

The Cultural Manifestation, Value Essence, and Practical Method of Chinese-style Modernization Path

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Keywords: Chinese-style modernization path; Cultural Manifestation; Value Essence; Practical Method

Abstract: The Chinese-style modernization path is an independent innovation and different from Western, Its foundation is "People-Centered Thought"; its source is the "Unity of Nature and Humanity"; its essence is "Great Unity". The Chinese-style modernization path has broken the myth that Modernization must be Westernized. Driven by the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, we have always adhered to the value of putting people first and pursued a new form of development of human civilization. In the new era, to achieve Chinese-style modernization in practice, it is crucial to adhere to the guidance of Marxist theory and unite all ethnic groups in the country to follow the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

1. Introduction

Realizing socialist modernization has been the long cherished wish and goal of the CPC and the Chinese people since modern times. Over the past century, "the Party has united and led the people to successfully walk out of the Chinese-style Modernization path, create a new form of human civilization, and expand the path of developing countries to modernization." At the critical moment of the beginning of building a socialist modern country in an all-round way, it is undoubtedly of great practical significance to deeply study the cultural foundation, value implication, and practice method of the Chinese-style Modernization path, and systematically summarize the experience of Chinese-style Modernization path construction, to promote the stability of the Chinese-style Modernization path.

2. The Cultural Manifestation of the Chinese-style Modernization Path

The formation of any road has its cultural manifestation. The excellent traditional Chinese culture is the cultural foundation of the Chinese-style modernization path. The ideas of "People-Centered", "Unity of Nature and Humanity" and "Great Unity" are the essence of the excellent traditional Chinese culture, which provides the cultural foundation for the Communist Party of China to unite and lead the Chinese people to explore and promote modernization.

2.1. Culture's Foundation: The "People-Centered Thought" in Excellent traditional Chinese culture

"People-Centered" is heavily embedded in the excellent traditional Chinese culture, which have laid a solid cultural foundation for the "People-Centered" concept contained in the Chinese-style modernization path. Firstly, traditional Chinese culture pay attention to the relationship between the people and national stability[1]. The "Song of Five Children" in the "Book of History" states that "The people are the foundation of the state, and only when the foundation is strong can the state be stable". It embodies the relationship between the stability of the country and the people. Secondly, traditional Chinese culture emphasize the relationship between the people and the rulers. Mencius proposed: "The people are the most important, the state the next, and the monarch the least" ("Mencius: Diligent"), warning rulers must to care about the suffering of the people, light punishment and light taxes, listen to the people, and enjoy the people together. Thirdly, point out how rulers win the hearts of the people. "The Lüshi Chunqiu: Autumn Chronicles of the Ji State" said: "To do something, one must first see if the people are willing before doing it." This means that before rulers take any measures, they must first examine the intentions of the people, listen to their voices, and then implement them, emphasizing that rulers must comply with the wishes of the people.

2.2. Culture's Source: The "Unity of Nature and Humanity" Concept in Excellent traditional Chinese culture

"Unity of Nature and Humanity, and Harmony of Nature and Humanity" inherent in the excellent traditional Chinese culture provides a cultural source for the modernization path of harmonious coexistence between human beings and nature. Firstly, the "Unity of Nature and Humanity" philosophy emphasizes the holistic connection between humans and nature, opposing their separation. Laozi pointed out in the "Tao Te Ching," "The Tao gives birth to One, One gives birth to Two, Two gives birth to Three, Three gives birth to all things." Laozi, based on the objective foundation of the common origin of nature and humans, established the concept of the harmonious unity of "Nature and Humanity," advocating the integration of life." Secondly, it underscores the harmonious consistency between "the way of nature and the way of humanity." "The way of nature" refers to the natural order, indicating the objective laws of movement and change in the natural world. "The way of humanity" refers to human conduct and practical activities. The idea of the harmonious consistency between "the way of nature and the way of humanity" emphasizes that individuals should harmonize their subjective initiative with the objective laws of nature.

2.3. Culture's essence: The "Great Unity Thought" in Excellent traditional Chinese culture

The "Great Unity" concept inherent in excellent traditional Chinese culture is the cultural cornerstone upon which the value system of "a community with a shared future for mankind" has been formed within China's modernization path. The "Book of Rites: The Conduct of Life" has a saying: "when implementing universal laws and principles, the world belongs to all people." This expresses the ideal political philosophy of the Chinese nation, and representing the highest aspirations of countless Chinese layfolk and sage. It is under the influence of the "Great Unity" ideology that, throughout its thousands of years of history, the Chinese nation has never possessed a gene of dividing the world or other countries. The concept of "a community with a shared future for mankind" occurred on Chinese modernization path, inherits and develops the traditional "Great Unity" thought, giving rise to a new form of human civilization.

3. The Value Essence of the Chinese-style Modernization Path

The mystery behind the successful exploration of the Chinese-style modernization path lies in its unique value essence, which centers on the unwavering commitment to a people-centered value stance, driven by the value driver of achieving national rejuvenation, and exemplifying the value pursuit of enriching the forms of human civilization development.

3.1. Value Stance: Always Upholding People-Centered

The value stance of the Chinese-style modernization path lies in fulfilling the aspirations of the people for a better life. It is manifested by the CPC leading the people in the solid and steady advancement of common prosperity for all during the exploration of the modernization path. During the period of the New Democratic Revolution, recognizing that the majority of the population were farmers, the policy of "helping farmers acquire their own land" was proposed to unite and lead the vast rural population in the redistribution of land, aiming to achieve land equality. Then, during the era of socialist revolution and construction, Mao Zedong stated how to achieve common prosperity: "This means, in urban areas gradually realizing socialist transformation of individual handicrafts and capitalist industry and commerce and gradual achieve socialist industrialization. In rural areas, the transformation of agricultural socialism is accomplished through the elimination of affluent rural farmers and individuals, followed by the implementation of an agricultural cooperative system. This gradual process aims to ultimately achieve a state of common prosperity for all rural inhabitants." By the time of reform and opening up, the idea of "enabling the better-off areas to lead the less developed areas and ultimately achieve common prosperity" was developed. In recent years, the concept of common prosperity has continuously deepened and expanded in the new era. Since the 18th Party Congress, represented by CPC Secretary General, it is the Central Committee of the CPC. It has focused on the important task of promoting common prosperity. It has faced various challenges, broken through barriers to vested interests, historically resolved absolute poverty, fully built a moderately prosperous society, and steadily advanced the modernization path where the vast population shares the fruits of reform and development more equitably, achieving common prosperity for all.

3.2. Value Driver: The Historic Mission of the Great Rejuvenation of the Chinese Nation

CPC Secretary General pointed out that: "We must comprehensively promote the Chinese-style modernization for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation." The CPC has been consciously shouldering the historic mission of achieving the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation since its inception and has always worked tirelessly around the theme of achieving national rejuvenation throughout the process of advancing the modernization path. Firstly, the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is a response to the challenges posed by modernization. In recent history, Western powers forced open the doors of China using advanced technology and military might. In order to achieve national rejuvenation and change the humiliating state of the country, the pioneers of Chinese modernization primarily focused on learning Western economic technology, political systems, and cultural ideologies. Secondly, the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation drives the development and growth of the Chinese-style modernization path. Throughout the Party's hundred-year struggle, the central theme has always been the realization of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. From CPC inception, it has united and led hundreds of millions of people, overcoming risks and challenges on the path of modernization, achieving significant achievements, and creating the necessary prerequisites and a solid foundation for the formation and development of the Chinese-style modernization path. Finally, achieving the great rejuvenation of the Chinese

nation requires adhering to the Chinese-style modernization path. In the bright prospect of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, it is imperative not to blindly copy the paths to modernization followed by other countries. We must fully consider our own circumstances and achieve socialist modernization that is distinct from Western modernization, enabling the Chinese nation to stand tall among the world's nations in a "rejuvenated" state.

3.3. Value Pursuit: Manifesting a New Form of Human Civilization Development

Modernization is a common undertaking for all of humanity, and its direction is irreversible. However, the paths to modernization can be diverse for different countries, and each nation should choose a modernization path that suits its own development based on its national conditions. Chinese-style modernization requires overcoming numerous challenges to achieve. Firstly, the Chinese-style modernization path need overcome the dilemma of "polarization." It steadfastly upholds a "People-Centered" value philosophy, decisively wins the battle against poverty, eradicates absolute poverty, firmly prevents capital monopolies and uncontrolled expansion, and steadily promotes common prosperity for all the people. Secondly, China's modernization path require break the dilemma of "strong countries must dominate." The Chinese-style modernization path vigorously promotes peaceful development and win-win cooperation, actively practices multilateralism and the common values of all humanity. This is not only a fundamental requirement of socialism but also the embodiment and practice of the value philosophy from China's outstanding traditional culture, which emphasizes "upholding justice, valuing harmony, and seeking common ground while preserving differences" in the new era. Finally, the Chinese-style modernization path need transcend the dilemma of "civilization conflicts." The new form of human civilization development forged by the Chinese-style modernization path is based on the principle of equal treatment of all ethnic cultures. It vehemently opposes the "Western civilization superiority theory" that relies on strength to bully the weak and the "clash of civilizations theory" imposed upon others. Instead, it steadfastly advocates the "civilization harmony theory"[2].

4. The Practical Method of the Chinese-style Modernization Path.

The approach to achieving Chinese-style modernization is distinct. China is a socialist country, and thus, it must explore a path of socialism with Chinese characteristics that aligns with its national conditions under the guidance of Marxist theory. Additionally, China is a multi-ethnic nation, and we must unite all ethnic groups to achieve the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation..

4.1. Practical Guidance: Upholding the Guidance of Marxism

Marxist theory is our powerful weapon for adhering to and developing the Chinese-style modernization path. It is the "true scripture" of Chinese Communists, and under no circumstances should it be shaken. So two things have to be done. Firstly, we must uphold the fundamental system of the guiding position of Marxism in the ideological field. Over the years, the forms of struggle in the ideological field in China have been complex. We must steadfastly arm our minds with Marxist theory and vigorously resist the infiltration and misleading of foreign cultures. We should strive to "construct a socialist ideology that has strong cohesion and guidance." Secondly, we must adhere to the integration of Marxism with excellent traditional Chinese culture. One of the important reasons why the tree of Marxist truth can thrive and bear fruit in China is its strong compatibility with excellent traditional Chinese culture. Because excellent traditional Chinese culture is a significant manifestation of the worldview and methodology formed by the Chinese nation through long-term production and life practices. We must have historical and cultural confidence, and draw

nourishment from excellent traditional Chinese culture[3].

4.2. Practical Experience: Adhering to the Path of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics

In the new era, even in the face of challenges and pressure, we must stay committed to the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics to achieve the second centenary goal as scheduled. Looking at the historical development of countries worldwide, it becomes apparent that whether a nation can gain independence and embark on the fast track of development hinges on the suitability of its chosen development path. On this new journey, we firmly believe that to advance our national rejuvenation, we must resolutely modernize Marxism in China in line with the times. We must persistently explore and practice Chinese-style modernization and continue the relay race of this unique modernization path. There is just one path for China's modernization, and that is the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics. We must maintain clarity, adhere to the logical principles of practical experience, and stay steadfast on our chosen path.

4.3. Practical Key: Maintaining Unity and Collaborative Efforts of All Ethnic Groups Across the Nation

It is essential to activate the initiative of hundreds of millions of people, tap into the collective wisdom, and leverage the people's strength to usher in a new era of Chinese-style modernization. While advancing the construction of a fully modern socialist nation, whether in decision-making, planning, or policy execution, it's essential to incorporate people's democracy into the entire process to consultations. By doing so, we can foster consensus, cultivate a formidable force to comprehensively drive socialist modernization, and establish an irreversible historical process towards the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

5. Conclusions

The successful establishment of the Chinese-style modernization path not only bolsters our unwavering commitment to this trajectory but also enhances and diversifies the path for modernization that can be adopted by other developing nations. In the midst of an unpredictable global landscape and a complex and sensitive regional environment, we must assertively and independently adhere to the Chinese-style modernization path. This requires the Communist Party of China to lead the Chinese people in efforts from all aspects., such as concurrently advancing the five-in-one overall plan and the four-in-one comprehensive coordinated plan. Only in this way can a solid foundation be laid for achieving the Second Centenary Goal and contributing Chinese wisdom to the progress of human civilization.

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