

Studies of the historical logic of the governing concept of Chinese Communist Party

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Abstract: A new era calls for some new thoughts. Xi Jinping's thoughts on socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, with more emphasis of value orientation on social justice, and social justice, are the core concepts of the Communist Party of China's governing idea in the new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics. This paper reviews and sorts out how Chinese Communist Party explored and innovated its governing concept from two aspects of the specific target positioning and metaphysical value orientation at the dimension of historical logic, which will be of important theoretical and practical significance for enriching and perfecting the theory of our party's governing concept.

What is governing concept? Its connotation varies from different research perspectives. But in terms of the main content, the governing concept can be defined as the sum of the specific target positioning and metaphysical value orientation embodied by the ruling party in the process of managing party affairs as the concentrated reflection of the governing purpose and essence of the ruling party. Since the founding of New China, the party's governing concept has been creatively developed in the practice of governance as a guidance of the great practice of China's socialist cause. This paper reviews and sorts out our party's governing concept at the historical logic dimension, which is of important theoretical and practical significance for enriching and perfecting the theory of our party's governing concept and the ongoing modernization construction practice in China.

Historical logic, that is, the logic of practical development. According to Marxist classic writers, history is a "categorical secular history", that is, "the history of reality"[1]. This means the historical logic of the governing concept of the Communist Party reflects the historical process of the development of the socialist revolution and construction practice with Chinese characteristics. In view of governing concept of the Communist Party of China from a historical perspective, we can find that its emergence, development, and innovation are the outcomes of specific history. It is particularly related to the ruling environment of the Communist Party of China and the party's cognition of its own historical mission, because "the authentic content of all epoch-making systems are established based on the needs of the period when they were created." [2]

I. "Nation -oriented" and "Serve the People Wholeheartedly"

Since the founding of New China, under the malicious situations at home and aboard, the first-generation leading group at the core of Mao Zedong undertook the primary task to consolidate state power as soon as possible, recover economy, and construct a highly industrialized socialist power. Therefore, the first-generation leading group explored the governing concept based on issues "what kind of nation is to be established and how to build a country". Thus, the governing concept of the first-generation leading group can be summarized as "nation-oriented" in terms of the target, and in terms of the value, it reflects the fundamental tenet of the Communist Party of serving the people wholeheartedly.

According to governing concept of "nation-oriented", the party route, guideline, and policies are

developed with the essential target of making the country stronger, because under the specific historical background at that time, it is necessary to build an independent, unified, and powerful new China as soon as possible, which is a historical mission and an obligatory responsibility for Communists. Under the guidance of this concept, Chinese Communists carried out governing practice at the core of building a strong and independent new China. First, the first generation of the party's leading group paid special attention to defending national sovereignty. The war against US aggression and aid to Korea and the defense to the great power chauvinism embodied the concept of the Communist Party of China. Second, in Mao Zedong's opinion, industrialization is the foundation of a powerful country, which, together with modernization are marks of a strong country, and only after achieving industrialization can a country realize its goal. In 1953, the central government confirmed the party's general route during the period of transition, "socialist industrialization and three reforms", that is, the route of construction and transformation at the same time to achieve industrialization as the main task, supported by the transformation of agriculture, handicrafts, and capitalist industry and commerce. In the governing practice of the first generation of leading group, the understanding of a powerful country has been escalated from the industrial level to the goal of modernization. Zhou Enlai formally proposed the strategic goal of "building four modern socialist powers" at the Third National People's Congress in 1964, which guided all Chinese people to devote themselves to the course of socialist construction. After the first five-year plan has been fulfilled, New China has gradually established a complete and relatively independent industrial system, which laid a solid foundation for the high-speed development of China's industry in the new period of reform and opening-up.

In terms of the value, the governing practice of the first generation of leading group headed by Mao Zedong fully manifested and fulfilled the fundamental tenet of the Communist Party of "Serving the people wholeheartedly". The Marxist political party serves the proletariat and the people, which guided the Communist Party of China to shoulder the mission of serving the nation and the people since its establishment. "Communists must make speeches and actions by taking the best interests of the broadest masses of people as the supreme standard." [3] The Communist Party of China must always prioritize the interests of the people first while considering the material interests of the masses and when formulating and implementing policies, and always emphasizing to keep a good relationship with the masses. We can see that the concepts of "serving the people" and "serving the public" remained implicit, without refining into a dominant ruling value orientation. This transformation was accomplished at the Eighth National Congress of the Communist Party of China in September 1956 and Deng Xiaoping indicated: "The Party undertakes the total task to serve the people wholeheartedly" [4].

II. "Achieve Common Prosperity" and "People-oriented" Concept

Since the 1970s, as significant changes took place in the international pattern, peace and development have gradually become the theme of the times. The second generation of leading group at the core of Deng Xiaoping has actively explored the party's central tasks and governing strategies under the new situation while establishing the governing concept of "achieving common prosperity" and "people-oriented" in its practice.

The governing concepts of "achieving common prosperity" and "people-oriented" are carried out based on "what is socialism and how to build socialism". Deng Xiaoping interpreted "what is socialism" from the perspective of the essence of socialism based on an in-depth understanding of China's national conditions. "The fundamental mission of socialism is to emancipate the productive forces, develop productive forces, eliminate exploitation and polarization, thereby ultimately achieving common prosperity." [4] Regarding the issue of "how to build socialism", Deng Xiaoping stressed that China must go our own path during the socialist construction to build a socialism with Chinese characteristics. He believed that China's reform must break through the former Soviet Union's model, and discard the ideology that socialism goes against the market. Since the idea of "planned economy as the mainstay and market regulation as the supplement" proposed at Sixth Plenary Session of the Eleventh Central Committee and the 12th National Congress of the

Communist Party of China, the socialist market economic system was established at the 14th National Congress of the Party in 1992. At the same time of economic system reform, Deng Xiaoping emphasized that it is a must to reform the political system. Successful reform depends on the degree of reform of the political system. Comrade Deng Xiaoping indicated that "only by reforming the political system can the results of economic system reform be guaranteed." [4]

In terms of the governing value orientation, Deng Xiaoping emphasized the need to firstly satisfy the interests of the people to achieve "people-oriented". He believed the productive forces should be developed first, and "Development is the absolute principle." Only by development can people's lives be improved to realize common prosperity. Deng Xiaoping's "people-oriented" concept has made substantial progress compared to the "national-oriented" concept of the first generation of leading group, which manifests the concept of "serving the people" under a specific historical background from a national and ethnic level and from a collective perspective. But specific public interests may be overlooked. Deng Xiaoping's "people-oriented" concept stresses to maintain the fundamental interests of the people, which fully embodies the class attribute of the Communist Party of China as a proletarian party with no selfish interests other than the interests of the nation and the people. Deng Xiaoping's "people-oriented" concept has deepened and developed the party's understanding of the governing concept of in terms of goals and values, which for the first time defined the nature of socialism at a brand-new dimension, that is, at the level of people's interest. It is a significant progress and evolution of the party's governing concept.

From the 1990s to the turn of the century, the international pattern changed drastically, the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe were overturned, which internationally posed tremendous pressure on China. China was faced with severe domestic situation. It is vital for China to conduct party building. Only as the representative of the development requirements of advanced productive forces and the forward direction of advanced culture to generate abundant material wealth and spiritual products, can the Communist Party satisfy the ever-increasing material and cultural needs of the people. Therefore, the broad masses of people are regarded as the rightful value subject according to in the important thought of "Three Represents", and Deng Xiaoping's "people-oriented" concept has witnessed new development from the perspective of party building under new historical conditions.

III. "Build a Harmonious Society" and "Human-oriented" Concept

As of the beginning of this century, China has made remarkable achievements in many fields over twenty years of s reform and opening up. However, there still exist a lot of problems during the development, which are manifested not only in the faultiness of specific management systems such as economic systems, but also in the imbalanced contradiction between economic development and social construction. The contradictions among the people as the result of intensification includes mass incidents began to emerge. Thus, our party has proposed major strategic ideas such as building a socialist harmonious society and a scientific outlook on development in its ruling practice, and sublimated from "people-oriented" to "human-oriented" concept.

The Fourth Plenary Session of the Sixteenth Central Committee in September 2004 put forward to constructing a harmonious socialist society at the height of intensifying the party's ability to govern. In February 2005, Hu Jintao defined it as a "society with democracy and the rule of law, fairness and justice, honesty and fraternity, full of vitality, peace and order, where man and nature live in harmony." [5] Social Harmony was defined at the height of the essential attribute of socialism by the Political Report of the Sixth Plenary Session. And the issue of what development view should be held in the process of building a socialist harmonious society, that is, "what kind of development to achieve and how to develop" needs to be solved by our party. The Third Plenary Session of the 16th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China stressed "human-oriented, and a comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable outlook on development." In October 2007, the political report of the 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China emphasized that scientific development and social harmony are basic and inherent requirements to develop socialism with Chinese characteristics. It is believed that both are united with each other. It emphasized to

highlight party's governing ability improvement to the leadership of scientific development, promotion of social harmony, better representation and realization of the fundamental interests of the broad masses of people, thereby achieving a high degree of unity between scientific development and social harmony.

The socialist harmonious society highlights the harmonious development of society where human beings are the subjects, for the purpose of achieving a high degree of harmony between humans, humans and nature, humans and society. Harmony in all aspects is based on human beings as the subjects. Therefore, a socialist harmonious society essentially refers to that the subjective position of human being is fully respected while giving full play to person's subjective role, and everyone can do its duty while obtaining what they want from the society. Therefore, "human-oriented" is also the value orientation for building a socialist harmonious society. And to implement "human -oriented", it is necessary to respect its principal status and promote its integrated development. The " human-oriented" concept reveals that development means the all-round development of people other than just economic development. Hence, the dialectical unity of development regularity and purpose can be achieved under the concept of the scientific development concept.

IV. Realize the "Chinese Dream" and "Social Justice"

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, socialism with Chinese characteristics has ushered in a new era, and the world is faced up with significant change unseen in a hundred years. The Party Central Committee with tremendous political courage and strong accountability, holds flag high, planned the layout, faced the difficulty and promoted historic changes in the cause of the party and the country. Then, the socialist ideology with Chinese characteristics in the new era has formed, which sublimated the Chinese Communist Party's cognition of the laws governing Marxist parties, and also marked that our party's exploration of governance concept has further deepened.

In November 2012, for the first time, Xi Jinping indicated that that realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is China's greatest dream since modern times. In March 2013, Xi Jinping interpreted the specific content of Chinese dream: "realizing Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of China is to achieve a prosperous and strong country, realize national revival, and people's happiness." [6] The great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is a dream of nation, as well as the dream of people because the prospect of an individual is closely linked to the destiny of nation. At the key stage of realizing national rejuvenation, only by stimulating the enthusiasm, enterprising spirit and creativity of the masses can we have inexhaustible impetus on the road to realize the Chinese dream, which all depend on the establishing a equal social mobility system, building a fairer society, and guaranteeing fair opportunity for all Chinese people realize the Chinese dream. It is obvious that the Chinese Dream contains the need for social justice, and it also manifests that our party's governing value orientation is more focused on social justice.

Justice is the supreme value of Marxism. Communist Party of China, with Marxism as its guiding thought, has unremittingly pursued justice since its establishment. In different historical periods, even facing different historical tasks, Communist Party of China always pursued justice based on the party's goals in each historical stage. The establishment of New China confirmed the people's power, which is the most fundamental condition for achieving social justice. The establishment of the socialist system has clarified the direction for achieving social justice in China, and established the basic system and material foundation; with the reform and opening up, the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics has been launched and developed so that the people and the country truly became well-off, which provided real material foundation for achieving social justice; and the construction of a harmonious society led by our party laid a solid social foundation for achieving social justice.

Due to the accumulation and improvement of the conditions for achieving social justice, the Communist Party of China has accelerated the exploration and practice of social justice since the 18th National Congress. As requested by the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of

China, "a social justice security system with fair rights, fair opportunities, and fair rules as the main content" should be established. How to achieve social justice? The Third Plenary Session of the Eighteenth Central Committee of the Party has emphasized to achieve from a new historical height with unprecedented political courage and resolution through comprehensive deepening of reforms and overall promotion. "Comprehensively deepening reforms should start from promoting social fairness and justice and improving people's well-being." [7] The political report of the Fourth Middle School of the 18th CPC Central Committee underlined the organic unity of rule of law and social fairness and justice, so as to guarantee social justice by rule of law. The political report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China clearly highlighted to deepen the practice of governing the country by law and adhere to the rule of law to maintain social justice. Comprehensive law-based governance of the country must insist on the rule of law. First, benign law is the foundation of good governing. Only through scientific legislation and the implementation of justice, fairness, and publicity principles can we perfect various legal system with the connotation of fair rights, fair opportunities, and fair rules. Secondly, the lifeblood and authority of the law lies in its implementation, which means the key to guarantee social fairness and justice is strict law enforcement. Only through standardized, transparent, and civilized law enforcement can the law be executed fairly and its effectively, and the authority of the rule of law can be truly established. Third, fair justice is the fundamental guarantee for the rule of law to maintain social justice. "Everything about the laws must be handled properly". It is necessary to strengthen judicial supervision, so that the masses can feel fairness and justice in specific cases. Finally, nationwide law-abiding is the foundation to maintain fairness and justice by rule of law. Only after the masses of the people have become conscious observers and firm defenders of the socialist rule of law, the country's long-term stability, social fairness and justice, and the people's happiness and well-being can be realized. Therefore, the Communist Party of China has ushered into a new height for exploring and guaranteeing social justice, which will be of great theoretical and practical significance for us to step over the middle-income trap and realize the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

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