

The Exploration of Chinese-style Modernization and its Basic Characteristics

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Abstract: Realizing Chinese-style modernization and advancing toward the grand goal of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is the dream of the Chinese people and the historical mission of the Chinese communists. The Chinese Communists' exploration of the road of Chinese-style modernization has gone through four stages: "striving for China's industrialization," "realizing the four modernizations," "taking the Chinese-style modernization road," and "building a modern socialist power," and has explored a Chinese-style modernization construction road. Chinese-style modernization is a modernization led by the Communist Party of China, highlighting the people's nature, and is a parallel, coordinated, fair and peaceful modernization.

Keywords: Chinese-style modernization; Explore the journey; Basic characteristics

Realizing national rejuvenation is the dream of the Chinese nation. In order to carry out national rejuvenation, over the past 180 years and more, the Chinese people have waged arduous struggles with perseverance and perseverance, waged arduous struggles with the spirit of fighting to the end with the enemy to the end, the determination to restore the old things on the basis of self-reliance, and the ability to stand on their own feet and strengthen themselves among the nations of the world. So, what kind of exploration process has China's modernization undergone? What are the basic characteristics? The author tries to discuss it from the perspective of the history of the centenary of the founding of the CPC, and seeks advice from all colleagues in this regard.

1. The exploration process of Chinese-style modernization

The history of the CPC's centennial struggle is a history of fulfilling its original mission and exploring the path of Chinese-style modernization. In the historical journey of leading the Chinese people to unite and struggle, the CPC's exploration of the Chinese-style modernization road has gone through the four stages of "striving for China's industrialization", "realizing the four modernizations", "taking the Chinese-style modernization road" and "building a modern socialist power", and successfully explored a Chinese-style modernization road, which is the exploration result of the Chinese Communists who have successively led the Chinese people to draw blueprints and make unremitting struggles, and "shows the will and ability of Chinese to unswervingly pursue their future destiny." It also shows Chinese firm pursuit of modernization.^[1]

1.1 Strive for China's industrialization

The term "modernization", which originated in Europe in the 18th century, refers to the process of human society from traditional society to modern society in economic, political, cultural, civilization and other aspects since the Industrial Revolution. According to the general law of the evolution of human society, China, with more than 5,000 years of civilization inheritance, can slowly develop from a feudal society to a capitalist society and gradually realize modernization. However, since the beginning of the Opium War, the strong ships and cannons of the Western powers and the encroaching whales have disrupted the rhythm of China's social development and hindered China's pace of modernization, and China has gradually changed from a feudal society to a semi-colonial and semi-feudal society, reduced to a scattered sand and slaughtered country, the Chinese nation has suffered from bullying, fragmentation, frequent wars, and misery of life by the great powers, but it has always been indomitable, forward and followed, stubbornly resisted, and never yielded! In order to turn the tide and save the people from fire and water, countless people with lofty ideals "shouldered morality with iron shoulders", and various national salvation plans were introduced one after another. From the Westernization Movement, the Revolutionary Revolution, to the Xinhai Revolution, the people with lofty ideals who took the lead in waking up have never stopped

exploring and practicing changing the law to become stronger, and “mastering and destroying with the skills of masters and destroyers”; various isms and trends of thought are also “you sing and I appear”, but they have not found China’s road to modernization and failed to solve the problem of China’s future and destiny.

At a critical period when the Chinese nation was facing its survival, the Communist Party of China came into being in the great awakening of the Chinese people and the Chinese nation. After the birth of the Communist Party of China, the Chinese Communists, mainly represented by Comrade Mao Zedong, led the Chinese people to win the victory of the new democratic revolution in 1949 after 28 years of bloody struggle and through the four stages of the First Civil Revolutionary War, the Agrarian Revolutionary War, the War of Resistance Against Japan, and the War of Liberation, establishing a new democratic country under the joint dictatorship of all revolutionary classes, and putting an end to the situation in which old China was divided and scattered. At that time, “modernization is industrialization” had become a consensus in the world. Therefore, Mao Zedong clearly stated that after the victory of the New Democratic Revolution, our Communist Party should “strive for the industrialization of China.” Because the Chinese Communists, mainly represented by Mao Zedong, had realized at that time that in order for China’s national independence to have a real guarantee, it was necessary to realize the industrialization of the country.

1.2 Take the Chinese-style path of modernization

In December 1978, the Communist Party of China held the Third Plenary Session of the Eleventh Central Committee, which was of historical turning significance, made the great decision to implement reform and opening up, realized the shift of the work center of the Party and the state to economic construction, and opened a new period of socialist modernization. What road the second-generation central leading collective with Comrade Deng Xiaoping as the main representative led the Chinese people to take became a major issue of concern to the world during this period. Based on a sober understanding of the current situation of Western modernization and China’s actual national conditions, Comrade Deng Xiaoping mentioned for the first time when meeting the delegation of the executive committee of the British Chinese Chemical Association on March 21, 1979: “We have set the goal of achieving four modernizations by the end of this century. Our concept is different from that of the West, and I will use a new term, which is called the four modernizations of the Chinese style. The term “Chinese-style modernization” came into being.

After determining the road of “Chinese-style modernization”, at the 13th National Party Congress held in 1982, the Party Central Committee put forward a “three-step” strategic plan: the first step was to double the gross national product by 1990 compared with 1980 and solve the problem of food and clothing for the people; The second step is to quadruple the gross national product by 2000 compared with 1980, and the people’s living standards will reach a moderately prosperous level; The third step is to reach the level of a middle-income developed country by the middle of the 21st century, the people will live relatively well, and basically realize modernization. Under the correct leadership of the Communist Party of China, through reform and opening up and the arduous struggle of the people of the whole country for more than a decade, the original strategic goal of “quadrupling the GDP by 2000 compared with 1980” was achieved ahead of schedule in 1995, and at the same time, the people’s living standards also reached the level of moderate prosperity, which later generations called “overall moderate prosperity.” In September 1997, the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Jiang Zemin as the core put forward the “new three-step” development strategy at the 15th CPC National Congress: by 2010, the gross national product will be doubled compared with the 2000 level, the people’s moderately prosperous life will be more prosperous, and a relatively perfect socialist market economic system will be formed; After another ten years of efforts, by the 100th anniversary of the founding of the CPC, the national economy will be further developed and various systems more perfected; By the 100th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China, it will basically realize modernization and build a prosperous, strong, democratic, civilized socialist country. At the same time, the construction of socialism with Chinese characteristics will be enriched into a trinity of economic construction, political construction and cultural construction. In November 2002, the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Jiang Zemin as the core set in its report to the 16th CPC National Congress that the goal of struggle for the first 20 years of the 21st century is to comprehensively build a better-off society that benefits more than one billion people. At the Fourth Plenary Session of the 16th CPC Central Committee held in September 2004, Comrade Hu Jintao, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, put forward the major strategic goal of building a harmonious socialist society, and developed the overall layout of the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics from the “trinity” of socialist economic construction, political construction and cultural construction to the “four-in-one” socialist economic construction, political construction, cultural construction and social construction. The 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, held in 2007, made comprehensive arrangements for the grand goal of “all-round moderate prosperity”, put forward new requirements in economic, political, cultural, social and ecological civilization, and enriched the goals of the party’s basic line as “building a prosperous, strong, democratic, civilized, and harmonious

modern socialist country” in the revised party constitution.

1.3 Build a modern and powerful socialist country

After the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, socialism with Chinese characteristics entered a new era. The Party Central Committee with China’s leaders at its core, bearing in mind the great changes in the world and the overall situation of the strategy of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, and persistently integrating the basic tenets of Marxism with China’s reality and China’s excellent traditional culture, Created the idea of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, these include many new ideas on modernization, such as: upholding the party’s overall leadership over modernization; Adhere to the people-centered development thinking and highlight the value goal of human modernization; Develop people’s democracy in the whole process, comprehensively adhere to the rule of law, and strive to modernize the national governance system and governance capacity; Adhere to the harmonious coexistence of man and nature, and build a beautiful China, these new ideas and concepts are the enrichment and development of our party’s understanding of China’s modernization drive. Under the guidance of the Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era, China’s modernization has made great achievements that have attracted worldwide attention, especially through “targeted poverty alleviation” and “targeted poverty alleviation”, China has successfully eliminated absolute poverty, and in 2020 built a “comprehensive well-off” benefiting 1.4 billion people. The report of the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China pointed out that the overall layout of building socialism with Chinese characteristics is a five-in-one integration of economic construction, political construction, cultural construction, social construction and ecological civilization construction, and the overall task is to realize socialist modernization and the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. After building a moderately prosperous society in 2020, the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China has drawn up the latest blueprint for China’s future development: bringing forward the time for “basically realizing modernization” from the original mid-century to 2035; By the middle of this century, China will build itself into a prosperous, strong, democratic, civilized, harmonious, and beautiful modern socialist power.

2. The basic characteristics of Chinese-style modernization

Realizing Chinese-style modernization is not only the ideal choice for the Communist Party of China to fulfill its original mission and consolidate its ruling position, but also a realistic requirement for China to achieve leapfrog development and enhance its international status. Chinese-style modernization should not only follow the general law of building a modern country, but also have distinctive Chinese characteristics. Completely different from “the relatively small population size of Western capitalist countries, polarized modernization, materialistic expansion modernization, anthropocentric modernization, and foreign expansion and plundering modernization”,^[2] Chinese-style modernization is engraved with a distinct Chinese imprint and contains rich Chinese wisdom. Combined with the important speeches of Chinese leaders, in particular, in the important speech “Correctly Understanding and Vigorously Promoting Chinese-style Modernization” delivered at the opening ceremony of the seminar on studying and implementing the spirit of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China on February 7, 2023, and the important speech delivered at the first session of the 14th National People’s Congress on March 13, 2023, I summarized the following basic characteristics of Chinese-style modernization.

2.1 Adhering to the leadership of the Communist Party of China is the most essential feature of China’s modernization

The history of the international communist and scientific socialist movements shows that in order to achieve constant consolidation and sustained development, socialist countries must unswervingly uphold the leadership of the proletarian party, must take a clear-cut stand in waging a resolute struggle against all kinds of ideas and behaviors that negate and weaken the leadership of the proletarian revolutionary party, and must concentrate their attention and persistently grasp all social construction that benefits the people’s livelihood. In the great journey of Chinese-style modernization, only by always adhering to the leadership of the Communist Party of China can we ensure the socialist direction of Chinese-style modernization. In his important speech entitled “Correctly Understanding and Vigorously Promoting Chinese-style Modernization” delivered at the opening ceremony of the seminar for studying and implementing the spirit of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, China’s leaders clearly pointed out: “The party’s leadership has a direct bearing on the fundamental direction, future and destiny of Chinese-style modernization, and ultimately success or failure. The Party’s leadership determines the fundamental nature of Chinese-style modernization, and only by unswervingly adhering to the Party’s leadership can Chinese-style modernization have a bright future and prosper; Otherwise, they will go off course, lose their souls, and even make subversive mistakes. The leadership of the Party ensures that the Chinese-style modernization is anchored and the goal is stable and far-reaching. Therefore, adhering to the leadership of the Communist Party of China is the most

essential feature of China's modernization. To uphold the leadership of the Communist Party of China, we must earnestly strengthen party building. Our party "must always maintain the soberness and firmness in solving the unique problems of the big party, be bold in self-revolution, never stop administering the party strictly in an all-round way, unswervingly oppose corruption, always maintain the unity and unity of the party, ensure that the party will never change its nature, color, and taste, and provide a strong guarantee for the construction of a strong country and national rejuvenation." "[3]

2.2 People's nature is a prominent feature of China's modernization

In the 18th century, Britain began the process of industrialization with a population of tens of millions. Since the 20th century, the United States, with a population of hundreds of millions, has embarked on the road of modernization. So far, nearly 30 countries and regions in the world have embarked on the road of modernization, with a total population of about 1 billion, while China's current population has reached 1.4 billion. The difference from modernization with a small population in Western countries is that Chinese-style modernization is a modernization with a huge population.

Historical materialism holds that the masses of the people are the creators of history. The material and spiritual wealth of society comes from the hard work of the broad masses of the people. Chinese-style modernization is modernization with a huge population, and the main body of China's huge population is the masses of the people. The material and spiritual wealth in modernization will be created by the people, the social changes in modernization will also be promoted by the people, the masses of the people are the new force of modernization, and Chinese-style modernization must in the final analysis become a reality in the labor and creation of the masses. The people are also the beneficiaries of Chinese-style modernization, and all the fruits created by Chinese-style modernization will be shared by all the people. Therefore, "people's nature" is a prominent feature of China's modernization. In the journey of building a modern and powerful socialist country, the party and the state must fully respect the dominant position of the masses of the people, carry forward the initiative of the masses, develop people's democracy in the whole process, and earnestly protect the legitimate rights and interests of the masses of the people, so as to consolidate the great unity of the people of all ethnic groups throughout the country, so as to unite the majestic force of building a strong country.

2.3 Coordinated type is an important feature of China's modernization

China's leaders noted: "Material and spiritual prosperity are the fundamental requirements of socialist modernization." Therefore, Chinese-style modernization is substantially different from the materialistic and materialistic modernization of the West. In the process of building a strong socialist country, we must not only liberate and develop the productive forces and achieve high-quality economic development, but also earnestly strengthen the building of socialist spiritual civilization, this is because the building of spiritual civilization is an important aspect of the overall layout of the "five-in-one" socialist construction with Chinese characteristics, and second, because vigorously strengthening the building of socialist spiritual civilization can not only make the people spiritually rich, but also provide strong intellectual support, ideological guarantee and spiritual motivation for the building of socialist material civilization. The modernization we want to achieve is a modernization that harmonizes material civilization and spiritual civilization.

China's leaders noted: "The people's yearning for a better life is our goal." People's yearning for a better life is multifaceted, and ecological civilization is an important aspect of it. "Modernization should not only take into account the interests of the present and this generation, but must consider the long-term interests of future generations, and carry forward the spirit of Chinese civilization of 'heavy tasks and a long way to go' and 'worrying about the world.'" [4] Western-style modernization, dominated by "anthropocentric" ecological values, reduces the relationship between man and nature to an instrumental relationship of manipulation and manipulation, with nature reduced to a passive object in the human production process, and the relationship between man and nature reduced to a relationship of taking and being taken, so that under uncontrolled demand, natural resources become depleted and the ecological environment is destroyed. Only by strengthening the construction of ecological civilization, correctly handling the relationship between man and nature, and protecting nature while using nature can the people of our country enjoy a high quality of life, ensure the sustainable development of future generations and enjoy a beautiful ecology forever.

To strengthen the construction of ecological civilization, we must uphold the "two mountains" theory, protect green waters and mountains, and build green factories, green schools, green communities and green homes to achieve harmonious coexistence between man and nature.

2.4 The peaceful type is a distinctive feature of China's modernization

As a socialist country, China has unswervingly pursued an independent foreign policy of peace. Xu Poling, a well-known research institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, pointed out that Chinese-style modernization does not rely on war,

colonization, and plunder. We have embarked on a new path that is very different from Western-style modernization^[5]. To realize "peaceful" Chinese-style modernization, we must hold high the banner of peace, development, cooperation and win-win results, practice true multilateralism, firmly promote the construction of a fair and just new order of global governance, firmly promote the construction of an open world economy, firmly promote the construction of a community with a shared future for mankind, promote the implementation of global development initiatives and global security initiatives, and seek happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation for the Chinese nation, progress for mankind and common cause for the world.

3. Conclusion

The Chinese-style modernization, which integrates the leadership of the Communist Party of China, the people's nature, the parallel, the fairness, the coordination and the peace, carries the expectations of the people of all ethnic groups in the country, condenses the strength of the people of all ethnic groups in the country, and leads the Chinese people to abide by the right and innovate and struggle in unity.

Building a modern and powerful country in the Chinese style is an arduous task and a glorious mission. As the main force of Chinese-style modernization, the broad masses of the people should, under the strong leadership of the Communist Party of China, firmly hold high the great banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Guided by the Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era, self-reliance, unity and struggle, in-depth implementation of science and education rejuvenation strategy, talent strengthening strategy, innovation-driven strategy, regional coordinated development strategy, rural revitalization strategy and other major strategies, focus on improving China's science and technology self-reliance and self-improvement ability, promote the coordinated development of urban and rural areas and regions, promote green and low-carbon economic and social development, and use their own wisdom and strength to create historical greatness in the hot practice of building a strong country!

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