

Mass line in the new era and the realization of the second centenary goal

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Keywords: Mass Line, The second centennial goal: innovation

Abstract: The mass line is the lifeline and fundamental working line of the CPC, and an important magic weapon for the CPC to create a century of glory. On the new journey towards the second centenary goal, we must take the mass line as the fundamental value guide and work method, and solve the new major social contradictions; We must strengthen the leadership of the construction of a strong socialist modernization country through the mass line; We should gather the great power of the masses through the mass line to promote the construction of a powerful socialist modern country; We must adapt to the new changes in social conditions and public sentiments in the new journey and new stage, innovate ways and means to implement the mass line, and better play the role of the mass line in achieving the second centenary goal.

1. Introduction

"As long as we consistently adhere to the fundamental purpose of serving the people wholeheartedly and uphold the Party's mass line... we will surely be able to lead the people to achieve greater victories in the new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics." [1] Looking back, the CPC's brilliant achievements over the past century have been made possible by the fundamental role played by the mass line. Looking forward, on the new journey towards the second centenary goal and the new test, only by continuing to adhere to and creatively apply the mass line can the CPC achieve its aspiration of building a strong socialist modern country in its due time.

2. The mass line is a magic weapon that the Communist Party of China has used to achieve centennial glory

The Communist Party of China has transformed the Marxist mass view of history into a fundamental work strategy, termed the Mass Line: everything for the masses, everything through the masses, from the masses, to the masses. Over the past century, "*CPC members have achieved the inheritance, development, and innovation of the Marxist view of the masses in the practice of revolution, construction, and reform and opening-up*" [2], achieving magnificent historical accomplishments.

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the masses, from the masses, to the masses. Over the past 100 years, the CPC has consistently upheld and continuously developed the Mass Line, achieving magnificent historical accomplishments.

After the Opium War, the Chinese people's struggles against imperialism and feudalism repeatedly failed. It was not until the leadership of the Communist Party of China that the liberation cause of the Chinese nation and the Chinese people took on a brand-new look. The CPC, through the mass line, sincerely served the masses, maintained close ties with the masses, broadly mobilized the masses, effectively organized the masses, and successfully won over the masses, acquiring an endless stream of revolutionary strength. It grew from small to large, from weak to strong, and finally defeated formidable enemies, overturned the "three big mountains", achieved the great victory of the New Democratic Revolution, realized national independence and the liberation of the people, and established a new China where the people are masters.

During the period of the socialist revolution, the CPC maintained close ties with the masses and delved deeply into their lives. Through methods such as investigation and research, gradual progress, model demonstrations, interest guidance, and ideological education, it mobilized the enthusiasm and consciousness of farmers, handicraftsmen, and the national bourgeoisie to take the socialist path. Peacefully, rapidly, and smoothly, the socialist transformation of the three major private ownership systems was completed, successfully establishing the socialist system and achieving a fundamental transformation of the social system and "double victories" in economic development, creating a miracle in the history of scientific socialism.

Entering the era of socialist construction, the CPC continues to implement the mass line, emphasizing the institutional advantages of letting the people be masters, and attaches importance to enhancing the sense of responsibility of the masses in socialist construction. Despite experiencing setbacks, the CPC has also generated many effective new ideas and experiences in building socialism, achieving significant foundational accomplishments in socialist construction.

In the new era of reform and opening up and socialist modernization, the Communist Party of China creatively applied the mass line to pioneer a new phase in the cause of reform, opening up, and socialist modernization. A classic example of this is the implementation of the rural household contract responsibility system reform. This reform was bottom-up, top-down, and combined both approaches. It came from the masses and went back to the masses, fully promoting democracy, respecting the wishes of farmers, and concentrating the wisdom of the masses. It was a reform for and by the masses, deeply supported by the majority of farmers. This reform successfully opened up a new situation in the development of agriculture and rural areas in our country, and greatly promoted the reform of cities and industry, as well as the entire cause of reform, opening up, and modernization in China.

After socialism with Chinese characteristics entered a new era, the Communist Party of China continued to uphold and develop the mass line, achieving great accomplishments in socialism with Chinese characteristics in this new era. In the new era, the CPC adhered to the implementation of the mass line, effectively mobilizing the enthusiasm, initiative, and creativity of hundreds of millions of people, rallying a tremendous force for the development of socialism with Chinese characteristics, fully building a moderately prosperous society, and achieving the first centenary goal of the CPC on schedule.

3. To achieve the second centenary goal, it is imperative to adhere to the mass line

Over the past century, the CPC has utilized the magic weapon of the mass line to overcome numerous difficulties and severe challenges on its journey forward, creating magnificent historical accomplishments. Today, as our Party embarks on a new journey to achieve the second centenary

goal and a new test, only by continuing to adhere to the mass line as a magic weapon can we overcome various new difficulties and challenges on this new journey, achieve new objectives, and create even more magnificent historical accomplishments.

3.1. The mass line is the value guide and fundamental method for addressing the primary social contradictions on the new journey

In the new journey of the new era, the primary social contradiction in our country is between the people's ever-growing needs for a better life and the unbalanced and inadequate development. "We must never forget our original aspiration and always prioritize the people's desire for a better life as our ultimate goal." The Communist Party of China is committed to resolving this new primary contradiction, striving to meet the people's ever-growing needs for a better life, with the fundamental approach and key method still being to adhere to and implement the mass line. Firstly, "everything for the masses" is the value guide for the Party to address the primary social contradiction on this new journey. On the new journey towards the second centenary goal, the Party should prioritize meeting the people's needs for a better life, dynamically grasp the new demands of the people, continuously promote various reforms and development in all aspects, constantly optimize the supply structure and enhance supply capacity, and continuously enhance the adaptability of supply to demand, thereby continuously enhancing the people's sense of gain, happiness, and security. Secondly, the mass line is the fundamental working method for resolving social contradictions on this new journey. It is precisely because the masses are the creators of history and the real heroes that, on the path to achieving the second centenary goal, the Party must adopt the fundamental working line and practical method of "from the masses, to the masses," transforming and condensing the people's aspirations for a better life into a force to overcome all difficulties and obstacles on the way forward, gathering the endless wisdom of the people, thereby providing an endless source of strength to address the issue of unbalanced and inadequate development.

3.2. The mass line is the fundamental strategy for strengthening the construction of the Communist Party of China on the new journey

Fully building a modern socialist strong country and achieving the second centenary goal is a challenging task, time-pressured, and faced with many difficult challenges. Only by comprehensively and strictly governing the Party and building the CPC into a powerful leadership core can we shoulder the historical mission of leading the comprehensive construction of a modern socialist strong country and achieving the second centenary goal. Since socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era, the CPC has strengthened the normalization and institutionalization of the anti-corruption struggle, effectively mobilized the enthusiasm of the people in participating in the anti-corruption struggle, and played an important role in maintaining its own progressiveness and purity. In the new journey, we must maintain a high-pressure anti-corruption campaign, continue to deeply implement the mass line in the anti-corruption struggle, continue to mobilize the enthusiasm of the people in participating in the anti-corruption struggle, improve and perfect the forms of mass participation in the anti-corruption struggle, and effectively consolidate and develop the achievements made in comprehensively and strictly governing the Party. The implementation of the mass line in Party building helps to build our Party into a Marxist ruling party that is always at the forefront of the times, wholeheartedly supported by the people, brave in self-revolution, able to withstand various tests, and full of vitality, ensuring that the Party's effective leadership over the socialist modernization construction in the new journey, thereby ensuring that the goal of comprehensively building a modern socialist strong country is

achieved on schedule.

3.3. The mass line is the fundamental approach to condensing the tremendous power of the people and accelerating the pace of achieving the second centennial goals

The Communist Party of China has formulated a "two-step" development strategy after the comprehensive construction of a well-off society: the first step is to basically achieve modernization by 2035 in our country, and the second step is to build our country into a prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious, and beautiful socialist modernization powerhouse by the middle of the 21st century. However, no matter how scientific and beautiful the blueprint may be, it ultimately requires the practice of the vast majority of the people to be realized. Throughout the process of achieving the second centenary goal, the Party and the government should use the mass line to gather wisdom and power from the people, providing a strong driving force for achieving new goals of endeavor. On the one hand, the Party and the government must firmly adhere to the principle of "everything for the people". We must understand the needs of the masses from their perspective. We should be good at putting ourselves in the shoes of the people, serving them with enthusiasm, and solving their difficulties with high responsibility. We must prioritize the interests of the people and adhere to the principle of sharing the fruits of development with the people. In the process of meeting the growing needs of the people for a better life, we should mobilize the enthusiasm of the people to strive to achieve the goal of building a modern and powerful socialist country in an all-round way. On the other hand, the Party and the government must firmly adhere to the principle of relying on the masses for everything. The opinions of the people are of great weight in determining how to build a socialist modernized strong country and whether it is well constructed. The Party and the government should be good at brainstorming and closely connecting with the masses through implementing the mass line. We must conduct in-depth investigations and research among the people, and collect as many of their thoughts and opinions as possible. At the same time, scientific and reasonable suggestions put forward to the masses should be promptly reflected in top-level design and policy formulation.

4. To achieve the second centenary goal, it is imperative to innovate and implement the mass line approach

“The mass line is a powerful resource for the CPC to lead the continuous development of socialism with Chinese characteristics.”[3] The fundamental values, principles, and methods of the mass line must always be upheld, yet the specific implementation of the mass line needs to advance with the times. With the establishment of a comprehensively well-off society, significant changes have taken place in the economic and social landscape of our country, and the implementation of the mass line also faces new conditions and situations. Only by innovating the specific methods of implementing the mass line can we effectively leverage its potency and ensure the smooth realization of the second centenary goal.

4.1. Achieving the integration of people's democracy throughout the entire process and the mass line approach

The entire process of people's democracy includes democratic elections, democratic consultations, democratic decision-making, democratic management, and democratic oversight, truly embodying the people's democracy where the people are masters. The mass line is the lifeblood and fundamental work strategy of our Party, serving as the Party's leadership over the people, reliance on the people, and mobilization of the people to create historical greatness. There is

an intrinsic and tight connection between the entire process of people's democracy and the mass line. On the new journey towards comprehensively building a socialist modern country and advancing towards the second centenary goal, we must permeate the mass line throughout every aspect of the entire process of people's democracy. This is an effective way to fully leverage the role of the mass line in this new journey. Firstly, to implement and develop the entire process of people's democracy, we must uphold the value orientation of "everything for the masses" in accordance with the mass line. As a concrete manifestation of the CPC's view of democracy and the people, the entire process of people's democracy must prioritize achieving and safeguarding the fundamental interests of the masses as its value orientation, ensuring that the implementation of every aspect of the entire process of people's democracy more accurately reflects the true wishes of the people and fulfills their interests. Secondly, to implement and develop the entire process of people's democracy, we must adhere to the principle of "everything depends on the masses." On one hand, in the development process of the entire process of people's democracy itself, our Party must firmly rely on the power of the masses to achieve "people's democracy built by the people." On the other hand, the fundamental purpose of developing the entire process of people's democracy on this new journey is to gather wisdom and consolidate strength through its functions such as meeting interest demands, transparent and open participation, rational negotiation and joint construction, and full supervision and constraints, thereby relying on the collective strength of all people to achieve great victories in achieving the second centenary goal. Lastly, to implement and develop the entire process of people's democracy, we must effectively utilize the fundamental work method of "from the masses, to the masses," which is a fundamental cognitive and work method summed up by the CPC during its long-term practice. In this new journey, implementing this method in every aspect of the entire process of people's democracy is an innovative application of the mass line, ensuring that its role can be fully played on this new journey. It can not only greatly promote the development of the entire process of people's democracy, but also overcome the shortcomings of Western-style democracy that only emphasizes voting but ignores the actual needs of the people. This ensures that democracy is truly implemented, deeply rooted in hearts, and widely supported by the people.

4.2. Implement the mass line and promote social fairness and justice

Over the past 40-plus years of reform and opening up, Chinese society has undergone a complex and profound transformation. Accompanied by this transformation has been the stratification within the masses. New social classes and stakeholders have rapidly emerged, and the disparities in the distribution of interests among different stakeholders have been continuously widening, thereby increasing the difficulty in coordinating and resolving contradictions among the people. It can be predicted that, in the new journey towards achieving the second centenary goal, as the productive forces in Chinese society further develop and the division of labor further refines, more new social classes and stakeholders will emerge. Against this backdrop, seeking the greatest common divisor of diverse interests and values is an appropriate approach to resolving contradictions among the people in the new era and effectively implementing the mass line. On one hand, the Party and the government should implement the mass line throughout the institutional construction of the Party and the state, fully leverage the supervision role of the masses over Party members and cadres, promote strict governance of the Party, prevent abuse of power, and eradicate various forms of corruption. In particular, severe actions should be taken against practices such as protection of officials by officials, collusion between officials and businessmen, and trading of power for money, which severely infringe upon the interests of the masses and undermine the credibility of the Party and the government. On the other hand, Party members and cadres should adhere to a people-centered approach, bearing in mind that "the country is the people, and the people are the country." Starting from the vital interests of the masses, they should make scientific decisions, engage in real work, and optimize the distribution of benefits. In top-level design, the Party and the government should comprehensively consider the demands for interests among people in different

regions, industries, and between urban and rural areas. In grassroots practice, government departments should pay more attention to the interests of vulnerable social groups, smooth channels for people to file complaints and protect their rights, improve the efficiency of government departments, and promptly resolve practical issues affecting people's vital interests. The Party and the government should be able to make a final decision among divergent views. We should stimulate the vitality and creativity of all sectors of society. At the same time, we should avoid conflicts of interest caused by differences in demands, and intensify various social contradictions. We should do our utmost to unite the overwhelming force of the masses to work together.

4.3. Innovative technical means to implement the mass line

In the new journey, we must adapt to the new requirements of building a socialist modern country, applying new technologies to the process of implementing the mass line. With the development and popularization of the new generation of Internet plus and artificial intelligence technologies, the network intelligent society and digital society are increasingly deeply generated and developed, bringing both opportunities and challenges for implementing the mass line. The network is increasingly becoming the common spiritual homeland of the people, and it is the main front for us to collect public opinion, stimulate public wisdom, and gather public strength in the process of achieving the second centenary goal. Firstly, the Party and the government should enhance the coordination level of mass work among different government departments through innovative technological means, improve the efficiency of information data utilization, and make mass work become more rapid and efficient. Secondly, the Party and the government should establish effective supervision mechanisms through innovative technological means to better implement the mass line and reduce formalism and bureaucracy in government departments. Thirdly, the Party and the government should use innovative technological means to make mass work specific to individual households or even individuals, enhancing the precision of the mass line.

5. Conclusions

The CPC in the new era is of great significance to the enrichment and development of the mass line. It has innovatively developed the Party's mass line, consolidated the Party's governing foundation, provided strong political guarantees for the development of socialist democratic politics, and provided strength for our Party to unite and lead the Chinese people to achieve the second centenary goal. On the new journey, we must adhere to our ideals and beliefs, stand firm in the position of the people, arm our minds with the Party's mass line ideology of the new era, constantly innovate in the working methods of the mass line, and implement the mass line in the process of promoting fairness and justice. At the same time, we should open up an effective way to practice the mass line on the new journey to ensure the smooth realization of the goal of building a modern socialist country in an all-round way.

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