Study on Chinese-style Modernisation for the Common Prosperity of All People

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Abstract: The century-long development of the Communist Party of China (CPC) has also been a journey of exploration for the construction of common wealth in China. The common wealth, with its rich connotation, has been advancing in different forms at different stages of history. To solve the problems of low-income groups in rural areas, low-income groups in western regions and key groups in employment is the focus of the modernisation of China's common prosperity, and it is necessary to adhere to the leadership of the Party, take high-quality development as an important tool, and optimise the distribution system and the related security system in an integrated manner, so as to realise the goal of modernising China's common prosperity for all ethnic groups and regions as soon as possible.

Keywords: Chinese-Style Modernization; Common Wealth; Income Distribution.

1. Introduction

Research on common wealth is mostly conducted from the perspectives of scientific connotation, evolutionary history, realisation path and level measurement. Luo Mingzhong believes that common wealth originated from Marxist theory, which was later enriched and developed in the practice of the Communist Party of China (Luo Mingzhong, 2022)[1]. Yu Jianxing and Ren Jie (2021)[2] Looking at the development of the history of economic thought, he summarises common wealth as an act of allowing all people to have the opportunity and ability to participate equally in the construction of a high-quality economy and society and to share the fruits of development with the help of compensatory and corrective institutional factors. Throughout the history of the development of common wealth, China has focused on two points in the realisation mechanism of common wealth: first, common wealth and economic growth. Domestic scholars point out that the development of productive forces and the improvement of social system in China determine the degree of common wealth in the society, and the economic environment is under great pressure, so it is necessary to put the high quality development of the economy in the first place (PANG Jinju, 2021)[3]. Secondly, balance efficiency and fairness. Insisting on the redistribution adjustment mechanism with taxation, government transfer payments and improving social security as the main means to achieve a reasonable distribution of wealth in China (Qin Chenglin et al., 2017)[4]. Furthermore, it is necessary to innovate the development mechanism to accelerate the third distribution to promote common wealth through charitable public welfare such as collection, donation and funding (Jiang Asia et al., 2021)[5]. And then with the depth of the study, scholars began to turn to the connotation and characteristics of common wealth, and constructed a corresponding indicator system with different quantitative dimensions to quantify common wealth. Liu Peilin et al[6](2021) proposed a two-dimensional construction method to fully consider the overall degree of affluence and the degree of sharing the fruits of development in the common wealth indicator system, so as to reflect the overall level of productivity and the level of participation of all people in modernisation. Chen Lijun et al. (2021)[7] used the three-dimensional construction method to construct 81 indicators to measure the common wealth development index from the levels of development, sharing and sustainability. At the same time, other important indicators related to common wealth, such as the relative poverty line and the Gini coefficient, are also measured, and these indicators provide a convenient way to further study common wealth.

2. Modernisation of the Common Prosperity of All People

The report of the 20th National Congress has included the modernisation of the common wealth of all people as one of the five important features of Chinese-style modernisation, and this assertion has given a high degree of affirmation to the building of the common wealth at the theoretical level. In the new perspective of Chinese-style modernisation, an accurate grasp of its inner logic and scientific connotation can deepen the understanding and practical mastery of the common wealth.

2.1. Wealth for all is Wealth for All

Shared prosperity means the participation of all people in the process of building and sharing development. First of all, the development of any country requires the participation of many parties, and substantive success cannot be achieved by relying solely on a single subject, such as the Government, the market or individuals. The construction of common wealth in China is being improved in the course of gradual exploration, and there is no ready-made theory that can be copied and applied, nor are there any successful cases of construction in other countries to learn from. The realisation of the goal of common prosperity must rely on the commitment of all the people to the cause of construction, which encompasses all ethnic groups, regions and communities, pooling their wisdom and efforts, and giving full play to the power of the people of all ethnic groups to work together, build together, contribute together and create together in the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Secondly, the Chinese people should not only build common


wealth together, but also share the fruits of development in a fair manner. The idea of achieving common wealth for all people is not very different from Lenin's view that "the wealth created by common labour will be enjoyed by all workers". The fact that people can enjoy the fruits of their hard work further promotes social justice while maintaining social development. Nowadays, China is gradually improving the socialist fairness and justice guarantee system, which aims to safeguard the fundamental interests of the broadest number of people, and to maximise social fairness and justice[8].

2.2. Common Wealth is Total Wealth

The five-in-one overall layout is an important element of Chinese-style modern development. Common wealth is not only equity in the economic, political, ecological, social and cultural spheres, but also equity in the shared enjoyment of material and spiritual wealth. After entering the new era, the main contradiction in China's society has changed dramatically. People are no longer only concerned with the material needs of life, but more of their needs have shifted to focus on democracy, the rule of law, fairness, justice, security, the environment and other aspects. The current socialist development requires to meet the comprehensive and diversified needs of the people, which not only includes the economic level, but also involves the political, ecological, cultural and social levels, and requires to realise the in-depth integration and comprehensive promotion of the five-in-one. Secondly, in the process of modernisation, apart from the accumulation of material wealth, attention must be paid to the issue of spiritual civilisation and affluence. As the level of wealth increases and the quality of life improves, people are increasingly concerned about and reflect on the richness of their inner spiritual world. Material wealth provides a solid guarantee for spiritual wealth, and it is also necessary to enrich people's spiritual life through education and publicity. Spiritual strength will inspire China to continue on the path of modernisation and development, and to realise the new face of common wealth, which is internalised in the heart and externalised in actions.

2.3. Common Wealth is Wealth that Allows for Disparities

The modernisation of common prosperity that we are building does not call for an egalitarian approach to sharing the fruits of our development, let alone a simultaneous enrichment of everyone without distinction. First of all, based on the differences in our regional development bases and conditions, the contradiction of unbalanced and uneven development has always existed, which determines that the common wealth in China cannot be immediately realised in the short term. In the process of realising common prosperity, we must face up to the relative disparities in development, but at the same time be wary of the emergence of the phenomenon of polarisation, so as to truly promote fairness in development. The process of building common wealth can be broadly divided into the following three stages.

3. The Course of Modernization for the Common Prosperity of All People

Over the thousands of years of China's development, the realisation of common prosperity has always been an ideal goal to which the people aspire and aspire. In terms of chronological order, there is no obvious sequence between the construction of common wealth and Chinese-style modernisation; the two actually go hand in hand. The people-centred approach to common wealth is basically consistent with the value of modernisation in ensuring that people share the fruits of development. The process of building common wealth can be broadly divided into the following three stages.

3.1. The Period of the New Democratic Revolution: Initial Construction

In 1919, Li Dazhao pointed out that the liberation of the working class, represented mostly by the peasantry, would lead to the emancipation of the whole nation; in 1927, the Communist Party of China (CPC) began the agrarian revolution of "fighting the landlords and dividing the fields" and in several articles raised the importance of economic development. In 1927, the CCP began the agrarian revolution of "fighting the landlords and dividing the land" and raised economic development to an important position in a number of articles. Such measures to promote economic development raised the income of the people to a certain extent, narrowed the gap between the rich and the poor, and raised their material standard of living. During the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, the Central Committee of the Party, in order to overcome economic difficulties, took measures such as reducing rents and interest rates and increasing agricultural loans to achieve self-sufficiency in most materials and ensure the supply of war materials. Although it was not enough to talk about wealth in this period, it was significantly different from the old system of exploitation in the past. And then, during the Liberation War, the Party Central Committee issued a series of documents such as the Outline of China's Land Law and the Present Situation and Our Tasks, and in doing so promoted land reform and economic construction in the liberated areas of the country, so that the poor peasants were given the land they longed for. With land that they could cultivate and a source of income, the peasants were able to greatly reduce their burden of living, and they were able to raise their standard of living by selling food under self-sufficient food for a source of livelihood. At the same time, the peasants' motivation to support the strategic counter-offensive in order to safeguard their own lives from being affected continued to increase, and the deep mass base even provided extremely effective help for the CPC in leading the people of all ethnic groups across the country to seize power. Throughout China's revolutionary period, the land issue, which was of greatest concern to the peasants, was constantly being solved, and the CPC's adoption of different effective measures around this central issue laid a solid class foundation for the founding of the new China in 1949, and also created favourable conditions for the development of the construction of common wealth in China in the later stage of the process[10]. The CPC has also created
favourable conditions for the construction of common wealth in China at a later stage.

3.2. The Period of Socialist Revolution and Construction: Intensive Construction

After the founding of New China, the whole society was still in a state of devastation, and the main task of social construction was to promote the rapid recovery of the national economy of society. 1953, the Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on the Development of Agricultural Production Co-operative Societies was the first to put forward the relevant content of "common prosperity". Firstly, China must avoid excessive disparities. It is important to focus on the fact that the fruits of development do not belong to some groups, but to all people, including the entire population of China, and to make the realisation of the common wealth of all people the fundamental goal of the socialist revolution and construction. Adhering to the cooperative approach to promote the development of China's industrial and agricultural industries and avoiding polarisation in development requires the complete elimination of the system of exploitation, so that the people can build and share the fruits of development. In the development of industrial and agricultural industries, secondly, the development of productive forces is fundamental, and the material foundation is being strengthened. Drawing on the effective experience of other countries, we insisted on giving priority to heavy industry, and carried out the First Five-Year Plan, laying the foundation for China's industrial development in the later stages. Finally, it is clear that development and equity need to be balanced. While capitalism can develop the economy, it also emphasises private ownership, individual possession of wealth, and serious polarisation. One of the most striking aspects of China's development compared to that of other countries was the lack of polarisation, with Chairman Mao proposing the elimination of the rich peasants' economy and the introduction of co-operative methods. And then during the exploratory period of socialist construction, Chairman Mao proposed the People's Communalisation Movement for equal distribution and elimination of disparities, but it was seriously detached from the reality of social development in the process of promotion. Against this background, in 1963, society as a whole embarked on a major restructuring of economic development under the eight-pronged policy of "adjustment, consolidation, enrichment and improvement", which led to a gradual recovery of production levels. Afterwards, the Cultural Revolution once again blocked the development of common wealth[11]. The Cultural Revolution once again prevented the development of common wealth.

3.3. Post-reform and opening up: Innovative Construction

Accelerating the deployment of the Party Central Committee, Deng Xiaoping discarded the idea of development egalitarianism, he stressed that affluence can be sequential. 1978 Central Committee meeting, he put forward "in terms of economic policy, I believe that we should allow some areas, some enterprises, some workers and peasants, because of their hard work and achievements and income more, life is better first! ". Since then, on many important occasions and meetings, he has emphasised that some people should be allowed to get rich first, which has stimulated people's enthusiasm for production, emancipated and developed the social productive forces, and both the urban and rural areas have enjoyed the dividends of social development, thus taking a more determined approach to the road of common prosperity. However, after 1978, when China's reform and opening up was fully implemented, the non-public economy gradually developed in the market, and the enthusiasm for production increased, the income gap between different regions, urban and rural areas, and workers at all levels gradually widened due to the differences in enthusiasm for production, the basis for economic development, and the conditions of location, and China faced an inevitable and severe test on the road of building the common wealth. Later, Deng Xiaoping began to stress that in promoting China's economic development, polarisation should not be formed. In the Southern Dialogue of January 1992, he defined the essence of socialism in general terms as "liberating the productive forces, developing the productive forces, eliminating exploitation, eliminating polarisation, and ultimately realising common prosperity"[12]p374. In this context, all countries and regions have adopted socialism. Against this backdrop, with countries and regions adopting different forms of economic development, and in the face of changing international and domestic circumstances, Jiang Zemin pointed out in his report to the 14th National Congress in 1992 that "the mainstay of socialism is to implement a distribution according to labour, to reasonably widen the gap between incomes, to prevent polarisation, and to gradually realise the common prosperity"[13] p227. The In his speech at the 2001 Central Conference on Poverty Alleviation and Development, he pointed out, "Help the people in poor areas and the whole country to gradually embark on the road to common prosperity." In October 2007, Hu Jintao pointed out in his report to the 17th Party Congress, "We should take the road to common prosperity and promote the all-round development of human beings "[14] (p249-250). In October 2007, Hu Jintao pointed out in his report to the 17th Party Congress that "we must follow the path of common prosperity and promote the comprehensive development of all people. The realities of development thus further raise the requirements for the building of common prosperity, and the road to building common prosperity in China is long and arduous[15]. The road to building common wealth in China is long.

4. The Focus of Chinese-style Modernization for Common Wealth

The report on the Twentieth National Congress explicitly takes a problem-oriented approach, tracing the source of the problem and accurately grasping the difficulties in promoting the path of modernisation towards the common prosperity of all people. In this regard, the CPC Central Committee explicitly proposed to "increase the income of low-income people and expand the middle-income group". The intention is that the size of China's low-income groups, the people's income level is too low, it is difficult to achieve common prosperity, so in the construction of the road to common prosperity must be given priority to raise the income level of workers, improve people's living standards, increase the size of the middle-income groups, narrow the gap between rich and poor and high-income groups, to achieve a fairer and more equitable development of our country. According to the statistics of China's National Bureau of Statistics, China's low-income earners mainly cover three major groups, namely
rural low-income earners, low-income earners in the western region, and employment priority groups[16]. The first is rural low-income people, the second is low-income people in the western region, and the third is the key employment group.

4.1. Rural Low-income Earners

The report of the Twentieth Party Congress clearly states that "the most arduous and burdensome task in building a modern socialist country in an all-round way still lies in the countryside." In recent years, the degree of integration between urban and rural areas in China has been deepening, and the urbanisation rate has increased significantly, but what cannot be ignored is that the income gap between urban and rural areas still exists significantly. According to statistics, China's urban-rural income multiplier difference in 2022 was 2.45, with urban incomes at 49,325.85 yuan, crossing the middle-income threshold, and rural incomes at 20,133 yuan, far below the minimum threshold for middle-income groups. China's rural income growth rate in recent years has been much higher than the urban income growth rate, but because of the original low labour productivity in rural areas and the relative lag in agricultural modernization, a fundamental solution to the problem of the relatively slow development of rural areas and the root cause of raising the income of low-income people in rural areas requires comprehensive and in-depth consideration.

4.2. Rural Low-income Earners

The report of the twentieth CPC National Congress calls for promoting the formation of a new pattern for the development of the western part of the country, supporting the accelerated development of ethnic areas, strengthening the construction of border areas, and promoting the development of borders to enrich the people. In recent years, China has endeavoured to implement the strategy of coordinated regional economic development, especially for the western region, and accelerated the development of the western region, as a result, the average annual growth rate of the western region's economy is higher than that of the whole country, and the ratio of per capita GDP between the western region and the eastern region is also shrinking. However, due to its geographical location, development history, natural resources and other significant differences with the eastern region, the western region always faces unavoidable challenges and difficulties in the process of development. In terms of the GDP of the western region provinces in 2022, Gansu and Guizhou provinces as a whole have not yet stepped into the minimum threshold of the middle-income group, and the average per capita disposable income of residents in western regions, such as Tibet, Yunnan, Qinghai, Xizang, and Guangxi, has just crossed the middle-income group as a whole, disposable income of residents in Tibet, Yunnan, Qinghai, Xizang, Guangxi and other western regions as a whole has just crossed the minimum threshold of the middle-income group. This suggests that, in terms of the regional distribution of the development of common wealth in China, particular attention should be paid to the development of low-income groups in the western region[17].

4.3. Employment Priority Groups

The report of the Twentieth Party Congress clearly states, "Strengthen the policy of giving priority to employment, improve the mechanism for promoting employment, and promote high-quality and full employment. It has improved the public service system for employment, perfected the employment support system for key groups, and strengthened the employment support for groups in difficulty." Through a variety of employment assistance policies, China has solved the employment problems of about 10 million employed people in recent years, but in the face of the grim situation of nearly 10 million graduates each year, there is a serious challenge of how to stabilise and increase their incomes. Employment is the biggest livelihood, how to stabilise employment and livelihood is a major difficulty in ensuring social stability nowadays.

5. A Chinese-style Modernisation and Development Path to Common Prosperity

5.1. Adherence to Party Leadership

History can prove that under the leadership of the Party, China's socialist construction has achieved significant development. Whether it is political construction, economic construction, ecological construction or cultural construction, the Party's leadership must always be the prerequisite. Specifically, in promoting the management of relative poverty in ethnic areas, the equalisation of basic public services, and green and sustainable development, it is necessary to follow the main line of resolutely upholding the authority and centralised leadership of the Party Central Committee, and to ensure that, by all means, the various lines and policies are fully implemented and realised in all ethnic groups and regions. Local governments should take the enhancement of the sense of gain, happiness and security of the people of all ethnic groups as the core essence, and endeavour to unify the thoughts and actions of the cadres and people of all ethnic groups under the unified decision-making and deployment of the CPC Central Committee, so as to ensure that the modernisation and construction of a better and more prosperous society in the ethnic areas are in the right direction. Party committees in all regions and at all levels should identify their positioning, effectively fulfil their main responsibilities, unify the Party's leadership in all political, economic and cultural undertakings in ethnic areas, and make strategic plans around achieving material, spiritual and ecological prosperity for all ethnic groups. Establishing a new pattern of ethnic work under the unified leadership of the Party committee, with the collaboration of all departments and the participation of the whole society[18].

5.2. Adherence to Party Leadership

To address the imbalance in development between urban and rural areas, regions and industries, it is necessary to strengthen the foundation for the development of productive forces and to achieve high-quality development. First, protect and develop productive forces. Breaking down barriers to the development of production factors such as talent, capital and technology, optimising the allocation of resource factors, expanding the degree of internal and external opening up for development, actively building a large unified national market, and strengthening cross-regional cooperation and exchanges in the areas of finance and trade, in order to continually broaden the space for China's economic development. Secondly, coordinating the development of material wealth and spiritual wealth. Spiritual enrichment is a major driving force in promoting common prosperity, and a firm belief can give strength to breaking down barriers. In the
process of developing productive forces and increasing material wealth, efforts should be made to strengthen people's spiritual strength. Actively promote socialist core values throughout society and internalise good social character and customs. Inherit and promote China's excellent traditional culture, and enrich people's spiritual world through education and Internet communication. To eliminate the wrong perception of common prosperity as simultaneous prosperity, average prosperity, and undifferentiated prosperity, to remove social impatience, to deepen the public's understanding of the long-term, systematic, and complex nature of the construction of common prosperity, and to encourage the members of society to be practical and to do a good job in their own work step by step[19]. The public will be encouraged to do their part of the work in a practical and step-by-step manner.

5.3. Distribution System

Common wealth essentially requires that the cake be both bigger and better distributed. On the road to China's modernisation and development, it is essential to implement a fair and reasonable mechanism for the redistribution of social wealth on the basis of the continuous creation and accumulation of social wealth. We must always reflect the fact that "making the cake bigger" is the prerequisite for common wealth, and "sharing the cake well" is the underpinning of fairness in common wealth. The main content lies in raising the income of the middle and low-income people, attaching great importance to the redistribution system under the perspective of common wealth, China's current stage of the initial distribution, redistribution and the three distribution have different focuses, the initial distribution should be reflected in the market to play a decisive role, and the redistribution should be used by the government's hand, through the tax system and the equalisation of social services to promote the level of the three kinds of distribution is mainly embodied in the voluntary donations, These three types of distribution are mainly reflected in voluntary donations, philanthropy and volunteerism. These three types of distribution are useful supplements to initial distribution and voluntary redistribution. Accelerating the reform of the distribution system within society requires focusing on the inclusiveness and coordination of economic growth in the initial distribution, highlighting social justice in the redistribution, and reinforcing corporate social responsibility in the third distribution. In other words, it is necessary to strengthen the redistribution system with social security as the key measure to consolidate the common wealth base, the third distribution means centred on philanthropy to help narrow the gap, as well as the continuous promotion of the equalisation of basic public services to do a good job of social services, and to promote the common wealth from multiple levels and in multiple directions[20]. The third means of distribution, centred on charity, will help narrow the gap, and the equalisation of basic public services will be promoted to provide better social services, so as to promote common prosperity in multiple dimensions and directions.

5.4. Safeguards

First of all, to meet the development needs of the people and to realise their vision of a better life, there must be a sound and complete social security system and a public service system to provide strong support and safeguards. In the current social construction framework, pension insurance, medical insurance, unemployment insurance and social assistance are all livelihood measures. It has become a consensus to speed up the process of meeting people's diversified needs for a better life by improving the public service system and enhancing the capacity of public services, starting from leisure and tourism, sports and exercise, housekeeping services, culture and education. Secondly, it is necessary to guarantee a sound and perfect rule of law system so that the people can enjoy the fruits of development fairly. The rule of law is a requirement for promoting Chinese-style modernisation and a guarantee for realising common wealth. It is necessary to improve the modern rule of law system, enhance the capacity of the modern rule of law, crack down on illegal behaviours that undermine the fruits of modernisation and hinder the common wealth, and create a stable and harmonious social environment for the realisation of the common wealth [21]. The Government of the People's Republic of China is also working to improve the rule of law.

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References


