

The profound connotation of whole process of people's democracy in three dimensions

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Keywords: Whole-process people's democracy; democratic consultation; people's democracy

Abstract: Democracy is a universal value pursuit of modern political civilization and an indispensable institutional arrangement for modern political society. Democracy is not just an abstract concept with metaphysical connotations, but a concrete arrangement rooted in the social structure, historical traditions, and the context of the times of specific countries. The socialist democratic political system with Chinese characteristics has been established under the guidance of Marxism, in line with China's national conditions. It is the profound practice of the leadership of the Communist Party of China, as well as the inevitable choice of history and the people. The whole-process people's democracy is the precise interpretation and scientific expression of this form of democracy. Deeply exploring the theoretical connotations and institutional advantages of the whole-process people's democracy, and continuously advancing and improving it in political development, is of significant value and meaning.

1. Introduction

People's democracy in China is a whole-process democracy. The party's 20th CPC report states, "People's democracy is the essential attribute of socialist democracy, and represents the most extensive, authentic, and effective form of democracy. We must unswervingly follow the socialist path of political development with Chinese characteristics, upholding the organic unity of the Party leadership, the people's position as masters of the country, and the rule of law."

The Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee emphasized the development of people's democracy throughout the whole process. It stressed the unity of the Party leadership, the people's masters of the country, and the rule of law while improving the democratic system, advancing consultative democracy, strengthening the rule of law, and building a socialist country under the rule of law. The session proposed reforms to improve the whole-process peoples democracy system, asserting that the developing people's democracy is an essential requirement of Chinese-style modernization.

Whole-process people's democracy is not only a political system but also a social practice that embodies the fundamental interests of the people. It is a system that ensures the people have extensive rights and freedoms in all aspects of national political and social life. The essence of this democracy is reflected in the people's participation in the management of state affairs, economic

and cultural undertakings, and social affairs through various channels and forms.^[1]Whole-process people's democracy is a significant achievement of the political development of socialism with Chinese characteristics. It is a democratic form that has been continuously explored and improved under the leadership of the Communist Party of China. This form of democracy is not only reflected in elections but also in the daily lives of the people, where they can participate in decision-making, management, and supervision. Whole-process people's democracy is a democratic system that is continuously developing and improving. It is a democratic practice that is tailored to China's national conditions and actual situation. It is not a simple imitation of Western democratic models but a democratic system that is rooted in China's soil and grows out of China's practice. This democracy is not only a political system but also a social practice that embodies the fundamental interests of the people.

Understanding and grasping the historical development, theoretical connotation, and practical applications of whole - process people's democracy is vital for achieving the people's aspirations for a better life and building a modern socialist country.

2. The historical logic of the People's Democracy in the Whole Process

The CPC Central Committee has deepened its understanding of democratic politics development, proposing the concept of whole-process people's democracy. This notion combines Marxist principles with China's reality and traditional culture, showcasing its historical depth and theoretical innovation.

Marxist theory posits that the people are the creators and driver of history. As a Marxist political party, the CPC has consistently prioritized the people's interests and relied on their wisdom and strength to achieve historical milestones, including revolutionary victories, socialist construction, and reform achievements. This foundation underscores people's democracy as a key advantage of China's socialist system, extending beyond politics to economic, cultural, and social domains.

In the new era, the characteristics of the whole-process people's democracy have become increasingly prominent. On November 2, 2019, during an inspection in Shanghai, Secretary-general introduced the significant concept of "people's democracy is a whole-process democracy". This concept highlights that democracy extends beyond elections, encompassing all aspects of social life and the governance process. This innovative idea provided strategic direction for advancing China's democratic political framework and holds substantial theoretical and practical significance. In March 2021, the concept of "whole-process democracy" was formally incorporated into two key draft amendments, solidifying its status as a guiding principle for China's democratic political development. This legislative move strengthened the institutional foundation of whole-process democracy and underscored its importance in national governance. During the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the CPC, Secretary-general reiterated the importance of "developing people's democracy throughout the whole process," further emphasizing the centrality of the people's role in democratic governance. In October 2021, at the Central People's Congress Working Conference, Secretary-general described whole-process people's democracy as a hallmark of China's socialist democracy and a distinctive strength of its political system. Subsequent resolutions, including those adopted at the Sixth Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee and the Party's 20th National Congress, integrated this concept into the CPC Constitution. These measures illustrate the Party's commitment to enhancing theoretical and institutional support for whole-process democracy. The genesis and evolution of whole-process people's democracy are deeply rooted in China's 5,000-year history and rich cultural heritage. This legacy, imbued with principles of governance by the people and moral leadership, provides unique advantages and an enduring foundation for engaging in global cultural competition. Since the 18th CPC National Congress, Secretary-general

has emphasized popular support as the cornerstone of governance, invoking the ancient adage, "Water can carry a boat but can also overturn it." The Party's core socialist values and its vision of a community with a shared future for humanity reflect and build upon these historical and cultural foundations.

The birth and development of the whole-process people's democracy are deeply rooted in the long and splendid history of civilization of the Chinese nation, which spans over five thousand years. This long history has accumulated a rich treasure of excellent traditional Chinese culture, which not only constitutes our unique advantage but also serves as an important cornerstone for our standing in global cultural competition. Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, Secretary-general has repeatedly emphasized the importance of public opinion for national governance and cited the ancient adage, "Water can carry a boat, but it can also capsize it." The core socialist values and the concept of building a community with a shared future for mankind advocated by our Party are deeply infused with the essence of democracy and freedom from the excellent traditional Chinese culture, and these concepts have been fully reflected and promoted in the practice of whole-process people's democracy. It can be said that the development of this thought is deeply rooted in the history and excellent traditional culture of the Chinese nation, demonstrating an incomparable driving force for progress and making a significant original contribution.

Whole-process people's democracy emerges as a synthesis of Marxist principles on the people's central role and China's rich traditional culture, demonstrating remarkable ideological vigor and originality. It stands as a testament to the seamless integration of historical wisdom and modern governance principles, offering an inspiring model for the continued progress of China's democratic system.

3. The Theoretical Significance of the Whole - Process People's Democracy

Whole-process people's democracy integrates various forms of democratic practices, combining election and consultation, direct and indirect democracy, the leadership of the Party and the participation of the people, as well as process and results, procedure and essence. It draws from and builds upon outstanding democratic achievements throughout human history, synthesizing these into a comprehensive system of institutional procedures and broad participation in practice. This system ensures the people's rights and interests are fully protected, allowing the consistent realization of development outcomes that align with the interests of the majority. By harmonizing the will of the people with the will of the state, whole-process people's democracy embodies the essential attributes of socialist democratic politics.

This unique form of democracy is not a mechanical replication of Western democratic models but is instead deeply rooted in China's rich traditional culture, historical trajectory, and specific national conditions. It represents an independent and innovative model of governance, providing valuable insights for other countries exploring democratic paths suitable to their circumstances. Chinese-style democracy showcases the institutional strengths of China's governance system, emphasizing the distinctive differences from Western bourgeois democracy and bolstering confidence in the socialist system with Chinese characteristics.

Practice has proven that whole-process people's democracy, emerging from the great practice of China's socialist democracy, ensures that the vast majority of citizens experience broad, genuine, and effective democracy. It highlights the core essence of Chinese democracy: enabling the people to play a central role in the country's political and social life through institutionalized procedures and extensive participation. This approach ensures national stability and promotes the happiness and well-being of the people.

Since the 18th CPC National Congress, Secretary-general has advanced the concept of whole-process people's democracy as a major theoretical innovation. The 20th CPC National Congress report established whole-process people's democracy as one of the essential requirements for Chinese modernization. ^[2]Secretary-general profoundly stated, "Without democracy, there is no socialism, no socialist modernization, and no great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation."

Chinese-style modernization prioritizes common prosperity, addressing regional development disparities, reducing income inequality, and promoting social equity to prevent polarization. Developing whole-process people's democracy is instrumental in coordinating socio-economic progress, meeting the people's aspirations, and ensuring fairness. The Party's 20th report includes a dedicated chapter on "Developing people's democracy in the whole process and ensuring the position of the people as masters of the country," underscoring its importance to China's development path.

Whole-process people's democracy relies on the people, unites them, and maximizes their creative potential in advancing Chinese-style modernization. By fostering the people's democratic engagement, this model mobilizes and unites the population to actively participate as masters of the country, contributing to the collective realization of the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation.

4. The Vivid Practice of Whole - Process People Democracy

Secretary-general emphasized in the party's 20th report the importance of "develop people's democracy in the whole process and guaranteeing the people as the masters of the country", issuing a mobilization order to embark on a new journey of socialist democratic political construction in the new era. The National CPPCC, as an important institutional arrangement in China's political life, realizes the organic combination of electoral democracy and deliberative democracy. Democratic election, consultation, decision-making, management, study and supervision increasingly highlights the people - center value concept. These practices demonstrated the advantages of China's socialist democratic system, reflect a new form of political civilization, and vividly embody the whole - process of people's democracy.

The annual sessions of the National People's Congress (NPC) and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) vividly showcase the practice of whole - process people's democracy. These sessions serve as a significant window for the international community to observe China's progress in modernizing its national governance system. Secretary-general has emphasized, "Two important forms of socialist democracy in China are the people exercising their rights through election and voting, and conducting full consultation before major decisions to reach consensus on common issues as much as possible." The institutional arrangement of the "two sessions" reflects China's socialist democracy in action, demonstrating the universality, authenticity, and effectiveness of whole-process people's democracy.

Reflecting the People's Voice

Secretary-general stated, "The key to a country's democracy is whether it truly allows the people to be masters of the country." The NPC system provides an essential mechanism for citizens to exercise state power. Deputies to the NPC are elected by the people and represent the interests and will of the masses, ensuring broad representation. Each year, nearly 3,000 NPC deputies from various sectors convene at the National People's Congress to discuss national development plans and address pressing social issues. Party and state leaders participate actively, engaging directly with the deputies to hear their opinions and suggestions. This mechanism ensures that the people's voices reach national decision - makers, integrating public concerns into the top - level design of national development and advancing the nation's comprehensive progress.

Promoting Scientific and Democratic Decision - Making

Scientific and democratic decision-making is a critical component of whole-process people's democracy. By following rigorous procedures, decisions are made fairly and rationally, reflecting the collective will of the people, safeguarding their rights, and improving their well-being. Effective decision-making requires extensive consultation and input from diverse perspectives. To achieve this, the decision-making process must be transparent, open, and continuously refined to ensure fairness and inclusiveness.

Moreover, the process of scientific and democratic decision-making is not static; it evolves with the development of society and the enhancement of people's awareness. As the public becomes more informed and engaged, their expectations for participation and transparency in decision-making increase. Therefore, it is essential to incorporate feedback mechanisms that allow for the continuous improvement of policies and practices.^[3] This ensures that the decision-making process remains relevant and responsive to the needs and aspirations of the people. Furthermore, the integration of technology in the decision-making process has become increasingly important. Digital platforms and tools can facilitate the collection of public opinion, making it easier to gather and analyze data from a wide range of sources. This not only speeds up the decision-making process but also enhances its accuracy and relevance. However, it is crucial to ensure that the use of technology does not create barriers for those who may not have easy access to digital resources, thus maintaining the inclusiveness of the process.

In conclusion, the essence of scientific and democratic decision-making lies in its ability to harmonize the interests of different groups and to reflect the will of the people. It is a dynamic and evolving process that requires ongoing commitment to openness, fairness, and the integration of public feedback. By upholding these principles, we can ensure that decisions are not only made for the people but also with the people, thereby strengthening the foundation of whole-process people's democracy.

The NPC and CPPCC serve as key platforms for gathering public wisdom and promoting scientific, democratic decision-making. State organs carefully handle bills and proposals from NPC deputies and CPPCC members, incorporating their insights into policymaking and implementation. These efforts drive progress in various sectors of governance, effectively bridging the gap between public opinion and government action. This system exemplifies the practice of the mass line in the new era, embodying the essence of whole-process people's democracy.

5. Brief Summary

The prosperity of governance lies in its alignment with the people's needs and aspirations, as well as its ability to implement effective policies. Fundamentally, a government's legitimacy depends on its ability to meet the expectations of the populace. This principle reflects the government's sense of responsibility and mission while serving as a benchmark for evaluating the modernization of governance systems and capacities.

As shown in Figure 1, Statistical data from 2011 to 2024 highlight the increasing number of representatives participating in China's democratic processes. The chart shows that the total number of representative proposals completed in 2011 was 8,043. As we enter a new era, China's democratic politics has seen rapid development and has embarked on a unique path of its own. With the progress of society and the prosperity of the nation, China has achieved remarkable successes in the construction of democratic politics. The government actively promotes political system reform, continuously improves the system of people's congresses, strengthens the construction of the rule of law, and ensures the basic rights of the people. At the same time, China vigorously promotes grassroots democratic construction, enhances community self-governance, and gives the people more participation and a voice in daily life. These measures not only increase the transparency and

credibility of the government but also inject new vitality into China's democratic politics. Through continuous exploration and innovation, China is gradually forming a path of democratic political development with Chinese characteristics, providing a solid guarantee for the country's long-term stability and the happy lives of its people. As can be seen from the chart from 7,139 fully processed agent recommendations in 2018, it increased to 9,235 fully processed agent recommendations by 2024. These figures reflect the voices of millions, their concerns, and their hopes for national development. This quantitative growth illustrates the sustained advancement of whole - process people's democracy and the deepening of China's democratic system.

China's annual completion of the national two sessions representative suggestions

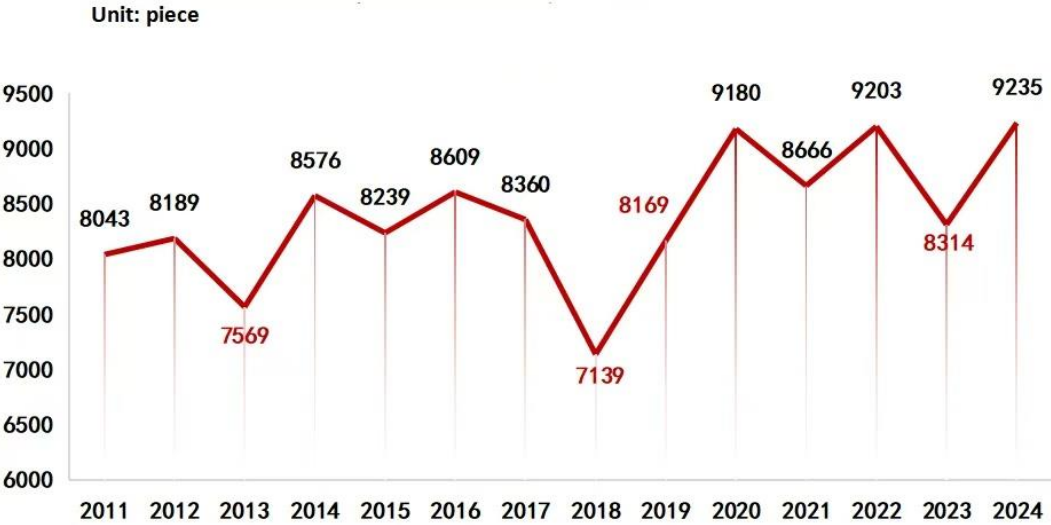


Figure 1: China's annual completion of the national two sessions representative suggestions

As we look towards the future, it is clear that the path of democratic development in China will continue to evolve and expand. The government is committed to further enhancing the political participation of its citizens, ensuring that the people have a greater say in the decision-making processes that affect their lives. This commitment is not only reflected in the growing number of representatives but also in the increasing diversity of voices heard within the political arena. Efforts to improve the democratic system include the ongoing refinement of electoral processes, the establishment of more transparent governance structures, and the promotion of political education to empower citizens with the knowledge and skills necessary to engage effectively in democratic practices. These initiatives are designed to foster a more inclusive and responsive political environment, where the will of the people is not only heard but also acted upon. Moreover, the integration of technology into the democratic process is set to play a pivotal role in the future. The use of digital platforms for public consultation, online voting, and real-time feedback mechanisms will likely become more prevalent, making it easier for citizens to participate in governance and express their opinions. ^[4]This technological integration promises to make the democratic process more efficient and accessible, further strengthening the bond between the government and the governed.

Whole-process people's democracy emphasizes that the people are the masters of their own affairs, and emphasizes the democratization, scientification, and legalization of decision-making. It requires that in the decision-making process, we must fully listen to and respect public opinion, ensuring that every policy and decision can truly reflect the will and needs of the people. Therefore, in the future development of the road, the National People's Congress and the Chinese people's political consultative conference should be in the whole process of promoting the whole process of

people's democracy plays a more critical role, to further play a role of Bridges and the link, the will of the people and the demand accurately and timely to the decision-makers, as well as the national policy and decision is clear, clear to convey to the people.

To further advance this practice, it is crucial to continue observing, listening to, and addressing the people's needs while innovating and improving the democratic system. Efforts must focus on expanding democratic channels, enriching democratic forms, and fully guaranteeing the people's rights to information, participation, expression, and oversight in a scientific and rational manner. A people-centered development philosophy should guide these efforts to ensure that the benefits of progress are shared equitably.

In conclusion, the trajectory of China's democratic development is one of continuous growth and improvement. The nation is steadfastly moving towards a more participatory and representative form of governance, where the voices of the people are not just heard but are integral to the country's progress. The future of democracy in China looks promising, with a strong foundation laid by the past and a clear vision for the way forward.

By deepening the practice of whole-process people's democracy, China will promote all-round economic and social development, improve living standards, and enhance citizens' happiness. This approach will not only propel the nation's prosperity but also fulfill the aspirations of the people for a better life, opening new paths for Chinese - style modernization.

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