

The Logical Connection and Profound Understanding of the Chinese Path To Modernization

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ABSTRACT

From the transition of agricultural countries to industrial countries during the era of the New Democratic Revolution, to the "four modernizations" of the socialist revolution and the subsequent construction period, and further to the "Four Modernizations of the Chinese Style" in the new era of reform, opening up, and socialist modernization, as well as the "comprehensive modernization" in the current era of socialism with Chinese characteristics, the history of Chinese modernization reflects the practical process of the Communist Party of China in its relentless pursuit of modernization. The profound comprehension of Chinese-style modernization entails upholding the leadership of the Communist Party of China, prioritizing the people, pursuing independent autonomy, and promoting peaceful development. By employing logical reasoning and gaining a thorough understanding of Chinese modernization, this approach holds significant historical and practical implications for resolutely advancing the path of Chinese-style modernization.

KEYWORDS

Chinese modernization; Logical connection ; Profound understanding

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"Modernization" commenced during the 16th and 18th centuries with the advent of Western capitalism and industrial civilization, and later in the 1930s within our nation. According to the definition provided by Mr. Rong Chan, a prominent figure in China's modernization theory, modernization can be broadly understood as a comprehensive concept encompassing the systematic and advantageous development of economic, political, cultural, social, and human-natural relationship structures. It refers to the series of transformations in various domains such as the economy, politics, culture, and ecology that less developed or developing countries undergo in order to attain certain attributes associated with developed industrial societies. In a narrow sense, modernization can be defined as the process by which countries that have fallen behind in terms of industrial development strive to catch up with advanced industrial nations and adjust to the demands of the modern global environment.

The Chinese-style modernization path represents a significant achievement, as it has guided the Chinese Communist Party in its efforts to unite people from diverse ethnic backgrounds across the nation through numerous challenging and arduous explorations. The aforementioned development has not only facilitated the comprehensive establishment of a socialist modernized power, but has also presented humanity with a novel option for achieving modernization. The accumulation of valuable experience and profound enlightenment gained through the exploration of a modernization path similar to that of China holds significant importance for the comprehensive construction of a socialist-modernized power and the realization of the second century struggle's objectives.

1 The Logical Connection of the Chinese path to Modernization

(1) "Agricultural to industrial countries" during the Neo-Democratic Revolution

The October Revolution facilitated the introduction of Marxism-Leninism ideology into China. The Five-Four Movement played a significant role in the dissemination of Marxist ideology in China. In the context of the profound awakening of the Chinese people and the Chinese nation, as well as the integration of Marxism-Leninism with the Chinese workers' movement, the Communist Party of China was established in July 1921. The establishment of China's Communist Party marked a significant turning point in the country's history, as it initiated a modern approach to safeguarding the well-being of its citizens under the guidance of its central leadership. Mao Zedong, during his "Joint Government Report" delivered at the Seventh General Assembly of the Communist Party of China in 1945, proposed that China should strive to attain independence, freedom, democracy, unity, and prosperity. He further suggested that once the prerequisites for a new form of democracy had been met, China would embark on a gradual process of developing both heavy and light industries, thereby transitioning from an agricultural country to an industrial country". In March 1949, Mao Zedong reiterated during the Second Plenary Session of the Seventh Central Committee of the Party that China had undergone a transition from an agricultural country to an industrial country and had progressed from a new democratic society to a socialist society.

During the Neo-Democratic Revolution, the Chinese Communists embraced the historic responsibility of achieving national independence and liberating the people. They also advocated for a shift in the trajectory of modernization, emphasizing the strategic deployments of industrialized countries. After a protracted period of twenty-eight years marked by intense conflict, the Communist Party of China successfully rallied the diverse ethnic groups across the nation, culminating in the establishment of the People's Republic of China. This momentous event was achieved through the active collaboration of various democratic parties and non-party democrats. Practice and historical evidence have unequivocally demonstrated that the attainment of national independence and the liberation of the people in China would have been unattainable without the guidance and leadership of the Communist Party of China. This statement emphasizes that the Chinese leadership has played a crucial role in ensuring the implementation of the Chinese-style modernization path and establishing the necessary social foundations for the significant revitalization of the Chinese nation.

(2) The four modernizations during the period of socialist revolution and construction

After the establishment of the nation, the Communist Party of China guided the populace in upholding the notion of a industrialized nation. In 1954, during the inaugural gathering of the National Defence Commission, Mao Zedong introduced a groundbreaking concept by integrating industry, agriculture, culture, and military, thereby laying the foundation for what would later be known as the "four modernization" prototype. In the same year, Zhou Enlai introduced the "four modernization" objectives for industry, agriculture, transportation, and defense in his report on the Government's activities during the inaugural session of the National People's Congress. In Mao Zedong's 1957 speech on the question of correctly managing contradictions within the people, Mao Zedong emphasized the importance of safeguarding the peaceful endeavors of all individuals and striving to transform our nation into a socialist country characterized by advanced industry, modernized agriculture, and a flourishing scientific and cultural landscape. In December 1964, during the first meeting of the Third National People's Congress, Zhou Enlai made a comprehensive report on the Government's initiatives. He emphasized the Government, stating that China should be built into a socialist power with modern

agriculture, modern industry, modern defense, and modern science and technology within the twentieth century, and proposed a "two-step" vision for achieving the four modernization goals.

In the era of socialist revolution and development, the Communist Party of China guided the populace in achieving the shift from new democracy to socialism. They embarked on the socialist revolution and advanced the process of socialist construction. Concurrently, they set forth four objectives for modernization, aiming to position China's industry at the same time put forward four modernization construction goals, striving at the end of the twentieth century. These objectives encompassed the forefront of the world, comprehensive modernization of agriculture, industry, defense, and science and technology. The Party's original theoretical achievements and significant accomplishments in the socialist revolution and construction have yielded valuable experience, theoretical groundwork, and material resources for the establishment of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new historical era. Furthermore, these achievements have laid the essential political prerequisites and institutional foundations for the remarkable rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

(3) China-style modernization in the new era of reform and opening up and socialist modernization

In March 1978, Deng Xiaoping emphasized the significance of science and technology in achieving the four modernizations during the National Congress of Science and Technology. He stated that the key to achieving these modernizations lies in the modernization of science and technology. In December 1979, Deng Xiaoping, a prominent figure in the Chinese Communist Party, introduced the notion of "Small Comfort" modernization during his meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Dae-ping Jing-fu. In September 1982, during the 12th National Congress of the Party, the objective of the "four modernizations" campaign was revised. The new goal was set as follows: "From 1981 until the end of the 20th century, with the continuous improvement of economic efficiency, the aim is to double the value of the total industrial and agricultural output in the country. This will ultimately raise the standard of living for the people to a level of well-being." In 1987, during the Thirteenth Party Congress, Deng Xiaoping formulated a "three-step strategy" for China's modernization construction, which aimed to achieve remarkable results by the end of the twentieth century through reform and opening up. The first step, completed in 1990, saw the national GDP double compared to 1980 and reach a level of temperate saturation sooner than expected. The second step, accomplished in 1997, aimed to achieve a GDP per capita twice as high as in 1980 ahead of schedule, thus attaining a level of prosperity sooner. Deng Xiaoping effectively achieved the initial two stages of the "three steps" strategy for the reform and opening up of our country.

In 1997, as the twenty-first century approached, the fifteenth congress report of the party emphasized the direction of Deng Xiaoping's "three steps" strategy, particularly the "third step". Jiang Zemin proposed the "new three steps" strategy, which revolved around the socialist modernization of the country with the goals of strength, democracy, and civilization. This strategy aimed to build upon the achievements of the "four modernizations in the Chinese style". In November 2002, the 16th Party Congress set forth the objective of "comprehensively constructing a prosperous society". In October 2007, during the 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, Hu Jintao introduced the concept of socialism with Chinese characteristics, which aimed to establish a prosperous, democratic, civilized, and harmonious. During this period, the objective of achieving a comprehensive well-off society was to further advance the implementation of the "Four Modernizations" in China.

In the new period of reform and opening up and the construction of socialist modernization, the

Communist Party of China has guided the people of all ethnic groups in the country with the principle of "Chinese-style modernization". This principle is based on the fundamental national conditions of the primary stage of socialism and aims to demonstrate the embodiment of socialist modernization through the concept of the development strategy known as the "three steps" and the "new three steps". To facilitate the remarkable revitalization of the Chinese nation, it is imperative to establish novel and robust institutional guarantees, as well as favorable material circumstances, to expedite progress.

(4) "The Comprehensive Modernization" of the New Era of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics

In 2012, the report of the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China explicitly proposed "comprehensively building a prosperous society". It also emphasized the importance of adhering to the new industrialization, informationization, urbanization, and agricultural modernization with Chinese characteristics. The report called for the promotion of deep integration between informationization and industrialization, the establishment of a positive interaction between industrialization and urbanization, and the coordination of urbanization with agricultural modernization. These efforts were aimed at achieving synchronous development in the areas of industrialization, informationization, urbanization, and agricultural modernization.

In the year 2017, the nineteenth report announced that socialism with Chinese characteristics had entered a new phase. It emphasized the goal of transforming the country into a prosperous, democratic, civilized, harmonious, and beautiful socialist modernized power by the middle of the twenty-first century. The proposed strategy, known as the "two-step" approach, aims to guide China's development from 2020 to the middle of the century. The first step, spanning from 2020 to 2035, focuses on the establishment of a prosperous society within the country. Over the course of fifteen years, efforts will be made to achieve socialist modernization. The second stage, from 2035 to the mid-century, builds upon the foundation of modernization and aims to transform China into a wealthy, democratic, civilized, harmonious, and beautiful socialist and modernized nation. This strategy aims to achieve the goal of "essentially achieving socialist modernization" by 2035, demonstrating that China's accomplishments in various sectors have surpassed expectations and that the Chinese-style modernization path has full potential.

During the congress held on July 1, 2021, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Communist Party of China, Xi Jinping emphasized the importance of upholding and advancing socialism with Chinese characteristics. He further emphasized the need to promote the harmonious development of material civilization, political civilization, spiritual civilization, social civilization, and ecological civilization. The new proposition of the "New Road to Chinese Modernization" emphasizes three scientific content aspects that are grounded in China's national circumstances and the characteristics of the times. It upholds the guidance of Marxism and aims to lead the Chinese Communist Party in serving the Chinese people.

Xi Jinping's concept of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, which is grounded in Chinese practice and rooted in China's national circumstances, has introduced a range of significant new ideas and perspectives. This has led to notable achievements and transformative changes in both the party and the country's endeavors. The concept has made substantial original contributions, displaying distinct theoretical characteristics, robust practicality, and remarkable efficacy in advancing the process of Chineseizing Marxism and facilitating the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. It has provided a more comprehensive system guarantee, a stronger material foundation, and a more

proactive spiritual force to realize a new leap in these endeavors.

2 The Profound Understanding of the Chinese path to Modernization

(1) Adhering to the leadership of the Communist Party of China is an essential feature of the path towards Chinese modernization

In his significant address to the Congress commemorating the centenary of the establishment of the Communist Party of China in July 2021, General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized that "the Party's leadership is the fundamental characteristic of socialism with Chinese characteristics, the greatest strength of the Chinese socialist system, the core institution where the Party and the nation reside, the vital essence, and it is closely tied to the interests and future of all ethnic groups within the country."The resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on the major achievements and historical experience of the Party's century of struggle at the sixteenth plenary session of the nineteenth CPC Central Committee in November of the same year summarized the party's centenary of struggles and history. It was pointed out that the Chinese people and the Chinese nation were able to reverse the historical destiny of modern generations and today's great accomplishments.The report at the twenty-first National Congress of the Communist Party of China in 2022 pointed out that the key to building a socialist modernized country in an all-round way and to advancing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is the Party of Communists in China.

The path towards Chinese-style modernization has emerged through the Communist Party of China's efforts to unite and guide the diverse ethnic groups of the country for over a century. This has been achieved through continuous exploration by the people under the Party's leadership for more than 70 years since the establishment of the People's Republic of China, as well as through the Party's significant role in leading the people during the 40 years of reform and opening up.The Communist Party of China serves as the steadfast foundation for our Chinese-style modernization efforts and plays a central role in leading the development of socialism with Chinese characteristics and the achievement of the grand objective of rejuvenating the Chinese nation.

(2) Adhering to the people-centric values of the Chinese-style road to modernization

In the Communist Manifesto, Marx and Engels pointed out that all movements in the past were movements of minorities, or of the interests of the minorities.In his significant speech commemorating the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Communist Party of China in July 2021, General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized that "Jiangshan is the people, and the people are Jiangshan. To fight for Jingshan and safeguard Jiangsan is to protect the hearts of the people."At the sixth plenary session of the Nineteenth Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on November 19, 2021, the resolution of the CPC Central Committee on the great achievements and historical experience of the Party's century of struggle summarized the party's centenary of struggles and history.In the report of the Communist Party of China at the twentieth National Congress in October 2022, it was stated that "it is necessary to insist on safeguarding and improving people's livelihoods during development, to encourage collective efforts in creating a better life, and to continuously fulfill the aspirations of the people for a better life."Adhering to the principle of putting people at the center, advocating for the fundamental position of the people, and striving for the Chinese people as an unwavering goal, this is the driving force behind the path of Chinese-style modernization.

The Chinese Communist Party adheres to the guidance of Marxism. In the historical process

of seeking happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, the Party establishes the fundamental purpose of serving the people wholeheartedly. To observe the flow of people moving in and out of the masses. Adhering to the concept of governance that is oriented towards and based on the needs of the people. All of this fully demonstrates that the Communist Party of China is rooted in the people, its essence is derived from the people, and its authority is derived from the people. It is because the Communist Party of China prioritizes serving the people and remains committed to improving their quality of life that the Chinese-style modernization road has achieved such remarkable success today.

(3) Adhering to independent autonomy is the fundamental principle of the Chinese-style road to modernization

Engels pointed out that after the dissolution of the old International, "the proletariat of every country was given the opportunity to organize itself in an independent and autonomous form". In Lenin's view, the proletarian political party should be completely independent and autonomous. It is through the adherence to "independent autonomy" that the fundamental socialist tasks and direct political objectives of the party can be achieved. The Communist Party of China has led the Chinese people to pursue a unique path of modernization, known as Chinese-style modernization, based on the fundamental principles of independence and autonomy. In the long-term practice of leading the revolution, construction, and reform, our Party has always adhered to the path of advancement and development. This independent exploration and spirit of practice serve as the fundamental guarantee for the continuous progress of the party and the people's cause, leading to one victory after another. In his significant speech at the congress commemorating the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Communist Party of China, General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized that "charting our own path is the foundation of the whole theory and practice, and the culmination of the party's century-long struggle." In the resolution of the Sixth Plenary Session of the Nineteenth Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, it was stated that "independence is the essence of the Chinese nation and a fundamental principle of our party-building." In the history of mankind, no nation or country can achieve strength and revitalization by relying solely on external forces, following foreign models, or imitating others. Under the fundamental principle of independent autonomy, we approach traditional societies by advocating for continuity, but not merely replicating the mother version of our history culture; to the Soviet model, we strive for more than just replicating the practices of socialism in other countries. In the case of Marxism, we do not simply apply the templates conceived by classical Marxist writers. Likewise, in relation to Western countries, we assert our commitment to not simply copying modern development abroad.

Independent autonomy is a crucial principle of Marxism-Leninism that pertains to the leadership of proletarian political parties in the revolution and the development of their country's people. History and reality continuously prove that independent autonomy is the foundation of the Chinese people's self-confidence, spirit, and ability to pursue their own endeavors. It is because we always adhere to the basic principles of independence and self-reliance that our country has embarked on a new path of modernization that aligns with China's national circumstances. This approach allows us to fully utilize the advantages of our system, showcase Chinese characteristics, strengthen ourselves independently, and contribute to the creation of a new form of human civilization.

(4) Adhering to peaceful development is fundamental to China's path to modernization

Marxism believes that peace is an important principle for dealing with relations between peoples and states. At the same time, the Chinese nation has always attached great importance to the

fine tradition of cherishing and loving peace and has never had a history of foreign aggression or expansion. In the Resolution of the Sixth Plenary Session of the Nineteenth Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, it was stated that China's path to modernization does not rely on others or involve exploiting others. It emphasizes mutual benefit and win-win cooperation, rejects zero-sum games, and seeks to develop itself while maintaining world peace and contributing to global stability. In the process of global modernization, Western capitalist countries, driven by expansionism, colonialism, and hegemony, were the pioneers in achieving modernization through methods such as war, aggression, colonization, and exploitation, often at the expense of the interests of other nations. China-style modernization firmly stands on the right side of history and the progress of human civilization. It raises the banner of peace, development, cooperation, and win-win, and embarks on a new path of modernization that will not only develop itself but also benefit the world.

Modernization along the path of peaceful development means that Chinese-style modernization aims to achieve win-win outcomes with countries around the world, rather than pursuing a "might makes right" approach to modernization. In the process of advancing modernization, China has consistently played a role as a promoter of world peace, a contributor to global development, and a defender of international order. Together with the peoples of all countries and various progressive forces, China is building a community of shared destiny and working together to create a better future for humanity.

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