

# *Theoretical Logic and Historical Logic of Chinese Modernization*

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**Abstract:** Chinese modernization is the only way to promote the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. The road of Chinese modernization has its profound theoretical logic and historical logic, it is supported by Marxist humanism thoughts of communist, the thought of world history and the particularity of contradiction, and it is a correct choice made according to the experience of the exploration of Chinese modernization, the revolutionary experience of the Communist Party of China and the experience of the initial exploration of the road of socialist construction. A thorough grasp of the theoretical and historical logic of Chinese modernization is conducive to further implementing the spirit of the 20th national congress of the communist Party of China and is of great significance to starting a new journey in comprehensively building a modern socialist country.

"From now on, the central task of the Communist Party of China is to unite and lead the Chinese people of all ethnic groups in building a great modern socialist country in all respects, realizing the Second Centenary Goal, and comprehensively promoting the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation through Chinese modernization," the report to the 20th CPC National Congress stated. The promotion and extension of Chinese modernization has demonstrated to the world the great superiority of the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics, led the development of socialism in the world, and has profound value implications for both China and the world. To clarify the theoretical logic and historical logic of Chinese modernization to promote the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is the key to deeply understand Chinese modernization and actively practice Chinese modernization thought.

## **1. Theoretical Logic: The Chinese Modernization Road is supported by Marxism**

Marxism is the theoretical basis for the conclusion that Chinese modernization promotes the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. The report to the 20th National Congress clearly points out that Marxism is the fundamental guiding ideology for building the Party and the country and revitalizing them. In the past hundred years of development, China has always taken Marxism as the guiding ideology for its actions, and has constantly enriched and developed Marxism in practice [3-5].

Humanistic thinking of Marxism communism. Marx pointed out in the Paris Manuscript that the real man is “the one who really owns the essence of man”. He believed that communism is to realize the complete liberation of human through the positive sublation of private property. Thus, it can be seen that the great ideal of communism is realized for people. As shown in Table 1, the three basic characteristics of a communist society are closely related to people. The Chinese modernization is the modernization of common prosperity for all the people. Common prosperity is an essential requirement of socialism with Chinese characteristics. China constantly meets the people's aspirations for a better life, strives to safeguard and promote social fairness and justice, and avoids polarization. In 2020, China achieved a comprehensive victory in the battle against poverty, completed the historic task of eradicating absolute poverty, created a miracle in the history of poverty reduction, and achieved the goal of all Chinese people joining the ranks of a moderately prosperous society. Chinese modernization is the modernization of coordinating material civilization and spiritual civilization. President Xi emphasis that the people should have faith, the nation should have hope, so the country has strength. And to realize the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, we must greatly enrich our material wealth, as well as our spiritual wealth. Material and spiritual affluence are the fundamental requirements of socialist modernization. China vigorously develops advanced socialist culture; carries forward socialist core values, inherits excellent traditional Chinese culture, and while promoting material development, never forgets to raise the people's spiritual realm. Chinese modernization is the modernization of harmonious coexistence between human and nature. President Xi emphasize repeatedly that building an ecological civilization have connection with the well-being of the people and the future of the nation and building an ecological civilization bears on the sustainable development of the Chinese nation and the realization of the Two Centenary Goals. In order to realize the sustainable development of the Chinese nation, we should adhere to the harmonious coexistence between human and nature while developing. A beautiful environment and fresh air are also part of people's better life, so protecting the ecological environment is to protect people’s living environment. Promoting the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation with Chinese modernization is not only based on Marxist communist humanist thought, but also implements the Party’s original mission [6-8].

Table 1: Basic characteristics of communism

Substance	Material wealth is extremely rich, and consumption materials are distributed according to need
Spirit	Social relations are highly harmonious, and people's spiritual realm has been greatly improved
Individual	Realize the free and all-round development of everyone

Marx’s thought on world History. As Marx pointed out, “The more the spheres of interaction of various activities expand in this process of development, the more completely the primitive isolation of peoples is eliminated because of ever-improving modes of production, interaction, and the division of labor between peoples naturally formed as a result of interaction, the more history becomes world history.” Under the dual effect of economy and technology, countries are interacting more closely than ever before. No country can be isolated from the rest of the world. Therefore, the actions of a single country may lead to a situation affecting the whole. China’s efforts to build a community with a shared future for mankind and to create a new form of human civilization reflect

the requirement for Chinese modernization to promote world peace, development and progress of human civilization. The Chinese modernization path will not be realized through war, colonization or plunder [9-11]. It is a path of peaceful development. The report clearly states: “We stand firmly on the right side of history and on the side of human civilization and progress. We hold high the banner of peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit. We seek our own development while firmly upholding world peace and development, and in turn, we better safeguard world peace and development through our own development.” As shown in Figure 1, China, as a developing country, has actively sought appropriate and reasonable solutions to the anti-globalization trend, and never resorting to unilateralism and trade protectionism, and supports legitimate trade. In 2021, Jinping Xi stated during a video meeting with US President Joe Biden that the Chinese always love peace and advocate peace as the most precious thing. It is not in the blood of the Chinese nation to invade others and seek hegemony. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, we have never initiated a single war or conflict, and we also have never occupied an inch of other countries' land. In addition, while achieving our own development, China has done its best to help other countries in need. For example, a white paper titled “China and the World in the New Era” released by the Chinese government in September 2019 shows that China has provided nearly RMB100 billion in assistance to 166 countries and international organizations. The development of social productive forces has made the world so closely connected that no country can remain isolated. The great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation requires a peaceful and stable international environment. Chinese modernization firmly follows the road of peaceful development. While joining the world exchanges, China strives to maintain world peace and stability, which is a creative development for Marx's thought on world history [12-14].

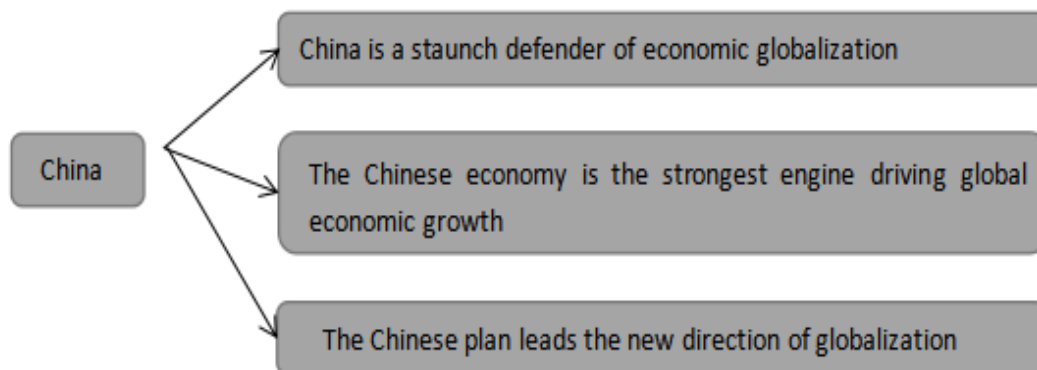


Figure 1: Chinese contribution to world economic development

Marx's thoughts on the particularity of contradiction. Materialist dialectics holds that contradiction has its particularity and the contradiction of different things has its own characteristics. Therefore, we should adhere to concrete analysis of specific problems. Chinese modernization is a modernization with a huge population. China is the most populous country in the world and its 1.4 billion people are overall coming into a modern society, which is an unprecedented challenge and complexity. According to the situation of large population base, our country made corresponding development strategies. In 1979, China implemented reform and opening up, and policies and resources generally favored the coastal areas. The coastal areas developed rapidly, and the Yangtze River Delta and Pearl River Delta became the name cards of China's economy. Twenty years later, the per capita GDP of the eastern region reached 2.46 times that of the western region, widening the gap between rich and poor and increasing regional conflicts. In 1999, China officially put forward the strategy of developing the west. Through the income redistribution method of collecting taxes from the first rich areas, the construction of the west area is subsidized, so as to realize the first rich

driving the latter. In 1985, Mr. Xiaoping Deng met with a delegation of senior American entrepreneurs once said that our policy is to let some people and some regions get rich first, so as to drive and help backward regions. It is an obligation for advanced regions to help backward regions. Because of large amount of population, it is difficult to realize that all the population reach rich level at the same time. The thought and proposition that some people and some regions get rich first accords with the actual situation of our country completely. It is a solid foundation and effective way for accelerating development to reach common prosperity. Faced with the arduous task of leading the 1.4 billion people to come forward into a modernized society together, China adheres to the thought of the particularity of Marxist contradictions as guidance and carries out the methodology of concrete problem analysis, which greatly promotes China's economic and social development.

## **2. Historical Logic: The Chinese Modernization Path Is a Correct Choice Based on Historical Experience**

“Go one’s own way” is the historical logic of the successful opening up of the road of Chinese modernization. The report to the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China pointed out that “Chinese modernization is socialist modernization under the leadership of the Communist Party of China. It has the common features of modernization of other countries, but more importantly, it has Chinese characteristics based on its own national conditions.” The road of Chinese modernization did not come into being without experience. It was developed on the basis of drawing on past historical experience.

During the Opium War, the Western powers violently opened the door to China, and China was forced into the tide of Western modernization and became a semi-colonial and semi-feudal society. As can be seen from Table 2, Chinese development was seriously hindered by three mountains. In order to realize the grand goal of national independence and people’s liberation, the advanced intellectuals in China have made a painstaking exploration. As shown in Table 3, such imitation of the West did not contribute much too Chinese modernization that the Westernization Movement, Reform Movement and Revolution of 1911 all ended in failure. “Before the introduction of Marxism, Chinese modernization was roughly equivalent to ‘Westernization’, and the development goal and direction were capitalist modernization. The modernization way of modern China was the imitation way of Western civilization.” [1] Until the introduction of Marxism-Leninism into China, Chinese advanced intellectuals began to spread Marxism in the country and carry out the labor movement, the Communist Party of China came into being. All the efforts, sacrifices and innovations made by the CPC to unite and lead the Chinese people are aimed at the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Before the founding of the Party, the Chinese revolution was in a difficult situation, lacking a strong core of leadership, and the people lived in extreme hardship. After the founding of the Party, the face of the Chinese revolution took on a new look that every step of the revolution led by the Party was closely integrated with the actual situation of China. In view of the characteristics of the large population in rural China and the situation that the peasants were oppressed by the landlord class, the Party leadership launched the agrarian revolution. In accordance with the weak strength of the enemy in rural areas and the need to mobilize the masses to participate in the revolution, the Party opened up a new revolutionary road of encircling cities in rural areas and seizing power by armed force. In order to correct the error of “left” leaning adventurism, the Party promptly convened the Zunyi Conference. In response to the invasion of the foreign enemy, the Party called for the establishment of the anti-Japanese national united front, which made great contributions to the victory of the Anti-Japanese War. Under the leadership of the Party, the People’s Republic of China was founded, and the Chinese people saw the hope for a new

life. The reason why the CPC has successfully led the Chinese people out of difficulties is that it has explored a path forward suitable for China's national conditions under the guidance of Marxism.

Table 2: Basic conditions of the “Three Mountains”

Imperialism	Imperialism is the biggest obstacle to China's development and progress, and the root cause of poverty and backwardness and all disasters in modern China
Feudalism	The feudal landlord class is the social foundation of imperialist rule and autocratic rule of feudal warlords. It is the main obstacle to China's economic modernization and political democratization
Bureaucratic Capitalism	The bureaucratic capitalism's cruel exploitation of the vast number of working people and the plunder of national industry and commerce have seriously constrained the development of China's social productive forces

Table 3: Early Explorations of advanced intellectuals in China

Event	General Information
Westernization movement	The Westernization Movement set up a number of military and civilian industries, which objectively promoted the development of early Chinese industries. However, its purpose was to maintain feudal rule, so it ultimately failed
Hundred Days Reform	The Reform promoted the ideological enlightenment in China, but the Reform failed because of the limitations of the reformists and the opposition of the feudal conservative forces
The Revolution of 1911	The Revolution of 1911 ended the feudal monarchy in China and promoted the ideological liberation of China, but the capitalist plan for the founding of a country did not work in China, and the revolution of 1911 eventually failed

Since our country had not experienced the development stage of capitalism at the beginning of founding of our nation, the industrial base was very weak. In 1953, at the meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, Mr. Zhedong Mao put forward the general line and task of the Party in the transitional period, which is to gradually realize socialist industrialization and complete the socialist transformation of agriculture, handicraft industry and capitalist industry and commerce. The proposal of the general line is to promote the development of the productive forces, under the guidance of the general line, our country starts the first five-year plan, advocating the development of heavy industry as a priority, and promoting the industrialization of Soviet model and standard. As the First Five-Year Plan progressed, “the Soviet side exposed some shortcomings and drawbacks in the process of building socialism.”[2] As far as the path to industrialization is concerned, the Soviet model has obvious problems and is not suitable for China's actual situation. In the early days of the founding of the People's Republic of China, China's agricultural production was very backward, the people's livelihood was miserable, and the problem of food and clothing had not been solved. Under such circumstances, it was obviously not suitable to give priority to the development of heavy industry. However, the Soviet path of industrialization focused on heavy industry and came at the expense of agriculture and light industry. As can be seen from Table 4, after the “Second Five-Year Plan”, the proportion imbalance of heavy industry became more and more serious [15-16]. In addition, by the first three years of the Fifth Five-Year Plan, none of the planned targets for agricultural production had been fulfilled. Zhedong Mao pointed out that we

should consider all aspects of how to act according to China’s situation and stop being superstitious like in the past. China began to try to follow our own road of industrialization, and put forward the general policy of developing national economy on the basis of agriculture, taking industry as the leading role and taking agriculture as the priority, as well as a set of industrialization development ideas of “walking on two legs”. Then, the industrial development of our country gradually got on the right direction. In the course of exploring the road of socialist construction, we must combine Marxism with China’s reality and find the road of socialist construction that conforms to China’s characteristics.

Table 4: Conceptual growth rates during the First and Second Five-Year Plans

The First Five-Year Plan		The Second Five-Year Plan	
Production of means of production	273%	Heavy industry	19%
Production of means of consumption	156%	Light Industry	14.8%

### 3. Conclusion

The road of Chinese modernization, just like water without a source or a tree without roots. It takes Marxism as its theoretical foundation and enriches and develops Marxism. If a country wants to develop in the long run, it must find its own way. Our historical conditions are different from those of other countries. It is not impossible to follow the Western model to achieve modernization, nor is it advisable to blindly copy the Soviet model. Just like President Xi has said, the diversity of historical conditions determines the diversity of development paths chosen by countries. Only Chinese modernization path with China’s national conditions is the only way to realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

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