

## Original Paper

# A Study on the Practice of the Thought of "Long-Term Construction of Xizang" in Ganzi

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### **Abstract**

*The thought of "long-term construction of Xizang" is an important component of the Party's governance strategy for Xizang in the new era. It adheres to the core logic of governing Xizang according to law, enriching the people and developing Xizang, long-term construction of Xizang, uniting the people's hearts, and consolidating the foundation. It is the fundamental guideline for coordinating the long-term stability and high-quality development of Xizang. Ganzi Zang Autonomous Prefecture, as a strategic pass of Sichuan-Xizang and the core area of the four provinces with Zang nationality areas, is a key field for the implementation of the thought of "long-term construction of Xizang". This article expounds the theoretical connotation and historical evolution of the thought of "long-term construction of Xizang", and systematically sorts out the practical path and actual achievements of this thought in Ganzi from five dimensions: infrastructure, improvement of people's livelihood, ecological protection, ethnic unity, and cadre and talent. It combines typical cases such as the Sichuan-Xizang Highway, Ya'an-Kangding Expressway, all-region poverty alleviation, ecological construction of the entire state, and ethnic unity into families, analyzes the prominent shortcomings in development, and proposes path measures for optimizing the practice in the new era, providing theoretical reference and practical experience for the four provinces with Zang nationality areas to implement the governance strategy for Xizang and consolidate the consciousness of the Chinese nation as a community. The practical research in Ganzi.*

### **keywords**

*long-term construction of Xizang, Ganzi practice, governance of border areas and stability of Xizang, ethnic unity, high-quality development*

## **1. Introduction**

*1.1 Research Background* Xizang-related work bears on the overall national interests of border stability and national rejuvenation. Successive Central Symposiums on Xizang Work have continuously enriched

and refined the Party's governance strategy for Xizang, among which the principle of long-term construction of Xizang has always served as the core guideline and strategic resolve. The Seventh Central Symposium on Xizang Work explicitly established long-term construction of Xizang as a fundamental principle for work in Xizang-inhabited areas. It emphasizes long-term planning and persistent efforts, coordinates development with stability as well as conservation with exploitation, and promotes long-term stability and high-quality development in Xizang regions.

Garze Xizangan Autonomous Prefecture is located on the southeastern edge of the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau and commands the strategic corridor between Sichuan and Xizang, enjoying the strategic positioning that stabilizing Xizang must first consolidate Garze. It served as the forward position for the 18th Army's march into Xizang, a pivotal hub of the Ancient Tea Horse Road, and an essential component of the Xizang-inhabited areas in four provinces. Over the past seven decades, Garze has faithfully adhered to the philosophy of long-term construction of Xizang. From road construction and political consolidation in the early liberation period to the new-era strategies of prioritizing transportation, ecological governance, industrial revitalization and cultural empowerment, Garze has achieved historic leaps from isolation and backwardness to openness and progress, from absolute poverty to comprehensive moderate prosperity, and from estrangement among ethnic groups to unity and integration. A systematic review of the historical evolution, practical achievements, experiences and realistic dilemmas of the ideology of long-term construction of Xizang in Garze is of important theoretical value and practical significance for advancing the modernization of governance in Xizang-inhabited areas, consolidating the foundation of border security, and forging a strong sense of community for the Chinese nation.

*1.2 Research Status* Existing academic research mainly focuses on the theoretical interpretation and spiritual connotation of the ideology of long-term construction of Xizang, as well as its macroscopic practice in the Xizang Autonomous Region, with particular attention to its internal correlation with the spirit of the Old Xizang and the Two Roads. Case studies on Xizang-inhabited areas in Qinghai, Yunnan and other provinces are relatively insufficient, while systematic and thematic researches specifically targeting Garze Prefecture are even scarcer. There is a lack of in-depth analysis integrating typical cases and connecting historical evolution with realistic practice, failing to fully highlight Garze's exemplary value and regional uniqueness in implementing the ideology of long-term construction of Xizang.

*1.3 Research Methods and Innovations* This study adopts the literature research method to systematically sort out documents of Central Symposiums on Xizang Work, policies and regulations, local chronicles of Garze and academic literature, so as to consolidate the theoretical and historical foundation. The historical analysis method is applied to review the ideological evolution and practical context by dividing different historical stages. The case analysis method is adopted to select typical cases concerning major projects, livelihood initiatives, ecological conservation and ethnic unity, so as to concretely analyze the practical logic.

The innovation lies in breaking away from the single research perspective confined to the Xizang

Autonomous Region and taking Garze Prefecture as an independent research sample. It constructs a five-dimensional analytical framework covering infrastructure, people's livelihood, ecology, ethnic unity and talent development, taking into account historical context, typical cases, achievements, challenges and path optimization. This study fills the research gap of regional thematic research and provides a referential practical model for similar areas in Xizang-inhabited regions of four provinces.

## **2. Theoretical Connotation and Historical Evolution of the Ideology of "Long-Term Construction of Xizang"**

**2.1 Core Connotation** The ideology of long-term construction of Xizang, based on the unique physical geography, ethnic structure and strategic positioning of Xizang-inhabited areas, rejects short-term utilitarian thinking and upholds the concepts of regarding the borderland as home, making long-term plans and making persistent efforts. Its core connotation includes four dimensions:

Strategic dimension: Adhere to governing the border and stabilizing Xizang, strive for long-term struggle, and build a national border security barrier.

Development dimension: Adhere to enriching Xizang through development and prioritizing people's livelihood, and promote people's well-being through high-quality development.

Ecological dimension: Adhere to ecological priority and green sustainability, and safeguard the ecological security barrier of the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau.

Unity dimension: Focus on uniting people and cultural identity, enhance the "five identities", and build a shared spiritual home for the Chinese nation.

### *2.2 Historical Evolution*

#### **2.2.1 Embryonic and Foundational Stage (1949–1978)**

After the founding of the People's Republic of China, the 18th Army, tasked with peacefully liberating Xizang, stationed in Garze. It put forward the principles of advancing while building roads and advocated long-term construction of Xizang and regarding the borderland as home, abandoning the temporary "guest" mentality. The construction of the Sichuan-Xizang Highway, the advancement of democratic reforms and the establishment of grassroots people's political power abolished the feudal serf system, laid political, material and social foundations, and formed the embryonic spirit of taking root on the plateau and working hard.

#### **2.2.2 Exploratory Development Stage (1978–2012)**

Since the reform and opening up, work in Xizang-inhabited areas has shifted to stable development and poverty alleviation. The ideology of long-term construction of Xizang has focused on improving infrastructure, cultivating characteristic industries, enhancing people's well-being and consolidating ethnic unity. Garze has gradually broken its isolation, promoted transportation and energy construction, implemented contiguous poverty alleviation, inherited the spirit of the Two Roads and the Old Xizang, and accumulated valuable experience for in-depth practice in the new era.

### 2.2.3 Mature and Deepening Stage (2012–Present)

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the Party's governance strategy for Xizang in the new era has been formally established, and long-term construction of Xizang has become a rigid principle for work in Xizang-inhabited areas. Closely focusing on the main line of long-term stability and high-quality development, Garze has won the battle against poverty, promoted rural revitalization, built a comprehensive transportation network, and carried out ethnic unity creation across the region, promoting the comprehensive implementation and in-depth advancement of the ideology of long-term construction of Xizang.

## 3. Practical Paths and Typical Cases of the Ideology of "Long-Term Construction of Xizang" in Garze

### 3.1 Prioritizing Infrastructure: Breaking Geographical Barriers and Consolidating the Foundation for Long-Term Development

Long-term construction of Xizang requires solid infrastructure as a prerequisite. Garze is characterized by high mountains and deep valleys with complex geographical conditions, and poor transportation has been the biggest bottleneck restricting its long-term development. Over the past seven decades, Garze has always regarded infrastructure construction as a top priority, taken transportation as the lead, and coordinated energy, water conservancy and new infrastructure to build a basic guarantee system featuring internal and external connectivity and urban-rural integration.

Case 1: Construction of the Sichuan-Xizang Highway Starting in 1950, road-building troops of the 18th Army took Garze as the starting point. Working in harsh conditions of severe cold, oxygen deprivation and complex geology, they overcame natural barriers such as Que'er Mountain and completed the highway after four years of arduous work. At the cost of great sacrifices, the military and civilians opened up the lifeline between Sichuan and Xizang, which served not only as a strategic passage for advancing into Xizang but also as a unity line for economic exchanges and ethnic interaction. It forged the spirit of the Two Roads, the most vivid spiritual symbol of the ideology of long-term construction of Xizang, inspiring generations of plateau builders to take root and contribute.

Case 2: Ya'an-Kangding Expressway and Regional Transportation Upgrading The opening of the Ya'an-Kangding Expressway put an end to Garze's history of no expressways, greatly shortening the temporal and spatial distance between Garze and the Chengdu Plain Economic Circle. Super projects such as the Xingkang Bridge broke through the limits of mountainous construction. With the completion of the Que'er Mountain Tunnel and the accelerated construction of the Garze section of the Sichuan-Xizang Railway, the regional highway network continues to densify, and air routes keep expanding, forming a three-dimensional transportation pattern integrating highways, railways and air routes. This has completely reversed the regional disadvantage, providing strong support for long-term development, opening-up and border stabilization.

## **4. Achievements and Challenges of the Practice of the Ideology of "Long-Term Construction of Xizang" in Garze**

### *4.1 Main Achievements*

First, economic development has achieved historic leaps. The economic aggregate has steadily increased, and the industrial structure has shifted from a single traditional agriculture-animal husbandry to a diversified system supported by ecological tourism, characteristic agriculture-animal husbandry, clean energy and ethnic culture, with development resilience continuously enhanced.

Second, people's well-being has been comprehensively improved. Absolute poverty has been completely eliminated, the level of equal access to public services has been significantly raised, urban and rural residents' incomes have grown steadily, and people's living conditions have been fundamentally improved.

Third, the ecological barrier has become more consolidated. The ecological protection system has been continuously improved, ecosystem stability has been enhanced, and a green development model has initially taken shape.

Fourth, the foundation for ethnic unity has been continuously consolidated. A strong sense of community for the Chinese nation has taken deep root in people's hearts, ethnic interaction and integration have been deepened, and social stability and harmony have been maintained.

Fifth, the talent team has been growing. Local cadres have grown and matured, and aid-Xizang cadres and professionals have continued to contribute, fostering a sound atmosphere of taking root on the plateau and dedicating to undertakings.

### *4.2 Realistic Challenges*

First, the quality of economic development still needs to be improved. The economic volume is small, industrial chains are short with low added value, scientific and technological innovation capacity is weak, emerging industries are small in scale, and the endogenous driving force for long-term development is insufficient.

Second, infrastructure still has shortcomings. Rural roads in remote areas are of low grade with poor accessibility, energy and water conservancy coverage is uneven, and new infrastructure such as 5G and logistics lags behind, making it difficult to meet the needs of high-quality development.

Third, ecological protection pressure is prominent. The ecological background is fragile, natural disasters occur frequently, the space for ecological protection and industrial development is limited, and the ecological compensation mechanism still needs to be improved.

Fourth, the forms of publicity and education on ethnic unity need to be innovated. The depth of interaction and integration is insufficient, governance in the religious field needs continuous efforts, and the cultivation of community awareness still needs to be strengthened.

Fifth, it is difficult to attract and retain talents. Restricted by plateau living conditions, high-level professionals are in short supply, local cadres' professional quality needs to be improved, and the incentive and guarantee mechanism still needs to be perfected.

## **5. Optimization Paths for Deepening the Practice of the Ideology of "Long-Term Construction of Xizang" in Garze in the New Era**

### *5.1 Focusing on High-Quality Development and Activating Endogenous Driving Force for Long-Term Development*

Based on the ecological function positioning, optimize industrial layout, strengthen the three pillar industries of ecological cultural tourism, plateau characteristic agriculture-animal husbandry and clean energy, extend industrial chains and increase product added value. Strengthen cooperation with universities and scientific research institutes, build scientific and technological innovation platforms to empower the transformation and upgrading of traditional industries. Take the initiative to integrate into the Chengdu-Chongqing Twin-City Economic Circle, deepen regional cooperation, optimize the business environment, attract market entities to invest and start businesses, and enhance sustainable development momentum.

### *5.2 Compensating for Infrastructure Shortcomings and Building a Regional Guarantee and Support System*

Continue to promote the extension and upgrading of the Sichuan-Xizang Railway and expressway network, renovate and upgrade rural roads, and improve the air navigation network. Optimize the layout of urban and rural power grids and water conservancy projects to ensure water and electricity supply for production and living in remote pastoral areas. Accelerate the construction of new infrastructure such as full 5G coverage, cold chain logistics and big data centers, develop the digital economy, and consolidate the hardware foundation for long-term development.

### *5.3 Adhering to Ecological Priority and Promoting Green and Sustainable Development*

Strictly abide by the three control lines, continue to promote ecological projects such as natural forest protection, grassland restoration and wetland governance, and enhance the ecological system's conservation capacity. Improve the ecological compensation and ecological product value realization mechanism, expand the development space for carbon sinks, ecological tourism and under-forest economy. Strengthen ecological law enforcement and supervision, enhance national ecological education, and form a sound pattern where everyone protects the plateau ecology.

### *5.4 Forging a Strong Sense of Community for the Chinese Nation and Deepening Ethnic Unity and Integration*

Innovate publicity and education carriers, make good use of red cultural and ethnic cultural resources, and tell good stories of ethnic unity in Garze. Continue to deepen the actions of ethnic unity into families, villages, schools and temples, promote all-round ethnic interaction, exchange and integration. Adhere to the direction of Sinicization of religion in China, manage religious affairs in accordance with the law, guide religion to adapt to socialist society, and maintain long-term social stability.

### *5.5 Strengthening the Cadre and Talent Team and Consolidating Organizational and Talent Support*

Increase the training and selection of young cadres, strengthen political experience and professional training to improve governance capacity. Formulate precise talent introduction policies, improve

supporting guarantees such as housing, education and medical care to retain and make good use of talents. Vigorously cultivate local rural cadres, professional and technical personnel, and ethnic cultural inheritors, building a local talent team that can stay, fight and take root forever. Improve the incentive mechanism for entrepreneurship, promote the spirit of dedication, and create a strong atmosphere of long-term construction of Xizang and practical development of the prefecture.

## 6. Conclusion

The ideology of long-term construction of Xizang is the Party's strategic guideline for governing Xizang-inhabited areas and stabilizing and prospering the borderland, running through the entire process of Garze's peaceful liberation, construction and reform, and development in the new era. Over the past seven decades, Garze has always adhered to the original aspiration of long-term construction of Xizang, broken bottlenecks with infrastructure, united people with improved livelihoods, consolidated foundations with ecological protection, gathered consensus with ethnic unity, and strengthened guarantees with cadres and talents. It has achieved all-round progress in economic society, people's well-being, ecological protection and ethnic harmony, fully verifying the scientific nature of the theory and practical guidance of the ideology of long-term construction of Xizang. Faced with realistic challenges such as low development quality, inadequate infrastructure, tightening ecological constraints and insufficient talent support, promoting Garze's long-term development in the new era must always follow the Party's governance strategy for Xizang in the new era, adhere to the strategic resolve of long-term construction of Xizang and persistent efforts, prioritize ecology, people's livelihood, unity and talents, continue to shore up weaknesses, strengthen , consolidate foundations and leverage advantages, constantly improve practical paths, promote higher-quality, more sustainable and safer development in Garze, and contribute solid strength to safeguarding national border stability, forging a strong sense of community for the Chinese nation, and building a modern new socialist Garze.

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