



Utopia, Destiny and Community: Thoughts on Translating Some Marxist Terms

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Background

背景

Collaborative project on Marxist Philosophy of the Reform and Opening Up

“改革开放的马克思主义哲学”的共同项目

Previous languages taught and studied.

- a. Mother tongue is Dutch. 母语是荷兰语
- b. Taught ancient Greek, Latin and Hebrew. 教过古希腊语，拉丁语和希伯来语
- c. Use original languages – especially German and French – to study Marx and Engels. 为了研究马恩用德语和法语
- d. Studied Chinese for 5 years in order to research Chinese Marxist philosophy. 为了研究马克思主义中国的哲学，继续学习中文

Utopia

乌托邦

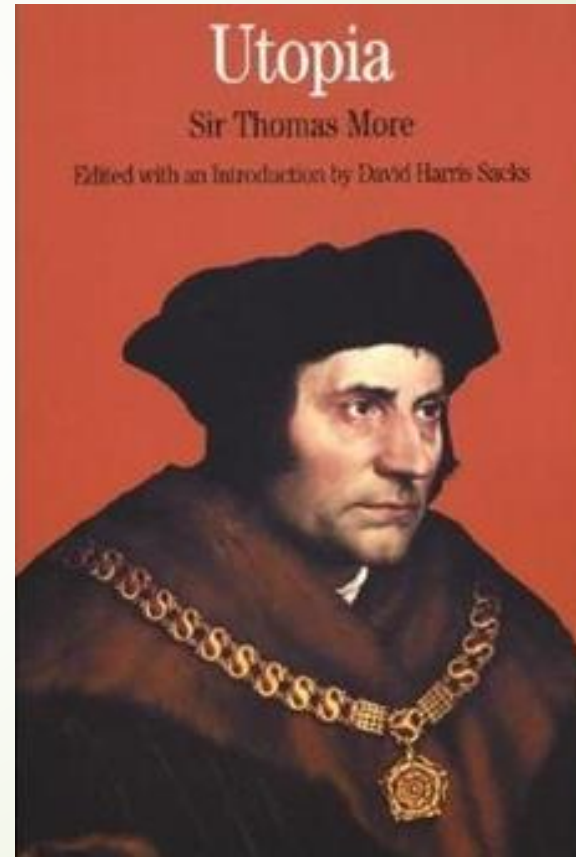
乌托邦 ... 空想社会主义 ...
为什么那样翻译？

Thomas More:

Utopia (1516), in Latin

托马斯·莫尔:

乌托邦 (1516), 用拉丁语





Pun: Utopia/Eutopia

双关语：无处所/尤处所

οὐτόπος - utopia

οὐ - u = 'no' or 'not' (无)

Τόπος - *topos* = 'place' or 'location' (地方, 处所)

εὐτόπος - eutopia


εὐ - eu = 'good' (好, 尤)

So, 'utopia is also 'eutopia': no-place is also a good place
(又无处所又尤处所).



Rumour 传闻

Traveller's tale (海外奇谈):
Raphael Hythlodæus



Report of the tale (二手故事): Thomas
More



Fiction: novel itself (虚构小说)

Ontological Transcendence

本体论的超越（外在超越）

西方欧洲的传统

Ideal world
(最好的世界)



Our world
(不好的世界)



He Xiu's Three Worlds

何休的三世

1. Rumour (所传闻) ——» world of chaos (衰乱)
2. What is heard (所闻)
——» world of rising peace (升平)
(康有为：小康一样)
3. What is seen (所见)
——» world of great peace (太平)
(康有为：大同一律)

East-west Comparative Analysis

中西的比较分析 (三人成虎)

- Rumour and hearsay
(传闻和二手故事)

- Rumour (传闻)

Utopia

乌托邦

World of
chaos (衰乱)



Destiny

命运

My colleague tells me (同事告诉我):

In traditional Chinese culture, there is a difference between fate and fortune: fate is deterministic, and fortune can be transformed.

在中国传统文化中，命和运有一定的区别：命是确定性的，运是可以转化的。

Mencius: "whether life is long or short does not change one's attitude, but through self-cultivation one waits for whatever issue, which is the way to establish destiny."

孟子就说过，“天寿不贰，修身以俟之，所以立命也。”

Marxism has changed China's historical destiny ... it enables the Chinese people to grasp historical laws, change the past and create through practice a new future.

我们常说，马克思主义传入中国，改变了中华民族的历史命运。我想这里更多的是指马克思主义使中国人把握历史规律，在实践中改变过去、创造未来。



Destiny: Western European Tradition

命（运）：西欧传统

Latin word “destinare,” a verb = to fix or establish, and thus determine for a particular purpose or end.

“Destinare”: 这个拉丁文是一个动词 = 修复或建立，由此确定一个特殊的目的或终点。

“Fatum”: a decree by the gods that determines one's destiny or “fate.”

“Fatum”: 这是众神决定一个人的命运（“destiny”或“fate”）的法令。

Destiny: Western European Tradition

命（运）：西欧传统

Chronos (时间) + Anangke (必然) ——》 three daughters (三个女儿) :



“Moirai” (apportioners) “Fata” - Latin

Clotho:
spins thread of life
(纺生活的线)
Lachesis:
measures the thread
(量出那条线)
Atropos:
cuts the thread
(用剪刀)





Destiny: Fate versus Future

命运：命比未来

Destiny ——» Fate

Future ——» Our future is in our hands

未来 ——» 我们的未来掌握在我们手中

所以：“命运” = destiny + future

人类命运共同体：

“community of common destiny”

或者

“community with a shared future for humankind”



Influence of Christian theology

西欧传统：神学的影响



Determinism
决定论



Free will
自由意志

Influence of Christian theology

西欧传统：神学的影响

Dialectical approach possible? 辩证方法，可以吗？





Marx and Engels's Challenge

马恩的挑战

Marx in "The Eighteenth Brumaire" (1852): "Men make their own history, but they do not make it just as they please; they do not make it under circumstances chosen by themselves, but under circumstances directly encountered, given and transmitted from the past."

马克思在《雾月十八日》（1852），“人们自己创造自己的历史，但是他们并不是随心所欲地创造，并不是在他们自己选定的条件下创造，而是在直接碰到的、既定的、从过去承继下来的条件下创造。”



Community

共同体

My colleague tells me that "共同体" is not a concept that derives from the Chinese tradition. This modern Chinese term first appears in the Chinese translation of the classic works of Marx and Engels. In particular, it appears in texts such as *The Paris Manuscripts*, *The German Ideology*, and the *Economic Manuscripts of 1857-1858*.

我的同事告诉我：“共同体”不是中国传统固有的概念，这个现代汉语词汇最早应该来自于马克思恩格斯经典著作的中文翻译。你知道，马克思在《巴黎手稿》《德意志意识形态》《1857-1858年经济学手稿》等文本中用过这个概念。



German terms

德语词

Gemeinschaft

togetherness, fellowship and community ——» 共同体/集体

Gemeinwesen

community as a polity or political organisation ——» 共同体

Allgemeinheit

commonality, universality and community ——» 共同性

Gemeinsam

common, together, collectively ——» 共同

Word root (字根): **gemein** = common = 共 (同)



Latin roots 拉丁语字根

Communis = common

Root **commun**:

Basis for: communal, community, in common, etc.

And **communism**!

But I notice that 'communism' is not 共同主义, but 共产主义

Of course: commun, common and 共 have the same basic sense



Conclusion

结语



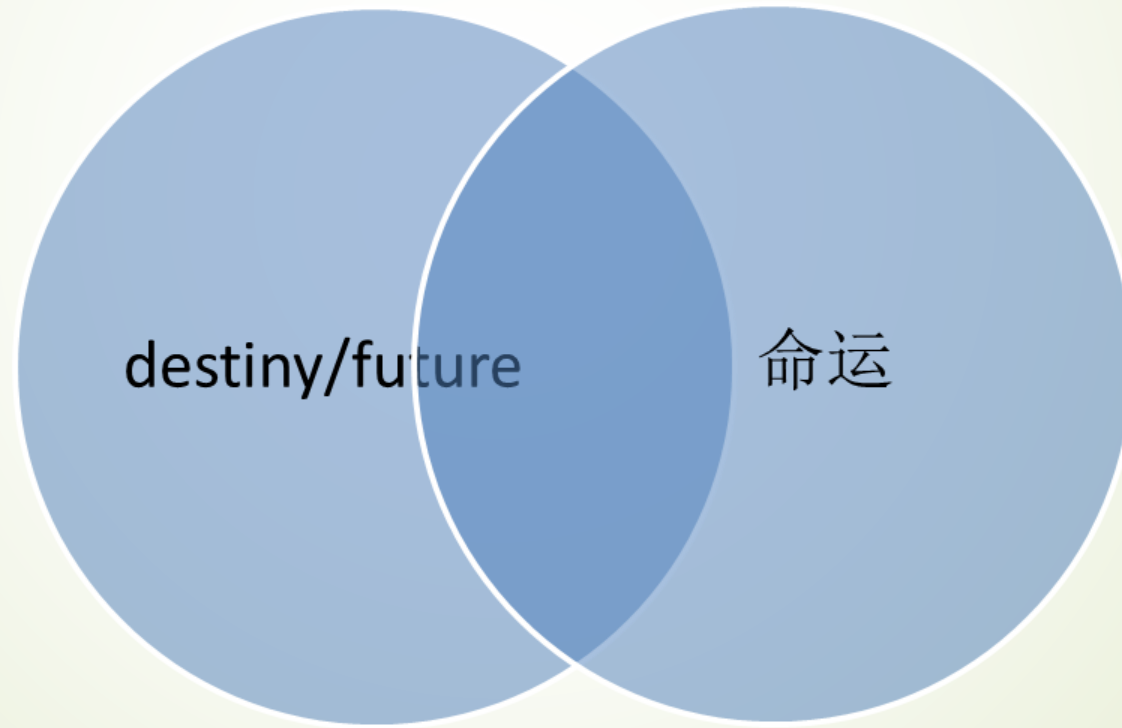
Utopia

乌托邦



Conclusion

结语





Conclusion

结语



community 共同体