

# A Study on the Value Philosophy of the Automatic Machine System in Das Kapital

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**Abstract:** Marx made a scientific exploration of the automatic machine system as the material carrier of fixed capital under the condition of capitalist production, and put forward the theory of compound value, including the concepts of concrete value, exchange value, abstract value, absolute surplus value, relative surplus value and so on. The value of automatic machine system is a new value form of sublation and capitalization of surplus value, which is characterized by materiality, historicity, practicality, subjectivity and objectivity.

**Keywords:** System value, Material, Historic, Practicality, Subjectivity, Objective.

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## 1. Introduction

Under the condition of capitalist production, Marx as fixed capital material carrier of automatic machine system theory criticism, put forward the concrete value, exchange value, the abstract value and absolute surplus value and relative surplus value, value concept, compound value theory, Marx's value system of automatic machine is sublation adapted to "rely on" form of surplus value, The new form of value corresponding to the social development stage of "human free personality" is manifested as the historical dialectical development law of labor (value) -- capital (surplus value) -- labor (value).

## 2. The Philosophical Connotation of the Value of Automatic Machine System

In Das Kapital and its manuscript, Marx elaborated on the automatic machine system, and formed a text group with the automatic machine system as the medium to criticize the value form of fixed capital as the theme. In the semantic logic of the critical theory of fixed capital value form, automatic machine system, capital and human (labor) are closely related and organically unified. Among them, capital is the value intermediary, human (labor) is the value subject, automatic machine system is the value object. The automatic machine system is not only the materialized form of the value of the means of production and the automatic machine system in the process of labor, but also the value form of the theory and practice of extracting surplus value. In essence, it is the external form of the category of capitalist production relations.

Automatic machine system is the last form of value of labor means in the development of capitalist mode of production. Just as Marx pointed out, "after adding capital to the production process, labor means have undergone various changes in form, and its final form is machine, or more precisely, automatic machine system." As the most suitable form of value for capitalist mode of production, automatic machine system is essentially the capitalization of surplus value. The value theory of automatic machine system has three levels: First, the automatic machine system itself has value, "value is labor", labor and value are homogeneous things. Second, the criticism of the fixed capital value form of the automatic machine system in the capitalist mode of

production is actually a criticism of capital. Its purpose is to restore the objective attribute of human (labor) as the value subject in the automatic machine system, so that human can truly become the value subject. As the value object of automatic machine system, the theoretical significance of machine lies in the "object attribute" of things to people (labor), "things exist for people". Third, the way to realize the critique of capital is to sublimate the capitalization of surplus value and put forward new theoretical and practical value forms, of course, from the Angle of economics, Marx in "critique of political economy", volume I of Das Kapital was already had many special value in the German term are discussed, such as value, the abstract value, the specific value, exchange value and surplus value, absolute surplus value and relative surplus value, and so on, but he does not clear after abandoning the capital value form, This provides a broad theoretical space for us to study the essence, form and law of value from a more abstract philosophical level. The value of automatic machine system is the value that confirms the subjective position of human (labor) in the value system, and it is the category of social production relations and "a description of subjectivity" in which human (labor) occupies the subject position in the value system. The scientific nature and truth of the value of automatic machine system mainly lies in its research method, which is the specific application and development of historical materialism and dialectical materialism in the field of value philosophy. Logically, it is shown as the law of value development and value fact of labor (value) -- capital (surplus value) -- labor (value). And with the three stages of social form theory put forward by Marx, that is, human dependence, material dependence, free personality theory form. Human (labor), as the subject of value, is the real human being and the whole human being engaged in productive activities, namely the people. Under the social form of "human dependence", that is, the first stage of labor (value), the value created by human (labor) is the exchange of material and energy between direct labor and the natural system, which is confirmed by the social practice of productive labor. As the subject of value, man (labor) has become the instrument of value in the full sense, and as a result, man (labor) is attached to the object of value created by himself. In the stage of capital (surplus value), people (labor) are attached to the social relations alienated by capital, lose their free individuality and integrity, and become

fragmented and atomized individuals. People become atomized and single people, and capital absorbs people (labor), which means that the whole people, that is, the people's subject value engaged in practical production activities is nihilized and abstract by capital logic, and people (labor) materialize into the illusory illusion of capital, losing the objective attribute of the value subject of automatic machine system.

### **3. The Basic Characteristics of Automatic Machine System Value**

The value of automatic machine system is the form of surplus value that sublates the capitalist mode of production, and it is a new form of value that adapts to the social development stage characterized by "human's free personality". In the second development stage of labor (value), labor (value) represents the new development stage of human (labor) and automatic machine system, that is, the automatic machine system marked by the intelligent system. In the new development stage of automatic machine system, the value of automatic machine system "It represents the nature and degree of the subjectivation process of the object, that is, the nature and degree of the existence, attribute and regular change of the object consistent with, consistent with or close to the scale of the subject". The value of automatic machine system is the inevitable development trend of labor value in the field of dialectics, epistemology and logic. In general, the value of automatic machine system has the following characteristics:

(1) Materiality. In Marx's view, labor material is an objective existence suitable to fixed capital and capital in general, and its essential characteristic is the objective reality of material. The system of automatic machines is the form of material existence, which has value in itself, and it is the value creation of man (labor). As the materialized form of automatic machine system, the value of automatic machine system has been condensed in labor products and expressed as the compound value form in the form of labor materials. Although the automatic machine system is the value creation of human beings, the automatic machine system itself in the capitalist mode of production does not have the value of the automatic machine system, and it will have the value of the automatic machine system only after completely abolishing the value form of fixed capital. The reason lies in that under the capitalist mode of production, the subjective status of human is deconstructed by the power of capital logic, and human becomes the subsidiary of machine, losing the objective attribute of the value subject of automatic machine system. From the theory point of view, in the man-machine system, people are enslaved, people have created value only in the form of the accumulation of surplus value, also is in the process of capital investment to the production cycle automatic machine system (fixed capital) the form of value form, performance and create value for the automatic machine system, wages and profits. On the other hand, the system of automatic machines is applied as fixed capital in the capitalist mode of production. Capital is not a thing in nature, but belongs to the category of material social relations. Just as Marx pointed out, "Capital is not a thing, but a certain, social and historical social relationship of production". Capital is essentially the category of historical social relations, it is not eternal. Not only that, but the capitalist application of the system of automatic machines has a capital function in

itself, obliterating all moral and natural boundaries of the working day. Thus, the contradiction between capital and labor arises, that is, the means of shortening labor become the means of labor time which is controlled by capital and the value of multiplication, and people become the means of capital to realize its multiplication.

Marx's method to solve the contradiction between capital and labor is to put forward the theory of labor value through the analysis of the duality of commodities, and put it into the practice of production in economic society. Of course, the value studied by Marx from the perspective of economics is also the system value from the perspective of philosophy, and the two are the common and characteristic, general and special relations. This shows that the value form of automatic machine system is a double form of theoretical and practical value relationship. As Marx pointed out, "The form of value complete in the form of money is extremely content-free and extremely simple. However, the efforts of human wisdom to explore this form for more than two thousand years have not yielded any results", the reason is that the study of value form "lacks the concept of value", and the way to solve the problem lies in the social practice of productive labor, that is, the theoretical form gradually turns to the practical form. Although value is the most difficult part in *Das Kapital*, it can be used in a wide range of fields. For example, the concept of value widely exists in nature, society and human thinking. It should be said that value is not only a universal concept, but also a philosophical proposition that needs to be studied carefully, and the real understanding of the theoretical form of value is ultimately based on the practical form of value. The value of automatic machine system provides a new Angle of view for us to deepen the understanding of value, especially for the understanding of surplus value. As the subject of the value of the automatic machine system, human (labor) is obscured under the capitalist mode of production. Only the sublation of "capital logic" alien force, overcome the conflict between labor and capital, the restoration of people (labor) objective value attributes of subjectivity, can make people (labor) become automatic machine system value of the subject, and restore the machine in automatic machine system value of the object properties, namely restoring the objective attributes of "matter" automatic machine system.

(2) Historicity. Through different stages of historical development, such as workshop and handicraft industry, machinery and machine system, "the development of labor materials into machine system is not accidental for capital, but makes the traditional inherited labor materials suitable for the historical change of capital requirements." Therefore, knowledge skills and general productivity accumulation of social intelligence, in be reemployed in the capital and labor itself as the real production data to join the production process conditions, the internal performance of fixed capital property, and from the perspective of the relations of capital and the external, "compared with fixed capital, working capital performance for the appropriate form of capital". Capital itself is the materialization of the value created by human (labor), that is, the transformation form of surplus value to the value of automatic machine system. As is the case when value is converted into capital, "capital presupposes certain existing historical developments in the productive forces -- science among them -- and, on the other hand, drives and promotes the productive forces forward." Machines are manufactured productive forces that have value in and of themselves. The surplus value that absorbs labor and appears in the form of

fixed capital value, no matter absolute surplus value or relative surplus value, its source is the labor force engaged in the production practice in the automatic machine system, the variable capital. And workers "make capital useless!" Capital, therefore, is something that must be sublated. The reason is that the system of automatic machines exists in order to maximize the surplus value created by surplus labor through variable capital, and man (labor) is a means rather than an end in the logic of capital. Only under the condition of social ownership, the historical mission of capital (surplus value) can be completed. "People are no longer engaged in the kind of labor that can be engaged by things for people". Workers in the man-machine system are no longer tools and means of value, and people have become the real purpose of the value of the automatic machine system. Therefore, as the most suitable form of expression of capital, the automatic machine system is the historical category, which is essentially the capitalization of surplus value.

Surplus value is a unique form of value in capitalist society. With the change of mode of production, its theoretical form will be replaced by the value form suitable for the new mode of production. This is the value of the automatic machine system, that is, the real system value reflected in the second development stage of labor (value). As a philosophical category of homogeneity with labor, value has different contents in different social forms. The value of automatic machine system is a new form of value in which the surplus value is capitalized. Economic category is the theoretical expression of social production relations, that is, abstraction, "the machine is not an economic category, just as the ox pulling a plow is not an economic category", the way of using the machine and the machine itself are completely different things. "People establish corresponding social relations according to their material productivity, and it is these people who create corresponding principles, concepts and categories according to their social relations". Values and theoretical categories are not eternal, but "historical and temporary products". The fundamental reason that different societies have different values lies in their different levels of production and development. "The hand mill produces a feudal society, while the steam mill produces a society of industrial capitalists." The material elements in the mode of production are not only the signs of the development level of productive forces, but also the signs of certain production relations and social forms. Accordingly, the dominant ideology of society has the form of abstraction and universality, "in the period of aristocratic rule, the dominant concept is honor, loyalty, and so on, while in the period of bourgeois rule, the dominant concept is freedom and equality". The ideas and concepts of the ruling class appear in abstract and illusory forms, and are the "self-regulation" of concepts. Therefore, as the value form of fixed capital and "historical and temporary product", the automatic machine system marked by steam mill is bound to be superseded as the value form of the expression of "capital", so that people (labor) really become the value subject of the automatic machine system.

(3) Practicality. Automatic machine system value is that people are (labor) using automatic machine system (dismissed as a social relations in the form of fixed capital value this factor), "fixed capital development degree is higher, the continuity of the production process or ongoing reproduction process, will be based on the capital mode of production of external mandatory condition". Capital itself

does not create value apart from labor, and is realistic only in the case of labor's substantial subordination to capital. As the principal part of automatic machine system of value creating people (labor) is absorbed by the capital, lost subjectivity, "now only show the conscious part of labor, it takes the form of a single living workers distribution on many different points of the mechanical system, to be included in the overall process of machine system itself, the labor itself is only a link" in the system. In the value of automatic machine system, the subjectivity of human (labor) is alienated into material, that is, it is inhibited by the value form of fixed capital in the form of production means, and it shows the appearance form that the system creates surplus value and capital creates wage, land rent, profit and other trinity. Automatic machine system practical value in capital possession of living conditions: one is "in the industry has reached a higher stage, all science is used to serve capital", on the other hand is the condition of the "invention to become a profession, and science in the application of direct itself to be decisive in science and a focal point of role." In other words, the full development of the productive forces and the free time of man (labor) became the only measure of the value of the automatic machine system. The two conditions of productivity and free time actually contain the conditions of the demise of capital. In the capitalist mode of production, the value of automatic machine system as the expression form of fixed capital has not been reflected, but is hidden by capital. The power of the logic of capital is dominant in capitalist society, accordingly, capital as the expression form of surplus value has subjectivity and free personality, while human (labor) as the value subject of automatic machine system is obscured. The reason is that the labor and the value is essentially a thing, and the value of the capitalist mode of production application under the condition of labor in the form of the accumulation of surplus value, namely the form of capital, the common development of productivity is not hold by the capitalist mode of production, capital of the shell will be a replacement for labor, at the same time, The form of capital value will be sublated by the new form of value adapting to the socialized mode of production. The new value form adapting to the socialized production mode is the value of automatic machine system, which is based on the production practice .

(4) Subjectivity. Human (labor) is the subject of the value of automatic machine system, and the value of automatic machine system is human (labor). In the value system of automatic machine system, human is in the position of subjectivity, and automatic machine system, as the external representation of the value of automatic machine system, is itself the product of labor. As Marx pointed out, "Nature has made no machine, no locomotive, no railway, no telegraph, no spinning machine, etc. They are the products of man's industrial labor, the natural substances that transform man's will to control the organs of nature, or to realize man's will in nature. They are the organs of the human brain created by the human hand; It is the intellectual power of objectification." As a form of value expression of automatic machine system, social productive forces not only represent the general social knowledge of direct productive forces, but also are produced as direct organs of social practice and actual life process. For Marx, automatic machine system operating of power itself is a kind of automata, it is composed of many organs of mechanical and smart, "workers themselves just as a conscious body of automatic machine system", in the capitalist mode of production application of the automatic

machine system, a shift of the people's subjectivity status, Man becomes a part, link, structure, element of an automatic machine system. Of course, the system of automatic machines is treated as an organism and even given the appearance of a soul. As Marx pointed out, "The worker treats the tool as an organ and gives it a soul through his own skills and activities, so that the ability to master the tool depends on the skill of the worker. In contrast, machine to replace workers with skills and strength, it itself is skillful craftsman, it through the mechanical law of in their own works, has its own soul, "as a result, workers' living from the owner of the" machine "to" slave "machines, people became a machine, the machine system has the value subject of the soul. "Workers are no longer the main actors in the production process, but stand beside it." The living (active) machine system appears to the worker as a powerful organism. As the element, link and structure of "A strong organism", knowledge is manifested as "external and different things, while living labor is subordinate to the object labor that acts independently". It can be said that attention to the subject position of human (labor) in the automatic machine system and the mode of action of subjectivity, is the value of the automatic machine system should be the meaning. As the most suitable value form for the development of the automatic machine system of capitalism, the initial form of value is to produce products as the subjective value, and in the form of fixed capital and mobile capital in the automatic machine system exists in all links of production, and is engaged in coordination and management functions in the production system. With the widely application of the system of automatic machines, especially under the condition of application of capitalism, automatic machine system is transformed into the most adapted to the capitalist mode of production of fixed capital, and as the main body of people (labor) value in the system of automatic machine, which makes people (labor) become a link of the capital, elements, structure, Man (labor) lost the main position of the value system of automatic machine system. Gestates the collapse of the capital logic is its movement and development factors, it is embodied in two aspects, on the one hand is the rest of the time and the proportion of labor time in value system gradually increase, the result is that people (labor) to more abstract labor rather than a specific labor create value, people (labor) free time gradually occupies the dominant position in the value system; On the other hand, the increase of surplus labor time means that the capital whose main content is the accumulation of surplus value keeps expanding, and the proportion between the elements of things (whose value form is fixed capital) and the elements of people (whose value form is abstract labor) in the capital system keeps expanding. As a result, human beings in the automatic machine system are the objective attribute of the value subjectivity of the automatic machine system, and are transferred to the production link in the form of surplus value accumulation. In the practice of social production, the subordination of human (labor) to capital is manifested as the illusion that the system of automatic machines creates value. On the contrary, the increase of free time in the form of abstract labor means the enhancement of human (labor) subjectivity and the realization of free personality becomes possible. The nature of the "free personality" in the capital logic power is to maximize the pursuit of surplus value, not to realize the value of human (labor) as the purpose. The two trends contradict each other, that is, the contradiction between "the concentration of means of production and the

socialization of labor". The human factor and the material factor contradict each other. As for which factor occupies the dominant position or plays the dominant role, it is often restricted by factors such as the level of economic development and the mode of production. As a result, the crust of capitalism no longer accommodates the relationship between the subject and object of value, that is, the contradiction between the productive forces and the relations of production. The capitalist mode of production breeds the elements of its own disintegration, and man (labor) is the principal contradiction in the continuum of contradictions.

(5) Objectivity. The automatic machine system abandoning the capitalist mode of production is not only the value subject of the automatic machine system, but also the value object of the automatic machine system. Automatic machine system is a unity of contradiction between subject and object of automatic machine. The subject of the value of the automatic machine system is human (labor), and the object of the value of the system is mainly the object of the creation of the value of human (labor), which is the value of the system itself. System is the intangible value creation, such as the scientific theory system formed based on social and historical practice, the party and state governance system, the social organization management system and so on. It is also a tangible value creation, such as automatic machine system in the age of mechanical industry, artificial intelligence system in the age of information technology, and various intelligent systems widely used in the study of nature, society and human beings. Of course, under the condition of the application of capitalist mode of production, this process is completed through the intermediary role of capital, which is manifested as the false and abstract value object in the form of profit, land rent, wage, etc., namely the so-called trinity of capital, land and labor jointly create the illusion of automatic machine system value. Machine instead of labor as a result, "capital hire labor conflict between the degree of development to the inevitable" here, the use of the capitalist production conditions of the machine and the development of people form the antagonistic relations, "in the machine system, objectified labor on the material and living opposite and become the dominant and the power of living, and actively make living from our own, This is achieved not only through the possession of living labor, but also in the actual production process itself." The tendency of capital development is to give production a scientific character, and direct labor is reduced to the elements of the production process. The development of the automatic machine system makes the concept of wealth change from the object material form to the subject human (labor) form by reducing direct labor. "The development of social individuals" becomes the source of wealth, and "the real wealth is the developed productive forces of all individuals." Under the condition of social ownership, the measure of wealth is free time. Marx pointed out for example that "the reduction of labor time is not reflected in the fact that all the people work six hours, but in the fact that six people work 15 hours each, which is enough to feed 15 people". All the time of the individual has become labor time, which shows that the individual has been reduced to the status of a mere worker, and free labor time is opposed to surplus labor time. In fact, using labor time as a measure of wealth shows that wealth itself is based on poverty. On the one hand, under the capitalist mode of production, the labor time in the most developed system of automatic machines is the total labor time of the worker. Only, on the other hand, in the "to unite, social

individual ownership" conditions, to "get rid of the capitalist production developed internal labor to distort to all the social form and performance in the form of opposites that kind of opposites", to increase the amount of the life data of production has required labor time will decrease, And the amount of time that workers have at their disposal will increase. As the value creation of human (labor), under the premise of social ownership, the value object of automatic machine system in the form of automatic machine system is not only manifested as "the developed productive forces of all individuals", but also the decisive factor to promote "the development of social individuals".

#### **4. Conclusion**

The value of automatic machine system is a new value form of sublation and capitalization of surplus value, which is characterized by materiality, historicity, practicality, subjectivity and objectivity. To sum up, this paper believes

that, as a higher-level value form that sublates capital, the value of automatic machine system is a new value form that organically integrates historicity and practicality, subjectivity and object. This new value form is the connotation of the value philosophy of machine system put forward by Marx in *Das Kapital*.

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