

杜耀梅◎编著

Economy Culture

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前言

经济文化是一门新兴的边缘学科。这门学科的特点是把文化本身的特质与经济现象、经济规律和经济学的基本原理相结合来解释社会经济问题。它是把经济现象置于文化的人文环境中去分析,因为任何一种类型的经济,如果它要求人们具有一种与其伦理道德相悖的民族精神,这种经济就没有兴盛发展的空间。

经济文化不是经济加文化,而是特约文化下的经济行为与经济行为下的文化特质。经济学是一种价值观,经济学也是一种生活方式。经济学常以得失的教训和现实的反思改变着人们的理念。这些年来,中国经济学界和其他学科一样,"以人为本"成为经济学研究、经济发展的核心理念。文化因素渗透于一切经济行为中,由微观到宏观;文化因素体现在社会活动的各个层面,直接关系到创新经济的成败。

商业化的利益诱惑和世俗观念会时常影响人的独立的价值观。如何在独立的价值观与世俗化之间达到一种有效平衡,是一门需要胆识和洞察力的艺术。在全球化及信息化的理念日益普及的今天,教育的内容需要更加贴近经济现实和社会生活。我们要存疑求真,既研究看得见的结果,也关注看不见的结果。

本书在编写中考虑到实际教学的需要,教师可根据学生的层次有选择地讲授某些内容。全书分为12个主题单元。每个单元分为3个模块:经济热点话题、思考驿站和补充阅读。这12个经济热点话题分别为:经济发展中的矛盾、教育公平、农民工问题、花钱与存钱、循环经济、奥运经济、交通与经济、福利与经济、信息产业与经济、道德信用与国力强盛、生活的富足与生命的丰盛和文化与经济发展。针对本书的特点,在每个单元的第二模块"思考驿站"中编者选用一篇行笔优美、耐人寻味的文章供读者去思索和练习翻译。同时,针对学有余力的读者和学生,编者在第三模块设计了补充阅读,话题与主题单元相呼应,便于读者和学生更全面地了解和分析问题。在附录里还提供有各单元的参考答案和经济学的常用术语,便于读者参阅和查考。

本书是编者多年教学实践的总结。书中参阅了国内外许多专著和资料,书后的参考文献 列出了相关目录,在此谨向各位作者深表谢意!

本书是北京理工大学的立项教材,感谢北京理工大学对此项目的支持,感谢外国语学院领导及同事的鼓励和帮助。外国语学院吴树敬院长对此书的内容及编排提出了宝贵的建议和指导,在此表示感谢。感谢听这门课的各年级的学生们,正是他们的要求和对这门课的喜爱

及善意对待,我才有勇气编著这本书。我也要对我的家人,尤其是我的母亲深表谢意,在编著此书的过程中她们给了我极大的精神上的支持和生活上的照顾。书中"思考驿站"中的道理都是母亲从小就训诲我、教导我遵行的,让我一生受益,更让我的生命充满阳光。

本书特邀清华大学外语系罗立胜教授担任主审,罗教授的学识和人品一直为我所景仰。对罗教授对此书的指导及审阅,深表感谢!

由于编者水平有限,书中疏漏与错误之处,敬请同行及读者批评指正。

编者

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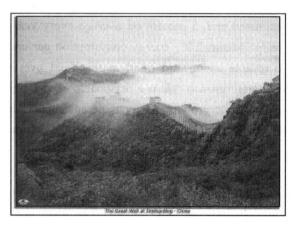
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Theme Topic

Contradictions China Faces in Economic Development 经济发展中中国面临的矛盾

- 1 "The contradictions China faces in the process of modernization are growing pains."
- 2 Currently, there are four major problems in China's economic development.
- 3 First, it faces the restriction of resources and the environment. On the one hand, the material foundation for economic development in China is much stronger than before. The supply capacity of energy and raw materials and transportation capacity have increased a lot. But on the other hand, the demand for energy,



water, land and other primary resources is also increasing sharply. At present, the restriction of resources is more rigid than ever. So whether China can achieve sustainable development is a challenge.

- 4 Second, China's development is remarkably unbalanced. Though every part of the country, whether urban or rural, has witnessed big progress, the unevenness has become increasingly prominent. The gap among regions and between rural and urban areas is widening. Whether or not the country can achieve harmonious development is another challenge.
- 5 Third, social development is lagging. There is more employment and less poverty than previously, a longer average life expectancy and remarkable development of all social undertakings. However, the development of social security, health service, education and other public welfare programs still lags, let alone a rising unemployment rate. So whether or not China can achieve comprehensive social development on the basis of economic development is still a challenge.

- 6 Fourth, social contradictions have become relatively sharp. While China has maintained social stability during its economic progress and social transformation, the income gap is widening, which contains complex contradictions. So, coordinating social interests and dissolving the contradictions is also a challenge for China. Dealing with growing pains, all the contradictions and problems China faces come from the transformation of the economic system and growth mode, from the rapid development of industrialization and urbanization, and from the evolution from an urban-rural dualistic economic structure to a modern social and economic structure. Any country at China's stage of development would experience relatively severe contradictions. Besides a large population of more than 1.3 billion and a distinct historical and cultural tradition, China also has an unevenly growing economy. Therefore, a comprehensive transformation is bound to face many difficulties. The contradictions China faces in the process of modernization are growing pains. To solve outstanding contradictions and problems in economic and social development, China has raised two strategic ideas; scientific development and the building of a harmonious society with socialist characteristics. To promote scientific development and build a harmonious society, China's policy will follow five development trends.
- 7 First, it will focus all the more on sustainable development. The economic growth rate is estimated at 7.5 percent on average every year, which is far lower than that of the previous five years. Meanwhile, energy consumption per unit of GDP should be reduced by 20 percent, aiming to reverse an upward trend in this field over the past five years. The moderate decline in the economic growth rate is a reasonable expectation. It also shows that China will enhance the quality of economic growth and focus on sustainable development.
- 8 In the long run, China will face the contradiction between economic growth and the capacity of resources and the environment. At present, industrialization and urbanization are being pushed forward, and the construction of infrastructure in urban and rural areas is proceeding on a large scale. It is now at the stage of a high consumption of resources and energy, when the contradictions are more severe. The fundamental way out is to transform the mode of economic growth and follow a new way of industrialization. China has set environmental protection and resource conservation as basic national strategies. It will take more incentive measures, including encouraging technological progress, optimizing the industrial structure, perfecting legislation and policy making and promoting education on sustainable development for the entire nation.
- 9 Second, China will pay more attention to the coordinated development among different regions and revival of rural areas that currently lag behind. It will continue to bring into play the advantages of the eastern regions in boosting national economic strength, stimulating rural development and promoting the transfer of farmers to nonagricultural industries. The measures China has taken in developing the western areas and revitalizing the northeastern industrial base have started to pay off. The country is now studying and drawing up policies to support the development of the central areas.
- 10 Since 2000, the expansion of the development gap among the eastern, central and western regions has slowed down, thanks to more national input in economically backward areas and more

support for the economic development of rural areas. China has set a guideline of having industry assist agriculture and cities support the countryside, abolished agricultural taxes, and included compulsory education in the public finance system. The investment in health care and welfare programs in rural areas is increasing, and the focus of infrastructure building will be gradually transferred to rural areas.

- 11 It's difficult to shrink the gap among different regions and between rural and urban areas in a short time, and the building of a new countryside is a fairly long-range mission. However, the policy of focusing on supporting underdeveloped areas and prospering rural areas will be beneficial in restraining a widening gap.
- 12 Third, China will focus more on social development. Concentrating on economic development is a crucial reason for China's rapid economic growth during the past 20 years, and also provides a material foundation for solving social problems. This kind of concentration will not be changed.
- However, economic development itself cannot bring about an overall social development. In the past five years, the indexes of economic growth have been much better than expected, while those of environmental protection and other social undertakings failed to reach targeted levels. Now, the lagging social development has become a major public concern. Focusing on social development, China should first of all solve problems people are most concerned about, including employment, social security, health service and compulsory education.
- 14 Fourth, China will put more emphasis on social fairness. The basis for social harmony is to guarantee that all people enjoy the fruits of development and reform. So the basic principle is to protect legal income, prevent illegal income, regulate extremely high income and help those with low income. There is still a lot to do in this regard.
- 15 Now China faces a very complicated system. There are problems brought about by the imperfect market economic system and problems inherited from the previous planned economic system. The public is sensitive to the distribution issue, as egalitarianism was advocated in the planned economic system, while in the market economic system the wealth gap among people is getting larger and larger. Currently, China is improving its economic and regulatory systems and has more strength to help low income people. So we have the confidence that the country can do a better job in solving many problems.
- 16 Fifth, China will attach more importance to system building. Scientific development and social harmony call for the guarantee of perfect systems. The practices during the past 20 years have proved that the socialist market economic system, with public ownership playing a dominant role and diverse forms of ownership developing side by side, is the right choice. Deepening reform and solving social problems should be carried out within this framework.
- 17 Efforts should be made to actively transform the role of the government, strengthen public services and improve public finances. In the past, we didn't pay enough attention to the role of the government in providing public services during the process of market transition, leading to insufficient public financial input. This is an important reason for the lagging development of

social undertakings.

- 18 Scientific development and social harmony are the targets of policies and also of practices, which have different requirements at different stages. Now, what we talked about as scientific development and social harmony is consistent with our objective of building a well-off society. Even in 2020, when the expected targets are realized, we should still follow the road of scientific development and social harmony, because this is the only path to China's modernization.
- 19 China's economic and social imbalances have drawn most complaints from the public, including sky-rocketing medical and education costs, illegal land seizure, housing demolition and rampant pollution.
- 20 It is proposed to boost the incomes of both urban and rural residents while pledging to curb soaring property prices and offer affordable housing to the needy.
- 21 The government is committed to providing equal education opportunities for every child during the nine-year compulsory education period by waiving charges in the countryside from 2007 and helping children in low-income urban families and rural families working in cities.
- 22 The government will increase financial support to help boost employment, create better medical and social security systems for all the people. To narrow the widening wealth gap between urban and rural people, the report pledges massive spending over the next five years to build a new socialist countryside and improve living conditions of about 750 million farmers.
- 23 Following the historic scrapping of the country's 2,600-year-old agriculture tax, the State will provide the countryside with an annual fund of 103 billion yuan (US \$ 12 billion) to cover local government operation and education cost.
- 24 Encouraging and ambitious as these goals are, to realize them does require long-term efforts by the government and the whole of society. Hopefully, the government will accelerate the reform of the administrative system and further transform its functions to facilitate fulfilling all the tasks.



Notes

gross domestic product (GDP) 国内生产总值 One of the main measures of economic activity.

"Gross" indicates that it is calculated without subtracting any allowance for capital consumption; "domestic" indicates that it measures activities located in the country regardless of their ownership. It thus includes activities carried on in the country by foreign-owned companies, and excludes activities of firms owned by residents but carried on abroad. "Product" indicates that it measures real output produced rather than output absorbed by residents. GDP is reported at both current and constant prices.

gross national product (GNP) 国民生产总值 One of the main measures of national economic activity. "Gross" indicates that it is measured without subtracting any allowance for capital consumption; "national" indicates that it includes residents' incomes from economic activities carried on abroad as well as at home, and excludes incomes produced at home but belonging to non-residents. "Product" indicates that it measures real output produced rather than real output

absorbed by residents. GNP is reported at both current and constant prices.

→ New Words

restriction n. 限制,约束 sustainable adj. 可以忍受的,足可支撑的,养得起的 remarkably adv. 非常地,显著地,引人注目地 prominent adj. 卓越的,显著的,突出的 witness v. 目击,为…… 作证,证明,表明 unevenness n. 不平坦,不均衡 expectancy n. 期待,期望 harmonious adj. 和谐的

contradiction n. 矛盾
guarantee v. 保证
reverse v. 颠倒, 倒转
infrastructure n. 基础设施
incentive adj. 激励的
revitalize v. 新生
consistent adj. 一致的;相容的
undertaking n. 任务;事业;企业
egalitarianism n. 平等主义
scrap v. 扔弃,敲碎,拆毁
facilitate v. 使容易,使便利,推动,帮助

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Exercises

I. True or False Questions

- 1. The supply capacity of energy and raw materials and transportation capacity have increased a lot in the society and have met the demand.
- 2. In China, the unevenness has become increasingly obvious in different areas.
- 3. China has maintained social stability during its economic progress and social transformation.
- 4. Energy consumption per unit of GDP should be reduced by 20 percent, aiming to continue an upward trend in this field.
- 5. The way out is to transform the mode of economic growth and follow a new way of production.
- 6. Development of the economy itself can finally bring about an overall social development.
- 7. It is the fact that China's economic and social imbalances have drawn most complaints from the public.

II. Open Answer Questions

- 1. What achievements have we made in the development of our economy?
- 2. What are the major problems of the economy at present?
- 3. According to your experience, how to understand the widening gap of wealth?
- 4. How should we understand the relationship between education and economy?
- 5. What does "harmonious" mean in the development of our society?

III. Reading Comprehension

Passage 1

"The purest treasure mortal times afford," wrote Shakespeare, "is spotless reputation." For businesses, a great reputation, reflected in a great brand name, can mean treasure too. But many brand name stocks have fallen on hard times. For example, anyone can open a pizza stand, but only one company can call itself Pizza Hut, a brand owned by Tricon Global Restaurants, which also owns KFC and Taco Bell.

Throughout much of this year, in fact, great brands have been on sale. At a discount(打折 扣), you can become a partner in highly reputable companies that, in the long run, should produce consistently high profits, as well as rising dividends and stock prices. However, the stock, which I own, has dropped from \$64 in March 1999 to \$36 in June 2000.

Why have brand stocks become bargains? Mainly because investors and analysts don't think their revenues are growing fast enough. The reasons: big discount retailers are putting heavy pressure on brand-name suppliers to cut their whole-sale prices, and, say researchers at Dow Theory Forecasts newsletter, consumers no longer seem to "give much credence (信任) to claims that one product is significantly better than another."

Consider these brand names, all these brand names, all available under a single corporate umbrella: Crest, Tide, Bounty, Ivory, Folgers, Cover Girl, Pampers. The company is Procter & Gamble, whose stock dropped from \$116 in January to \$65 in June due to disappointing earnings and sales.

Nevertheless, P&G stock is hard to resist at such prices. The company recently named a new chief executive officer, it earned \$3.8 billion on \$38.1 billion in revenues in the past year, and the world knows and respects its brand names.

Brand-name stocks can also take advantage of the rapid rise in wealth around the world, especially in Asia. For example, foreign sales account for 59 percent of total revenues for the Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company, which makes the most American of products, chewing gum (Doublemint, Juicy Fruit, Hubba Bubba). McDonald's earns about half its revenues and profits abroad. The potential for international sales by well-known U. S. brands is significant, and I'm attracted by firms that are only beginning to make headway globally.

While brand-name stocks like P&G have taken a tumble, as a general rule such shares add stability to a portfolio(投资组合). When will mothers stop buying Johnson's Baby Shampoo (made by Johnson & Johnson), with its reputation for gentleness built over decades of advertising and actual use? Not, I would guess, for a long time.

- 1. The main idea of Paragraph 1 can be summarized as _____.
 - A. Reputation is necessary for a business company.
 - B. Brand name can mean much more than it actually is.
 - C. Even brand names have trouble-sales on hard times.
 - D. A brand name can in most cases ensure good sales.

- 2. Why do consumers no longer pay so much attention to some brand-name products as they used to?
 - A. Some brand-name products fail to guarantee the qualities they promise.
 - B. Customers sometimes prefer to buy products at big discounts.
 - C. Customers often fail to get regular income.
 - D. Investors don't think their revenues are growing fast enough.
- 3. According to the writer, the best brands
 - A. always prosper
 - B. should prosper but do not have a 100% assurance for their success
 - C. often disappoint people by their lower earnings and sales
 - D. should always be able to resist discount sales
- 4. Which of the following would be best to recover the incomplete sentence at the end of the passage "Not, I would guess, for a long time"?
 - A. No, they will Not stop buying Johnson's Baby Shampoo.
 - B. No, I would guess Not.
 - C. No, for a long time "Not."
 - D. No, I don't guess they will stop buying Johnson's Baby Shampoo for a long time.
- 5. From the tone of his analysis, the author must be .
 - A. an experienced retailer

- B. a high-rank commercial agent
- C. a businessman and stock-market analyst
- D. a brand-name product designer

Passage 2

IT realm, the magazine (the January issue of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Magazine Technology Review) focuses on the growing significance of digital rights management, or the attempt to protect intellectual property in an age in which creative works are just another stream of ones and zeros.

McLean, Va. -based Content Guard is looking at a "multiple key" approach, meaning that even if one person cracks the code to get a piece of protected content, anyone else to whom it is sent would have to crack another piece of code. Numerous other proposals, including hardware and other software-based plans, are being developed and marketed. However, none has won widespread acceptance yet.

Meanwhile, data mining and biometrics in the area of mining databases are two technologies that are already in fairly wide use, but whose full promise has not yet been reached. Taking the basic approaches used today and adding more powerful processors to the mix could open doors in both fields.

Data mining is the use of algorithms (算法) to find patterns within huge databases. One growing area of data mining, for example, combines image recognition and natural language processing sophisticated speech-recognition software that can make sense of typical conversation to find just the clip someone is looking for in a stream of video. Likewise, biometrics is moving

from the field of flexible transistors, a possible replacement for silicon, is another area that has been talked about for a while but is finally producing some results. Work on chips made from plastic or organic materials is going on at IBM, Lucent Technologies, MIT, Penn State and the University of Cambridge in England.

"A lot of these fields are like that," Rotman said. "People have thought about them for a while but now are reaching a critical mass."

And finally, in microfluidics (微射流技术), scientists try to harness on a small scale the same forces of physics that "move oceans, mountains and galaxies." By using amounts of liquid thousands of times smaller than a drop of water, experiments and medical tests could be performed much more quickly and cheaply. Applied physicist Stephen Quake and his team at the California Institute of Technology have created a DNA analyzer using microfluidics that works far faster than its conventional counterpart, the magazine notes.

"It's a vision so compelling," writes Technology Review associate editor Rebecca Zacks, "that many industry observers predict microfluidics will do for biotech what the transistor did for electronics."

- 1. The so-called multiple key approach (Line 1, Para. 2) is _____.
 - A. a method to protect intellectual property in information age
 - B. an idea that the same problem can be solved in at least more than one way, in many cases, with many ways
 - C. a chance given to a person to find different ways to solve the same problem
 - D. a proposal to deal with a hard-nut problem in more than one way
- 2. Which of the following does the pronoun "none" (Line4, Para. 2) refer to according to the passage?
 - A. "Multiple key" approach.
- B. Numerous other proposals.
- C. Hardware and other software-based plans. D. Both A and C.
- 3. Which of the following statements is NOT true for the two main database-mining technology?
 - A. They are in the primary R & D stage.
 - B. They have already found fairly wide application in modern technological practice.
 - C. Their full application promise has yet been reached.
 - D. Prospects could be seen more clearly by adding more powerful processors.
- 4. Sophisticated speech-recognition software that can make sense of typical conversations can be regarded as a result of ______.
 - A. one of the growing areas in data mining technology
 - B. combining image recognition and natural language processing
 - C. looking for a clip instead of silicon in a stream of video
 - D. moving from the field of flexible transistors
- From what Technology Review associate editor Rebecca Zacks writes it can be inferred that

- A. microfluidics will play an equally important role for biotech as the transistor did for electronics
- B. microfluidics will be an important branch of biotech in the near future
- C. the author believes it would be promising to develop microfluidics
- D. transistor will be replaced by microfluidics in electronics