



Research Article

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The Study of the “New Era” Connotation of Xi Jinping’s Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era

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Abstract

Xi Jinping’s Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era is contemporary Chinese Marxism and 21st-century Marxism. It is a historical leap in the Sinicization of Marxism. Studying the “new” aspects of the “new era” is of great significance. This article elaborates on the connotation of the “new era” from ten aspects, including the new historical position, the new achievements of reform and opening up, the new historical changes, the new changes in the main contradictions of society, the new leap in the party’s theoretical innovation, the new goal for struggle, the new changes in China’s international status, the new appearance of the Communist Party of China, the new requirements of the new era, and painting a new era scroll of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Keywords: Xi Jinping; New era; Socialism with Chinese characteristics

Introduction

Currently, a new upsurge in studying, researching, interpreting, and publicizing the guiding principles of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China is sweeping across the whole nation in learning, studying, elucidating, and publicizing the spirit of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. In-depth study of the scientific connotation, world view, methodology, and theoretical system of Xi Jinping’s Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era is the most important political task at present. The author intends to explore the era background of the birth of Xi Jinping’s Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era from the historical coordinate system of the Communist Party of China over the past century and investigate “where the new era is new” from multiple

angles to deeply dig the scientific connotation of the “new era”, thereby laying the foundation for a more in-depth understanding of Xi Jinping’s Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era.

The history of the Communist Party of China over the past century can be divided into four periods, and respectively achieved great achievements of the new democratic revolution, the great achievements of the socialist revolution and construction, the great achievements of reform and opening up and the modernization construction of socialism, and the great achievements of the new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics. It has realized the historical new leap of the Chinese people from standing up to getting rich and then becoming strong. Marxism has also undergone

three historical leaps in China. Thereby divided into three ages, the first generation of outstanding leadership of the Communist Party of China, with Mao as the core, around the issue of how to establish a country and build a country, carried out arduous and arduous struggles and painstaking exploration, thus creating Mao Zedong Thought, achieving the great achievements of the new democratic revolution and the socialist revolution and construction, realizing the independent, liberation, and self-reliance of the Chinese nation, making China stand proudly in the East of the world. The second generation of the Communist Party of China, with Deng Xiaoping as the core, opened the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and created a theory of socialism with Chinese characteristics around the issue of how to enrich the country. Deng Xiaoping, Jiang Zemin, and Hu Jintao led the Chinese people to get rich, and achieved new achievements in reform and opening up and the modernization construction of socialism. Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the Party's "Eighth Congress", the Chinese people have entered the new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and around the issue of how to strengthen the country, we have carried out effective work, achieved new achievements in reform and opening up, and achieved new historical changes, thus creating Xi Jinping's Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. The entry of Chinese socialism into the new era is also the era condition for the creation of Xi Jinping's Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. "Where is the new in the new era?" The author believes that the new in the new era is reflected in the following aspects through in-depth study of Xi's series of works and speeches and the decisions since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China: a new historical position, the new achievements of reform and opening up; new historical changes; new changes in the main contradictions of society; the party's theoretical innovation has achieved a new leap; the new goal for struggle; the new changes in China's international status; the new appearance of the Communist Party of China; the new requirements of the new era; and painting a new era scroll of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

A New Historical Position

From the perspective of historical context, the new era is the era of continuing to win the great victory of socialism with Chinese characteristics under new historical conditions; from the perspective of the theme of practice, the new era is the era of deciding to comprehensively build a moderately prosperous society and then comprehensively building a modern socialist power; from the perspective of people, the new era is the era of the unity and struggle of all ethnic groups across the country, constantly creating a better life, and gradually achieving common prosperity for the whole people; from the perspective of the nation, the new era is the era of the Chinese children working together to realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation; from the perspective of the world, the new era is the era of the increasing central stage of the world stage and constantly making greater contributions to mankind.

The New Achievements of Reform and Opening up

The major achievements of economic construction; the major breakthroughs of comprehensive deepening of reform; the major steps of democratic legal system construction; the major progress of ideological culture construction; the continuous improvement of people's life; the significant results of ecological civilization construction; a new situation in strengthening the military and strengthening the military; new progress in Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan work; the in-depth development of all-round diplomacy; and the remarkable results of comprehensive strict governance of the party.

New Historical Transformation

The Communist Party of China has been comprehensively strengthened, and the situation of neglect, dilution, and weakening of the leadership of the party has been significantly changed; it is determined to implement the new concept of development, and the situation of incorrect development concepts and backward development methods has been significantly changed; it is determined to comprehensively deepen reform, and the situation of the drawbacks of various aspects of the mechanism and system has been significantly changed; it is determined to comprehensively promote the rule of law, and the situation of illegal law enforcement and judicial injustice has been significantly changed; the party's leadership over the ideological work has been strengthened, and the situation of the social ideology and public opinion environment has been significantly changed; it is determined to promote the construction of ecological civilization, and the situation of ignoring the protection of the ecological environment and the deterioration of the ecological environment has been significantly changed; it is determined to promote the modernization of the defence and military, and the people's army has been significantly changed; it is determined to promote the diplomacy of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and the situation of being unfavourable in the international comparison of strength has been significantly changed; it is determined to comprehensively strictly govern the party, and the situation of loose, soft, and weak governance and governance has been significantly changed.

The New Changes in the Main Social Contradiction

The Summary of the Main Social Contradictions in the New Era

In 1956, the 8th National Congress of the Communist Party of China summarized that the main contradiction within the country was the contradiction between the people's demand for the establishment of an advanced industrial country and the reality of the backward agricultural country, and the contradiction between the people's demand for rapid development of economy and culture and the current economic and cultural conditions that cannot meet the needs of the people;

In June 1981, the Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on the Issues of the Historical Experience of the Founding of the People's Republic of China in the past 60 years

pointed out that the main contradiction after the basic completion of the socialist transformation was the contradiction between the increasingly growing material and cultural needs of the people and the backward social production;

In 2017, the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China clearly pointed out that the main contradiction in Chinese society had been transformed into the contradiction between the increasingly growing need for a better life of the people and the unbalanced and inadequate development.

The Basis for the New Changes in the Main Social Contradictions

After more than 40 years of reform and opening up, China's social productivity level has generally significantly improved and many aspects are ahead of the world. China's domestic gross product has ranked second in the world since 2010, and the total value of goods imports and exports and services trade has ranked second in the world. Foreign investment and utilization of foreign capital have ranked second and third in the world, respectively. The added value of manufacturing has ranked first in the world for 7 consecutive years, and some infrastructure construction fields are far ahead. The total mileage of high-speed rail operation, the total mileage of expressways, and the throughput of ports have ranked first in the world. There are more than 220 main industrial and agricultural products with a production capacity of more than 220. The living standards of the people have been significantly improved, and the yearning for a better life has become stronger. In addition to higher requirements for material and cultural life, there are increasingly growing demands for democracy, rule of law, fairness, justice, safety, and environment. With the continuous improvement of the living standards of the people, the needs of the people have characteristics such as diversification, multi-level, and multi-aspect. People hope for better education, more stable jobs, more satisfying income, more reliable living security, higher-quality medical and health care services, more comfortable living conditions, a more beautiful environment, and a richer intellectual and cultural life—people's awareness of democracy, fairness, rule of law, participation, oversight, and rights protection is constantly growing. The people's ever-growing "material and cultural needs" are of a higher level and broader in scope, exhibiting new phased characteristics.

Many factors affect the fulfilment of people's need for a better life

but the main one is the issue of unbalanced and inadequate development. These problems are mutually constraining, giving rise to numerous social conflicts and issues, and constitute the primary root cause constraining China's development and the fulfilment of the people's ever-growing need for a better life at present and for some time to come.

How to Understand This Changed Principal Contradiction in Society

What Constitutes a Better Life?

1. Better Material Life: Good food, clothing, housing, daily necessities, and transportation.
2. Better Intellectual Life: Culture, learning, entertainment, travel; high spirits; happiness and spiritual fulfilment; realization of personal value.
3. Better Political Life: Democracy, fairness, justice, and freedom; participation in the deliberation and administration of state affairs, protection of rights, etc.
4. Better Social Life: Employment, income, medical care, education, health, elderly care, unemployment security, social welfare, special care and preferential treatment for eligible groups, etc.
5. Every child has access to good early childhood care and education; Every student receives quality education; Every worker gets fair and decent pay; Every patient receives quality medical treatment; Every elderly person enjoys comfortable elderly care; Every family lives in safe and comfortable housing; Every vulnerable person receives widespread support and assistance
6. Better Environmental Life

Inadequate Development

"Inadequate" refers to problems of overall volume and development level, mainly meaning insufficient development, untapped potential, many shortcomings in development, and a considerable gap in development levels—especially per capita levels—compared with advanced countries worldwide.

Inadequate development is mainly manifested in:

1. Insufficient market competition

Unfair restrictions on market access still exist; administrative monopolies and ownership discrimination occur from time to time; some "zombie enterprises" struggle to exit; and local protectionism remains.

2. Insufficient efficiency utilization

The efficiency of capital investment is declining year by year, with a diminishing marginal return on investment.

3. Insufficient potential unleashed

China has a population of 1.4 billion, the largest in the world, with extremely rich human resources. We must transform this advantage into one of talent resources through innovative education, fully unleash the enormous intellectual potential of 1.4 billion people, and combine it with China's vast market advantage. The full integration and release of these two advantages will fully demonstrate China's enormous economic and social development energy.

4. Insufficient effective supply

The consumption structure of residents is upgrading rapidly, but the supply capacity of new products and services lags behind,

making it difficult to meet residents personalized, diversified, and service-oriented demands.

5. Insufficient institutional innovation

Enabling the market to play a decisive role in resource allocation still faces institutional and mechanistic constraints. Institutional gaps are evident in regulatory systems, product quality, food safety, intellectual property rights protection, and other areas. An institutional environment conducive to implementing the philosophy of innovation, coordination, green development, openness, and sharing has not yet fully taken shape.

6. Insufficient momentum transformation

New technologies, products, forms of business, and models are constantly emerging, and the integration of old and new industries is accelerating. However, their overall scale and contribution remain relatively limited, and an innovation-driven growth pattern has not yet truly taken shape.

- What Are New Technologies?

Information technology: microelectronics, computer, communication, and network technologies.

Biotechnology: genetic engineering, cell engineering, enzyme engineering, fermentation engineering, protein engineering.

New materials technology.

New energy technologies: nuclear energy, solar energy, geothermal energy, wind energy, ocean energy, bioenergy, hydrogen energy.

Space technology (aerospace): artificial satellites, spaceships, space stations, space shuttles, manned spaceflight.

Marine technology: offshore oil and natural gas exploration, development and utilization of marine biological resources, seawater desalination, marine energy power generation.

- What Are New Products?

Totally new products; Improved new products (new features and breakthroughs in structure, function, quality, design, packaging; Imitative new products; Series-forming new products; Cost-reducing new products; Repositioned new products.

- What Are New Business Forms?

Integrated online education; Internet-based medical care; Remote office; Digital governance; Industrial platform-based development ecosystem; Digital transformation of traditional enterprises; Virtual industrial parks and clusters; "Unmanned economy" based on new technologies; Cultivation of new self-employed individuals; Micro-economy; Multi-site practice; Shared lifestyle; Shared production.

Unbalanced Development

"Unbalanced" refers to structural problems, mainly unreasonable proportional relationships, insufficient inclusiveness, and lack of sustainability, which restrict the overall improvement of

productivity.

1. Regional Imbalance

Imbalance exists between coastal and inland areas; among the eastern, central, and western regions; between Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen and other provinces; and even within individual provinces. The per capita income gap between the richest and poorest provinces is fourfold, ranking among the highest in the world.

2. Urban-Rural Imbalance

The smallest urban-rural income gap in any province stands at 2:1, while in many provinces it approaches 3:1—also among the world's largest.

China's urban-rural income gap remains substantial. In the first three quarters of 2019, urban residents' per capita disposable income was 2.75 times that of rural residents. Gaps in infrastructure and public services between urban and rural areas remain pronounced.

3. Group Imbalance

China's Gini coefficient currently stands above 0.47, remaining at a relatively high level. When accounting for disparities in wealth stock, the issue of unbalanced distribution becomes even more acute.

4. Imbalance Between Economic Aggregate and Quality

While China boasts the world's second-largest economic aggregate, it suffers from massive overcapacity in backward industries and severe product inventory backlogs.

5. Imbalance Between Manufacturing and Innovation

Products made in China are exported worldwide, providing global consumers with affordable, high-quality goods. However, the China-US trade conflict, essentially a technological rivalry, exposed critical bottlenecks in core technologies—most notably the "chip blockade"—highlighting severe deficiencies in China's innovation capacity. China must evolve from a manufacturing powerhouse to an innovation powerhouse.

6. Industrial Structure Imbalance

The proportional structure of primary, secondary, and tertiary industries is unbalanced; structural imbalances also persist within the secondary industry.

7. Investment-Consumption Imbalance

Investment and consumption are poorly matched. Private and foreign capital flows relatively little into the real economy, instead favouring the virtual economy—especially real estate. While consumer demand is upgrading with growing diversification, personalization, and customization, investment forms and channels remain limited. Public investment prioritizes infrastructure such as high-speed railways while underinvesting in livelihood sectors.

8. External-Domestic Demand Imbalance

Decades of reform and opening-up fostered an export-oriented economy dependent on external demand. Domestic demand remains largely untapped, as evidenced by the peculiar phenomena of Chinese consumers flocking to Japan to buy toilet lids and “Chinese aunties” making waves with shopping sprees across Europe. These episodes fully expose the external-domestic demand imbalance that must be addressed.

9. Imbalance Among Economic, Political, Scientific, Technological, and Cultural Development

China surpassed Japan to become the world’s second-largest economy as early as 2010. However, gaps persist in scientific and technological innovation, cultural development, and democratic political progress. This explains why General Secretary Xi Jinping attaches great importance to scientific and technological innovation, talent cultivation, the inheritance of outstanding traditional culture, law-based governance, and all-round development of democratic institutions.

10. Imbalance Among Population, Economy, Resources, and Environment

While China’s reform and opening-up achieved tremendous success, it also encountered bottlenecks constraining sustainable development—specifically, the lack of coordination between population, economy, resources, and the environment. A precipitous decline in birth rates would severely undermine future economic and social development. Recognizing this, General Secretary Xi Jinping convened a special meeting in early 2021 to encourage three-child births, adopting an integrated approach to childbirth, parenting, and education to boost fertility rates. Regarding environmental protection and ecological conservation, General Secretary Xi Jinping has shown exceptional care. He solemnly declared that protecting the environment equates to protecting and developing productivity, urging society to cherish the environment as we do our own lives. To this end, he proposed the “Beautiful China” initiative and pledged that China will achieve carbon peaking by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2060.

11. Imbalance Between Real and Virtual Economy

In 2018, China’s financial sector accounted for 7.68% of GDP—the highest among major economies. Massive capital circulates within the financial system, with prominent “shifting from real to virtual” phenomena. The financial sector’s ability to serve the real economy needs improvement. Excessive financial leverage (exemplified by Ant Group), real estate’s stranglehold on the real economy, and asset bubbles are pressing issues. In response, General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized redirecting capital from virtual to real sectors requiring finance to serve the real economy and affirming that “houses are for living in, not for speculation.”

12. Imbalance Between Economic and Social Development

Economic development has surged ahead while social development lags seriously. Difficulties and high costs in healthcare, education access, elderly care, employment, and housing remain major concerns and sources of frustration for the people.

General Secretary Xi Jinping prioritizes people’s livelihoods, adhering to the “people-centered” philosophy and advancing initiatives to “ensure livelihood security and employment stability.” He particularly stresses resolving employment issues as employment constitutes the foundation of livelihood. Additionally, he has vigorously rectified chaotic education practices, cracking down on off-campus training institutions that undermine public well-being. Regulatory reforms have also targeted the real estate and internet finance sectors to guide their healthy and orderly development.

Institutional Shortcomings

What institutional shortcomings exist? Shortcomings in social systems, livelihood security, innovation systems, administrative systems, environmental protection systems, supervision systems, etc.

1. Shortcomings in social systems

China has long completed industrialization—why hasn’t it formed an olive-shaped social structure? Why does its social structure remain similar to that of Cambodia and Ethiopia, which are in the early stages of industrialization?

The reason lies in the lack of equal opportunities, rules, rights, and competition in social and livelihood areas such as employment, medical care, insurance, elderly care, housing, and education.

The 290 million rural migrant workers are the main force in urban construction and key contributors to the secondary and tertiary industries. Most are skilled workers, yet the majority have not integrated into their host cities or become urban residents, and some lack social security coverage.

These shortcomings severely constrain economic and social development.

2. Shortcomings in market systems

What is the function of the market? To allocate resources and optimize production factors.

What are resources and production factors? Land, capital, labor, technology, information, management, knowledge, data, etc.

Land allocation: dominated by the government

Capital allocation: led by state-owned banks, which sometimes fail to fully follow market laws—hence the prevalence of zombie enterprises.

The market structure is not fully competitive; monopolies and oligopolies persist. There are many zombie enterprises, non-compliant enterprises, debt-ridden firms, struggling enterprises, non-performing asset firms, and high-risk ventures. Examples of oligopolies include the “Three Mas” (Jack Ma, Ma Huateng, Ma Mingzhe).

3. Shortcomings in innovation systems

General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out in 2014: “To promote independent innovation, the most urgent task is to remove

institutional and mechanistic obstacles.”

The core of the China-US trade conflict lies not in trade but in high-tech competition. In the new round of scientific and technological revolution, countries are largely on the same starting line—success depends on independent innovation capacity. China does possess some innovative capabilities in aerospace, nuclear power, high-speed rail, 5G, artificial intelligence, etc.

Insufficient innovation capacity stems not from insufficient attention or investment but from institutional factors. Mechanisms to protect and incentivize innovation have yet to be established.

4. Shortcomings in environmental protection systems

Before the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the lack of lifelong accountability and a performance evaluation system overly focused on GDP led to severe smog, water pollution, soil pollution, food contamination, white waste, electronic waste, sandstorms, and mudslides.

1.1.1. Why Do Institutional Shortcomings Exist?

The root cause is unbalanced and inadequate reform. General Secretary Xi Jinping noted in 2014: “After more than 30 years of reform, China has entered deep water. The easy, universally popular reforms have been completed; the ‘easy meat’ has been eaten. What remains are tough bones.”

Easy reforms: rural household contract responsibility system

Difficult reforms: comprehensive, long-term reforms

Since the 18th National Congress, the CPC Central Committee with Xi Jinping at its core has comprehensively deepened reform and introduced numerous reform plans and measures precisely to address the unbalanced and inadequate nature of reform.

How to Grasp “Change” and “Constancy”?

Change: The principal contradiction in society has evolved.

Constancy: China’s basic national condition—that it is and will long remain in the primary stage of socialism—remains unchanged; China’s international status as the world’s largest developing country remains unchanged.

1. Per capita income:

2016: China’s per capita GDP was \$8,123, similar to the US, Germany, France, Japan in the late 1970s; the UK in the early 1980s; and the Republic of Korea in the early 1990s.

2015: Urban per capita disposable income \approx \$5,060; US per capita disposable income = \$42,400.

2015: China’s per capita disposable income was \sim 12% of the US, 26% of Japan’s, 35% of the Republic of Korea’s, 17% of the UK’s—roughly equivalent to the US in the early 1970s.

2. Urbanization rate:

2016: China’s urbanization rate reached 57.35%, similar to the UK (1851), US (1930), Japan (1955), and Republic of Korea (1980).

Urbanization growth may slow after reaching 65%–70%, implying about 10 years remain before China’s urbanization inflection point.

3. Aging population:

2016: Those aged 65+ accounted for 10.8% of China’s population, similar to the US (1970s), Japan (1980s), Italy (1970s). China’s aging rate is faster.

4. Overcapacity and de-capacity:

China’s heavy and chemical industry development stage is equivalent to that of developed countries in the late 1970s.

Avoiding the Three “Traps”

The Middle-Income Trap

This refers to a phenomenon where an economy, upon reaching the middle-income level globally (with per capita GDP reaching around \$3,000), finds that the strategies that successfully drove its transformation from a low-income to a middle-income economy are no longer sufficient to propel it into the high-income category. During this stage, various contradictions accumulated during the period of rapid growth erupt simultaneously. Without a successful transformation of the development model, new drivers of economic growth fail to emerge, leading to prominent social problems and a subsequent slowdown or prolonged stagnation of economic growth.

On November 10, 2014, General Secretary Xi Jinping stated in a dialogue with representatives of the APEC Business Advisory Council: “For China, we will definitely cross the middle-income trap. The key is when we cross it and how to achieve better development afterward. We are confident in finding a balance between reform, development, and stability, and between maintaining growth, adjusting structure, improving people’s livelihoods, and promoting reform, so that China’s economy achieves steady and long-term growth.”

The Tacitus Trap

A renowned political theory named after the ancient Roman historian Tacitus. It describes a situation where public authority loses its credibility. Once trapped, whether the government tells the truth or lies, does good or bad deeds, it will be perceived as lying or acting maliciously.

On January 20, 2019, the U.S. public relations firm Edelman released its 2019 Edelman Trust Barometer. The report showed that Chinese public trust in government, business, media, and NGOs ranked first among the 27 surveyed countries and regions.

On March 18, 2014, General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out at an enlarged meeting of the Standing Committee of the Lankao County Party Committee in Henan Province: “The ancient Roman historian Tacitus put forward a theory: when public power loses credibility, whatever it says or does will receive negative evaluations from society. This is the ‘Tacitus Trap.’ We have certainly not reached that point, but the problems we face are indeed serious and must be

resolved with great effort. If that day ever comes, it will endanger the Party's governing foundation and status."

The Thucydides Trap

More than 2,400 years ago, the Peloponnesian War broke out in ancient Greece between the Delian League led by Athens and the Peloponnesian League led by Sparta. The ancient Greek historian Thucydides argued that Athens's growing power instilled fear in Sparta, which was compelled to respond to this threat, thus sparking the war. This logic that conflict is inevitable between an established great power and a rising power is known as the "Thucydides Trap."

Some Western scholars have calculated that between 1495 and 1975, there were 119 major power wars in Europe, of which 64 involved rising powers and hegemonic powers fighting on opposing sides, accounting for 54% of all major power wars. From historical studies, these scholars concluded that "strategic conflict between an emerging rising power and an existing hegemonic power is inevitable."

In a speech delivered on September 22, 2015, at a welcome banquet hosted by the local government of Washington State and friendly U.S. organizations in Seattle, General Secretary Xi Jinping addressed the issue of correctly judging each other's strategic intentions: "Working with the U.S. to build a new type of major-country relationship, featuring non-conflict, non-confrontation, mutual respect, and win-win cooperation, is the priority of China's foreign policy. We are ready to deepen our understanding of each other's strategic orientations and development paths, enhance mutual understanding, reduce estrangement, build trust, and dispel suspicion to prevent strategic misjudgement. We must adhere to facts as our basis, reject rumours and unfounded suspicions, and avoid viewing each other through tinted spectacles. The Thucydides Trap does not exist inherently in the world. However, repeated strategic misjudgements between major powers can create such a trap for themselves."

Clearly, the "Thucydides Trap" is not an objective reality but a result of subjective strategic misjudgements between major powers.

Such misjudgements include miscalculations of one's own and the other side's strategic strength, misreading of the international environment, characteristics of the times, and global trends, misjudging the other side's strategic intentions, misjudging the strategic intentions of other major powers, and misjudging the domestic political, economic, and military situation. Based on these misjudgements, erroneous strategic decisions may be made and wrong strategic actions taken, leading to conflicts and wars between major powers.

New Leaps in the Party's Theoretical Innovation

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the Party Central Committee with General Secretary Xi Jinping at its core has adhered to integrating the basic tenets of Marxism with China's specific realities and fine traditional Chinese culture. It has systematically answered the question of the times—

what kind of socialism with Chinese characteristics we should uphold and develop in the new era and how we should uphold and develop it—through a combination of theory and practice, thus establishing Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era.

This idea marks a new chapter in the party's theoretical innovation, achieves a new leap in Sinicizing Marxism, and guides the party, government, and people to achieve comprehensive and pioneering historical achievements, and profound and fundamental historical changes, opening up a new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

New Goals and Tasks

Stage goals:

1. 2020: Build a moderately prosperous society in all respects;
2. 2035: Basically realize modernization;
3. Mid-21st century: Build a modern strong country.

The historical convergence point of the two centuries;

1. Historical:
2. Standing up: Solve the problem of being beaten;
3. Getting rich: Solve the problem of hunger;
4. Getting strong: Solve the problem of being scolded.

In 2010, China became the second largest economic body in the world. The size of the economy is equivalent to 2.5 Japan, 3 Germany, 4 Britain, 5 India, 6 Italy, 7 Canada, 8 Russia.

Before the reform and opening up in 1978, the size of China's economy was 1/25 of that of the United States; after 10 years of reform and opening up, China was 1/15 of the United States; after 20 years of reform and opening up, China was 1/9 of the United States; after 30 years of reform and opening up, China was 1/5 of the United States; after 40 years of reform and opening up, China was 66% of the United States.

China has fully launched the path to becoming a strong country: a strong country in manufacturing, quality, network, innovation, technology, talent, education, sports, culture, military, digital, information, economy, transportation, learning, health, and service.

New Changes in China's International Status

The world is in a period of large-scale development, transformation, and adjustment. China's development is still in an important strategic opportunity period and a historical opportunity period. Contemporary China is no longer a passive acceptor of the international order, but an active participant, builder, and leader.

China is increasingly approaching the center of the world stage. The world's attention on China has never been as widespread, deep, and focused as today. China's influence on the world has also never been as comprehensive, profound, and long-term as today.

The several landmark events indicating that China is closer to the center of the world stage are:

In 2013, Xi Jinping proposed and on January 17, 2016, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, which has 57 initial member countries and officially operates: the World Bank, International Monetary Fund established by the United States; the Asian Development Bank dominated by the United States and Japan; and the European Reconstruction and Development Bank established by the United States with the EU and Japan.

The Communist Party of China Shows a New Look

A century of struggle unfolds a new chapter; a century-old Party takes on a new look. Since the 18th National Congress, the Party has comprehensively strengthened its leadership over all work, resolutely upheld General Secretary Xi Jinping's core position in the Party Central Committee and the whole Party, and resolutely upheld the Party Central Committee's authority and centralized, unified leadership. It has comprehensively enhanced the Party's leadership capacity and governance ability, promoted major innovations in the Party's governance methods and strategies, and provided a fundamental guarantee for the development of all causes of the Party and the country.

By exercising full and rigorous governance over the Party, having the courage to conduct self-reform, enforcing discipline and improving conduct with overwhelming momentum, and fighting corruption and punishing wrongdoing with thunderous force, the Party has addressed long-standing problems and upheld righteousness and dispelled evil. The great new project of Party building has taken on a brand-new look. Historic and pioneering achievements have been made in Party leadership and building, and the Party's image has been completely renewed.

New Requirements for the New Era

The new era must be guided by the new thinking as its scientific compass; the new era must undertake new great practices; the new era must adopt new concepts and measures; the new era must demonstrate a new spirit and demeanour.

Painting a New Portrait of the Great Rejuvenation of the Chinese Nation

As socialism with Chinese characteristics enters a new era, we have achieved the great leap from "catching up with the times" to "leading the times." This holds great significance in the history of the People's Republic of China, the history of the Chinese nation, the history of world socialism, and the history of human social development.

From the perspective of the historical process of national rejuvenation, it means that the Chinese nation, which has endured numerous hardships in modern times, has achieved the great leap from standing up, getting rich, to becoming strong, ushering in bright prospects for national rejuvenation.

From the perspective of the development of scientific socialism, it means that scientific socialism is brimming with vitality in China

in the 21st century, and the great banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics is held high globally.

In the 20th century, the most important achievement in the development of world socialism was the great leap of socialism from theory to practice. However, due to the failure of some socialist countries to solve major issues such as how to consolidate the socialist system and build socialism, the practical exploration of socialist construction was full of twists and turns. Particularly after the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the drastic changes in Eastern Europe, world socialism suffered setbacks and was at a low ebb. This also challenged the universal truth of Marxism.

Since the 18th National Congress, the Party Central Committee with General Secretary Xi Jinping at its core has scientifically grasped the overall development trends of the contemporary world and China. It has not only adhered to the basic principles of scientific socialism but also endowed it with distinctive Chinese characteristics based on China's realities and the features of the times. It has solved many difficult problems that long remained unsolved and accomplished many major tasks that were desired but unattainable in the past.

This has not only kept China's modernization ship sailing steadily and far in the socialist direction, leading to the complete demise of the "End of History" thesis China.org.cn, the total collapse of the "China Collapse" theory, and the utter failure of the "Socialism is Doomed" claim People's Tribune Online. It has also reshaped the image of socialism with a history of more than 500 years, opened up new horizons for socialist development, and enabled contemporary China to undergo the most extensive and profound social transformation in its history and the most grand and unique practical innovation in human history.

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Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest.

About the Author

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