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The Triple Dimensions of the People-centered Philosophy of Development

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Abstract

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the CPC has thoroughly implemented the people-centered philosophy of development and led the people to write great achievements in the new era. The people centered development thought is based on the Marxist concept of mass history, rooted in the people-oriented thought of China's excellent traditional culture, and integrated into the view of the CPC on the people. It takes the people as the purpose of development, relying on the people as the driving force for development, and sharing development achievements by the people as the value pursuit. It has profound theoretical, era, and practical dimensions, and interprets the original intention and mission of the CPC to work for the happiness of the Chinese people and the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. It is a concrete expression of the fundamental purpose of our party to serve the people wholeheartedly in the new era.

Keywords

People-centered, The report of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, Marxism, People-oriented ideology

1. Introduction

At the Fifth Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee, Xi Jinping clearly put forward the people-centered philosophy of development for the first time. The report of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China will adhere to the development concept of putting the people at the center as one of the "Five Major Principles" that must be firmly grasped in order to comprehensively build a socialist modernized strong country and complete the Party's mission and tasks in the new era and new journey. It points out that "we must adhere to the development concept of putting the people at the center, safeguard the fundamental interests of the people, enhance people's well-being, continuously achieve development for the people, rely on the people, and share development achievements by the

people, so that the achievements of modernization construction can more and more fairly benefit all the people" (Xi, 2022). Research the theoretical sources of the development concept of putting the people at the center, elucidate its contemporary significance and practical orientation, it will help to deepen our understanding of the mission, tasks, and practical requirements of the new era and new journey, deeply practice the Party's purpose and original mission, and implement the people-centered development concept in the historical mission of realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

2. The Theoretical Source of the People-centered Philosophy of Development

2.1 The Inheritance and Innovation of Marxist Mass View

People's nature is the essential attribute of Marxism. During the process of leading the proletarian revolutionary movement, Marx and Engels gradually realized the important role of the people in promoting historical development and creating social wealth, forming a systematic view of the masses. In "The Holy Family," Marx and Engels pointed out that "historical activities are the cause of the masses, and with the deepening of historical activities, it will inevitably be the expansion of the masses" (Collected Works of Marx and Engels (Volume 1), 2009). They emphasized the main position of the masses in historical activities. The practice of the people not only creates social material wealth, but also directly shapes rich and colorful spiritual wealth. They play the main role in determining the historical process and promoting social change. Not only that, Marx and Engels also had a profound insight into the suffering and pain of the people. They believed that only by truly standing on the people's standpoint, seeking welfare and rights for the people, and exploring the path of human freedom and liberation, can we inspire the great power of the people to promote historical development. In the Communist Manifesto, Marx and Engels mentioned: "All movements in the past were for a few people, or for the benefit of a few people. The proletarian movement was for the vast majority of people, an independent movement for the benefit of the vast majority" (Selected Works of Marx and Engels (Volume 1), 2012). This indicates that the proletariat is a representative of the broad interests of the people and a firm stance of the people.

The people centered development thought is formed on the basis of inheriting and innovating the Marxist view of the masses. It highlights the distinctive people's position of the CPC, regards the people as the fundamental force that determines the future and destiny of the party and the country, and regards meeting the people's needs for a better life as the goal of the Communists. It is the deep planting and cultivation of the Marxist view of the masses in the new era.

2.2 The Inheritance and Promotion of the "People-oriented" Ideology in Excellent Traditional Chinese Culture

Traditional people-oriented ideology is an important political ideology in ancient China, which includes connotations such as valuing the people, loving the people, ensuring the well-being of the people, and providing benefits to the people. It is the key to a solid foundation of governance, as well as the primary mission and principle of being an official. In the Song of the Five Sons of Shang Shu, it

mentioned that "only when the people are the foundation of a country can it be stable" (Wang, 2000). Mencius insisted on the supremacy of the people over the monarch, believing that "the people are the most valuable, the country is second, and the king is light" (Feng, 2010). These propositions clarify the view of valuing the people, affirming the important position and role of the people in the country. The manifestation of the ideology of loving the people is "benevolence". Confucius advocated for benevolent governance, emphasizing that "benevolent people love others", and proposed "governing with virtue can be compared to being the North Star: the North Star dwells in its place, and the multitude of stars pay it tribute" (Chen, 2016). He warned rulers to govern with virtue, implement benevolent governance, and prioritize the people. And how to love the people is to provide benefits to the people, protect their interests, so that they can live and work in peace and contentment. Zhu Yuanzhang of the Ming Dynasty proposed that "the people are the foundation of the country, and treating the people with leniency is the key to national security." He emphasized that the primary goal of governance is to win the hearts of the people, and governing the country must first prioritize the well-being of the people. In addition, the traditional people-oriented thought also stressed that the ruler should share the happiness and sorrow with the people, Lao-tzu believed that sages have no constant heart and should take the hearts of the people as their own. Zhang Juzheng pointed out that "the way of governance should be based on ensuring the well-being of the people; the way of ensuring the well-being of the people lies in observing their suffering." He emphasized that rulers should understand the people's emotions and conform to their will. The traditional people-oriented ideology has made important contributions to promoting the improvement of China's political system and maintaining social order and stability, providing a profound cultural gene for the generation of the people-centered development concept.

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the Chinese Communists with Xi Jinping as the main representative has profoundly revealed the core meaning of the people-oriented thought in traditional Chinese culture, incisively expounded the Marxist concept of the masses, creatively transformed and innovatively developed the traditional people-oriented thought, reflecting the purpose of the Party and the people's position. "The country is the people, the people are the country", "adhering to the people first", which deeply embodies the view of emphasizing the people in the traditional people-oriented thought. "I will never fail the people", "constantly meet the people's aspirations for a better life", "always put the people at the top of their hearts" contain the people-oriented gene of loving, pacifying and caring for the people, which vividly explains the CPC's single-minded The people's feelings for the people have realized the leap from the traditional people oriented thought to the people centered development thought.

2.3 The Enrichment and Development of the View of the CPC on the People

The view of the CPC on the people is gradually formed in the process of generations of CPC people applying the Marxist people's view to China's revolution, construction, reform and development, and is the basic principle formed around the vital interests of the people. During the period of the new

democratic revolution, the Chinese Communists, with Mao Zedong as the main representative, adhered to the Marxist view of the masses in the revolutionary process, fully affirmed the revolutionary subject position of the people, and gradually formed the view of uniting the people, relying on the people, and serving the people. Mao Zedong compared communists to seeds and the people to land. It is pointed out that "when we arrive at a place, we must unite with the people there, take root and blossom among the people" (Mao, 1991) profoundly expounds the Party's mass line. Mao Zedong emphasized serving the people and pointed out that the rights of Communist Party members are conferred by the people and must serve the interests of the people. In 1945, the Seventh National Congress of the Communist Party of China clearly established "serving the people wholeheartedly" as the fundamental purpose of the Party, which has become the unrelenting value pursuit and goal of the CPC for generations.

After the establishment of the People's Republic of China, our party led the people to continue socialist construction and the great revolution of reform and opening up, and as always, adhered to the people's dominant position in socialist construction and reform and opening up. The Chinese Communists, with Deng Xiaoping as the main representative, regard improving people's living standards and responding to people's expectations as the focus of their work, and put forward the "three benefits" as the standard to measure all work. In the process of socialist modernization, The Chinese Communists, with Jiang Zemin as the main representative, creatively put forward the important thought of "Three Represents" in the process of steadily advancing reform and opening up and promoting the construction of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and clarified the issue of "who the party represents" and ultimately "for whom". Jiang Zemin pointed out that "the leadership of the party and all the work of the party should rely on the people, trust the people, draw on the wisdom of the people, respect the creation of the people, and accept the supervision of the people" (Jiang, 2001). In order to solve various contradictions in economic and social development and improve people's livelihood, the Chinese Communists, with Hu Jintao as the main representative, put forward the concept of "scientific outlook on development", and adhere to "people-oriented" as the core position, and "power for the people, emotion for the people, and benefit for the people".

In different historical stages, the content and characteristics of the view of the CPC on the people vary according to the needs of the times, but all of them have clearly defined the important position of the people in social development, and their essence is to take the people as the center. The view of the CPC on the people has gradually developed and matured, providing a profound theoretical basis for the people centered development thought.

3. The Contemporary Connotation of the People-centered Philosophy of Development

3.1 Adhere to the Fundamental Goal of Development for the People

The development concept centered on the people clarifies the fundamental question of "for whom to develop". The ultimate goal of development is "people", which is to develop in order to safeguard the fundamental interests of the people and meet their needs. Entering the new era, Xi Jinping solemnly

declared, "The people's yearning for a better life is our goal" (Xi, 2014). It pointed out the direction of struggle and the historical mission for the Communists. The CPC takes people-centered development as an important part of upholding and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era. With a firm grasp of the people's aspiration for a better life, it has worked for and benefited the people, led the people in winning the battle against poverty, narrowed the gap between the rich and the poor, and successfully realized the dream of a moderately prosperous society for 1,000 years. The report of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China further pointed out that "we insist on taking the realization of the people's aspirations for a better life as the starting point and foothold of modernization construction"(Xi, 2022). This is not only the practical path for us to implement the people-centered development concept, but also the key to solving major social contradictions and achieving the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Adhering to development for the people is by no means an empty slogan. The report of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China specifically integrates the principle of development for the people into all aspects of governance and implementation. In terms of political construction, emphasis is placed on developing people's democracy throughout the entire process and ensuring that the people are the masters of their own country; In education, it is required to adhere to the development of education centered on the people, and to make "running education that satisfies the people" an important part of the strategy of revitalizing the country through science and education; In terms of culture, it is proposed to adhere to the people-centered creative orientation and launch more excellent works that enhance the spiritual power of the people; In the construction of people's livelihoods, it is pointed out to "enhance people's well-being and improve their quality of life"; In the construction of the national security system, it is proposed to adhere to the principle of people's security and build a higher level of safe China; In the construction of the Party, it is clear that "the whole Party must adhere to the fundamental purpose of serving the people wholeheartedly, establish a solid view of the masses, and implement the mass line.". These deployment requirements profoundly illustrate our party's firm belief in always combining national development goals with the needs of the people, committed to enabling the people to live a better life, and making the people happy.

3.2 Adhere to the Direction of Development Relying on the Driving Force of the People

The development concept centered on the people inherits the idea that the people are the creators of history and answers the question of the driving force of development. The people are the creators of history and the fundamental force driving historical development. From the founding of the CPC, to the earth shaking of the founding of the People's Republic of China, to the transformation of reform and opening up, and to the entrance of socialism with Chinese characteristics into a new era, all the great achievements we have made have been made by the Party and the people. History has shown that we must firmly rely on the people and deeply rooted ourselves in them. With the sincere and strong support of the people, we can overcome the difficulties, dangers, and storms on the road to progress, and achieve invincibility. In the new era, the Chinese dream is the unswerving pursuit of every son and

daughter of the Chinese people. "In the final analysis, the Chinese dream is the dream of the people, and we must closely rely on the people to realize it." Only by firmly relying on the people can we realize our great dreams.

We must adhere to the principle of relying on the people for development. Firstly, we must develop the whole-process people's democracy, ensure that the people participate fairly in political life, let the people make decisions about the people's affairs, and let the people participate in the governance of the country. We must continuously develop and improve the socialist democratic political system with Chinese characteristics. Secondly, we must respect the status of the people as the main body and the spirit of innovation, adhere to the principle of seeking governance from the people, consciously worship the people as our teachers, and gain wisdom and strength to respond to risks and challenges from the vivid practices of the people, and create new situations for development; Thirdly, we must make good use of the important tool of the mass line, go deep into the people, timely understand the needs of the people, conduct extensive research, from the formulation of policies to the implementation of policies, we fully respect the opinions of the people, win the recognition and support of the people, and enable the people to actively engage in the practice of great dreams, becoming dream chasers and practitioners.

3.3 Adhere to the Value Pursuit of Sharing Development Achievements by the People

The most direct manifestation of adhering to the people-centered development concept is the sharing of development achievements by the people. The people are not only the main driving force behind the progress of social history, but also the main beneficiaries of development achievements. Xi Jinping has repeatedly stressed that sharing the fruits of reform and development by the broad masses of the people is an essential requirement of socialism and socialism with Chinese characteristics, highlighting the brightest undertone of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the CPC has been making continuous efforts towards the direction of the country is rich and powerful, and the people live a prosperous life, so that sharing can be implemented throughout the whole process of China's development, and "people sharing the fruits of development" is taken as the criterion to judge whether reform and opening up are successful and whether a moderately prosperous society is fully completed, which provides a fundamental value yardstick and direction for economic and social development.

Adhering to the principle of sharing development achievements with the people, it is necessary to establish it on the basis of the common struggle of all people, fully unleash the great power of billions of people in creating social material and spiritual wealth, and encourage joint efforts to create a better life; Development and sharing will be promoted in a coordinated manner, focus on solving the problems of imbalance and inadequacy in the process of economic and social development, continuously achieve high-quality sharing of public services, enable the people to effectively share the achievements of economic, political, cultural, social, and ecological development, and improve the quality of development and the level of social sharing; Solidly promoting common prosperity,

effectively addressing regional disparities, urban-rural disparities, and income distribution disparities, promoting social fairness and justice, accelerating the expansion of effective paths for first to drive later prosperity, and first to help later prosperity, ensuring that no one can fall behind on the path of common prosperity, and enabling all people to solidly move towards the goal of common prosperity.

4. The Practical Orientation of the People-centered Philosophy of Development

4.1 Necessary Requirement to Open Up a New Realm of Marxism in China and The Times

Since the beginning of the last century, when Marxism spread to China, it has become the guiding ideology and spiritual banner of the CPC and the Chinese proletariat. China needs Marxism, and more importantly, it needs to explore the new chapters in adapting Marxism to the Chinese context and the needs of the times, which is the solemn historical responsibility of the CPC in the new era. The report of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China clarifies from six aspects how to continue promoting theoretical innovation on the basis of practice in the new era, and regards "putting the people first" as an important ideological concept that must be adhered to in opening up a new chapters in adapting Marxism to the Chinese context and the needs of the times. It reflects the fundamental direction of theoretical innovation centered on the people and further points out that "we must stand firm in the people's position, grasp their wishes, respect their creativity, and concentrate their wisdom, forming theories that are loved, recognized, and possessed by the people, making them a powerful ideological weapon that guides the people to understand and transform the world"(Xi, 2022). Adhering to the theoretical innovation and research orientation of putting the people first, it is necessary to first clarify the issues of who the theoretical innovation is for and who it depends on. The stance is related to attitude, worldview, and methodology, and research must always be conducted from the perspective of the people; After clarifying the first question, it is necessary to "write knowledge into the hearts of the people". This requires having a sense of the people, listening to their voices, thinking for the people, and doing knowledge for the people. Theoretical innovation should be linked to the fundamental interests of the people, so that theory can become the correct guide for the people to understand the world, transform the world, establish goals, and achieve interests; In addition, we must respect the status of the people as the main body and the spirit of innovation. We must not only adhere to theoretical innovation serving the people, but also rely on the people for theoretical innovation. We should draw theoretical wisdom from the people's recognition, application, and innovation of theory, and continuously promote the enrichment and improvement of theory.

4.2 Important Principles for Comprehensively Building a Socialist Modernized Country

The report of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China clearly defined the central task of the CPC in the new era and new journey, "unite and lead the people of all ethnic groups in the country to build a strong socialist modernization country in an all-round way, achieve the second centennial goal, and comprehensively promote the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation with Chinese modernization" (Xi, 2022). To complete this central task and build a strong socialist

modernization country in an all-round way is to seek the organic unity of national development and human development based on the people as the center.

To comprehensively build a socialist modernized strong country, the people are the decisive force. It is necessary to clarify the main position of the people in construction, fully mobilize the wisdom and strength of all aspects, take various measures to organize and mobilize the people, and unite for the construction of a strong country; Pay attention to human development, continuously respond to the higher-level needs of the people with higher levels of development, promote high-quality development, promote common prosperity to meet the material needs of the people, prosper and develop cultural undertakings and industries to meet the spiritual needs of the people, grasp the people's demands for a better and happy life, effectively transform development achievements into high-quality life, meet the individual and public needs of the people, and lay a solid foundation for achieving comprehensive development of human freedom.

4.3 Value Orientation of Forging Ahead on the New Journey of Chinese Modernization

The road of Chinese path to modernization is the way that the CPC unites and leads the people of all ethnic groups in China through numerous difficulties, showing a distinctive characteristic of the people. The Chinese-style modernization is the modernization of the huge population scale, which is the difficulty of China's modernization, but it is also a great strength. It is the modernization of common prosperity for all the people, and its goal is to turn the people's yearning for a better life into reality. Chinese modernization serves the people and is committed to realizing human modernization, realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and promoting the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

In the process of promoting Chinese path to modernization, the leadership of the Party guides and escorts the exploration and promotion of the path, so that the cause of Chinese modernization can truly become a cause that benefits the people, and can be carried forward in steadily. Adhere to and strengthen the leadership of the Party, carry forward the political advantage of the Party's close connection with the masses, always remember the duty of Communist Party members as public servants of the people, improve their political work skills, social management skills, mass work skills, and the ability to resolve major risks, continuously enhance their ability to lead the people in building modernization, and maintain the essence of Marxist political parties that do not deteriorate, change color, or taste unchanged; Always starting from the national conditions, we will steadily lead 1.4 billion people to consolidate and expand the achievements of poverty alleviation, continuously turn people's aspirations for a better life into reality, resolutely uphold and promote social fairness and justice, and promote the progress of all people towards the goal of common prosperity; Vigorously developing advanced socialist culture, promoting cultural innovation, and continuously promoting the comprehensive development of people while promoting the comprehensive enrichment of matter; Implementing the integration of high-quality development and green development, and building a prosperous and ecological social environment; To achieve development and win-win through peace and

cooperation, and to provide the world with a people-oriented Chinese solution.

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