市场力论

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ON MARKET FORCE

A New Theoretic Framework and It's Application to the Analysis of China's Economic System
By Zhao Lingyun 赵凌云著



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ABSTRACT

On Market Force: A New Theoretic Framework and It's Application to the Analysis of China's Economic System.

A

The target model of China's economic reform is to build up the market economy in which "market performs a fundamental function in the allocation of economic resources under the macro regulation of the government". Market will play an increasingly important role in China's economic system.

The development of the process of China's economic reform requires the corresponding progress of market theory. There are a number of theoretic issues needed to be far-reachingly explored, among them are: (1) what is the so-called "invisible hand", and how does it function? (2) how does the market better the allocation of economic resources? (3) how to understand the logic structure of the market?

The existing theoretic frameworks, however, seemingly fail to answer these questions in China's context. First of all, most of them, being "imported" or "borrowed" from the economics of western countries where the market economies have been highly de-

veloped, are not suitable to the analysis of the marketising process of China where the market has been less-developed. Secondly, these frameworks seem to ignore the existence of the "friction" and "discordance" of the market, to ignore the explanation of the principles and mechanisms underlying the market performance. Finally, these frameworks fail to explain China's transition process from the planned economy to market economy.

Therefore, the progress of China's market theories to large extent depends on the establishment of new theoretic framework. The most important task faced by Chinese economists is to develop a new analytical framework of market theories.

B

This book tries to develop a new theoretic framework of market analysis, and to apply it to the analysis of the historical development and realistic condition of China's economic system.

The key term of this framework is "market force", which is defined as "a group of forces that generated by the market. and acts to the resource-allocating process of the market", It consists of market attracting force and market motivating force and market equilibrating force, market integrating force and market frictional force.

The term "market force" has been mentioned by many scholars (e. g. Mark Blaug, 1985; Janos Kornai, 1971; Wolf Charles, 1990; Paul R. Gregory etc., 1985). It's existence, therefore, has been noticed. Even though no definition has been given, and, no systematic theory has been developed about market force through theoretic history, scattered ideas and view-points can been found in numerous literatures.

It seems to this author that ancient Chinese scholars developed a full-fledged market mechanics (Zhao Ling Yun, 1995a). Guancius' work "On Lightness and Heaviness" was the most systematic and comprehensive work in this area and epitomised the achievement of ancient Chinese scholars in market theory. Guancius conceptualised a set of terms relating to the performance of the market, such as "areas with heavy money", "areas with light money", "lightness", "heaviness", "pressure", "equilibrium", "equilibration", "the flow of commodities and momey" and "the government intervening the market" etc. He explored some important market mechanisms and laws, with the former including that of market equilibrium, and the latter including that of the flows of money and commodities. He also built a special market equilibrium model with respect to the relationship of grain and money (Zhao Ling Yun, 1995a).

The classical economics developed a well-shaped theory about market equilibrating force based on "Say's Law". This law, demonstrating That the supply creats demand automatically, preassumes the existence of the market equilibrating force. The partial equilibrium model and the general equilibrium model developed by Mashall, A. (1965) and Walras, L. (1954) respectively demonstrated the existence of market equilibrating force by accurate mathematical models. The New-classical economics, including the school of rationalism, monetarism etc., following the theory of general equilibrium, tend to believe That the market possesses the ability of self-equilibration.

It is notable that Keynes, J. M. (1937) and his followers never denied the existence of the ability of the market to resume it's equilibration by itself even though they emphasised the impor-

tance of the government intervention. It is the long-lasting process and huge social cost of market equilibrating, not the absence of the market equilibrating force, determines the necessity of the introduce of the external force from the government. Marx, K. (1972a) mainly contributed to the theory of the market motivating force. That the contridiction between private labour and social labour determining the destine of the producers motivates all of the market players. The market pressure and the inner pursuit for profit motivate the capitalists to accumulate capital and to enlarge their production scale.

Hungary economist Kornai, J. might be the first one that try to analyse the market in planned economy by means of mechanics. In his book entitled "Anti-equilibrium" (1971), he tries to build a mechanical structure about the market in traditional planned economy, by conceptulising a set of terms, such as "pressure", "suction", "stress", "friction", "equilibrium", "disequilibrium", etc.

Generally speaking, the existence of market force has been widely noticed and accepted by economists of different schools. The market force, however, has been treated as only a term, not a concept. It's definition has not been given, no effort has been made to develop it into a analytical theoretic framework.

This book tries to develop the term "market force" into a theoretic framework, and, to analyse the historical evolution and present condition of China's market. It is found that this framework is a new, original and unique one which is quite explanative and analytical about the historical evolution and present performance of the market. It can be used to explode the so-called "black-box" of the resource allocation process of the market. Secondly,

it can be used to discover not only the forces that act to resource allocation process actively, but also the forces that act negatively. Thirdly, being abstracted from the historical evolution of the market, it can be used to analyse the market in terms of different historical stages.

C

The creative feature of this topic determines that the methodology of this book should be a new one. In general, the creation of a new methodology should not and can not be seperated tools from the creation of a new theoretic framework. Readers will find that the analytical methodology of this book is characterised by the combination of a group of perspectives. First of all, normative analysis is combined with positive studies. Secondly, other than tools of economics, some special analytical tools from the theory of system, the thory of controlling, the theory of field are also used in this book. Thirdly, historical analysis plays a very important role in this book. Not only is the conceptulisation of the term "market force" based on historical analysis, actually this term is tested and vertified by historical evidence. Finally, based on theoretic analysis, this book discusses some ideas about how to foster and develop market force in contemporary China. Readers will also find some mathematical methods and models in this book.

This book is divided into eleven Chapters:

Chapter One conceptulises the term "market froce", concentrating on demonstrating the existence of market "field" and market force, discussing the intension and structure of market force, analysing it's relationship with concerning concepts such as mar-

ket mechanisms, market law and market structure etc.

Chapter Two to Chapter Six analyse five kinds of market forces concretely and respectively. The intension, formation, causes and performing mechanisms of each sort of market force are discussed fundamentally.

Chapter Seven and Chapter Eight give a comprehensive study about market force framework by highlighting the historical process of the development of market force. Chapter Nine to chapter Eleven apply the "market force" approach to the analysis of China's economic system. Chapter Nine traces the development of the market force to ancient China and sketches the historical clues of China's market development with special emphasis on the relationship between market development and some "paradoxes" in ancient and modern China's economic history. Chapter Ten discusses the renaissance of the market and market force in contemporary China. Chapter Eleven highlights the basic idea of this book, that is, that fosterring market force should be the keyline of contemporary China's economic reform.

Finally, This book concludes some important ideas and viewpoints discussed and gives some concluding remarks.

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