

13th Five-Year National Key Publication Planning Project

Recognizing and Understanding China Series

Han Qingxiang Huang Xianghuai et al.

Translated by **Zhang Jingjin Duan Mingyan**

What can China's Road Contribute to the World

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China's Road is a Precious Gift for the World

It has been the common aspiration of the research team for this book to make in-depth discussion of the worldwide contribution of the China's road for many years. In recent years, members of the research team published several important research works about the international significance of the China's Road. In *the World Significance of the China's Road and the Innovation of Marxist Philosophy* published in 2014, I argued that "we must view the China's Road under the background of world's historical changes and grasp the power transfer and structural transformation in the process." In the same year, Huang Xianghuai, the second editor-in-chief of this book, published his paper *the China's Road Has Solved a Series of Problems about the Modernization of Developing Countries*. He pointed out, "No country has been as successful as China in overcoming so many difficulties and obstacles to pull a country with more than 1.3 billion population and relatively backward economy and culture into the track of rapid development and modernization. The China's Road is a successful practice of solving the difficulties of develo-

ping countries.” These early theoretical results have laid a solid foundation for this book.

However, the article that directly contributed to the birth of the book is the Four Major Contributions of the China's Road to the World An Answer to Liang Shuming's Question, a paper published in *Beijing Daily* in 2016. The article pointed out, “The CPC have led the Chinese people to create the China's Road, which is a precious gift that China has presented to the world.” It argued that the China's Road has at least made four major contributions to the world, namely, the subsistence contribution, the developmental contribution, the cultural contribution and the peace contribution. The article has drawn wide attention from the society including China Renmin University Press, which led to the birth of this book.

This book is the result of a joint study by the research team called “The Contribution of the China's Road to the World”. Not only does it focus on the theoretical interpretation, especially the philosophical understanding of the China's Road, but also on the analysis of the world contribution and significance of the China's Road. The most prominent feature of this book is its consistence in the unification of political discourse, academic discourse and world discourse, the unification of history, theory and reality, and the way of “talking about politics academically”.

The Introduction “What can China's Road Contribute to the World” is composed of the research works of Han Qingxiang and Huang Xianghuai, while partially absorbing in the results of other members. Huang is responsible for the revision and finalization of this part. Chapter One “The Historical Background of the China's Road”, is mainly finished by Qi Hui. Chapter Two “The Theoretical Interpretation of the China's Road” is composed of the research works of Han Qingxiang, Huang

Xianghuai and Liu Chenguang. Liu Chenguang is responsible for the revision and finalization of this part. Chapter Three “The Subsistence Contributions of the China’s Road” is mainly completed by Zhang Yong. Chapter Four “The Developmental Contributions of the China’s Road” is mainly finished by Zhang Kai and Wang Shengxiao. Chapter Five “The Institutional Contributions of the China’s Road” is mainly finished by Wang Ruolei. Chapter Six “The Cultural Contributions of the China’s Road” is composed of works of Zhang Cheng, Liu Chenguang and Wang Peizhou. Zhang Cheng is responsible for the revision and finalization of this part. Chapter Seven “The Peace Contributions of the China’s Road” is mainly finished by Han Aiyong. The Conclusion “The Chinese Solution for a Better Social System” is mainly based on works of Han Qingxiang and Huang Xianghuai, and it was revised and completed by Huang Xianghui.

Talking about worldwide contribution of the China’s Road is a serious political task. A comprehensive, correct and thorough interpretation of the China’s Road is of high academic standard. Therefore, as the philosophical social science researchers of the Party School of the Central Committee of the CPC, we uphold the idea of “talking about politics academically”, and strive to study the contribution based on political requirements and academic standards. Of course, what we have done is still on the preliminary stage, more researchers are needed to join the research and to show the world the image of an “academic China”, a “theoretical China” and a “thinking China”.

As one of the “Recognizing and Understanding China Series”, initiated by the SAPPRFT, this book has been translated into multiple languages and will be published throughout the world. We hope readers from other countries can get a deeper understanding of the China’s Road from

this book, so as to make up for their lack of understanding of the China's Road. And it would be better if they are intrigued to know more about the China's Road.

When the People's Republic of China was founded, in terms of the overall level of development, China was lag behind the world. But now, China is making great contribution to the world development with a great change. At the beginning of the reform and opening-up, in the academic level, China's national image was mainly shaped by Western media and academic achievements. But now, China's national image is consciously written by the Chinese people themselves. Just as the China's Road is a precious gift presented to the world, we regard this book as a gift from the Chinese scholars to the world. May people around the world could understand the common idea of Chinese people that China will be much better, so will the world.

Han Qingxiang

May 26, 2017

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What can China's Road Contribute to the World

More than sixty years ago, our Chinese predecessors hoped that China could make contributions to the world. Liang Shuming, the founder of modern new-Confucianism, once posed a question of "What can China contribute to the world?" More than 60 years later, the Communist Party of China (CPC) has led the Chinese people onto the China's Road, which is a precious gift to the world. Xi Jinping, The General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPC, attaches great importance to the unique advantages of the China's Road and reinforces our confidence in it.

The CPC documents have defined specifically the term — the China's Road at the political way. On that basis, we can also highlight its core ideas from a theoretical perspective, namely "One Leadership", which means the leadership of the CPC will never be weakened. "Two Integrations" which means the China's Road is the integration of many pairs of contradictions, such as that of the general principles of Scientific Socialism and China's concrete practice, the reform and opening-up policy and the Four Cardinal Principles, market economy and the socialist system as well as efficiency and justice. "Three Foundations" means in the process of modernization, we need to focus on three basic objectives, three basic

strengths and three basic mechanisms. Three basic objectives mean to emancipate and develop productive forces, realize the common prosperity of all people and promote well-rounded development of the people. Three basic forces refer to the strength of government, of market, of society or of the people. Three basic mechanisms refer to the dynamic mechanism, the balancing mechanism and the governance mechanism of the economic and social development. On the whole, the China's Road can make subsistence contribution, developmental contribution, institutional contribution, cultural contribution and peace contribution to the world. And due to the above contributions, the China's Road is of great significance to the world.

I . The Subsistence Contributions of the China's Road

The China's Road has enabled China to solve its living problems on its own, that is, it resolves the food and clothing problems of China whose population accounts for about 19% of the world's population. This is subsistence contribution.

Since China's population accounts for one-fourth of the world's population at the beginning of reform and opening-up, food has been the primary issue to the Chinese. The laissez-faire attitude toward the subsistence problem would beset China and the world. If the subsistence problem remains unresolved, the poverty would be widespread and under the poverty-stricken situation, the fight for the necessities would restart, in other words, the outworn ideas or dogmas would be come back to life again. Thus, Marx and Engels pointed out that material subsistence production was the first prerequisite throughout history. The reason is that in order to create the history, people have to survive

first, in order to survive, they have to meet their basic needs. Thus, as material production can satisfy their basic needs, it becomes the first historical activity. As Engels once put forward, just as Darwin discovered the law of development of organic world, Marx discovered the law of development of human history that mankind must first of all have something to eat, drink, have shelter and clothing and then they can engage in the activities of politics, science, art, religion, and so on. Thus national systems, legal opinions, artistic and religious concepts are all based on the development of material productions.

The China's Road enables us to solve our own living problems by ourselves, the essential characteristics of the China's Road is upholding the leadership of the CPC, and its fundamental objective is to achieve common prosperity step by step. The ruling essence of the CPC is to establish the Party for the public and for the people. The fundamental goal of the CPC is to serve the people heart and soul. The specific practice of the essence and the goal is to solve the subsistence problem first. Therefore, the Chinese communists put forward the "Three-Step" Development Strategy in the 1980s. The first step is to double the GDP in 1980s and solve people's problem of food and clothing. The second step is to double the GDP so that people can reach a comfortable standard of living. The third step is to reach the level of moderately developed countries by the mid of 21st century and achieve modernization. In the 1990s, according to the changing reality, Chinese communists proposed the "Three-Step Assumption in 21st century". In the first decade, China will build a well-off society in an all-round way. In the second decade, the Chinese people will achieve moderate prosperity. By 2050, China will basically accomplish modernization. The history and the practice have already proved that not only did the China's Road enable the people

solve their subsistence problem by themselves, but also it fed the 19% of the world's population with its 7% of the world's farmland. This is a huge "subsistence contribution" to the world.

II. The Developmental Contributions of the China's Road

The China's Road enables most Chinese people to live prosperous lives, which is not only beneficial for the world to expand its market in China, but also help the world share the fruits of China's development, and this is what we call "developmental contributions".

This kind of developmental contribution is directly correlates with the China's Road.

The China's Road indicates that China can progress under the leadership of the CPC, who has its own unique advantages: Firstly, under the guidance of the correct decision-makings, the CPC could mobilize all the necessary resources and strengths for great undertakings. Secondly, the CPC attaches great importance to the actual conditions and realities of our country to solve China's problem and deal with other complicated contradictory relationships. Thirdly, the CPC places importance on learning from the experience and making innovations in a pioneering spirit. It takes a positive learning attitude towards other countries' achievements, such as "market economy" "state governance" and "social organizations", not only can it energize the economic development and promote social harmony, but also it help the CPC overcome its own weakness. Fourthly, the CPC upholds the Marxism and socialist political stance on the one hand, keeps pace with times to adapt to new circumstances to blaze a new trail on the other. Finally, in order to reflect the development patterns and trends of society, the CPC constantly sets its strategic goals

to mobilize all the forces. Obviously, with these unique advantages, not only can the CPC solve China's subsistence problem, but also it greatly promote China's development, for or those who see more about the negative side neglect the unique governing advantages, the confusion should be clarified.

The China's Road indicates that socialism with Chinese characteristics can help develop China. Socialism with Chinese characteristics is formed and developed in the long term of practice, thus boosts the following unique advantages: It is based on the fundamental reality of the country, thus having a firm practical basis. It adheres to the socialist political principles, emphasizes the integration and coordination of contradictory relations in the process of reform. It highlights self-innovation and implementation of innovation-driven strategy. It stresses the unity of principle and flexibility which can resolve the problems from the reforming process. It focuses on economic development, emancipate and develop productive forces to concentrate its efforts on socialist modernization. Thus, it concentrates on the main social conflicts to ensure the construction and development. It regards the socialist modernization and the Chinese dream of national revival as its strategic goals, and uses the "Four Comprehensives" as its general strategy to achieve these goals. There is no doubt that these advantages can greatly promote China's progress.

The China's Road indicates that the reform and opening-up is the fundamental driving force of the modernization. Although developing countries have a grand modernization goal, the institutional and mechanism drawbacks as well as some obsolete ideas just stand in the way of achieving that goal. Only by constantly reforming these institutional mechanisms and getting rid of these ideas can we embark on the road of modernization.

Therefore, since 1978, the CPC has actively promoted the reform and development, to make China the second largest economy in the world.

The China's Road indicates that the underlying issue we face is how to strike a balance among the reform, development and stability in the process of modernization, as well as the role of government and that of the market that both are important for the settlement of the developing problem. When the productivity of our country is relatively backward, we need to take full advantage of the market economy and market mechanism, especially the dynamic mechanism. If we want to develop, we need to embark on reform and establish a healthy governing mechanism, thus the transformation of government functions to efficiently play government's role is of great importance. During the process of reform, there will be more appeals and contradictions, so we need to establish balancing mechanism to play the society's role. Therefore, in the process of modernization, our country is able to deal with the relations between reform, development and stability, as well as the relations between government, market and society, meanwhile coordinates the dynamic mechanism, the balancing mechanism and the governance mechanism so as to achieve a rapid progress. Actually, the theory and practice, such as the combination between plan and market, the integration of the market economy and socialist and the combination between the "visible hand" and "invisible hand", are all the major contributions what China makes to the world, especially to other developing countries pursuing of their economic development.

The China's development itself is a "developmental" contribution to the world. Not only does China's development contribute many low-cost daily consumer goods and other high-tech goods to the world, but also it broadens the world's market in China, such as the market of aviation,

automobile, cell phone, computer and television. At the same time, it also provides many developed countries with more profits for their capitals. And it also enables some countries to share the fruit of China's development, such as the Belt and Road Initiative, which can make countries along the Belt and Road all benefit from this Initiative. Premier Li once said, "China has become the biggest trading country, and if we keep the momentum, we will provide the world with a huge market." Thus, as China continues to rise, it will make greater contribution to the world.

III. The Institutional Contributions of the China's Road

China has made outstanding achievements within a few decades, but these achievements did not come easily as they were made under various difficulties and challenges from home and abroad. Realistically, China is a large country with uneven social development in different regions. It has a big population but limited resources, a long history with complicated background, a multi-ethnic group with big religious differences. Thus, compared with small countries and one-dimensional countries, China's state governance has been more complicated. In terms of the international situation, with the increasingly fierce competition, the win-win space among countries has been compressed, which also interferes and threatens China's own developmental orbit and logic. However, under the background of globalization, China has to cooperate with others and develop itself through political and diplomatic measures in such a narrow space. As for the world trend, since the modern society has been more complicated and changeable than the traditional one, it has to face with many inescapable challenges brought by diverse concepts and

technological progress. Thus, with the narrower space, it is extremely hard to catch up with the pace of industrialization and informationization under the interruption of concepts. In such a complex situation, the governance achievements are hard-won and the long-standing, stable, and striking development achievement is supported by the power of system for sure.

Although the system must be in line with national conditions, any countries must find a suitable system on its own. Nevertheless, any system with vitality and positive effects must have its universal significances and values, China's system is without exception. Even though some of the institutional details are not of universal significance, China's system has a reference value to other developing countries or those who try to get rid of development dilemmas at the conceptual level. China's institutional contributions can be concluded as the following three parts.

i. China's institutional contributions enrich the diversity and difference of the world development model and political system

The primary value of China's system is seeking truth from facts and formulating rules and regulations in line with its actual conditions, which proves that non-Western liberal democratic model can also lead to successful governance. Since the World War II, the Western liberal democratic system has long been a model to be imitated, the Western countries are also willing to promote its system to the world. However, on the one hand, most countries who imitated this democratic system were failed to progress towards stability and prosperity. Except Germany and Japan, other countries in the Middle East, Africa or South America almost failed in this system. On the other hand, major Western countries' growth remain sluggish, the social differentiation and the

prevailed populist also gradually show the sign of decline. This developmental orbit alerted these countries that the Western system is not universal truth and does not absolutely lead to the good governance. The right system should be based on the countries' actual conditions, including the population scale, the resources endowment, the development stage, the historical tradition, the cultural conventions, the fundamental system, the ethnic and religious situation as well as global environment. These countries should formulate rules and regulations according to its problems and challenges as well as the local conditions, the development stage and objectives. In fact, the system and its utility are often related to the "embedded" social background. If the system tries to take effect, it needs to adapt to the preexistent cultural conventions, historical tradition and institutional backgrounds whose influence are subtle and deeply rooted, and they will result in enormous cultural and institutional inertia which in turn shape the systems: on the one hand, the "production side" will affect the design and construction of the system which in turn matches with it. On the other hand, the "output side" will restrict the implementation and effectiveness of the system^①. Meanwhile, China pursues a different system which produces a series of effects. First, it breaks the misconceptions of imitating the Western model. Second, it proves that the system must base on the actual conditions to play its function. Third, it enriches the diversity of the world governance model. Not only does China's system build up confidence for other countries to take the road of independent development, but also it provides reference for them to build their own development model and system.

① WANG R L. The relationship between administering the party according to law and governing the country by law. *Legal Research*, 2016 (6): 17-28.