

# Research on taking the road of Chinese path to modernization well——Based on a new development perspective

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**Abstract:** The fact of the matter is that Chinese modernization is not only a great creation of CPC, but also a path we must take to realize the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Therefore, This paper holds that we should focus on the theme of the national rejuvenation and deeply understand the historical exploration of Chinese modernization. And it is necessary to base ourselves on China's national conditions and fully understand the scientific connotation of Chinese modernization. Besides, we should integrate with the times and firmly grasp the practical requirements of Chinese modernization. Only in this way can we firmly follow the path of Chinese modernization and promote the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

## 1. Introduction

The report of the 20th National Congress of the CPC pointed out that, based on our decades of exploration and practice since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, especially since the launch of reform and opening up in 1978, as well as the new breakthroughs made in theory and practice since the 18th National Congress, our Party have succeeded in advancing and expanding Chinese modernization.

Chinese modernization is a new path to achieve the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation created by the CPC and the Chinese people through long-term exploration.

As we embark on a new journey to build China into a modern socialist country in all respects and advance toward the Second Centenary Goal, we need to base ourselves on a new stage of development, apply the new development philosophy, speed up building the new development paradigm, firmly walk a Chinese path to modernization, and advance the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts.

## 2. Focus on the theme and deeply understand the historical exploration of Chinese modernization

The realization of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is the historical mission of the CPC, which is the core proposition to be solved by CPC through the exploration of a Chinese path to modernization.

Modern China was compelled to embark on the historical process of modernization under the impact of imperialistic warships and guns.

From artifacts, institutions to culture, although modern

China attempted various paths towards modernization in the recent past, all of them ended in failure.

The repeated failures of this passive modernization practice tell us that due to different historical stages and levels of development of each country, it cannot achieve its modernization to simply copy or replicate other nation's methods. Instead, it must follow the historical laws and independently seek a practical path of modernization from a country's facts.

Therefore, the CPC, leading the Chinese people through 28 years of bitter and courageous, realized the independence of the Chinese nation and the liberation of the Chinese people. It provides a political premise for China to independently choose a path to modernization that suits its own realities.

Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the CPC has learned from its experience and grasped China's specific realities, and has continuously deepened its understanding of modernization.

Chairman Mao, put forward the historical task of vigorously developing the economy, "steadily transforming China from an agricultural country into an industrial country, and building China into a great socialist country."<sup>[1]</sup>

In June 1953, the "gradual realization of the country's socialist industrialization" was included in the general line of the transitional period, clearly defining industrialization as socialist industrialization, thereby stipulating the socialist nature of China's modernization.

In 1954, Premier Zhou, first explicitly stated that the modernization to be built was "strong modern industry, modern agriculture, modern transportation and modern national defense"<sup>[2]</sup> in the Government Work Report.

In 1960, Mao first proposed the concept of "Four Modernizations". He explicitly stressed that our task "must be to settle down so that we can build our modern industry,

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modern agriculture, modern scientific culture, and modern national defense.” [3]

This series of important ideas on socialist construction enabled New China to establish an independent and relatively complete industrial system and a national economic system, laying the foundation for China's modernization drive.

During the period of reform and opening up and socialist construction, the proposition of “Chinese modernization” was officially raised.

After the Third Plenum of the Eleventh Central Committee, Deng first pointed out, “our modernization drive must proceed from China's reality”[4] and “the modernization we are engaged in is Chinese modernization”[5], proposing the goal of “Chinese modernization” of “moderately prosperous”.

Through unremitting efforts, we have achieved a historic breakthrough in the world's second largest economic aggregate, and a historic leap in the people's living standards from an overall well-off life and to an all-round well-off life, thus providing the sufficient material conditions and a dynamic institutional guarantee for the exploration and practice of Chinese modernization.

Since the 18th National Congress of the CPC, socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era, and the Chinese nation has achieved the tremendous transformation from standing up and growing prosperous to becoming strong.

The Central Committee of the CPC, with President Xi at its core has adhered to staying confident and building strength, upholding fundamental principles and breaking new ground, advancing and expanding Chinese modernization, constructing the theoretical system of Chinese modernization, proposing strategic arrangements for building a great modern socialist country, achieving a series of breakthroughs and historical achievements.

All these have provided a solid material, cultural, and institutional basis for Chinese modernization, as well as a more powerful spiritual force.

Since its establishment, the CPC has always considered the rejuvenation of the nation as the historical theme of its unremitting struggle, and has successfully explored a path of socialist modernization suited to China's national conditions.

The fact of the matter is that Chinese modernization is not only a great creation of the CPC, but also a historical achievement of our Party's continuous exploration, creation, promotion and expansion. It is the path we must take to realize the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

### **3. Based on the national conditions, we should fully understand the scientific connotation of Chinese modernization**

President Xi's important summarization of the five aspects of Chinese characteristics regarding Chinese modernization, that is, “Our country's modernization is the modernization of a huge population. It is the modernization of common prosperity for all. It is the modernization of material and cultural-ethical advancement. It is the modernization of harmony between

humanity and nature. It is the modernization of peaceful development.”

He profoundly reveals the scientific connotation of Chinese modernization, which scientifically answered critical questions such as what kind of socialist modernized strong country to build and how to construct a socialist modernized strong country, and pointed out the correct direction for building a modern socialist country in all respects.

#### **3.1. Chinese modernization is the modernization of a huge population.**

The huge population is one of the fundamental national conditions of our country, and President Xi pointed out that the essence of modernization is the modernization of people.

This essential characteristic of modernization combined with China's huge population creates fundamental differences between Chinese modernization and the modernization of other countries.

The substantial population, that is basic national condition of China, creates realistic pressures for achieving comprehensive modernization and brings about a series of enormous challenges and problems. Hence, Chinese modernization stands as the largest and most difficult modernization in the history of mankind.

At the same time, the basic national condition of a huge population can also provide sufficient human resources and super-large market space for modernization.

Therefore, to grasp essential characteristic of modernization, it is necessary to proceed from the basic national conditions of a huge population and strive to turn pressure into impetus, transform the population size into the enthusiasm, initiative, and creativity of the largest populace, and ultimately lead all the 1.4 billion people into the ranks of modernization.

This would be a miracle and a feat in human history, enriching and developing a new form of human civilization.

#### **3.2. Chinese modernization is the modernization of common prosperity for all.**

Modernization, first of all, is the realization of significant enrichment of material wealth driven by advanced social productive forces.

Therefore, to achieve modernization, China must liberate and develop its productive forces as its fundamental task, accumulating and creating material wealth.

However, the attribute of Chinese modernization is socialist, where the value pursuit is the common prosperity for all. This nature dictates that while advancing material development, it's essential to prevent polarization.

Chinese modernization is not about a fraction of people being prosperous; rather, it centers around the people, continuously solving problems such as regional disparities, urban-rural disparities, and income distribution disparities, promoting social equity and justice, making the fruits of development benefit all people, driving comprehensive

human development and societal progress, ultimately realizing common prosperity for all the people.

The common prosperity for all the people is determined by the nature and purpose of Party. It is an inevitable requirement of adhering to the original aspiration and mission of the Chinese members of the CPC. It is the starting point and foothold of Chinese modernization, and it stipulates the value orientation of Chinese modernization.

### **3.3. Chinese modernization is the modernization of material and cultural-ethical advancement.**

The report of the 20th National Congress of the Party stated, "Material abundance and cultural-ethical enrichment are fundamental goals of socialist modernization."<sup>[6]</sup>

This exposition fully reveals the salient characteristics of Chinese modernization, and it is also a profound understanding of the law of social development. Marxist dialectical materialism emphasizes that materiality determines consciousness, and consciousness reacts upon materiality.

The Chinese nation has a civilization history of over 5,000 years, abundant philosophical thoughts, humanistic spirit, educational thoughts, and moral concepts from excellent traditional Chinese culture. These cultural resources are the great spiritual wealth of promoting Chinese modernization.

Realizing the Chinese Dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation requires substantial enrichment in both material and spiritual wealth.

Therefore, Chinese modernization is to continuously strengthen the of spiritual civilization while developing the economy and promoting comprehensive material wealth, persist in arming the whole Party and educating the people with Xi Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, carry forward the fine traditional Chinese culture and socialist core values, so that the accumulation of wealth is rooted in a more basic and deeper spiritual soil, and provide more lasting strength for material development, and ultimately achieve comprehensive human development and societal progress.

Chinese modernization is the modernization of harmony between Humanity and Nature.

Since the modern industrial revolution, with the advancement of industrial technology, the capitalist productive forces have developed rapidly, and environmental resources have also been seriously damaged.

The relationship between humanity and nature is one of the most basic in human society; If human activities extracting from nature without limit or inflicting damage on it, we are bound to face its retaliation.

China's vast population makes it unsustainable to follow the old path of modernization taken by Europe and America, both in resource consumption and environmental pollution.

This requires that Chinese modernization under the leadership of the CPC must adhere to a new development concept to avoid the pitfalls of 'pollution first, treatment

later'. We must venerate Nature, abide by laws, and protect the environment to uphold and act on the ecological conservation concept of "lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets". We must remember to maintain harmony between humanity and nature when planning our strategic economic and social development, more effectively satisfying the people's aspirations for a beautiful life.

### **3.4. Chinese modernization is the modernization of peaceful development.**

Looking back at the modern history of the world, capitalist modernization is a modernization based on harsh internal exploitation, and a modernization accompanied by colonial expansion and plunder.

Therefore, while promoting the globalization, Western modernization will inevitably deepen class and national contradictions. Modern China was deeply troubled by these two major contradictions.

Hence, while pursuing modernization in the process of achieving national independence and people's liberation in New China, China is committed to its fundamental national policy of opening to the outside world and pursues a mutually beneficial cooperation, against playing zero-sum games. China stands firmly against all forms of hegemonism and power politics, promoting a new type of international relations, and building a Human Community with a Shared Future, becoming a builder of world peace, a contributor to global development, a defender of the international order, and a provider of public goods.

Chinese modernization is a path created by the CPC that is different from Western modernization, which demonstrates the initial aspiration and mission of the CPC, and also embodies the mind and pattern of advancing human progress and seeking common ground for humanity.

## **4. Integrating with the times and firmly grasping the practical requirements of Chinese modernization**

Since the 18th National Congress of the Party, Chinese modernization has been promoted and expanded, propelling the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation into an irreversible process, showcasing powerful political advantages and vitality for socialism with Chinese characteristics.

On March 15, 2023, President Xi delivered a keynote speech at the high-level dialogue between the CPC and world political parties, expounding on the Party's exploration and understanding of modernization. He expressed the desire to join hands with other countries in the world to embark on the path of modernization while advancing the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

This speech demonstrates the global responsibility of Chinese modernization from the strategic perspective of a community with a shared future for mankind, and also set forth practical requirements for itself to promote Chinese modernization on the new journey.

#### **4.1.Upholding the “Two Establishes” is the political assurances for advancing Chinese modernization.**

President Xi pointed out, "The leadership of the CPC is the most essential characteristic of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and it is also the greatest advantage of the socialist system with Chinese characteristics." [7]

On this basis, he further proposed that “Chinese modernization is socialist modernization pursued under the leadership of the CPC. ”

This exposition not only clarifies the crucial relationship between the leadership of the CPC and socialist modernization, but also highlights the great significance of the leadership of the CPC in promoting Chinese modernization.

The “Two Establishes” represent the greatest political achievement in the new era and an innovative outcome in theory and practice.

The historic changes and achievements of the past decade in the new era demonstrate fully that the “Two Establishes” are of decisive significance for the development of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era and for promoting the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Practice has proved that the “Two Establishes” serve as the Party's greatest guarantee for unity in the face of risks and challenges, and the greatest confidence for withstanding stormy seas.

Therefore, consciously adhering to and upholding the “Two Establishes”, achieving the “Two Upholds”, constantly enhancing the “Four Consciousnesses”, and strengthening the ‘Four Confidences’ are “starting a new journey to build China into a modern socialist country in all respects in the historical context of the Party’s centenary; upholding and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era” [8]

#### **4.2.To put the people first is the value pursuit for advancing Chinese modernization.**

“This country is its people; the people are the country.” “As the CPC has led the people in fighting to establish and develop the People’s Republic, it has really been fighting for their support.” [9]

The people are the starting point of modernization and the driving force of development. “Seeking the happiness for the Chinese people and the great rejuvenation for the Chinese nation is not only the starting point and foothold of our party’s leadership in Chinese modernization, but also the ‘root’ and ‘soul’ of the new development concept.” [10]

Therefore, Chinese modernization must adhere to the principle of putting the people first, addressing both unbalanced and inadequate development contradictions and fulfilling the people's aspirations for a better life in culture, spirituality, health, ecological diversity, enrichment, and high quality.

Simultaneously, it's crucial to inspire the people’s motivation, initiative, and creativity through our Party's implementing the mass line to innovative work methods,

so as to unite a mighty force to accelerate Chinese modernization.

#### **4.3.Pursuing high-quality development is the primary task of Chinese modernization.**

Development is our Party's top priority, for without solid material foundations, modernization could not be achieved.

Therefore, to advance Chinese modernization in all respects, we must, first and foremost, pursue high-quality development.

In the new journey, it's necessary to fully and faithfully apply the new development philosophy on all fronts, and promote the organic connection and overall operation of the major aspects.

Only then can we coordinate the “two centenary” goals and realize the organic connection and continuous advancement of the two.

Only then can we take into account the overall domestic and international situation, establish a modern economic system and modern agriculture and rural areas.

And only then can we make breakthroughs in promoting Chinese modernization with higher quality, more efficiency, more fairness, more sustainability and more security.

#### **4.4.Enhancing the capacity for governance is an effective approach to advancing Chinese modernization.**

The report of the 20th National Congress of the Party explicitly mentioned that “basically modernize the system and capacity for governance” in the strategic arrangement for building a great modern socialist country in all respects.

Therefore, enhancing the capabilities for governance of the state and society is not only a must of Chinese modernization construction, but also the crux of advancing Chinese modernization.

The mission of Chinese modernization is arduous, facing complex and severe situations.

Only by vigorously improving the capacity of national and social governance can we address risks and challenges and create a good and stable social environment.

Hence, enhancing the capabilities governance of the state and society is the soft power for advancing Chinese modernization.

It can not only construct an efficient, fair, and just country, but also can further increase China's international standing and influence of Chinese modernization.

### **5.Conclusions**

Chinese modernization is a new proposition different from the “modernization” in the Western context, and will create a new form of human civilization. “Chinese modernization will provide the world with new concepts, new thinking, and new goals.” [11]

More importantly, Chinese modernization will provide new opportunities for world peace and development. “Through the development of modernization, China provides development opportunities for most developing

countries, giving them the opportunity to achieve the improvement and upgrading of the existing technology and production system.”<sup>[12]</sup>

Therefore, As we embark on a new journey to build China into a modern socialist country in all respects and advance toward the Second Centenary Goal, we need to base ourselves on a new stage of development, apply the new development philosophy, speed up building the new development paradigm, firmly walk a Chinese path to modernization, and advance the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts.

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