

Chinese Approaches for Expanding the Choice of Paths for Modernization in Developing Countries

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Abstract: Probing the proposition of “Chinese Approaches for Expanding the Choice of Paths for Modernization in Developing Countries” is of great theoretical and practical significance. To comprehend its great theoretical and practical significance is a demonstration of the global significance of Chinese approaches. The design of world economic issues and the direction of globalized development and governance can be directed through Chinese approaches and the prosperous development of scientific socialism in the 21st century can be realized by applying Chinese experience, wisdom and strength via Chinese approaches for building a community of shared interest and a shared future for mankind. The historical inevitability, realistic possibility and internal logic for expanding the path to modernization for developing countries with Chinese approaches can be revealed by analyzing the options for modernization in developing countries, comparing the three paths to modernization, displaying the significance of modernization through Chinese approaches and demonstrating their effects. Moreover, the ideological connotations, spiritual essence and basic values of Chinese solutions are expounded following the principle of integrity in Marxism thus demonstrating the true meaning and vitality of the integrity of time, space, practice and theories of the Chinese approaches.

Keywords: Chinese approach, modernization of developing countries, Chinese path

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General Secretary Xi Jinping (2017) pointed out in the report to the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, "...socialism with Chinese characteristics entering a new era...the banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics is now flying high and proud for all to see. It means that the path, the theory, the system, and the culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics have kept developing, blazing a new trail for other developing countries to achieve modernization. It offers a new option for other countries and nations who want to speed up their development while preserving their independence; and it offers Chinese wisdom and a Chinese approach to solving the problems facing mankind." Since the founding of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in 1921, after more than 90 years of dauntless struggle, China has successfully carried out the great causes of the New Democratic Revolution, the socialist revolution, and socialist construction, and has embarked on a Chinese road. After the founding of the People's Republic of China, under the leadership of the Party, Chinese people have succeeded in establishing a modern independent sovereign state, offering the world the Chinese experience for striving for national independence, national liberation, and people's freedom. In 1978, the CPC lifted the curtain for reform and opening up. With 40 years of hard work, great progress has been seen in the socialist modernization with Chinese characteristics, rendering China the second largest economy in the world while maintaining stable, rapid and vigorous economic and social development for 40 years. The victory achieved with these great efforts and struggles stands for the great victory of scientific socialism, a victory for developed countries and people fighting for independence, freedom and liberation, and a great victory for mankind in the process of exploration and modernization after the Industrial Revolution in Britain. The Chinese path, experience and wisdom integrate and complement each other, generating the Chinese approaches.

In an important speech at the ceremony marking the 95th Anniversary of the Founding of the Communist Party of China, General Secretary Xi Jinping proposed that the CPC and Chinese people have every confidence in their ability to provide a Chinese approach to aid the exploration of a better social system for humanity. After that, he gave a more detailed explanation of the profound connotations of the Chinese solution in his report to the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. The Chinese approach is the summary of lessons learned through experience since the founding of the Communist Party of China 90 years ago, the establishment of the People's Republic of China 70 years ago, the launch of reform and opening up 40 years ago, and especially since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. The Chinese approach is an action guide for the Communist Party of China to lead the Chinese people to create a new era in China, and also the great contribution of China to the people of the world for the pursuit of a better social system. The Chinese approach has combined the past, present and future, running through China and overseas, inside and outside of the CPC, having realized the organic unity of time and space and the dialectical unity of theory and practice. The Chinese approach is ultimately the product

of the Chinese people's modernization based on learning from and referring to other countries' lessons and experiences, the conscious choice of the Chinese people during their struggle for national independence, national liberation and people's well-being, and also the wisdom bridge connecting China and other countries, especially the developing countries.

The Choice of Path for the Modernization of Developing Countries

“Modernization is an all-inclusive, multi-level and multi-stage historical process” (Luo, 1993). Throughout the process of human modernization, from the Industrial Revolution in Britain to the French Revolution, to the unification of Germany and the defeat of Germany in the First World War, to the collapse of the imperialist colonial system during the Second World War, from the founding of the People's Republic of China to the commencement of reform and opening up at the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee of the CPC, to China surpassing Japan and becoming the second largest economy in the world in 2010, and to socialism with Chinese characteristics entering the new era where the road map of a strong, prosperous, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious and beautiful modern socialist country was put forward at the 19th National Congress of the CPC, modernization in the nature of both the natural course of history and forced processes in the wake of the tides of time was witnessed in different countries across the world. Yet, more generally, countries and nations didn't have the chance to choose a path to modernization until the end of the two World Wars and the removal of the shackles of colonialism.

In modern times, the United States and a few Western countries in Europe took the lead in finishing modernization and established a global capitalist system. After the First and Second World Wars, a number of emerging developing countries were established, but they could not avoid being dominated by the Western modernization modes in the early stages of their development. The excessive dependence on imitation and lack of independent innovation caused many countries to fall into the predicament of “secondary-type modernization” (get modernized by “catching up” with others). As Marx (2009) profoundly pointed out, “The country that is more developed industrially only shows, to the less developed, the image of its own future.” Therefore, for the vast number of developing countries, the choice of ways to promote modernization is crucial, and the modernization ways introduced must ultimately be combined and innovated with the national conditions of the country. It is precisely because China has avoided the blind worship of Western modernization and stopped blindly copying the modernization mode of the that we have been able to overcome the dilemma of secondary-type modernization and move to the path to socialist modernization with Chinese characteristics, which also contributes to expanding the path to modernization for many developing countries.

Circuitous Paths to Modernization for Developing Countries Dominated by Western Modernization Modes after 1945

After the Second World War, we enjoyed a precious but short-lived period of relative peace. The important areas of developing countries' modernization included the industrialization of emerging independent countries such as those in Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia and South Asia. In Latin America, countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Chile attempted to rid themselves of their dependence on the Western modes, and progress was made in the secularization of the Islamic countries in the Middle East, Western Asia and Northern Africa, indicating that the modernization of developing countries had become a trend of the times. The modernization process of these countries was mainly to leverage various geographical advantages, through planned learning and introduction and technological transformations, to realize high-speed leapfrog economic development, while driving extensive social reforms, to adapt to the development trends of the modern world. However, the modernization of these developing countries was not a natural process of social evolution. Compared with the earlier modernization process of developed countries, the modernization of developing countries was a rapid and all-round revolution, with various goals such as economic growth and improvement of people's livelihood, social fairness and stability, democracy and legal system construction which were often incompatible with each other, and which bred various social contradictions. Ultimately, in addition to the initial prosperity and achievements of modernization, there were too many regrets, problems and crises, and many countries are now suffering the problems of turmoil, chaos and retrogression.

Weal and Woe in the Modernization of Eastern European Socialist Countries under the Guidance and Influence of the Modernization Mode of the Soviet Union

Under the guidance and influence of the Soviet modernization mode, the former Eastern European socialist countries also basically completed modernization in about 40 years. The national industries of Poland, former Czechoslovakia, Romania, Bulgaria and former Democratic Germany were at the mainstream advanced technological levels of that time, with their economic indicators were at an advanced level. Yet, Eastern European countries had planted the roots of economic and political problems at the beginning of modernization, mainly because they chose the Soviet mode without reservation. They failed to scientifically design and properly arrange their goals, paths, steps and motivations for modernization. Their modernization foundation fell apart eventually with the drastic changes in Eastern Europe and the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Specifically, the reasons were as follows: first, at that time, since these countries in Eastern Europe lacked national independence and autonomy in the choice of their social systems and modernization paths, they were less motivated to maintain their development; second, each of

them, since being subject to the highly centralized and unified command of the Soviet Union in the process of modernization, ended up with abnormal development of their industrial structure and an imbalance in their national economic landscape, thus failing to truly release a modern vitality; third, the simplification of economic production led to a simplistic material and cultural life for the people. Generally, their material and cultural lives were in need of diversity.

The lessons learned from the failure of modernization in Eastern Europe are thought-provoking. How do developing countries choose a path to modernization and how do they find a modernization path that meets the needs for sustainable development of their own country, their own nation and their region? The key points are: first, the modernization of any country must be based on the national conditions of the country. Only in this way could they explore ways that conform to their own characteristics; second, the modernization of any country must follow the inherent laws of modernization and development. Countries must use advanced scientific and technological achievements for upgrading their industrial structures, while at the same time they must cultivate internal scientific and technological innovations, truly taking the way of independent and innovative development; third, the modernization of any country must respond to the real needs and development demands of the people, combine the modernization development with the all-round development of its citizens, and achieve the mutual promotion of both.

Gains and Losses in Choice of Modernization Paths

From the perspective of history, the development of different regions, nations and societies is neither uniform nor synchronous (Luo, 1993). The modernization paths, goals, steps and motivations of different countries are hardly unified due to varied historical traditions and realistic conditions. However, today's world has become a global village. Thanks to the reality of globalization, countries have also achieved some consensus in the path to modernization: first, only sovereign countries with independent governments and people with a unique understanding of the meaning of modernization could generate the inexhaustible motivation needed for development; second, the modernization path chosen by a country must conform to their national interests, continuously improve the material and cultural living standards of its citizens and increase the productivity of the country; third, in the process of modernization, mechanisms that can overcome various difficulties and continuously promote endogenous motivation should be established so that their modernization can withstand the challenges and tests of various crises and remain sustainable; fourth, the modernization of any country, from the perspective of human history, must not damage the interests of other nations and must adhere to the principles of mutual benefits and win-win interactions between nations. In this way, it could objectively avoid triggering a boycott or even confrontation by other countries. Summarizing the promotion of the Western and the Soviet modes, one can see that although there are reasonable aspects and also successful cases, they ended up with too many regrets

and failures due to deviations from the concepts and practices of the modernization modes. It is exactly against such a background that China's path to modernization has provided developing countries with new options. The Chinese path is a conducive inspiration through which developing countries can achieve both rapid socio-economic development and independence.

Three Potential Paths to Modernization

In the past, modernization and development in each country, regardless of the path taken, could generally be divided into socialist modernization and capitalist modernization, and this division could almost always account for the adoption of either a market economy or a planned economy. However, with the emergence of China's modernization path, we can further compare and analyze the formation of modernization paths in the West and their advantages and disadvantages, analyze the advent of the Soviet modernization path and its strengths and weaknesses, and probe the experience and rules of the Chinese Communists' exploration of the path to socialist modernization after the foundation of the People's Republic of China. From that, we can reveal the profound reasons for the successful Chinese path providing countries, particularly developing countries, with new options in modernization, especially how the Chinese path assists the developing countries in achieving both rapid economic development and independence, and discover the historical inevitability, realistic possibility and internal logic for choosing the Chinese path.

Formation, Strengths and Weaknesses of the Paths to Modernization

In the long process of the development of human societies, the Industrial Revolution in Britain, triggered by the use of steam engines, opened the door to human modernization. Modernization, based on Western values and supported by developing science and technology, was truly amazing because of the rapid increase in productivity, the geometric growth of social wealth and its enormous impact on all aspects of society. Since it originated in the United Kingdom and was rooted in the West, it thus caused a preconceived bias, namely, modernization is Westernization. This bias is still deeply rooted in conventional thinking today, after more than three centuries. No doubt, the modernization of the West has greatly improved labor productivity, accelerated the development and application of science and technology, created enormous wealth and promoted the progress of human civilizations. However, it has also brought some disastrous consequences, as summed up in four aspects: first, it caused opposition between man and nature, between man and society, people and even internal strife in individuals as is evidenced by the emerging alienation of man and society; second, the countries that took the lead in advancing such modernization processes often did so at the cost of sacrificing the interests of other nations, especially the weak and small countries that were in the process of realizing their modernization and development; third, the core concept and implementation manner of their modernization, and

the mindset and way of life under the influence of their concept and manner ultimately lead to the unsustainability of such modernization; fourth, for having exaggerated the function and role of the “invisible hand” of the market mechanisms, the Western modernization path ultimately led to market failures, which is reflected by recurring capitalist economic crises. Apart from creating a splendid civilization, the Western modernization path has left too many people with sorrows and negative lessons. Therefore, when the backward countries and developing countries are carrying out their own modernization, especially in the process of selecting a path to modernization, they should be clear about the strength and weakness of the Western path and avoid the blind worship of Western modes. There are options to the Western modernization path.

The Advent of Modernization and Its Advantages and Disadvantages

On the ruins of the First World War, socialist Russia and the subsequent Soviet Union rose rapidly. The new Soviet regime, to break through the blockade of capitalism and find a way to finally defeat capitalism, gave full play to its advantage of “pooling resources to solve major problems” and managed to initially realize modernization in just two or three decades, growing to be a super power. In addition to rapid growth in its national strength growth, the material and cultural life of the public was also greatly improved, and strong support was provided to other socialist nations. However, with the collapse of the Soviet Union on December 25, 1991, instead of realizing its original intention, this modernization path left people with painful lessons and profound reflections. Nearly 30 years have passed since its disintegration and we can clearly analyze the Soviet modernization modes. Their main disadvantages were: first, a high degree of national concentration and heavy reliance on militarized and bureaucratic management and command; second, before productivity reached the developed stage a single form of public ownership had been adopted, which was a violation to the economic laws. Since the market factors were rejected, the mechanism and ability of optimal resource allocations were inadequate which led to the failure of an effective combination of the visible hand of government with the invisible hand of the market. Advanced science and technology were mainly regarded as the domain of the military and were not effectively converted for civilian use which deprived the scientific and technological revolution of the fertile social soil needed for development and innovation; and third was the sacrifice of the interests of agriculture and farmers for industrial development in general and the sacrifice of light industry for heavy industry in specific which failed to fundamentally improve the material and cultural lives of the public or fundamentally mobilize the initiative of the workers. The Soviet Union, in problem solving, failed to have a scientific and profound analysis on aspects like ideology, systems and mechanisms and the endogenous power of production development. In the beginning, it followed the beaten track with minor efforts and progress was made. Later, it chose the wrong reform orientation and produced disarray. It was “without an elastic adjustment mechanism that could make it capable of adapting to the ever-changing world” (Gaidar, 2008). It eventually

ruined the cause of socialism producing stagnation in the modernization process, even decay.

Experiences and Lessons of Chinese Communists Exploring the Path to Socialist Modernization after the Founding of the People's Republic of China

The success of the path to socialist modernization with Chinese characteristics accelerates independence from the Western modes, effectively overcomes the rigidity of the Soviet mode, maintains the great development of a social economy, quickly accumulates material wealth, and lifts people's living standards, which combined, has lifted China to be the world's second-largest economy. By implementing a governing system that promotes coordinated economic, political, cultural and ecological advancements and the continuous accumulation of governing ability, China has nearly created a moderately prosperous society. Through continuous explorations in terms of the following major issues, deep reforms and referring to the conducive practices of other countries, China has made substantial progress. For one, it abandoned the liberal modernization dogma of the West, doing away with the superstition that modernization means westernization, privatization, marketization and liberalization. Then, it discarded the inherent limitations of the Soviet mode, such as high centralization, replacing market rules with executive orders, and the excessive reliance on heavy industry leading to failure in fundamentally improving the people's material and cultural lives. The Communist Party of China, considering the situations, adapting to the times and trying to catching up with modern world powers, has developed the Chinese path to modernization and has solved the problems encountered in Chinese modernization including development goals, paths, modes, motivation, etc., based on constantly learning, self-improvement and advancing with the times. Just as Mao Zedong pointed out, "We are not only good at destroying the old world, but also at building a new one" (*Collected Works of Mao Zedong*, 1991). On the path to modernization, China pays attention to balancing the following contradictory relations: the opposition between the unity of the government and the market, the opposition between the unity of development and stability, the opposition between the unity of fairness and efficiency, the opposition between the unity of reform and innovation and the adherence to the same principles, and the opposition between the unity of traditional and native cultures and the modern and foreign cultures.

China's modernization is promoted on the premise of establishing a socialist path with Chinese characteristics. We always uphold and improve the leadership of the Party, the system of people's congresses as China's fundamental political system and the basic political systems of multi-party cooperation and political consultation under the leadership of the CPC, and the basic economic system with public ownership playing a leading role and all forms of ownership growing side by side. We always uphold the correct guide in the modernization process, promote the development of a socialist market economy, and giving full play to both the advantages of guiding the national economy with macro control and the strength of market resources allocations, having combined the visible hand of the government with the invisible hand of the

market to effectively avoid the trap of market and government failures. We stick to the socialist path with Chinese characteristics and demonstrate the system's advantages and vitality by connecting the political advantages of the socialist system with market economic activities. We can see from the reasonably short period of time since the founding of the People's Republic of China, and especially the 40 years of implementation of reform and opening up, that China's path to modernization boasts unique strengths, in particular, the obvious late-mover advantage. China's modernization, with its correct concept, healthy development and fruitful results, has gained recognition across the world, thus demonstrating exuberant vitality. On the basis of learning and referring, China has shown that the myth of Western modes of modernization being the ultimate modes of human societies and thus unchangeable and invincible is false, and also effectively avoided the inherent limitations and unsustainability of the Soviet mode, thus becoming a new mode in the process of human modernization.

Development of the Chinese Approach to Expanding the Path to Modernization of Developing Countries

In addition to its goal and mission of great rejuvenation, the Chinese nation feels a responsibility to help advance the progress of civilization. In the current "de-globalization" ideological trend with de-globalization activities frequently emerging, the Chinese approach should contribute to building a community with a shared future for mankind. Although it is difficult to copy a successful approach, the successful experience of China's socialist modernization and its rules could serve as a reference for the modernization of many developing countries. We have made our own contributions to expanding the path to modernization of developing countries by clarifying the ideological connotations, spiritual essence and basic elements needed for successful development, as well as the initiatives and strategies needed at several levels during the building of a community with a shared future mankind.

The Chinese Solution Has Positively Responded to the Call of the Times to Build a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind

The Chinese approach is a strong response to the anti-globalization trend as evidenced by Donald John Trump winning the presidential election of the US, Brexit and the rise of Europe's far right. Currently, the original global governance system dominated by American and Western values has apparently been dysfunctional, invalid and out of order. The whole world is beset with problems such as weak economic recoveries, trade protectionism, geopolitical conflicts, terrorism and transnational crimes and is in urgent need of reconstruction to create a new world order that can lead global governance in the right direction.

"The global governance plan proposed by China seeks to break the shackles on development of the international community and open a new path to solving international problems"

(Wang, 2018). The Belt and Road Initiative, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and other initiatives implemented by China are providing more effective public platforms, public services and public products for the development of the global economy. The formulation and implementation of international economic, trade, financial, cultural and other public policies and rules are also in urgent need of China's active participation, thus advancing the effective formation of a new order, new rules and a new direction for global governance. The excellent traditional culture of advocating the concept of tolerance and cooperation, international communications, the practice of implementing the principle of achieving shared growth through discussion and collaboration, and energizing performance and the creation of a new development landscape where 1.4 billion Chinese people are working hard and innovating together, under the leadership of the CPC, has created the foundations of the Chinese approach. Now China is offering this program to the world to advance the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

The Chinese Approach Presents the Spiritual Essence and Basic Elements of Socialist Modernization with Chinese Characteristics

We probe the essence of the Chinese approach by following the principles of integrity in Marxism, carried out through the perspectives of time, space, practice and theory. First, we will review the Chinese approach following the principle of integrity of time and explore the socialist modernization from past to present and future. Second, we will view the Chinese approach from the perspective of the integrity of space extending from domestic policy and diplomatic affairs to the overall socialist modernization. Third, we will examine the Chinese approach from the integrity of practice, the blending of scientific socialism in the 21st century into the “Four Great” (great struggle, great project, great cause, and great dream) socialist modernization processes with Chinese characteristics. Fourth, we will analyze the Chinese approach from the angle of integrity of theory, knowing that it originates from the succession of three historical periods of the CPC: Chinese people “stand up” following Mao Zedong Thought, become “better-off” following Deng Xiaoping Theory and the gradually improved system of theories of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and China gets “strong” driven by Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era.

First, looking at the Chinese approach from the integrity of time, one can see the Chinese approach and proposals to provide Chinese wisdom for building a better social system for the people of the whole world from General Secretary Xi Jinping, the Chinese experience accumulated through the construction of the socialist market economy in the 40 years of reform and opening up, the great course of China's socialist revolution and construction over the 70 years since the founding of the People's Republic of China, and the great cause of the Chinese people's struggle for national liberation.

Second, seeing the Chinese approach from the perspective of the integrity of space.

“Any country, any society, any nation or any political party that engages in revolution and construction is bound to be placed in a specific dimension, and cannot avoid the international and domestic environmental factors, the two key environmental factors” (Zhang, 2016). The Chinese approach contains an overall layout to promote coordinated economic, political, cultural, social and ecological advancement, and “Four-Pronged Comprehensive Strategy” and connects domestic state governance with international diplomatic affairs while building a community with a shared future for all mankind. It also demonstrates the integrity of space extending from domestic policies and diplomatic affairs to the overall socialist modernization.

Third, we understand the Chinese approach from the perspective of the integrity of practice. “All social life is practical in nature” (Marx & Engels, 2009). The great revolutionary spirit and good tradition of being experts in the great struggle of the CPC are especially embodied in the “great struggle, great project, great cause, and great dream”. Namely, to realize the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation, we need great struggle, and to ensure victory we are going to carry out the great project of operating the CPC under strict discipline, and promoting the great cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Starting with the modernization practices of China’s socialist revolution and construction, and reform and opening up, the Chinese approach has included 21st-century scientific socialism, reflecting the integrity of practice.

Fourth, from the perspective of the integrity of theory, the Chinese approach is derived from Mao Zedong Thought on getting people to “stand up”, Deng Xiaoping Theory to make people “grow rich” and Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era which ultimately embodies “standing up”, “growing rich” and “becoming strong”, the three historical stages of the CPC. The first step of the Chinese approach was to combine the universal truth of Marxism with the Chinese revolution, construction, reform and opening up and other concrete practices, managing to solve a series of problems on our own. At the same time, it bears the historical mission to promote the rapid development of scientific socialism in the 21st century, and provide countries hoping to realize modernization with precious experience, especially for expanding a path to modernization for developing countries. Therefore, the Chinese solution needs to go global, and provide Chinese wisdom and experience to people expecting a better social system across the world, by building a community with a shared future for mankind.

Although the Chinese approach was first put forward by General Secretary Xi Jinping, it originated from the great practice of the CPC over nearly a century, and is the product of the integration of the Chinese path, Chinese experiences and Chinese wisdom. At present, to explore the Chinese approach and the choice of path to modernization of developing countries has the theoretical and practical significance to reveal the global significance of the Chinese approach, depict the blue print of the Chinese approach for solving global economic issues, leading globalized economic development in the right direction and establishing a new order in global governance to drive the growth and expansion of scientific socialism in the 21st century. Eventually, the Chinese approach will contribute its experience, wisdom and strength to the

building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

Specific Strategies and Initiatives for Building a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind by Applying the Chinese Approach

First, the Chinese approach is used to construct an interdependent community of shared interests as the economic plan for promoting world economic recovery and sustainable development. China's programs, as manifested by the Belt and Road Initiative and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, have shown strong attraction and execution force in the last five years: for one, they create trade expediencies for countries and areas along the Belt and Road and member states of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, realizing closer social interactions; this is a good model for global economic recovery and the eradication of trade protectionism. The greatest significance of the economic plan is to provide the driving force and guide for global economic recovery and development. Second, the Chinese approach can be applied to build a "harmony in diversity" community of shared values as the cultural development plan that can expand the inclusiveness of human cultures. Nowadays, in addition to the conflict between the socialist and capitalist systems, there are the conflicts between different types of civilization. However, parties in the conflict co-exist in a global village, which requires that all parties should have a basic idea of being in the same boat. We should seek consensus on major issues while reserving differences on minor issues, comply with common human values to cherish life, protect the earth, respect each other, and live in harmony and common development following open, comprehensive, inclusive, balanced, and win-win principles. Third, the Chinese approach, as the reconciliation proposal promoting world peace and harmonious coexistence, solving global governance problems and eliminating conflict, can build a mutual-assisting, co-building and co-enjoying community of common safety. Today, the world is in urgent need of building a new model of international relations, especially a new model of major-country relationship. We need to eliminate Thucydides Trap, properly handle the relations among the US, Russia, the European Union, Japan and Asia, Africa and Latin America, and re-shape the global governance system based on basic values of coexisting and a shared future for all mankind. Then each of the countries and regions could take what they need and fulfill their own duties based on the principle of achieving shared growth through discussion and collaboration, thus building a new, sound international order, and a global community of common safety for all mankind.

The Chinese approach promoting the building of a community with a shared future for mankind is an endogenous demand for China's reform and opening up to go global. At the same time, it is the ideal and realistic pursuit of the CPC to provide a Chinese approach to meet the expectations of humanity for a better social system. It is a historical wish of the Chinese nation to contribute to the healthy development of human civilization for thousands of years. To achieve the "Two Centenary" goals, to finally realize Chinese Dream of the rejuvenation of the

Chinese nation, and to build a civilized, harmonious and beautiful socialist modernized power, we not only need to increase the intensity, depth and breadth of internal reforms, but should also, via opening-up, establish the position of China in the world, to play a more important role in global politics, economics, culture, diplomacy, ecological civilized construction and other fields around the globe.

From this point of view, the Chinese approach has two dimensions. One is from inside to outside, meaning the output of Chinese power, Chinese experience, Chinese wisdom, and Chinese culture to offer Chinese help and reference for other countries of the world. The other is from outside to inside. In this process of output and dissemination, we are constantly gaining the reference objects, coordinates and platforms for self-review, self-correction and self-improvement. Today, as the Chinese nation is growing stronger, we must share our development achievements with all the people of the world.

The Significance of the Chinese Approach to Modernization and Its Demonstration Effects

Apart from being a new option among the paths to modernization, China's success provides a model for developing countries to achieve rapid economic and social development while maintaining independence. China has fractured the world's blind worship of the Western modes with its own success and has become a model of political and economic modernization based on its wisdom and experience. More importantly, this truth is revealed through the summarization of the theory and practice of China's modernization. Each of the countries seeking to modernize has the freedom to choose a modernization path, the ability to succeed, and the right to enjoy the wonderful results of modernization.

Chinese Discourse Can Overcome the Blind Worship to the West

Socialism with Chinese characteristics has destroyed the old and established the new in three aspects.

First, it has disproven the "End of History" and opened a new realm of scientific socialism. When the drastic changes in Eastern Europe and the collapse of the Soviet Union led the international socialist movement to fall into disrepute, when people questioned what path socialism in the eastern world should follow, when Western bourgeois thinkers clamored that human history will end in the so-called liberal democratic system of capitalism, China, as the largest socialist country in the world, held high the banner of scientific socialism and created the new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics with confidence. As General Secretary Xi Jinping said, "History has not ended, nor can it possibly end." The rise of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era could bring a radical change in the global process of socialism and human civilizations. The Chinese solution "is a clear response to the 'End of

history' and is the end to the 'disappearance of socialism' argument" (Lin, 2016).

Second, it has cracked the "West-Centered Theory", being that socialism with Chinese characteristics is a model and a choice for the development of human civilization. The successful rise of the socialist path with Chinese characteristics and its heading into a new era has shaken the unipolar dominance position of Western developed capitalist countries, and broken the inertia of many people in the world, that is, the ideological illusion that equates Westernization with modernization and with universalization. Western civilization, Western modernization modes and paths are no longer the only and optimal choices. Socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era shares a Chinese approach with those expecting a better social system.

Third, it has removed the "Clash of Civilizations" and outlined the prospect for a beautiful community with a shared future for all mankind. The traditional dualistic confrontational thinking model of the West considers the relations between people, between the states, between the nations, and between the types of civilization from a "black or white" perspective, which gave rise to the concept of the so-called "Thucydides Trap" and regarded the rise of the emerging powers as threats and conflicts. The theory of "Clash of Civilizations" raised in the modern era, especially Samuel P. Huntington's (1998) statement that in the 20th century, the relations between civilizations was transforming from the unilateral influence of one civilization to the strong, continuous and multi-party interactions between all civilizations. This presupposes the premise of various contradictions and conflicts in the international community. Therefore, nations can only conclude that it is necessary to resolve differences and conflicts by means of confrontations and wars, which intensifies the pessimistic expectations of countries in the global order. On the contrary, Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era puts forward the idea of building a community of shared interests and shared future for all mankind, which is a contribution of Chinese wisdom and Chinese strength for disarming the "Clash of Civilizations" and building a better "harmony in diversity" world.

Chinese Wisdom Has Exerted a Positive Demonstration Effect on Political Modernization

The development path and experience of China serves as a successful model for global political and economic development, and is a sample for maintaining the stability of the political and social order while achieving rapid economic and social development by other countries, and also a new choice for developing countries to both maintain rapid development and adhere to the independence and dignity of their country. Its demonstration effect is extensive, profound, and realistic. The economic and social reform and development of China over the past 40 years was carried out in line with a certain political and social order. The reforms during each stage, whether focusing on economic or social and cultural reforms, was always accompanied by political reforms. Political reforms run through all reforms and play an important role in

restricting them. From a global perspective, with 40 years of reform and opening up, political reforms in China have proved to be stable, orderly, solid and worth referring to. First, what is the purpose of reforms? China always adheres to the basic principles of historical materialism that “productive forces determine relations of production” and “the economic base determines the superstructure”, carrying out political reforms to serve and support economic and social reforms, instead of being deluded by nice words. Second, political reforms in China have always “remain true to the mission” and have adhered to the path that conforms to its own development goals, needs, and its specific social, historical and cultural environment. It resolutely eliminates all kinds of interference, neither walking on a closed and rigid old road, nor taking the evil way of political transitions, but by taking a new way, a broad road to development. Therefore, in the 40 years of economic and social development, thanks to our keeping to the principle of “one central task, two basic points”^①, we never go the wrong political way when dealing with some major and complicated issues in the process of modernization and social transformation. For example, on the issue of the so-called ruling legitimacy, we have not pursued the “procedural legitimacy” unilaterally and abstractly, but insisted on starting from reality, to develop the advanced productive forces, advanced culture, and to seek the greatest welfare for the people. Only in such a way could we consolidate the foundation of governance. Besides, in promoting democracy, we keep combining democracy and the rule of law, implementing a democratic centralism with Chinese characteristics and vitality, rather than copying the democratic system of Western developed capitalist countries.

The Chinese Experience Has Served as a Great Example of Economic Modernization

What China has impresses the world with the most during its economic and social development over the past 40 years is simply its rapid, effective and sustained development in the economic field. It has embarked on a rapid and stable path to modernization, which has shocked the world and is referred to as the “Chinese Miracle”. It also has had an enormous empirical revelation effect. First, always treating economic development as the center, and constantly keeping up with the times to refine the concepts and connotations of development. It has gone through the process from “development is of paramount importance” to scientific development, sustainable development, and then to the five development concepts: innovation, coordination, green, openness, and sharing, and realized the transformation from physical development to human development, and from the development of meeting basic material and cultural needs to the pursuit of better lives for its people. These are qualitative leaps. This kind of development consensus can mobilize the inherent enthusiasm of production and labor in all walks of life and the various social groups, thus forming an endless development impetus. In

^① Adhere to the Party’s basic line of taking economic development as the central task and upholding the Four Cardinal Principles and the reform and opening up policy, known as “one central task and two basic points”.

particular, “This requires constant reforms and innovations to ensure that Chinese socialism is more efficient than capitalism in releasing and developing the productive forces, stimulating and strengthening the vigor of society and promoting a well-rounded development of the person, and the arousing of greater enthusiasm, initiative and creativity among the people, thus fully displaying its advantages” (Xi, 2014). Second, we are open to the outside world and modestly learn the advanced experiences and methods that are conducive to the sound development of our economy. After development is realized, we do not forget to provide other countries with the benefit of our experience. We are the “student” first and then the “teacher”. Third, in the course of reform and opening up, we have always maintained our independence, adhering to the principle of “giving prominence to ourselves”, firmly holding the initiative of development, controlling the destiny of the nation, actively responding to the external environment, and learning from others based on our own judgment. We never copy the experience of other countries without thinking. Fourth, the government’s “visible hand” and the “invisible hand” of the market are organically combined to form a socialist market economy, thus paying attention to avoiding both market and government failures in the process of economic development. Fifth, we put emphasis on promoting the common development of state-owned enterprises and private enterprises, and on giving play to the advantages of both types of enterprises in the process of economic and social development, offering them the chance to learn from each other’s strengths for mutual promotion.

The Cultural Confidence and Consciousness of China Has an Ideological and Cultural Demonstration Effect

Over the 40 years of economic and social development in China, important breakthroughs in theory and culture have been made. It has gained consciousness and confidence in our theory and culture, thus forming our theoretical, path, institutional and cultural confidence in socialism with Chinese characteristics. We have also formed a discourse system with Chinese characteristics, and gradually enhanced our international discourse. First, after reform and opening up, we managed to correctly treat the conflicts between foreign cultures and our local cultures, and we have adhered to the cultural philosophy of learning from other countries while remaining true to our mission and looking to the future. Second, in the face of the contradictions between modern and traditional cultures, an organic integration was realized and we avoided a gap between our traditional and modern culture. Third, we satisfactorily solved the conflict between cultural confidence and modestly learning about all advanced and excellent cultures. Besides getting rid of the cultural mentality of seclusion and extreme arrogance since the Ming and Qing dynasties, we have overcome the cultural self-abasement of believing “The grass is greener on the other side of the fence,” and have adopted “Appreciate the culture/values of others as do to one’s own, and the world will become a harmonious whole.”

The significance of the Chinese solution to modernization is concentrated in the political

demonstration effect, the economic demonstration effect, and the cultural demonstration effect. The Chinese solution belongs to both China and the world. In addition to offering Chinese experience, Chinese wisdom and Chinese strength for solving global economic problems, leading in the right development direction of economic globalization and for a new global governance order, promoting the vigorous development of scientific socialism in the 21st century, and ultimately building a community with shared interests and shared future for all mankind, we have created a new path for countries hoping to realize modernization and a model by which developing countries can achieve independent modernization with rapid economic and social development while maintaining their independence.

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