Research on the Theoretical and Practical Logic of Chinese Modernization

Hongxia Wei *, Afang Zhou b, *

School of Marxism, Anhui University of Finance and Economics, Bengbu, Anhui 233030, China
* 1794686640@qq.com, b 2226393461@qq.com
* Corresponding author: Afang Zhou (Email: 2226393461@qq.com)

Abstract: The Chinese style modernization road is not a simple learning and imitation of the modernization road of the West and the Soviet Union. Therefore, the formation of Chinese modernization theory has its unique theoretical logic and practical logic. From the perspective of theoretical logic, the theoretical exploration of Chinese modernization originated from the modernization thoughts of Marxism and Leninism. After the arduous exploration of several generations of Chinese Communists', a relatively mature theoretical system of Chinese modernization has been formed. From the perspective of practical logic, the practical process of Chinese style modernization can be divided into four stages, in which the practical laws from "passive" to "active" and from "series" to "parallel" appear. An in-depth interpretation of the historical logic, theoretical logic and practical logic of Chinese modernization will help us more comprehensively grasp the connotation, essence, principles and significance of Chinese modernization.

Keywords: Chinese Style Modernization; Theoretical Logic; Practical Logic.

1. Introduction

In Xi's report to the Party's 20th National Congress, the General Secretary pointed out that "from now on, the central task of the Communist Party of China is to unite and lead the Chinese people of all ethnic groups in building a great modern socialist country in all respects, realizing the second centenary goal, and comprehensively promoting the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation through Chinese-style modernization." [1] (P21) From the Chinese modernization road, we can see the hundred-year process of the Chinese Communists' painstaking exploration, The theoretical and practical logic contained in the theory of Chinese modernization is worthy of serious review and discussion.

2. Theoretical Logic of Chinese Style Modernization

2.1. Derived from Marx's Modernization Thought

The three words "modernization" have not completely and accurately appeared in all Marx's statements. However, Marx's idea of modernization is fully reflected in his works, and the references such as 'modern bourgeois society', 'modern capitalist class' and 'modern wage working class' [2] are prominently used by Marx in the Communist Manifesto. He also clearly pointed out that the purpose of writing Das Kapital was to reveal the economic operation law of "modern society". Based on this, the author believes that Marx's view of modernization can be summarized into the following five aspects.

2.1.1. Marx Elaborated the Mechanism of Capitalist Modernity.

Marx and Engels called the 19th century "modern", which means that this is a specific historical era. The change of "mode of production" is the symbol of Marx's division of times. In Marx's view, "modern mode of production" refers to "capitalist mode of production". Marx believed that modernity is the product of capital movement on the basis of modern production, which rose and developed with the capital movement. Its essence is capital logic and its expansion. Capital accumulation makes the structure and mechanism of modern capitalist society follow its orders, and reserves or eliminates everything according to whether it is beneficial to itself, so as to achieve the overall domination of modern capitalist society. Finally, the logic of capital promotes the formation of the explicit characteristics of all levels and factors of modern society, that is, capitalist modernity.

2.1.2. Marx Pointed out the Duality of Capitalist Modernization.

Marx believed that capital has duality, that is, civilization and barbarism coexist. Capitalist modernization has created an unprecedented number of productive forces and created a large number of industrial and scientific forces. Capitalist society is full of vitality and liberates people from the shackles of feudal society. This is the civilized side of capital. But at the same time, capital has a barbaric side. Marx severely condemned the evil of Western colonialism. "The bourgeoisie creates a world for itself according to its own appearance" [3] (p36). Externally, the history of the rise and development of capitalism is the history of capital flowing to the world and spreading in the world. The modernization of western capitalism formed by capital globalization is inherently aggressive and limited. Internally, capitalist modernization has created great productive forces and created a "modern cage" for the proletariat.

2.1.3. Marx Predicted the Development Trend of Capitalist Modernization.

Marx believed that the capitalist mode of production would surely transition to a higher Communist mode of production. The capitalist mode of production will also become one of the civilized forms in the process of human modernization, just like the Asian, ancient and feudal societies. In his view, the
advanced capitalist industrial country in the mid-19th century has developed into a fully mature industrial society, and is expected to be close to the direct prelude to the proletarian revolution.

2.1.4. Marx Pointed out the Historical Destination of the Modernization of all Mankind.

Marx believed that the capitalist social form created the indispensable material conditions for the realization of high-level modernization, but also created a "grave digger" for himself. Because in the advanced social formation, the modern form of organization has become a community. Marx believed that only the individuals in the community could get rid of the dual shackles of material and spirit, so as to obtain the means of comprehensive development and realize real personal freedom, that is to say, the Communist society is the historical destination of modernization.

2.1.5. Marx Stressed That Capitalist Modernization is not the Only Way for all Countries to Realize Modernization.

Marx once concluded on the basis of the study of Oriental society that Russian society is likely to enter a higher stage of social development without going through the capitalist "Kaftin gorge". On the one hand, "if the Oriental society wants to realize modernization, it must follow the general development law of human society and realize the replacement and upgrading from low-level society to high-level society" [4]. On the other hand, non capitalist countries do not have to follow capitalist countries and suffer misfortunes. They can realize the leap over of the capitalist stage. But the necessary condition is to complete the possession of the achievements of Western material civilization. As far as Russia is concerned, its productivity level is backward and the ownership of land communes is fragile. It is very unlikely that it can create a rich material base to catch up with the capitalist countries. Therefore, profound social change and full interaction with the world are indispensable.

2.2. In View of Lenin's Modernization Thought

Lenin is the successor of Marxism. From the end of the 19th century to the beginning of the 20th century, when world capitalism entered the imperialist stage and the proletariat was facing new situations and problems, Lenin creatively applied and developed Marxism. Lenin combined with the reality of Russia and practiced Marx's thought, setting an example for the socialist revolution in backward countries.

Lenin recognized Marx's view that "capitalist modernization is not the only way for all countries to realize modernization", and led Russia across the "Kaftin gorge". But in practice, "complementing with the Western proletariat" has become "seizing power before creating conditions", which does not fully follow Marx's teaching. It can also be seen from Lenin's comments on the economic thought of Swiss economist Sismondi that Lenin's views on capitalist modernization are different from Marx's. Lenin believed that the first half of the 19th century was a period when the large machinery industry had just begun to develop in the European continent. This part of the view is closely related to a theory put forward by Lenin later. That is, the theory of realizing socialist revolution and carrying out socialist construction under the backward economic conditions in Russia.

On the whole, the essence of Lenin's modernization idea is embodied in agriculture, industry and people. In agriculture, Lenin proposed to use commodity currency relationship to realize agricultural modernization. He advocated replacing the surplus grain collection system with grain tax, so as to improve the situation of farmers, and also advocated taking the cooperative road to develop the rural economy. In industry, Lenin proposed to establish a developed material base to realize industrial modernization. He advocated the adoption of measures such as the development of large industry, the realization of electrification, the introduction of advanced technology and equipment, and the use of capitalist business methods to build modern socialism. On the human side, Lenin proposed to use capitalism to realize human modernization. Two major measures have been taken. One is to hire foreign experts with high salaries and introduce advanced intelligence; Second, send personnel abroad to learn advanced management experience.

2.3. Modernization Theory Developed from the Predecessors of the Chinese Communists

Lenin's modernization thought gives us rich contemporary enlightenment. First of all, modernization must be based on the actual situation of the country and combined with its national conditions. This requires us to learn and master the basic principles of the dialectical relationship between the universality and particularity of contradictions and apply them in practice. Secondly, in the process of socialist modernization, we must pay attention to the "three rural" issues, because farmers are the most extensive and profound mass foundation in the state power. Thirdly, the socialist modernization must implement the market economy. The theory of market economy put forward by Comrade Deng Xiaoping and Lenin's theory of market economy come down in one continuous line. Finally, capitalism must be used in socialist modernization. How can countries with relatively backward economic level transition to socialism? The theory of the new economic policy is a successful exploration of the transition path from a relatively backward country to socialism.

As early leaders of the party, Chen Duxiu and Li Dazhao realized the important role of modernization in realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation in the early days of the founding of the Communist Party of China. Chen Duxiu keenly observed that China was out of date. Li Dazhao was the first to spread Marxist theory and the Russian October Revolution in China. Li Dazhao believed that the victory of the Russian October Revolution was "the victory of the world working class" [5] (P259). The early Communists under the leadership of the two pioneers did not immediately devote themselves to the construction of socialist modernization, but first overthrew the "three mountains" and cleared away the obstacles to modernization. Although the central task during the new democratic revolution was to carry out armed revolution, the party also used the viewpoint of modernization to observe and analyze the problems of military and military modernization. It can be seen that in the early days of the founding of the party, the Chinese Communists' understanding of modernization was very narrow due to the limitations of the times and understanding. With the further development of the new democratic revolution and the construction of social revolution, the Chinese Communists' discussion on the theory of modernization has also developed.

Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai put forward the development direction of modernization and collectivization as early as at the second plenary session of the Seventh Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. However, due to certain
economic theory. Although Marx and Engels once imagined
economy theory, which is a breakthrough in Marxist
development, Deng Xiaoping put forward the socialist market
according to China's situation, thus initiating the new concept
out of a Chinese style modernization path” [7] (p163)
great revolution, “we are moving forward in constantly
comprehensive balance in all aspects. He believed that in this
productive forces, we must change the relations of production
believed that in order to substantially change the backward
model, the process of China's modernization has stalled.
Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai have stressed the importance of
rural" thought is still of great theoretical and practical valu e.
mistakes in the subsequent p ractice, Mao Zedong's "three
fundamental way out for agriculture lies in mechanization"
Mao Zedong's view of "developing heavy
production is the common law for all societies to expand
forward that "the law of priority growth of means of
combination of Marxism and China's reality. Marx once put
heritance of Deng Xiaoping theory. In the reports of the 14th
to 16th National Congress of the CPC, Jiang Zemin inherited
Deng Xiaoping's proposition that the inherent stipulation of
"a modern socialist country" and "a modern socialist power"
is "prosperity, democracy and civilization". The 16th National
Congress of the Communist Party of China has set various
goals of building a well-off society in an all-round way, so
we can better grasp this excellent strategic opportunity in
the first 20 years of the new century. The 16th CPC National
Congress put forward the "new road to industrialization" and
clearly pointed out that "we should adhere to the
informatization to drive industrialization". In addition, it is
the first time to put forward political civilization in the
important documents of the party, emphasizing the
coordinated development of socialist material civilization,
political civilization and spiritual civilization. It can be seen
that our party has a deeper understanding of socialist
modernization.
In his report to the 17th National Congress of the
Communist Party of China, Hu Jintao proposed "building a
prosperous, strong, democratic, civilized and harmonious
modern socialist country” [8] (p447), in which "harmony" is
a new addition. The report also added the new situation and
task of comprehensively understanding the in-depth
development of informatization, urbanization, marketization
and internationalization. The connotation of socialist
modernization is increasingly rich.

2.4. Innovation in the Modernization Theory of
the Chinese Communists in the New Era
Socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new
era with the convening of the 18th CPC National Congress.
Through innovation and breakthrough, our party has
successfully promoted and expanded Chinese style
modernization. The description of the content of
modernization in the report shows that the CPC Central
Committee with the General Secretary as the core has
continued to deepen its exploration of the new path of
Chinese-style modernization, which is mainly reflected in
four aspects: first, the huge population scale, the common
prosperity of all the people, the coordination of material and
spiritual civilization, the harmonious coexistence of man and nature and taking the road of peaceful development. It embodies the rich connotation of Chinese modernization. Secondly, it explains the unique essential requirements of Chinese style modernization from three aspects of nature, goal and significance. Thirdly, the report of the 20th CPC National Congress proposed a two-step strategic arrangement for building a powerful socialist modern country. According to the gradually changing situation and gradually deepening understanding, this paper summarizes eight aspects, and makes some discourse adjustments. For example, the adjustment from "per capita income of urban and rural residents" to "per capita disposable income of residents" can more accurately measure the income level of residents, fully reflecting the guidance of development for the people. Finally, from the five perspectives of leadership, realization path, value orientation, development motivation and mental state, it emphasizes a series of principles that must be grasped in the process of moving forward, namely, adhering to and strengthening the party's comprehensive leadership, adhering to the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and adhering to the people-centered development thought. In addition, it also emphasizes the need to adhere to the spirit of struggle and deepen reform and opening up.

The theoretical exploration of Chinese style modernization originated from the modernization thoughts of Marxism and Leninism. After several generations of hard exploration of Chinese Communists, a relatively mature theory of Chinese style modernization has been formed. After the founding of the people's Republic of China, the basic establishment of the socialist system has provided the political premise and institutional basis for the construction of China's modernization, thus making "China's modernization" and "socialist modernization" equal. At first, due to lack of experience, China had to learn from the Soviet Union. China established a highly centralized planned economic system and a highly centralized political system to promote China's modernization. However, the Soviet Union did not go smoothly on the road of modernization. The opposition between socialism and modernization led to the disconnection of the two, and the modernization construction was difficult to show vitality. At this time, China's modernization has also accumulated practical experience in three years of exploration, realizing that learning from others is ultimately not worth exploring. So "learning from the Soviet Union" became "learning from the Soviet Union". During this period, certain theoretical achievements have been made in the socialist modernization drive, but what is socialism and how to build socialism "are not completely clear", and they have not completely gone out of the shackles of the Soviet model, so the exploration of the modernization road before the reform and opening up is full of hardships and twists. After the reform and opening up, China's modernization drive has shown a trend of marching forward. This road is different from the modernization road of the Soviet Union and capitalist countries. It's a "new road". On the whole, the theoretical exploration of China's modernization road has completed the transformation from unconsciousness to consciousness, from dogmatic understanding to dialectical thinking, so that "modernization in China" has evolved into "Chinese modernization". The continuous enrichment and development of the theory of Chinese style modernization is the result of each generation of the party's collective leadership's continuous inheritance, sublation and development of previous theoretical achievements. This is the unique theoretical logic of the Chinese modernization theory.

3. **Practical Logic of Chinese Style Modernization**

3.1. **The Practice of Chinese Style Modernization**

3.1.1. **New Democratic Revolution Period**

This period is a period of active exploration of Chinese style modernization. Since the 1860s, in order to get rid of the fate of being beaten by backwardness, many people of insight have explored the road of self-improvement and wealth. No matter from the level of objects, system or culture, the exploration failed to achieve success. "At a time of internal and external troubles of the Chinese nation, history and the people finally chose the Communist Party of China and the socialist modernization path it found" [9]. Since its birth, the Communist Party of China has undertaken the historical mission of saving the nation from subjugation and ensuring its survival and national liberation. The Communist Party of China led the broad masses of the people to carry out the agrarian revolution in the base areas; Implement the system of workers, peasants and soldiers' Congress in politics; Economically, we should pay attention to the development of agricultural production and handicraft industry. In addition, we should establish military supplies industry and factories and mining enterprises; Pay attention to the development of education in culture; In terms of Party building, we will continue to expand the ranks of Party members and improve Party organizations. In the end, the new democratic revolution won, the founding of new China opened a new chapter in Chinese history, and Chinese style modernization laid a solid foundation.

3.1.2. **Period of Socialist Revolution and Construction**

The goal of building an industrial country was put forward by Mao Zedong at the second plenary session of the Seventh Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. After the completion of the three major transformations, the socialist system was established, and socialist modernization became the central task of the party. So how to build, our party has never stopped exploring. At first, it chose to learn from the experience of the Soviet Union's modernization drive, and then gradually realized the importance of independent thinking in practice, and began to explore its own development path. The goal of building an industrial country has been constantly expanded and improved to "build China into a socialist power with modern agriculture, modern national defense and modern science and technology in a short historical period" [10] (p439). Under the guidance of this series of goals, great achievements have been made in the modernization construction in this period, an independent and relatively complete industrial system and national economic system have been established, and a relatively good industrial foundation has been formed.

3.1.3. **Reform and Opening up to the 18th CPC National Congress**

This stage is the stage of comprehensive development of Chinese style modernization. Since the Third Plenary Session of the Eleventh Central Committee made the major choice of reform and opening up, the whole Party has focused on economic development and gradually established the path of socialist modernization. In 1979, Deng Xiaoping put forward
the "Chinese style road to modernization". The general policy of social construction in this period was to reform at home and open to the outside world. The organic combination of socialism and market economy added new impetus to the modernization drive. Deng Xiaoping proposed that initially, our development should borrow all the advanced technologies and achievements in the world and "continue to promote modernization at a high starting point" [11]. The goal of the modernization drive has been made clear and the pace of construction has been accelerated. Originally, it was "quadrupling the gross industrial and agricultural production", but now it has doubled the gross national product every 10 years; At first, it was to "solve the problem of people's food and clothing", which was changed to "people's life has reached a well-off level", and then it was further defined as "people's well-off life is more affluent". The first and second objectives of doubling were achieved three and five years ahead of schedule, respectively. At this time, China's modernization entered an accelerated stage and achieved a historic leap.

3.1.4. New Era of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics
At the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the general task of socialist modernization and the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation was clarified. The goal of "building a well-off society in an all-round way" has evolved into a more specific goal of "building a well-off society in an all-round way". The 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China established the new strategic goal of "two steps". It is not far away to basically realize socialist modernization by 2035, and it is just around the corner to build a powerful modern socialist country by 2050. Thanks to the promotion of comprehensively deepening reform and the implementation of the innovation driven development strategy, batches of major scientific and technological achievements continue to emerge, and the modernization drive continues to be assisted. In addition, at this stage, China has made numerous achievements in national governance, national defense, diplomacy and Party building. In the struggle to achieve the first Centennial goal, our party has cut through all obstacles and thorns to lead all the people to build a moderately prosperous society in an all-round way, and the Chinese style modernization has not yet achieved "acceleration".

3.2. Practical Logic of Chinese Style Modernization

3.2.1. From "Passive" to "Active"
After the Opium War in 1840, China's agricultural society instantly lost its original balance and was passively involved in the tide of world modernization. The Westernization Movement, the reformers of the reform movement and the revolutionaries of the 1911 Revolution all began to explore the way out for China's modernization. But the result of the exploration is nothing more than to imitate western countries in politics, economy and culture. China's modernization has always remained in the state of "external input", lacking independent innovation. Under the active leadership of the Communist Party of China, China's modernization initiative has achieved practical innovation based on its own national conditions. Externally, "we will firmly pursue an independent policy of peaceful diplomacy" [12] (p48), and internally, we will always focus on the people, seek happiness for the people, and strive to achieve all-round human development. It is precisely because the CPC has always been in power "one after another" for a long time that China's modernization can maintain the unity of stage and continuity and continue to create new glory. From the initial "four modernizations" to the new "two-step" strategy, the goal of Chinese style modernization has become increasingly clear, the connotation has become richer, and the achievements have been gradually fruitful.

3.2.2. From "Series" to "Parallel"
The "series" development path and the "parallel" development path have different characteristics. Looking at the development power of the two, the "series" development path mostly belongs to the early endogenous type, and the "parallel" development path mostly belongs to the late exogenous type. Western countries can realize industrialization, urbanization, agricultural modernization and information in turn within a certain period of time, and each stage is clearly divided and connected in turn, but for China, the time to realize modernization is tight and the task is heavy. In terms of time, China should complete the modernization path taken by western countries in 300 years in 100 years. So its time span is compressible. It is also because of time constraints that development tasks must be superimposed accordingly. Otherwise, it is difficult to achieve the goal of catching up. In order to optimize the development path of modernization, we need to constantly prevent and resolve the risks in the process of parallel development.

4. The Important Value of Chinese Modernization Theory

4.1. Time Value
Modernization is the process of civilization development and transformation, expansion and integration. Since modern times, the Chinese nation has been brutally invaded by Western powers, and the traditional Chinese culture has also been severely eroded. The Chinese style modernization has explored a new form of human civilization with an open and inclusive nature. The Chinese nation has never been a nation seeking hegemony, and the logic of the development of Chinese civilization is naturally different from that of western social civilization. The first reason is that the Chinese style modernization makes Marxism and Chinese excellent traditional culture permeate and fully combine with each other. The charm of traditional culture is constantly stimulated by Marxist theory, and continues to glow with new vitality and vigor. Secondly, the Chinese style modernization combines Marxism with China's national conditions. On the basis of combining its own national conditions, the Chinese style modernization draws lessons from world civilization, absorbs all the achievements of human civilization, and fully demonstrates the characteristics of openness and inclusiveness. Finally, the Chinese style modernization has coordinated the material civilization and spiritual civilization, actively promoted the construction of spiritual civilization in China, and vigorously promoted the excellent traditional Chinese culture and socialist core values.

4.2. World Historical Significance

4.2.1. Highlight the Vitality and Vitality of Scientific Socialism
In the late 1980s and early 1990s, socialism suffered a major setback in the Soviet Union, resulting in the emergence of the end of history theorists, who claimed that "capitalism is in a sense the only way to become a developed country,
while rigid centralized socialism is a major obstacle to wealth creation and modern technological civilization" [13] (p117). But the miracle of China's socialist modernization has dealt a heavy blow to those who believe in the end of history. Since the establishment of the major goal of socialist modernization, the Communist Party of China has always chosen to "follow its own path" to the end, based on its own national conditions, combining Marxism with modernization, and learning from the modernization development mode of other countries with an open attitude. In the continuous exploration of the path of Chinese style modernization, socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era, "achieving the first Centennial goal and starting a new journey towards the second Centennial goal of building a powerful modern socialist country in an all-round way" [11]. Facts have fully proved that scientific socialism still has vitality in the 21st century, and the socialist cause will continue to achieve success in the world.

4.2.2. Provides a New Plan to Explore a Better Social System

The modernization of the west is capital centered and materialistic. With the expansion and plunder of the outside world, it often leads to serious social polarization. For a long time, modernization refers to capitalist modernization, which is equivalent to Westernization. The appearance of Chinese style modernization has broken the rigid definition of modernization by predecessors and continuously expanded the connotation of modernization. Thus, it provides a new scheme for human beings to explore a better social system. The Chinese style modernization has always adhered to the "people-centered theory", and the development of productive forces has always been the essential requirement for the development of socialism, taking science and technology as the primary productive force and reform and innovation as the primary driving force, so that China, a large agricultural country, can develop into the world's largest industrial output country. Marx once said that what the more developed countries show to the less developed countries is only the "future" and experience accumulated in the process of capitalist development into a new era" [15]. It has also provided a good example for the vast number of developing countries.

4.2.3. Expanding the Path of Developing Countries towards Modernization

In the process of modernization, China has always adhered to the path of peaceful development. We believe that "security is the premise of development, and mankind is an indivisible security community" [14] (p451). On the one hand, we should maintain independence and do not rely on others to achieve development; On the other hand, they are not arrogant, serve the strong and bully the weak, and bully others to develop themselves. The rise of China as a peaceful power with a huge population has brought a steady stream of positive energy to global development, "which will surely push global development into a new era" [15].

In the process of modernization, China has always explored a path suitable for its own national conditions. Since the reform and opening up, China's modernization has made brilliant achievements, and the annual growth rate of GDP has increased rapidly. Western countries are early-onset endogenous modern countries with first mover advantage. China is a late developing and exogenous modern country. It is true that China has many late developing disadvantages and continuous obstacles in the process of development. However, China has explored a path suitable for itself by combining its own national conditions, transforming its disadvantages into advantages, and making full use of the beneficial knowledge and experience accumulated in the process of capitalist modernization, so as to make the "future scene" a reality within reach.

Acknowledgments

This work is supported by Graduate Research and Innovation Fund Project of Anhui University of Finance and Economics in 2022, Phased Research Results of the Research on the Logic of theoretical Generation of Chinese-style Modernization (No.: ACYC2022306).

References