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The Chinese Road: the Road to Modernization for
the People's Republic of China

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Straighten the Spine of China's Industry

Xiang Wenbo

We Can Only Rely on Ourselves to Realize
the Dream of Building a Strong Country

TRUST IN THE PATH

A New Model for a Rising Power

Li Ling

Historic Breakthroughs in China's Healthcare Reform

Maya X. Guo

Zhang Baijia

Strategic Considerations of China's
Diplomacy over the Past Six Decades

Yinan

The Chinese Dream:

From "National Salvation" to "National Renewal"



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Maya X. Guo



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Foreword

Dai Bingguo

Like a rising sun, China's rapid development has attracted a great deal of attention over the past six decades. This has been seen as a major world event, although there have been both positive and negative responses from the international community. Some welcome China's development as a result of the Chinese people's creativity and untiring efforts, and believe that it can help to build a multipolar world and serve as a harbinger for a more inclusive human community. Others, however, hold the view that China's rise poses a threat to the present international order. There are even those who assert that China's growth will prove unsustainable, as it refuses to follow the Western development model.

I read Maya's book several months ago as soon as it was published, and I finished it in a single sitting. I deem it one of the most successful books yet published in detailing today's China. Though far from perfect, it provides convincing arguments about China's rise. The views expressed in the book are based not only on the 60 years and more of history of the PRC and its remarkable achievements in the past three decades, but also on China's sorrowful modern history since 1840, its 2,000-year history as a united country, and its remarkable 5,000-year civilization.

Born and brought up in China, the author also has an overseas education. She is of an independent mind in comparing Western system with the Chinese model. The interviews reflect her close observation of today's China, and the serious thinking her observations have inspired. The 15 interviewees come from a range of different circles; their fields of expertise include politics, economics, society, the national condition, the history of CPC diplomacy, military strategy, management of state-owned property,

healthcare, and private business. Most of them have studied in the United States, and some later taught at colleges in the United States, Hong Kong or Taiwan. All of them are keen on telling the rest of the world about the real China.

The topics of the interviews vary widely, from systems, theory, development, and reform, to quality of life, strategy, and diplomacy. What they have in common is that both Maya and the interviewees apply independence of thought and of judgment. Their perspectives and the opinions expressed are notably individual. Their arguments, combining both fact and theory, make clear the grounds for China's confidence in its path, theory and system.

Although they share an optimistic view of China's development, the interviewees never try to avoid confronting problems. Based on China's prevailing reality, and from an international and historical perspective, the scholars use empirical and comparative methods to explain the opportunities and challenges that China currently faces, and point out the practical significance and possible dangers that can be gleaned from the lessons of history. Such fact-based analyses and conclusions actually serve and defend the overall interests of the Chinese nation. The opinions expressed, though personal, show a love for the country. In line with the prevailing reality, the interviewees' analyses of China's development during the past 60 years point China in the right direction – that is, learning from all human civilizations with an open mind, and taking a path that suits China instead of copying the Western model.

Today's China is highly open. Many Chinese people want to know what foreigners think of China, and people of other countries also like to hear Chinese ideas and how its people regard their country and the world, and

what China's rise means to the world. I think this series of books provides a different perspective. Its foreign language editions will certainly attract the interest of foreign readers.

China's rise cannot be achieved in isolation from the rest of the world. It is a political, economic and cultural phenomenon of global and historical significance. During the process, it is necessary for China to communicate with other countries sincerely and in depth, and gain understanding, recognition and support from the rest of the world. I think, through such communications and exchanges of ideas, the rest of the world will learn more and more about China and deal with China in an appropriate way. At the same time China will also get to know itself and others better, and handle its external relationships with wisdom and good sense. I believe that China's voice will become part of an international harmony which will sound a fresh symphony appropriate to this new era.



Dai Bingguo

Former State Councilor of China

August 2014

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Why We Sing of China's Development

Maya

I

A hundred years from now, when our descendants trace the history of these times, they will be astonished by the upheavals that have taken place in human society – the sudden collapses of the socialist Soviet Union and Eastern Europe in the late 20th century followed by China's rise in the early 21st century, and then the global financial tsunami triggered in the United States which swept the world and led to the global recession. During this period of turbulence, one country staggered a little, but stood firm. That was China – the same China that had tenaciously risen back to its feet after a century of Western plundering.

Ideologists and politicians are likely to conclude that the collapse of the socialist Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and China's rise, were the two most far-reaching events in the half-century that followed World War II. They changed the course of history and the world around them. While the former declared the failure of one path – to the cheers of the believers in “the end of history” – the latter proved the success of another path, demolishing the idea of “the end of history.” There was a strong bond between the two paths, but there was also a significant difference: One was able to change with the times and identify new directions that suited the national conditions

and reality, and it succeeded. One was not able to do so, and it failed.

As has been emphasized time and again by the Chinese leadership, China's history after 1949 cannot be split. Today's China is certainly a result of the reform and opening up launched by Deng Xiaoping and other leaders, but its successes were achieved within the state system established by previous leaders like Mao Zedong. It is no secret that in many fields China has wavered between "left" and "right" over the past 60 years – fields such as the mainstream ideology, the focus of the country's tasks and objectives, and the relationships with other major countries. However, the country's fundamental ideology and state system – socialism – has never changed. Still at the initial stage of socialism today, China remains committed to the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Along the way over the past 60 years there have been many setbacks and obstacles, but overall China has achieved some stunning successes. In the face of triumph and adversity, China's determination has never wavered. Its experience tells the world that to turn an ideal from the classic works to reality will not be straight forward. It will meet with all kinds of difficulties and setbacks. Through constant trial and error, the system will ultimately find the road to success.

Led by the Communist Party of China since its founding in 1949, the People's Republic of China has developed from an extremely poor country into a power with global influence. Through unstinting effort during the first three decades, China established an independent industrial system which laid a solid foundation for its future economic

boom. China adopted the reform and opening-up policy in 1978. Subsequently it worked a miracle in which it maintained nearly double-digit growth for over 30 years and became the world's second largest economy, while maintaining stable domestic conditions, and without engaging in any war with other countries or any need for plunder. This is unprecedented in modern human history.

The reason why we sing of China's development is to tell our fellows through solid facts and analysis what China has experienced, what China has created, and what China has gained over the past 60 years, so as to convince them of the worth of our path, our theory, and our system, and to arouse their enthusiasm for the Chinese Dream.

Another objective is to tell the world that, from their own starting point and applying their own model, the Chinese people can also, through their own efforts, ascend to the peak of human civilization. While "all roads may lead to Rome," different paths are required to be in line with different histories, cultures, and national conditions. Peoples of different countries have the right to choose for themselves the development path best adapted to their national conditions. Just as Chinese President Xi Jinping pointed out, a country can only find its way to a bright future by following the development path that is suited to its prevailing national conditions. History has proved this again and again.

II

China's rise is now an indisputable fact which has changed the whole world. Americans believe that the 20th century was the American Century, and some insist that the 21st century will also be an American Century. The fundamental reason why the United States was so powerful over the past half century was that it was the bastion of a developed Western world. Its capability to "export wealth" was the firmest base of its soft power, but this is now declining in the 21st century. China has taken over part of the American role on the international stage.

As Marxist theory holds, the base determines the superstructure. In the sphere of international relations, this means that whoever can create wealth and drive global growth has the authority and the power to make the rules. With its low per-capita income level, China is not yet able to perform such a pivotal role. However, the following strengths enable China to take part of its share of the cake in advance: The country is vast, with a large population and comprehensive national strength; the CPC is highly competent in mobilizing the country's extensive resources; China's system can concentrate the whole country's resources to accomplish great undertakings. These are the roots from which springs the superiority of the country's system, and also the underlying reason why socialist China can influence the world and make its great contribution to human society. Of course, the preconditions are that China must achieve sustainable economic growth, that all

must benefit from economic growth, and that the country must have a capacity to defend its economy, its territory and its ideology that is commensurate with its expected say.

Nowadays, academics from all countries are analyzing the existing institutional models and exploring new models of development. The Chinese model is therefore attracting ever more attention from the international community, and especially from the developing countries outside the Western sphere. On the debit side, the Chinese model has many shortcomings, and faces a variety of serious challenges both at home and abroad. The domestic challenges include disagreements on the overall path, system, and direction, the difficulties facing our economic restructuring, the major obstacles in building a better society, and particularly serious corruption that is damaging the CPC and its close bonds with the people. On the international stage, China and the rest of the world both must learn to adapt to the needs of the other, exploring new relationship models, promoting democracy in international relations, and establishing a favorable environment for peaceful development. At this point of time, China's best thinkers are all reflecting on the question whether the Chinese model that has disproved the "end of history" theory can go on to withstand further and harder tests of history, and finally achieve the Chinese Dream of rejuvenating the nation. They have also set themselves the ideal and the task of defining a complete theory and model of the Chinese system in an era that is seeing the decline of Western dominance.