

The "Two Combinations" Leading the Innovative Development of Marxism in the Context of Chinese Modernization

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Abstract: As a scientific worldview and methodology, Marxism has been closely integrated with the practice of China's revolution, construction, and reform since its introduction to China, constantly revitalizing and thriving. The century-long history of the Communist Party of China is a process of the deep integration and continuous development of Marxism with China's actual conditions. Over the past hundred years, the Party and national leaders have closely combined Marxism's fundamental principles with China's outstanding traditional culture, which has been key to the success of various endeavors. The "two combinations" hold important theoretical significance, offering a new theoretical foundation for the development of Marxism. The scientific assertion of the "two combinations" further reveals the reality and necessity of the contemporary Chinese modernization of Marxism, deepening the Chinese Communist Party's understanding of the modern value of Marxism in China. This paper aims to explore the necessity, significance, and practical path of the "two combinations" in guiding the innovative development of Marxism in the context of Chinese modernization, providing beneficial theoretical references for the development of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era.

Keywords: "Two Combinations," Marxism's Fundamental Principles, Chinese Traditional Culture.

1. The Necessity of Upholding the "Two Combinations" to Promote the Chinese Modernization of Marxism

1.1. The Theoretical Basis of the "Two Combinations"

The scientific assertion of the "two combinations" profoundly points out that Marxism must be integrated with China's outstanding traditional culture, which is an inevitable requirement for advancing its Chinese modernization. As a scientific theoretical system, Marxism demonstrates distinct characteristics of the times and nationalism in various countries. In China, it aligns with local cultural genes, traditions, and national characteristics, revitalizing with great vitality and showcasing unique theoretical appeal and practical value[1-2]. Over the course of more than 5,000 years of Chinese civilization, Chinese traditional culture has embraced diverse elements and played an important role in world civilization. The outstanding traditional culture of China is a cultural crystallization that has been continuously upheld throughout the Party's century-long struggle. It reflects the worldviews, life philosophies, values, and aesthetic concepts formed and inherited by the Chinese people over generations. The core content of this culture has become a fundamental part of the Chinese nation's cultural genes. Therefore, China's outstanding traditional culture must be creatively transformed and innovatively developed for the new era. The Party has persistently integrated the "two combinations" with China's actual conditions and its outstanding traditional culture, truly achieving the combination of theory and practice.

1.2. The Practical Implementation of the "Two Combinations"

The scientific assertion of the "two combinations" clearly

indicates that Marxism must closely integrate with China's specific realities, which is the core element in advancing its Chinese modernization. The development of Marxism in China has profoundly changed China's history and reality. The revolution and construction led by the Communist Party of China are distinct from those of other countries, as China has unique national conditions and characteristics. We must insist on using the basic principles of Marxism as guidance while closely aligning with China's specific national conditions and the tasks of different historical periods, continuously advancing the Chinese modernization of Marxism through the practical realities of leading revolution and construction. Marxism in China has undergone three leaps, leading to glorious achievements in revolution, construction, and reform, and allowing the banner of Marxism to fly high across the world. Today, as socialism with Chinese characteristics enters a new stage, we continue to uphold the basic principles of Marxism while continually innovating and pushing the theory to new heights, demonstrating its vibrant life and energy[3-5].

2. The Significance of the "Two Combinations" in the Chinese Modernization of Marxism

2.1. Consolidating the Spiritual Power for Chinese-style Modernization

The "two combinations" provide scientific guidance for consolidating the spiritual power of Chinese-style modernization. In the process of advancing Marxism's Chinese modernization, its scientific theoretical guidance as an ideological weapon will increasingly display powerful strength. Chinese-style modernization continues to advance, and in this modernization process, Marxism must be rooted in China's specific realities to unleash its vibrant life, forming the important ideological concept of the "two combinations."

This concept, in turn, provides theoretical guidance and spiritual strength for the progress of Chinese-style modernization. By using the scientific theory of the "two combinations" to guide the practice of Chinese-style modernization, the importance of the "two combinations" in guiding practice and the development of the times is fully realized. On the one hand, in the modernization process, adhering to Marxism's roots in China's specific realities ensures the protection of people's rights to survival and development, steadily improving the well-being index, and achieving the historic victory of building a moderately prosperous society. On the other hand, the deep integration of Marxist theory and China's outstanding traditional culture can positively influence the inheritance and development of China's traditional culture, particularly in the creative transformation of spiritual civilization achievements and the theoretical innovation of the spiritual cultural system. The principles of Marxism and China's outstanding traditional culture complement each other, promoting theoretical innovation, not only fostering the prosperity of Chinese socialist culture but also making Marxism more closely aligned with China's reality, highlighting its unique characteristics.

2.2. Promoting the Modern Transformation of Chinese Outstanding Traditional Culture

Chinese-style modernization injects inexhaustible vitality into Chinese civilization, creating a new form of civilization and contributing Chinese wisdom to the transformation from tradition to modernity. The Party interprets the modernity of Chinese culture through Marxism, inheriting and innovating, ensuring that the charm and expressiveness of Chinese culture remain ever-new. At the same time, it allows various elements of China's outstanding traditional culture to be fully integrated into modern society, becoming an indispensable part of social practice and life. During the period of the New Democratic Revolution, the Communist Party of China internalized the principle of seeking truth from facts as the soul guiding the revolution, consciously internalizing the "two combinations" and leading the Chinese people to shoulder historical responsibilities and complete the historical mission. At the same time, the Communist Party has worked to promote the integration of Marxism with China's outstanding traditional culture, driving the modern transformation of Chinese civilization and becoming an important spiritual force to enhance national confidence and promote unity and progress. During the socialist revolution and construction period, the Communist Party always stood

with the people, utilizing the cohesion and appeal of Chinese outstanding traditional culture to continuously improve the internal quality of socialist transformation and construction, empowering the modernization cause with a strong internal driving force and great creativity. As China enters the era of reform and opening up and modernization, under this new historical background, "we must follow our own path and build socialism with Chinese characteristics." The new era should activate Chinese civilization through Chinese-style modernization, deepen the transformation of outstanding traditional culture, promote the innovation of the civilizational theoretical system, analyze the material and spiritual needs of Chinese-style modernization, and detail the internal mechanisms and evolving laws of the transformation from traditional to modern civilization.

2.3. Guiding the Direction of Building a New Form of Human Civilization

A century of exploration shows that the modernization of Marxism in China has demonstrated its greatness (see Figure 1). The fusion of Chinese civilization with modernization deepens the "two combinations," enriching the new form of human civilization and creating a modern civilization that embodies the value of the people as its 主体, ushering in a new chapter for the Chinese nation. The new form of human civilization is a model of civilization created by our Party through promoting Chinese outstanding traditional culture, absorbing the achievements of foreign excellent civilizations, and applying Marxist views of civilization. It represents the latest achievement in the development of Chinese civilization and a new form for the future. The solid ideological foundation for building the new form of human civilization is the "two combinations." By reviewing the historical emergence of the new form of human civilization, we can see that it was created on the basis of combining the ideas of Marxist classical writers with Chinese civilization. Through examining its rich connotations, we can realize that what we aim to build is a new form of human civilization. Since entering the new era, both the international and domestic situations have changed. The development power and focus have shifted eastward, and peace and development have become global consensus. On this new path of exploring the new form of human civilization, our Party has creatively proposed the important thought of the "two combinations," providing far-reaching ideological guidance and practical pathways for building a more diverse, harmonious, and symbiotic new form of human civilization.

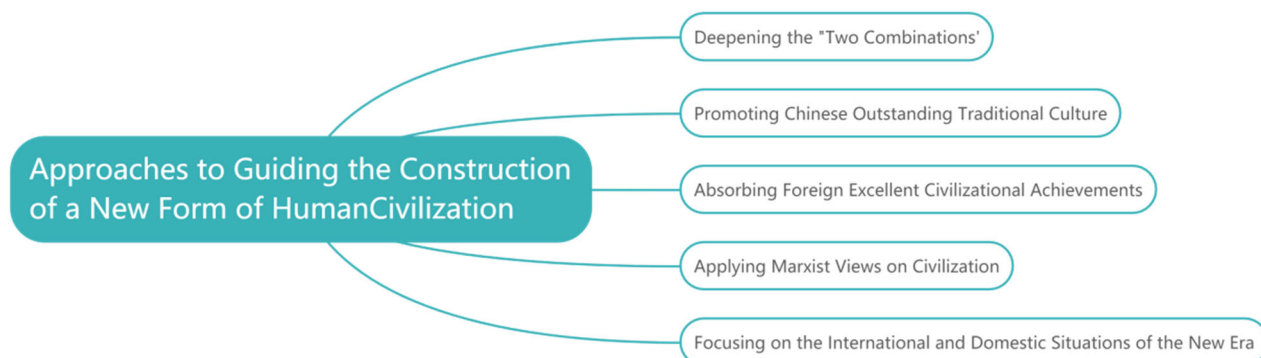


Figure 1. Approaches to Guiding the Construction of a New Form of Human Civilization

3. Practical Pathways for the Important Thought of the "Two Combinations" in the Chinese Modernization of Marxism

3.1. Always Adhere to the People-Centered Approach

Historical materialism emphasizes that theory must be tested by practice in order to promote social development. To advance the "two combinations" in the Chinese modernization of Marxism, it is crucial to deeply recognize the importance of the people and their practical activities. In innovating and creating the theory of Marxism's Chinese modernization, we must always uphold the central role of the people. In the process of cultural creation, the people are undoubtedly the most crucial entity and the key to transforming ideas and theories into practical forces. The General Secretary has emphasized the need to "respect the will, experience, rights, and role of the people expressed in practical activities, fully stimulating the great creative power hidden in the people." Theory originates from the continuous exploration and understanding of the people in social practice, reflecting the new recognition and experience of practice goals, which is not created out of thin air but deeply rooted in the soil of practical activities[6-8]. The Marxist theorists of our country have done the same, synthesizing and summarizing the scientific knowledge and practical experience to extract universally applicable principles, transforming them into Marxist theory that the people can accept and understand. Therefore, the "two combinations" should respect the people's pioneering spirit and uphold their entity status in cultural creation, providing solid strength for the development of advanced socialist culture with Chinese characteristics.

3.2. Strictly Follow Objective Laws

The process of advancing practice is the process of exploring and applying laws, and so it is with the Chinese modernization of Marxism. The new journey requires learning from experience, grasping internal laws, and looking toward the future. First, the development of Chinese Marxism has been a process of struggling against various incorrect tendencies. Dogmatism and empiricism have been the greatest obstacles in advancing socialism with Chinese characteristics. To better realize the development of Marxism in China, we must always remain vigilant and resolute in preventing these two erroneous tendencies from interfering in specific practices. Second, to advance the development of Marxism in China, we must clarify that the basic principles of Marxism serve as the spiritual banner, China's specific realities are the 主体 content, and China's outstanding traditional culture provides the supporting foundation. We must stand on the reality of China's specific conditions, appropriately use traditional culture to advance theoretical innovation, and make Marxism with Chinese characteristics more distinctively "Chinese" and full of "Chinese style." Third, the reason why Marxism has flourished in China is not only because the Communist Party of China has always adhered to the scientific theory it believes in but also because of their continuous development and innovation of the theory through practical exploration. Inheritance and adherence form the foundation of Marxism's Chinese modernization, while

development and innovation are key. In adherence, there is development; in development, there is innovation, allowing us to create a Marxism that matches China's reality and stands out with the characteristics of the times.

3.3. Drawing Wisdom from Traditional Cultural Thought

The wisdom and essence of the times contained in China's outstanding traditional culture provide invaluable references for upholding the "two combinations," becoming a highly valuable source of intellectual and cultural inspiration. One of the key reasons that the Chinese nation has endured hardships and continued to thrive through history is the shared spiritual pursuit and intellectual qualities of the Chinese people. The refined wisdom and cultural essence, tested by practice and accumulated through history, have become guiding values influencing every Chinese person's approach to various matters in daily life and their conduct in society. Among these values, benevolence is the core moral concept of the Chinese nation and the primary moral quality of the Chinese people. Confucius emphasized that "the benevolent love others," while Mencius stressed "cherishing one's parents, being benevolent to the people, and loving all things." As one of the five cardinal virtues of traditional ethics, benevolence helps people understand and properly handle relationships between individuals, between ethnic groups, and between nations[9-10]. It also plays an important role in maintaining family harmony, ethnic unity, and social stability. These intellectual wisdoms contain rich governance principles that continue to deeply influence the national character of the Chinese people. In advancing the "two combinations," we should deeply explore and carefully summarize these valuable resources (see Table 1) as references.

Table 1. The Value of China's Outstanding Traditional Culture

Value	Elaboration
The history is profound	The excellent traditional Chinese culture has a long history and has undergone long-term development and evolution. It is well established and carries the cultural genes and spiritual values of the Chinese nation
Rich cultural connotation	The outstanding traditional Chinese culture contains rich cultural connotations, such as Confucian culture, Taoist culture, Buddhist culture, poetry, painting and calligraphy, and opera. It forms a unique Chinese cultural system and reflects the wisdom and cultural confidence of the Chinese nation
National spiritual pillar	The excellent traditional Chinese culture is the spiritual quality of the Chinese nation, which has been accumulated in the long course of survival and development. It is the spiritual pillar for safeguarding national unity and coping with risks and challenges

4. Conclusion

In conclusion, the "two combinations" are the core essence of the Chinese modernization of Marxism and a powerful driving force for advancing the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Since Marxism was introduced to China, it has intersected with China's national conditions and local culture, both tangibly and intangibly. Through the integration of Marxism with China's specific realities and outstanding traditional culture, it has demonstrated unique vitality and adaptability. At the historical intersection of the "two centenary goals," the General Secretary first proposed the significant assertion of the "two combinations," a major theoretical proposition developed by the Party Central Committee based on an in-depth analysis of the practice and development laws of the Chinese modernization of Marxism. This marks a new ideological liberation, signifying that the understanding of socialism with Chinese characteristics has reached a new height. On the practical path, we have always adhered to the people-centered development thought, actively drawing on the intellectual essence of traditional culture, and continuously promoting the virtuous interaction between theoretical innovation and practical innovation, contributing more wisdom to the creation of a new chapter in the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

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