

## THE CRISIS OF THE FAMILY IN MODERN SOCIETY

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*Abstract. The article presents an analysis of modern family problems and the causes of the family crisis, describes the economic roots of the family crisis, conceptual factors, as well as the impact of social transformations on the emergence of a crisis in the family.*

Modern society is in search of a new way of life, new values, ideals and attitudes. This thesis is largely applicable to the problems of the family, family relations. Family is the cell of society, which is the product of the development of human society in a certain historical stage. The situation of the family in every historical period is closely linked to the development of society. The development and changes in society inevitably affect the family, and the changes in the family in turn affect society. The general crisis of the family is a landmark phenomenon of the crisis of modernity. While people in modern society are enjoying all the benefits of technological progress and cultural prosperity, they are also inevitably affected by the increasingly serious crisis of family.

As materialistic factors, money factors, liberal views on marriage, egoistic values, dissipation of responsibility and arbitrariness continue to permeate marital and family life, leading to a weakened sense of family ethics, materialistic views on marriage, “flash marriages and divorces”, family conflicts, domestic violence and other phenomena, the emergence of a universal family crisis is inevitable. The impact of this crisis on human social life has been so profound that society as a whole has had to pay a high price to

remedy the problems arising from the family crisis. Theoretically, the many global debates about whether the future of the family will be disintegrated or maintained are a reflection of the crisis of family modernity in theory [2].

The essence of the crisis of modernity of the family is precisely the crisis of modernity in the mode of production and life. This crisis has deep economic and conceptual roots. In the early years of modern Western society, when the problem of the family crisis was not yet serious, scholars studied it in terms of family history and the historical evolution of the family. Later, the emergence of the social sciences led to a scientific approach to the study of the family, and scholars turned to the study of the family in the process of industrialisation and urbanisation. In the late modern period, the family crisis became a prominent issue and scholars took a cross-disciplinary approach to the study of the family crisis. Marxism is a study of the family from the perspective of a materialistic historical view [2]. Chinese scholars, unlike foreign scholars, mainly focused on the problem of female oppression in marriage and family and the problem of divorce in the early years, and mainly on the problem of family crisis in the later years, showing diversity in the content and methods of research. On the whole, theoretical research on marriage and family issues has made remarkable achievements, but academics still do not have a very clear understanding of the nature of the crisis of family modernity, and there is a great deal of uncertainty about the future fate of the family. Family crisis is a widespread social phenomenon that has many causes.

The economic roots of the crisis of family. Beginning with the Industrial Revolution, the world has witnessed three waves of modernization, which have caused a worldwide leap in human social and historical development, and the social changes brought about by modernization have led to drastic changes in the human family that have never been seen before. The traditional institution of the family and the concept of the family are facing serious challenges and the family is undergoing an unprecedented impact, bringing about a loss of values and a state of spiritual homelessness, as well as the alienation of the concept of marriage, family ethics and marriage and family relations, resulting in the so-called “family crisis”.

The development of the market economy has enriched material goods and raised people’s living standards, but the market economy is penetrating and disintegrating the family. In order to meet the needs of the fast-paced development of the market economy, people have pushed economic information and interpersonal relationships to an important position, which has led to the expansion of karma and interpersonal relationships and the dilution of blood and kinship ties, resulting in the loosening of the family structure. In addition, the socialisation of family functions has led to a weakening of dependence on the family as society shares most of the family’s obligations to support the elderly and to care for and nurture children. As modern production has changed the structure of the modern family, this has weakened the family’s binding power over both spouses, causing a disruption of the formerly family-centred routine of life. The competition in the market economy is so fierce that couples are often exhausted in their efforts to succeed in their careers, but neglect

their family duties. The scope of their joint activities becomes smaller, communication becomes less frequent, affection diminishes, increasing the probability of family contradictions and conflicts, and marital crises tend to arise.

The security of the social welfare system. Many people have financial security to dissolve their marriages in the event of a crisis. The protection of the marital compensation system. For example, in the event of divorce, one of the parties to the marriage is at fault and the other party can claim compensation from him or her. A party who has given more to the family can have a larger share of property in the event of divorce, etc. The legal system protects the weaker party so that they can have the capital to say no to a marriage whose relationship has broken down. The weakening of women's dependence on men through the system's guarantee of their economic status is also one of the reasons for the rise in divorce rates [4].

The development of society has given people more opportunities to participate in social activities, social ties between people have expanded, the dependence of family members on the family has diminished, the social status of the individual depends on his or her own efforts and talents, the family no longer satisfies the needs of the heart and becomes increasingly self-centred. The institution of freedom of marriage has led people to believe that marriage and family life are private matters, separate from social life, and that freedom of marriage has become an excuse for selfishness and pleasure in real life. The promotion of freedom of marriage is also faced with the dilemma that people are increasingly pursuing their emotional needs, their sense of responsibility towards the family is diluted, and the marriage is dissolved once the relationship does not work out, and the divorce rate is on the rise, which to a certain extent threatens the stability of the family.

Modern society is a highly open society with modern production and the changes in society have led the family from being closed in the past to being open today [1,3]. In the past people produced and lived within the confines of a closed, narrow family. The participation of women in social production and their economic status frees them from the constraints of patriarchal and marital power and allows them to live free of dependence on men, which of course contributes to the real equality of men and women. However, the fact that both spouses are employed reduces the opportunities for communication and exchange between them, and divorce is now more common as a result of the weakening of the couple's relationship. In the face of today's serious family crisis problems, people are paying a heavy price. Therefore, at present, in the development of the market economy, it is necessary to correctly deal with the moral problems that arise in marriage and family, but also to seriously deal with the infiltration of egoism, hedonism, money-worship and profit-oriented thinking into the family, and to overcome the contradiction between economic development and the alienation of ethical and moral values, as well as the alienation of people and the family caused by economic development, and to encourage and guide people not to regard money as the goal of their lives.

The family is a socio-historical process, and nowadays the joint family has been gradually transformed into the "nuclear family". However, the crisis of

family modernity does not mean the disintegration of the family. As a historical phenomenon, the family has its own process of creation, development and perfection, and the functions and structures of the family vary from one historical period to another. However, the family is a product of social development, an organisation that perpetuates society and reproduces the population. As the core functions of the family cannot be replaced by society, the family will not die out.

There is a family for every mode of production. The family, as the most basic unit of society, will evolve as the productivity of society increases, moving towards a higher form. Family life will also move towards greater perfection, and people's material and spiritual lives will be raised to an unprecedented level. In the future society, the family will exist solely on the basis of love in terms of content. In terms of form, however, the family can have a pluralistic model. Diverse family models respond to the rapidly changing family life of people in the future. It is conceivable that single-parent families, nuclear families, remarried families, etc., will provide individuals with a variety of options to adapt to a freedom-driven form of society. It is therefore conclusive that, as people's lives continue to change, people in future societies will have a wide variety of family lifestyles, far more diverse than the forms that families take today.

The competition in the market economy is extremely fierce and the work pressure is huge, coupled with the emergence of some phenomena such as money worship, pragmatism, wealth climbing and wealth fighting in society, which stimulate people's desire for material interests, they are greedy for money, lose themselves, corrupt social morals and hinder the development of society, some people even bring these into family relationships, they are willing to sell their emotions and flesh in order to obtain economic benefits, which makes This has impacted and disturbed the originally stable family and normal relationship between husband and wife. In the face of today's serious family crisis problems, people are paying a heavy price. Therefore, at present, in the development of the market economy, it is necessary to correctly deal with the moral problems that arise in marriage and family, but also to seriously deal with the infiltration of egoism, hedonism, money-worship and profit-oriented thinking into the family, and to overcome the contradiction between economic development and the alienation of ethical and moral values.

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