation*, in: Marx/Engels Studies, vol. 6, 1991, pp. 290–297.

¹⁶ Liangxun Zhou, *MEGA: Brighter Prospect with Still Many Difficulties*, in: Marx/Engels Studies, vol. 9, 1992, pp. 253–260.

¹⁷ Liangxun Zhou, *The Plan of MEGA after the Revision*, in: Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin Studies, vol. 7, 1998, pp. 120–153.

¹⁸ Liangxun Zhou, *The Birth, Characteristics and Current Status of Second Historical-Critical Edition of Marx/Engels Gesamtausgabe*, in: Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin Studies, vol. 9, 1998, pp. 56–70.

¹⁹ Jianhua Wei, Haixian Zuo, *On Correction Table in the Apparatus Volume of MEGA – First Article Concerning the Main Content and Utilizing Method of Apparatus Volume of MEGA*, in: Marx/Engels Studies, vol. 1, 1989, pp. 263–269; Jianhua Wei, *On the Name Index of MEGA – Second Article Concerning the Main Content and Utilizing Method of Apparatus Volume of MEGA*, in: Marx/Engels Studies, vol. 3, 1990, pp. 223–243; Jianhua Wei, *On the Notes of MEGA – Third Article Concerning the Main Content and Utilizing Method of Apparatus Volume of MEGA*, in: Marx/Engels Studies, vol. 4, 1990, pp. 279–293.

Further development of the translation and research on MEGA² (since 21st Century)

1. CCTB

In the 21st century CCTB remains the main base for the translation and research on MEGA². The two famous journals *Marxism and Reality* and *Foreign Theoretical Trends* have published a lot of articles on the editing and publication of MEGA² volumes.

First, many articles concerning MEGA² studies have been published in the bimonthly journal – *Marxism and Reality*.²⁰ The representative ones are as follows: ‘The Editing Problems Concerning the CD-ROM Edition of the Appendix of Volume II/5 of MEGA²’ by Tomonaga Tairako (No. 6, 2007), ‘Probleme der Edition der *Deutschen Ideologie*’ by Tadashi Shibuya (No. 6, 2007), ‘MEGA’s History and Editorial Linguistic Basis’ by Manfred Neuhaus (No. 3, 2011), ‘The Progress of MEGA² and Discussions of Hot Issues Concerning Marx’s Works’ by Martin Hundt (No. 5, 2011), ‘The Emergence of A Theory: The Importance of Marx’s Notebooks Exemplified by Those from 1844’ by Jürgen Rojahn (No. 2, 2012), ‘The Author Marx and His Editor Engels: Different Views on Volume 3 of *Capital*’ by Regina Roth (No. 5, 2012), ‘Vom Säulenheiligen zum Klassiker. Die Marx-Engels-Gesamtausgabe (MEGA): Rückschau und Ausblick’ by Herfried Münkler (No. 5, 2013), ‘Unvollendete Klassiker. Editionsphilologische Konstellationen bei Marx und anderen Klassikern der Sozialwissenschaft’ by Gerald Hubmann (No. 1, 2014) and Rolf Hecker’s ‘Excerpts and Notebooks – Constituent or Supplement of MEGA’ (No. 1, 2014), etc.

Second, *Foreign Theoretical Trends* mainly introduces the new theoretical currents in foreign countries, and it has also published some articles by MEGA scholars, such as a series of lectures²¹ delivered by Prof. Rolf Hecker

²⁰ Since the sixth and last issue of 2010 *Marxism and Reality* has opened a new column called “Research on Compilation and Translation of Classic Works”, publishing specially the articles on Marxist Philology, MEGA editing and research. It is in this column that many articles by famous foreign scholars have been introduced to Chinese audience.

²¹ In August–September 2010 Rolf Hecker delivered six lectures at CCTB under the title of ‘The Literary Legacy of Marx and Engels: History, Publication and Acceptance’. All of these six lectures were successively published in *Foreign Theoretical Trends*. They are as follows: Rolf Hecker, *The Biography of Marx/Engels and the Transmission History of Their Literary Legacy*, in: No. 10, 2010, pp. 1–8; *The Evolution of the Editing Principles of Several Collections of the Works of Marx and Engels – From Engels to MEGA¹*, in: No. 11, 2010, pp. 1–6; *The Prosperity and Fall of MEGA¹ in Lenin’s and Stalin’s Period*, in: No. 12, 2010, pp. 1–8; *The Publication of Marx-Engels-Werke as the Research Edition and the Necessity to Edit and Publish MEGA²*, in: No. 1, 2011, pp. 1–

as he visited CCTB as foreign consultant, and Izumi Omura's 'The Significance of Historical-Critical Edition of Second Volume of *Capital* – Engels's Editing Manuscripts and Volumes II/12 and II/13' (No. 5, 2010). In addition, the journal has published the famous interview with Manfred Neuhaus and Gerald Hubmann titled 'Halbzeit der MEGA: Bilanz und Perspektiven' (No. 4, 2011).

Except for the translation of articles by MEGA experts, scholars of CCTB have also written some articles with regard to MEGA². For example, Lu Lu has made special research on the editing principles of historical-critical edition, the significance of *Capital* and its preparatory materials as an independent section of MEGA².²² In the fifth issue of *Marxism and Reality* in 2013, Yang Xu published an article titled 'On the Main Content and Academic Value of the Second Part of MEGA',²³ which is the first comprehensive investigation on the structure, content and theoretical value of second section of MEGA² in China.

To be sure, there are many scholars in CCTB who are well versed in German. However, since the main task of those experts is to translate Marx and Engels's writings into Chinese and work for the second Chinese edition of MECW, they cannot spend much time in MEGA² studies, which is evidently a big pity for Chinese Marxism.

2. Scientific Institution and Universities

2.1 Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS). Representative: Xiaoping Wei (*1955)

Wei is the research fellow of Institute of Philosophy of CASS. She often visits Europe, especially Netherlands and Germany, to collect materials on MEGA². In 2002, she began to undertake the key project of CASS, 'Research on the Second Historical-Critical Edition of Marx/Engels Gesamtausgabe', which is the first academic project concerning MEGA² in China. More than ten years later, in 2013, four books were published under the support of this project, including *The Road towards Capital – On the Track of Marx's Labor Theory of Value* by Xiaoping Wei, and *From MEGA¹ to MEGA² – The History of*

7; *MEGA² and International Cooperation*, in: No. 2, 2011, pp. 1–7; *On Some New Research Results Concerning MEGA*, in: No. 3, 2011, pp. 1–8.

²² Lu Lu, *On the Editing Principles of Historical-Critical Edition Exemplified by MEGA²*, in: *Studies on Marxism*, No. 4, 2006, pp. 119–124; Lu Lu, *The Problem of the Independent Compilation of the Second Part of MEGA*, in: *Journal of the Party School of Tianjin Committee of the CPC*, No. 6, 2009, pp. 18–22.

²³ Yang Xu, *On the Main Content and Academic Value of the Second Part of MEGA*, in: *Marxism and Reality*, No. 5, 2013, pp. 64–78.

Marx/Engels Gesamtausgabe by Yulan Zhao, which is the first comprehensive study on the editing and publishing history of MEGA in China. Wei has written many articles to introduce MEGA's history, current status and new editing achievement of foreign scholars. She also calls on the Chinese scholars to deepen the Marxist philological studies and especially pay more attention to MEGA². She is regarded as one of the most influential scholars in the field of Chinese MEGA² studies.

2.2 Peking University. Representatives: Prof. Dong Wang (*1948) and Prof. Jinfang Nie (*1966)

Among Chinese universities Peking University has the deepest tradition in introducing and researching Marxism. Already at the beginning of 20th century, Dazhao Li began to deliver lectures on historical Materialism at Peking University. Now Peking University still plays a key role in the contemporary Marxist studies. Prof. Wang is the first doctor in Marxism in China, and enjoys high reputation in the field of Marxian textology and Marxist theoretical studies. In 2006, he published a book titled *New Foundation of Marxology*,²⁴ a fruit of ten-year hard studies. In this book, he points out that we Chinese scholars should overcome three traditional research models, that is, to explain Marx's thoughts on the basis of Engels' views, of Soviet views and of Western views. Rather, we should go back to Marx himself, explicate Marx on the basis of Marx's own writings, and endeavor to establish Chinese Marxology. Therefore we must deepen the investigation on Marx's works, articles, manuscripts and notebooks, that means, we must deepen the research on MEGA². This book had exerted very great influence upon Chinese Marxist theoretical circle, and to establish Chinese Marxology also became one of the ten hottest academic topics in 2007. Prof. Nie is a very prominent expert on Marxian philology. On May 5th 2000, Research Center of Marxist Literature was founded by department of philosophy of Peking University, and Prof. Nie was entrusted to collect and purchase the literature on Marx and Marxism. Under his leadership, Research Center had bought not only the Russian edition, Japanese edition and English edition of MECW, and relevant foreign monographs on Marxism, but also MEGA² volumes, which were at the time quite rare in China. Prof. Nie has also made very deep research on Marxian textology. Most noteworthy is his book *Criticism and Construction: A Textological Study on German Ideology* published in 2011,²⁵ which is the first comprehen-

²⁴ Dong Wang, *New Foundation of Marxology*, Peking University Press, 2006.

²⁵ Jinfang Nie, *Criticism and Construction: A Textological Study on German Ideology*, People's Publishing House, 2011.

sive study on the structure, editions and thoughts of *German Ideology* and has received very high evaluation from the academic circle.

2.3. Tsinghua University. Representative: Prof. Lixin Han (*1966)

Prof. Han received doctor degree in Sociology in Hitotsubashi University and returned to China in 2003. He is the most famous Chinese scholar in introducing and researching Japanese Marxism. The academic projects that he is undertaking are mostly concerning MEGA², such as ‘Studies on the Historical-Critical Marx/Engels Gesamtausgabe’ (Project of Tsinghua University), and ‘Research on the New MEGA’ (Major Research Project of Philosophy and Social Sciences supported by Ministry of Education). In the research course of these projects, Prof. Han has invited many Japanese editors of MEGA², such as Prof. Teinosuke Otani, Prof. Izumi Omura, Prof. Tomonaga Tairako, Prof. Kenji Mori, etc., to visit China to introduce the editing and publishing achievement on MEGA². The new research information provided by the Japanese colleagues promotes greatly the Chinese Marxian philology and MEGA² studies. Prof. Han has also translated and written many articles on MEGA². Most noteworthy is that, in 2013 he had several articles on the second section of MEGA² published in a special column of the second issue of the journal *Review of Political Economy*, including ‘Marx’s Development of the Theory of Social Reproduction Based on Vol. II/11 of New MEGA’ by Prof. Otani, ‘Editing and Research of Engels’ Editing Manuscripts for Vol. II/12 of New MEGA’ and ‘Editing and Research of the Vol. II/13 of New MEGA – Second Volume of *Capital*’ by Prof. Omura, which show the research level on MEGA² of our Japanese colleagues. In April 2014 his new book *Research on Paris Manuscripts – Turning Point of Marx’s Thoughts* is published by Beijing Normal University Press. In this book, Prof. Han holds that Paris Manuscripts, to put it exactly, Notebooks on Mill, is the turning point from early Marx to ripe Marx, and marks Marx becomes true Marx. His new viewpoints have aroused some academic discussions about the historical and theoretical influence of Paris Manuscripts upon the intellectual development of Marx.

2.4. Beijing Normal University. Representative: Prof. Kejian Lu (*1968)

Prof. Lu is also an outstanding scholar in Marxian philology and textology. In 2006, he published a book titled *Hot Issues of Foreign Marxological Studies*,²⁶ introducing the new currents and trends of foreign research on Marxian thoughts. Since 2009 he has begun to edit a series of collections titled ‘Trans-

²⁶ Kejian Lu, *Hot Issues of Foreign Marxological Studies*, Central Compilation & Translation Press, 2006.

lations of Foreign Marxology'. At the end of the same year, six books of this translations were published by Beijing Normal University Press, including *Karl Marx und der Marxismus: von der Ökonomiekritik zur Weltanschauung* by Iring Fetscher, *Divergent Paths: Hegel in Marxism and Engelsism* by Norman Levine, *Habermas on Historical Materialism* by Tom Rockmore, *Marx Critique du Marxisme* by Maximilien Rubel, *The Postmodern Marx* by Terrell Carver, *Marx's Social Ontology: Individuality and Community in Marx's Theory of Social Reality* by Carol C. Gould. In 2010, Prof. Lu began to undertake a project supported by Ministry of Education 'Research on Marxian Philology on the Basis of Apparatus Volume of MEGA²', which is the first research project on apparatus volumes of MEGA² in China.

2.5. Nanjing University and Wuhan University are also important institutions on MEGA² studies. In recent years, under the leadership of Prof. Yibing Zhang (*1956), vice president of Nanjing University, several books on Marxian philology are translated and published by Nanjing University Press, such as 'Ryazanov's Edition of the Chapter on Feuerbach in *Germany Ideology*', 'German Ideology within the Context of Philology' by Hiromatsu Wataru, which arouse much interest of Chinese scholars in Marxian philology and especially in the comparative research on various editions of *German Ideology*. In 2013, Prof. Pengfei Yan (*1946) of Wuhan University began to undertake the major research project of philosophy and social sciences supported by Ministry of Education – 'New Research on *Capital* and Its Manuscripts', which attaches great importance to MEGA². Prof. Yan has invited MEGA experts Prof. Eike Kopf and Prof. Susumu Takenaga to take part in the project, who can provide new materials and research results on second section of MEGA². This project is the first research project in China that focuses on the new published economic manuscripts in MEGA².

Disputes on MEGA²

With the translation and introduction of MEGA² more and more Chinese scholars come to realize the great significance of MEGA² and explicate its positive effect on Chinese Marxism from various perspectives. Nevertheless, a few scholars propose some negative, critical viewpoints against MEGA², and the representative is Prof. Shipeng Zou from School of Philosophy of Fudan University.

In 2010, the sixth issue of *Marxism and Reality* published an article by Prof. Zou titled 'Several Comments on the New MEGA and New MEGA Studies'. In this article, Prof. Zou points out that the introduction and research

on new MEGA in recent years have exerted positive influence on Chinese Marxist philology, but there exists certain tendency in Chinese theoretical circle to mystify and exaggerate new MEGA. He put forward four points: First, new MEGA seeks to present the historical process of the formation of the writings, thus it poses doubt to the relatively ripe text, and deconstructs the unity of the works of Marx and Engels. New MEGA aims to be a scientific and objective editing work, but in effect leads to the mystification of the texts of Marx and Engels. Second, new MEGA studies exaggerate the differences between Marx and Engels, and even make them contradict to each other. Third, new MEGA claims to differentiate Marx's academic thoughts from ideological Marxism, present the original picture of the works and theories of Marx and Engels, but in doing this, it separates Marx's thoughts, academic doctrine from the intellectual tradition of Marxism, and even makes Marx's thoughts fragmented. Four, we Chinese should not expect or wait for the bright prospect brought by new MEGA, which has until now only finished half of the publication plan, but rather, we should on the one hand still refer to the first Chinese edition of MECW, which is good enough for Marxist research, on the other hand, endeavor to promote the publication of the second Chinese edition of MECW.²⁷

For a relatively long time Chinese scholars that engage in MEGA² studies did not give any response to this article. Until 2013, an article by Xiaoping Wei was published in the fourth issue of *Expanding Horizons*, titled 'Reactions to MEGA² in China and Some Reflections'. In this article, Wei criticized Prof. Zou's viewpoint indirectly. She holds that, with the introduction of new information, new research results of MEGA², two sorts of psychological reactions have appeared among the Chinese scholars who are unable to read and study MEGA²: one is blind worship of MEGA²: Some scholars expect MEGA² could deal with all kinds of challenges against Marxism; The other is fear of MEGA²: Some scholars are accustomed to traditional explanation of Marx and Marxism, and feel perplexed when faced with new discovery of MEGA² studies, therefore they reject or even deny MEGA². As Wei mentioned, when the writings once unified published in ordinary or popular editions are now in MEGA² reduced to pieces or fragments as what they are, some scholars are so shocked that they cry immediately, 'is this not deconstruction of Marx's works?' For Wei, both attitudes to MEGA² are incompatible with the spirit of MEGA², namely, objectivity, exactness and faithfulness.

²⁷ Shipeng Zou, *Several Comments on the New MEGA and New MEGA Studies*, in: *Marxism and Reality*, No. 6, 2010, pp. 20–29.

She argues that what MEGA² brings to us is first of all a scientific attitude to the thoughts of Marx and Engels. The key characteristic of MEGA² is to present the original texts, original writing process and the original materials and literature to which Marx/Engels referred. Hence it is indispensable to make research on Marx and Engels based on MEGA². The great value of MEGA² to Chinese Marxist studies is indisputable.²⁸

The above mentioned articles reflect sharply the attitudes of Chinese scholars to MEGA². Such attitudes as Fear or Worship of MEGA² originate from the insufficient understanding of MEGA². The former only emphasizes the microscopic, detailed respect of MEGA² and ignores or denies the key trait of MEGA²: macroscopic unity or completeness. To present the writings of Marx and Engels as complete as possible is the essential task of MEGA². The latter exaggerates the scientific properties of MEGA², such as objectivity, exactness and completeness, and imposes too much imagination or expectation on it. In effect, as the research fruits of Marxist Philology, MEGA² should be regarded as the textual, literary and material foundation for Marx/Engels studies. It cannot replace the Marxist theoretical research and analysis. Therefore we cannot attribute too much to MEGA². In order to overcome those two attitudes and tendencies, more and more scholars believe that, on the one hand, Chinese should admit the high academic value of MEGA² and try to learn from it for the Chinese Marxist studies; on the other, we should not exaggerate MEGA², but rather treat MEGA² objectively and make our own original research on the literary basis of MEGA².

Problems and Prospect

With regard to Chinese MEGA² studies, we still have following problems:

1. It is true that with the publication of the second Chinese edition of MECW, many research results of MEGA² have been introduced into China. However, it must be noted that this second Chinese edition of MECW is not supposed to translate all volumes of MEGA², but only certain parts of it. Similar to the sections of MEGA², the second Chinese edition of MECW has four parts: I. works (except for *Capital*, vol. 1–29); II. *Capital* and the preparatory materials (vol. 30–46); III. correspondence (vol. 47–60); IV. excerpts and notebooks (vol. 61–about 70²⁹). As to part I and II, this Chinese edition will include all the relevant texts published in MEGA²; but for part III and IV,

²⁸ Xiaoping Wei, *Reactions to MEGA² in China and Some Reflections*, in: *Expanding Horizons*, No. 4, 2013, pp. 105–106.

²⁹ The exact number of the volumes for part four has not yet been determined.

the second Chinese edition will include only part of them. For example, the third section of MEGA² presents a large quantity of letters to Marx and Engels, but in the second Chinese edition, most of them will not be included. Therefore this Chinese edition will not have the same large-scale scope as MEGA². What's more, the rich content of independent apparatus volumes of MEGA² will also not be included in Chinese edition. That means, if we Chinese scholars want to acquire those scientific materials in MEGA², we have to rely on our own knowledge in German, but the fact is that most of Chinese scholars know nothing about German.

2. Although many articles concerning the editing and publication of MEGA² have been published and MEGA² becomes more and more popular in China, nevertheless, our MEGA² studies are almost wholly confined to the translation and introduction of foreign academic research. Our ability to make original research on MEGA² or to research Marx and Engels's thoughts on the basis of MEGA² is quite limited. Furthermore, we Chinese scholars stand quite far from MEGA² project itself. Hitherto no Chinese scholar has taken part in essential editing activities of MEGA². Thus we are left behind, only accepting passively the thoughts and ideas of international scholars. In this matter our colleagues of neighboring countries have already surpassed us. Japanese scholars have become an indispensable force for the editing and publishing cause of MEGA². The already published volumes of *Capital* have shown their research ability and theoretical standard. Korean scholars, who have not taken part in direct editing work on MEGA² though, endeavor to translate the volumes of the sections I-III of MEGA² (including the extremely important apparatus volumes) into Korean before 2016.³⁰

Despite of those difficulties in MEGA² studies, we Chinese are still faced with very bright prospect. On the one hand, after more than 30-year introduction, Chinese scholars have reached a common view: in order to research Marx and Engels's thoughts, we have to turn to their literary legacy, turn to MEGA² itself. The fact that in recent years, more and more research projects concerning MEGA² have been approved and received financial support from Ministry of Education and Social Sciences Fund of China bears witness to special attention of Chinese theoretical circle to MEGA². On the other hand, since 2007 Chinese government has begun to provide financial support to students who will pursue master or doctor degree at foreign reputable universi-

³⁰ See 'Gegenwärtige Aufgaben der Marx-Engels-Forschern in Asien hinsichtlich der MEGA-Bände' by Moon-Gil Chung, delivered at the symposium of MEGA specialists on February 20, 2011 in Tokyo.

ties. In recent years, many young scholars have finished their study and returned to China. They form a new and lively force of our research group. Thus we believe, with the joint efforts of Chinese and international scholars, MEGA² studies in China will make great progress in the future.

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