Recognizing and Understanding China Series

# The Road of China

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Cheng Tianquan Translated by Yang Mifen



## The Road of China

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### Preface

From 1921 to 2011, the Chinese revolutions, constructions and reforms had gone through 90 years. 90 years may be a lifetime for a person, while it is only a short period for a country or nation. If it were put in the 5,000 years of Chinese civilization or the historical process of renewal of the Chinese nation, it would be a split second which is worth being particularized.

In these 90 years, the Chinese nation has achieved three historic leaps under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

The first historic leap is the founding of the People's Republic of China, which happened during the establishment of the Communist Party of China and the founding of the new China. In those 28 years, the Communist Party of China led the Chinese people to launch the Northern Expedition, the Second Chinese Revolutionary Civil War, the War of Resistance against Japan and the Liberation War, through which overthrew the ruling of the Kuomintang, successfully completed the task of the new democratic revolution, found the People's Republic of China, and achieved national independence and people's liberation that had been expected by the Chinese nation since modern times. A new historic era for the development of the Chinese national thus commenced, and a new page was turned for the modernization of China.

The second leap is marked with the establishment of the brand-new socialist system, which took about 30 years. After the founding of the new China, the Communist Party of China led the Chinese people to creatively complete the socialist reforms, achieved the transformation from new democracy to socialism, and built the basic system of socialism in an all-round manner, pushed the oriental country whose population accounted for one fourth of the world population, to a socialist society. After the establishment of socialist system, cored with Mao Zedong, the first leading authority of the Communist Party of China made thorough explorations over the right path to build socialism, achieving fruitful results and greatly promoting the development of the cause of socialism. To build socialism in a country with backward economy and culture like China is the most profound and extensive social reform in the Chinese history, as well as a great leap in the social reforms and historic progresses in China, which enormously supported and pushed forward the cause of socialism in the world.

The third leap is marked with the creation of the great cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics, which blazed the correct road for achieving the great renewal of the Chinese nation. It also took about 30 years. With the 3<sup>rd</sup> Plenary Session of the 11<sup>th</sup> Central committee as the symbol, China entered the new period of reform and opening up and socialist modernization. Based on years of socialist construction, China summed up the domestic and foreign experiences, made painstaking explorations, adopted the new policy of reform and opening up, established the basic theory, route and programs of the Communist Party of China at the primary stage of socialism, and formed the system of socialist theories with Chinese characteristics. When socialist

countries encountered serious setbacks in the world and world situation was changing dramatically, the Communist Party of China stood its ground steadfastly and socialist displayed great vigor and vitality.

The above three historical leaps have brought to China earthshaking changes. China has successfully achieved the transformation from a semi-colonial and semi-feudal society to socialism, from planned economic system to socialist marketing economic system and from closed or half-closed to open in all aspects. With nearly a hundred years of explorations and with their diligence, ceaseless efforts and modesty, Chinese people has been learning from other countries in the world and found a development mode with Chinese characteristics. It adapts to the Chinese national conditions and the world trends, and wins whole-hearted supports from Chinese people.

In these 90 years, China has seen brilliant achievements made by Chinese people under the leadership of the Communist Party of China:

It has seen the establishment of the state power featuring people's democratic dictatorship, and the great leap from feudal monarchy which lasted for thousands of years to people's democratic politics.

It has seen the establishment of an independent and relatively intact national economic system. The economic strength and overall national power of China have been strengthened significantly. With more than half a century, China has not only got rid of the poverty and illiteracy, but also built a modern industrial system covering extensive fields.

It has seen the constant development of the socialism culture. The ideological and moral qualities, scientific and cultural qualities, and the overall level of education of the Chinese people have been improved all the way, which demonstrating the new spiritual outlook of

the Chinese nation.

It has seen the thorough conclusion of the separation in old China and the realization of a high degree of national unification and unprecedented unity of all ethnic groups. Hong Kong and Macao have returned to China successfully, realizing the long-cherished wish of China. The exchanges between the compatriots in Mainland China and those in Taiwan have been strengthened constantly. The solution of Taiwan issue and the unification of China will come true someday.

China has been sticking to the policy of independence, self-reliance and peaceful diplomacy, set itself against hegemony and power politics, strived to protect the just rights and interests of developing countries, and pushed forward the establishment of a fair and rational world political and economic order, making important contributions to the noble cause of world peace and development. The international status and world influence of socialist China have been growing with each passing day.

It has strengthened the building of the Communist Party of China. The team of party members has kept expanding and the governing capacity of the Communist Party of China has improved. In these 90 years, the Communist Party of China has developed from over 50 members at its commencement in 1921 to a big party which has been governing for over 60 years and had more than 80 million members. The Chinese people have seen a flourishing socialist country.

Facts have proven that the Communist Party of China is a great, glorious and correct Marxist Party, as well as the core force of leading the Chinese people to constantly pioneer in new causes.

In these 90 years, the Communist Party of China has accumulated

rich experiences in leading the Chinese people to launch revolutions, constructions and reforms.

The experience in the past 90 years tells the Party that to stick to the combination of Marxism and the reality of China to constantly push forward the localization of Marxism in China is an important weapon for the successes in the revolutions, constructions and reforms in China.

The experience in the past 90 years tells the Party that to always stick to the principle of emancipating the mind, seeking truth from facts, being based on the reality and being bold to take one's own road is an important principle which it must adhere to.

The experience in the past 90 years tells the Party that to always represent, well realize, protect and develop the fundamental interests of Chinese people and to always rely on people is the source of power to defeat the enemy and achieve successes.

The experience in the past 90 years tells the Party that to keep emancipating and developing the productive forces, strengthening the overall national strength of China and pushing forward the allround development of the economy, politics, culture and society has always been one of its important missions.

The experience in the past 90 years tells the Party that to always stick to the independent and self-reliant foreign policy is an important strategy to improve China's international status and expand its world influence.

The experience in the past 90 years tells the Party that to always strengthen and improve Party building, maintain its advanced nature, and improve its governing capacity is a great pioneering for the growth of the Communist Party of China.

I have been abroad for trips, visits and academic exchanges in recent years. When talking with prominent foreign politicians and researchers, I was always asked about questions as "Why China succeeded?" "What's the fundamental reason for the sustained economic growth in China?" "What are the Chinese characteristics of development mode?" Many of them acknowledge their ignorance about China and owning to this, their prejudices against China. However, they all showed a great interest in China's economic and social development, and hoped Chinese researchers to carry out in-depth studies on many problems of their concern before letting them know the results. Being asked by foreign figures from time to time, I got an idea of writing a book on the development road of China. Firstly, My partners and I intend to make a general review of the zigzagging development of the Communist Party of China since modern times, especially in the 90 years since its establishment, explain how China managed to stick to the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics and what its characteristics are. Secondly, we wish to sum up the brilliant achievements made by China since the reform and opening up in a systematic way, and profoundly analyze the specific reasons for such achievements. Thirdly, we wish to explore the previous experience China has got in the process of reform and opening up before making deeper analyses of such experience in theory. And fourthly, we wish to explore the difficulties and challenges that may be encountered by China in the future development, propose the ideas and countermeasures suggested by the Chinese researchers, and provide references for the Party and the state to make decisions.

This book is a team-work result. Professors taking part in the discussions over and complication of the book include Prof. He Yaomin,

Prof. Xu Zhihong, Prof. Zheng Shuiquan, Prof. Zhang Yu, Prof. Yang Guangbin, Prof. Yang Fengcheng, Prof. Hong Dayong, Prof. Qi Pengfei, Prof. Li Baojun, Prof. Wu Meihua and Prof. Qin Xuan. Dr. Li Jiafu deliberately organized the script and script compilation of the book.

In the past 90 years, the Communist Party of China has kept pursuing truths and innovations in order to combine Marxism and Leninism with the Chinese realities, making painstaking efforts and struggles for national liberation, state prosperity and people's happiness, and standing countless tests in order to complete its tasks. As it is clearly known, changes in China in the past 90 years are difficult to be depicted in such a book. The masses, more exactly, the bulk of the revolutions, constructions and reforms will have deeper understanding and feelings over it. It is also clearly known that the previous experience accumulated by the Communist Party of China in the past 90 years is difficult to be summed up by several people in short time, since the masses have created so many new things and got so much new experience in the process of reform and opening up. All we want to get to is that, with our efforts, Chinese people and those who are concerned about the development of China could have deeper understanding of China's development, and that more people will get into the study of China's development.

Cheng Tianquan

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Start of China's Road to Modernization and the Choice of History

Introduction Start of China's Road to Modernization and the Choice of History

Since the late Qing Dynasty, China has been confronted with two major historic tasks; to resist foreign aggression and struggle for national independence and liberation; and to follow the world trends to start the modernization process and launch overall economic and social transformation before achieving national renewal. on the above two major historic tasks, Chinese people have been making painstaking efforts and explorations.

# I. Foreign Invasions and Chinese People's Struggles and Exploration

Before the middle of the 19th century, China was an absolute monarchy based on the feudal and self-sufficient natural economy. When the rulers of the Qing Dynasty were consumed by the illusion that the country under their ruling was a "Celestial Empire", the Industrial Revolution began and changed world history later. It contributed to the rapid development of the capitalist economy, and made it urgent for the Western capitalists to plunder overseas colonies as their commodity markets and raw material suppliers. That made China, a vast territory with rich resources and a great population, their important target in the East. In 1840, Britain launched the Opium War and the decayed Qing Dynasty kneeled and surrendered to the invaders before signing the humiliating *Treaty of Nanjing*. Since then, the Western big powers intensified their invasion, control and plunder of the Chinese military, politics, economy and culture, which gradually collapsed the feudal society that had been existed in China for thousands of years and made