

# An Essential Requirement of Chinese Modernization

## --Achieving Common Prosperity for all People

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### Abstract

To achieve common prosperity of all people is the essential requirement of Chinese modernization: First of all, common prosperity is the inevitable requirement of realizing Chinese modernization. The realization of common prosperity of all the people is the distinctive feature of the Chinese style modernization, promoting common prosperity of all the people suits the development of our country in the process of modernization. Common prosperity includes two aspects, not only a rich material life, but also a rich spiritual. The realization of common prosperity of all the people is the material civilization and spiritual civilization in harmony with the modernization of the inevitable requirement. Secondly, common prosperity is the core factor that distinguishes Chinese modernization from that of the West. To achieve common prosperity for all people, we need to strike a better balance between fairness and efficiency. We need not only to "make the pie bigger", but also to "share the pie well". Chinese modernization means to restrain the disorderly expansion of capital. We pay more attention to the free and all-round development of the people. The Chinese-style modernization is to get rid of the restriction of the logic of capital on people. To achieve common prosperity for all the people correspond with the development concept that the fruits of development should be shared by the people, and Chinese-style modernization is modernization that avoids social polarization. Finally, common prosperity is the starting point and ultimate goal of the Chinese modernization. The foundation for achieving common prosperity for all the people is human society. The Chinese modernization is a people-centered modernization, and achieving common prosperity for all the people is the ultimate goal of the Chinese modernization.

### Keywords

Common Prosperity; Chinese-Style Modernization; Western Modernization; Human Development.

### 1. Introduction

With the progress of building a community with a shared future for mankind, China's influence on the world is becoming increasingly indispensable. China's voice needs to be heard by the world. Therefore, achieving Chinese modernization plays an important role in guiding people's production practice. Achieving common prosperity for all People is an essential requirement for Chinese modernization. It is of great theoretical and practical significance to conduct an in-depth study of the theory of achieving common prosperity for all the people and reveal the basic principles of Marxism behind it.

The research on modernization in China started in the 1980s. Rongqu, Luo (2004), the pioneer of the theoretical study of Chinese modernization, points out that Deng Xiaoping had long proposed to find a Chinese-style socialist road in his work-- *The Historical Experience of China's Economic Growth (1949-1989)*[1]. Peijun, Song (2023) believes that Chinese modernization has the trend of decaying, semi-marginalization (colonization), revolution and modernization[2].

The paper mainly introduces the The connotation of Chinese modernization briefly. It explores the differences between Chinese modernization and Western modernization. And this paper explores The influence and importance of the common prosperity of all the people on the Chinese-style modernization.

## **2. Common Prosperity is an Inevitable Requirement for Achieving Chinese-style Modernization**

### **2.1. Achieving Common Prosperity for all People is a Distinctive Feature of the Chinese Style of Modernization**

Chinese modernization is a modernization with Chinese characteristics. It has both the common features of the modernization of all countries and its own characteristics based on China's national conditions. To achieve common prosperity for all the people is a distinctive feature of Chinese modernization. The process of modernization in the history of human society began in the West. Its main contents include per capital GDP, the proportion of the tertiary industry, the development of education, medical care and public services, and so on. That is the modernization of material civilization. There is another important aspect of modernization: the modernization of spiritual civilization. Material civilization modernization is the foundation of spiritual civilization modernization. They promote the continuous development of human society. To achieve common prosperity for all the people, like the Chinese-style modernization, is a historical process that cannot be achieved overnight. Instead, it is a phased and continuous process of development. This is the common feature of Chinese-style modernization and the modernization process of the world. The Chinese style of modernization has its own unique connotation, which is the connotation of Chinese characteristics. The realization of common prosperity for all people, which is based on the Great harmony thought of the fine traditional Chinese culture and all-round development theory of everyone in Marxism. It is a distinctive feature of Chinese modernization. As the ruling party of Marxism, the Communist Party of China has inscribed on its banner the happiness of the Chinese people and the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation since its birth. The CPC has always taken the people's aspiration for a better life as its goal. The modernization feature of achieving common prosperity for all the people fully demonstrates the beautiful character of pursuing "fairness and justice", and it fully demonstrates the value pursuit and distinctive characteristics of pursuing "fairness and justice".

### **2.2. To achieve common prosperity for all the people suits the development of Chinese modernization process.**

China is currently in the primary stage of socialism and will remain so for a long time to come, which is the basic national conditions of China. Since the 18th CPC National Congress, socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era. "The overall nature of the goal of Chinese modernization is also reflected in the fact that it is not only based on itself, but also has the world in mind, pursuing not only the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, but also the common progress of the world.[3]." Over the past 40 years of reform and opening up, the Party has led the people in making brilliant achievements. Chinese people have truly become rich. They are making great strides toward becoming stronger. China's economic aggregate has risen to the second largest in the world, but its per capital GDP still lags far behind that of developed countries. Addressing the income gap and urban-rural development gap is the focus of our So our next work is achieving common prosperity for all the people. It is a good remedy for the dialectical relationship between "making the pie bigger" and "making the pie better". While focusing on economic development, we should also better handle the relationship between social distribution and paying more attention to social equity in primary, redistribution and third distribution. The relationship between efficiency and equity is so important, too.

In the early days of the founding of the People's Republic of China, we practiced a "planned economy" for a while, but the premise of this system was a great abundance of productive forces. However, in the era of low productivity, the distribution changed from "average score" to "insufficient score". "Common prosperity is not some mystical idea. It is a historical product of the Communist Party of China uniting and leading the Chinese people in promoting Chinese-style modernization.[4]" Fairness and efficiency are a pair of contradictions, and we must analyze them with the principles of Marxist philosophy. During the period of China's planned economy system, fairness was emphasized, but production efficiency was low. Since the reform and opening up, some people were allowed to get rich first, which improved efficiency, but caused a certain degree of unfairness. Until now, in the decade since the 18th National Congress, the Party has led the people to make historic achievements and realize the grand dream of moderately prosperous society by 2020. China's economic and social development has moved to a new level, and the idea of achieving common prosperity for all the people has once again taken the center stage. Whether it can achieve common prosperity for all the people is related to the success or failure of Chinese-style modernization, which is in line with the negative law of one of the three laws of materialist dialectics in Marxist philosophical principles. Things are constantly developing, and when they reach a certain stage of development, they return to their original starting point, but this starting point is no longer the original starting point, but a higher starting point. Once again, we focus on fairness, but this time we focus on fairness on the basis of ensuring efficiency. The socialist market economic system has provided the institutional guarantee; The efforts of all the sons and daughters of the Chinese nation to realize the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation have provided a practical basis for it. At the same time, the realization of common prosperity for all the Chinese people means that more opportunities and challenges await us. We should constantly enrich and improve the theory of common prosperity in practice, and open up new paths and new horizons for Marxist Chinese.

### **2.3. Achieving common prosperity for all our people is a necessary requirement for modernization that seeks to coordinate material progress with spiritual progress**

We need to build socialist spiritual civilization. The most fundamental thing is to ensure that the people have the communist ideal, moral integrity, cultural integrity and discipline. For a long time in the past, we have neglected the development of productive forces, so now we must pay special attention to building material civilization. "The realization of common prosperity is a spiraling process from the prosperity of some people to the common prosperity of all people, from low-level prosperity to high-level prosperity, and highly developed social productive forces is the important guarantee for the realization of common prosperity.[5]" Material prosperity and spiritual prosperity are the fundamental requirements of socialist modernization. Material poverty is not socialism, nor is spiritual poverty socialism. We are constantly strengthening the material foundation for modernization and consolidating the material conditions for the people to live a happy life. At the same time, we are vigorously developing advanced socialist culture, strengthening education in ideals and convictions, inheriting the Chinese civilization, and promoting all-round material enrichment and all-round human development. Since the 18th National Congress of the CPC, China's economic, scientific and technological strength, and overall national strength have grown significantly. We have written a new chapter in the two miracles of rapid economic development and long-term social stability, and created a more solid material foundation for Chinese modernization. We have developed advanced socialist culture and widely spread core socialist values, providing more active spiritual strength for Chinese-style modernization. In the past few decades, China's economy has been in a stage of rapid development. In the next few decades, we need to shift to high-quality development, focusing not only on material progress, but also on spiritual progress

on this basis. We should combine traditional Chinese culture with Marxism, give full play to the guiding role of the core values of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and constantly meet the people's ever-growing material and spiritual needs for a better life. The productive forces determine the relations of production, and the economic base determines the superstructure. A significant development of the productive forces is the material foundation and an important guarantee for the advancement of spiritual civilization. This requires common prosperity for all our people, and achieving common prosperity for all our people is a necessary requirement for modernization in which material and spiritual civilization are coordinated.

### **3. Common Prosperity is the Core Factor that Distinguishes Chinese modernization from that of the West**

#### **3.1. Achieve Common Prosperity for All the people. To Strike a Proper Balance between Efficiency and Equity, the Chinese-style Modernization means to Restrain the Disorderly Expansion of Capital**

To achieve common prosperity for all the people is precisely to throw off the shackles of the logic of capital. Socialism is to liberate the productive forces, narrow the gap between the rich and the poor, and ultimately achieve common prosperity for all the people. While capitalism, due to its own contradictions, makes itself a shackle on the development of the productive forces, that is, "the contradiction between the socialization of production and the capitalist private possession of the means of production." This contradiction makes the gap between the rich and the poor in capitalist society ever widening, and the resulting class difference also restricts the free and comprehensive development of man. People lose their subjectivity and are only a "screw" in the machine of industrial society. People produce only for the operation of the "machine", not their own, and the fruits of their own labor are alienated. Chinese modernization is fundamentally different from Western modernization, which is dominated by the logic of capital, resulting in unbalanced modernization, where most of the wealth of society is concentrated in the hands of a few, the gap between the rich and the poor is wide, and class contradictions are constantly intensified. Why does the capitalist society and the Western modernization led to such a result? Marx pointed out in his *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844* that "the poverty of the worker is inversely proportional to the impact and scale of his production"[6], that is to say, the more he produces, the poorer he becomes. This means that what the worker produces is opposed to him, and that the wealth he creates only exacerbates his poverty. This is also the alienation of Labour, in which the worker's Labour no longer belongs to him, but only serves to create more surplus value for the capitalists. More capital for them, so that they can use more capital to exploit more workers. Marx called this the "reproduction of capital". With the continuous expansion of capital, social wealth is more and more concentrated in the hands of a few people, and the social gap between rich and poor is widening with the development of productive forces.

Common prosperity is the essential requirement of Chinese modernization. China has always adhered to a distribution system in which distribution according to work is the main body and multiple modes of distribution coexist. We have accelerated the establishment of a coordinated system of primary distribution, redistribution and third distribution. We paid more attention to the dialectical relationship between efficiency and fairness, and paid more attention to fairness on the basis of ensuring efficiency. Since the reform and opening up, China's economy has developed rapidly, and the reform of the economic foundation has led to the continuous development of the superstructure. Through the sustained efforts of the whole Party and the people of all ethnic groups in China, we have achieved the first centenary goal, completed the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects on the land of China, and historically solved the problem of absolute poverty. Now we are moving with great spirit toward the

second centenary goal of building a great modern socialist country in all respects. The principal contradiction facing Chinese society has changed from the contradiction between the people's ever-growing material and cultural needs for backward productive forces, to the contradiction between unbalanced and inadequate development and the people's ever-growing needs for a better life. Over the past four decades and more of reform and opening up, more attention has been paid to efficiency than to equity. On the new starting point of achieving common prosperity for all our people, we must pay more attention to equity and properly handle the relationship between efficiency and equity. Only by recognizing, analyzing and resolving contradictions can we make use of contradictions to promote social development and realize the great goal of common prosperity for all people. The CPC has always been committed to fulfilling the people's aspirations for a better life, improving their quality of life and improving people's well-being, and giving real attention to "human development."

### **3.2. Achieving Common prosperity for All the People To promote the free and all-round development of the human person, the Chinese type of modernization means to get rid of the restriction of the logic of capital on the human person**

In the Communist Manifesto, Marx described man in communist society: "Instead of the old bourgeois society, in which classes and class antagonism exist, there will be an association in which the free development of each is the condition for the free development of all.[7]" The foundation of the free and comprehensive development of each individual is based on equality among men, social harmony, and the true unity of social and individual development. And the realization of common prosperity for all people is the constant progress towards this goal. Common prosperity, like communism, is not a fixed concept, but a process of continuous development in practice. China has won an all-round victory in the battle against poverty.

And now we are moving with great vigor toward the second centenary goal of building a great modern socialist country in all respects. The Communist Party of China has always led the Chinese people in the direction of common prosperity for all. The areas covered by the realization of common prosperity for all have created conditions for the free and comprehensive development of people: social security, public services, employment, urban-rural disparities, regional disparities, income disparities, social assistance, medical and health care, and people's health. The distribution pattern under common prosperity has played an important role in narrowing the gap between the rich and the poor and promoting social equity. The primary distribution, redistribution and tertiary distribution pay more attention to equity, and "establish a dynamic flow mechanism of social wealth from high to low[8]" while ensuring efficiency.

### **3.3. Achieving Common Prosperity for all People suits the Development Concept that the Fruits of Development should be Shared by the People. Chinese Modernization is a Modernization that Avoids Social Polarization**

The essence of shared development is common prosperity. Similarly, common prosperity is the essence of Chinese-style modernization. "Development is for the people, by the people, and its fruits are shared by the people." Common prosperity is built on the basis of abundant material conditions, the pursuit of spiritual self-reliance, livable and working environment, social harmony and harmony, universal public services, rich and shared cultural products, and ultimately the realization of well-rounded human development. Common prosperity means prosperity for all the people. It is a common prosperity that reduces the gap between regions, urban and rural areas, and incomes. The fruits of common prosperity belong to all the people. The five new development concepts form an organic whole. We should analyze the relationship between common prosperity and the new development concept from the perspective of linkage.

Common prosperity suits the idea that the fruits of development should be shared by the people. At the same time, common prosperity is created and realized by the people. People are the main part of common prosperity, the creators and beneficiaries of common prosperity. Therefore, people should "share" common prosperity in the process of "jointly building" it.

The "day" in this sentence has arrived. China's economy and society are developing rapidly, the economic aggregate is greatly increased, but the gap between the rich and the poor is becoming more and more obvious, and the socialist system should and can avoid polarization. In the primary stage of socialism, prosperity with reasonable differences is conducive to mobilizing the enthusiasm of all the people in jointly building and sharing benefits, conducive to maintaining social stability and harmony, and conforms to the law of gradual development of socialism. Common prosperity is different. The difference means that reasonable and moderate differences are allowed on the basis of the general prosperity of the whole people, and the objectivity of the wealth gap of the whole people is determined by the objectivity of the difference in distribution. The purpose of CPC is to serve the people wholeheartedly. The continuous development and improvement of the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics under the leadership of the Party provides an institutional guarantee for building a reasonable distribution system and promoting common prosperity for all the people. The building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects provides a solid material foundation for promoting common prosperity for all the people. Finally, Common prosperity is a process of continuous development in the practice of the people. They must and can be achieved. "If the rich get richer and the poor get poorer, polarization will arise, and the socialist system should and can avoid polarization."

#### **4. Common Prosperity is the Starting Point and Ultimate Goal of Chinese-style Modernization**

##### **4.1. The foundation for achieving common prosperity for all is human society, and Chinese modernization is a people-centered modernization**

The "Realizing common prosperity for all people" proposed by the Communist Party of China is based on human society, and its focus is on "people". In his Theses on Feuerbach, Marx elaborated the basic position of the new materialism, that is, the basic position of practical materialism. "While the old materialism stands on civil society, the new materialism stands on human society or social humanity." Here Marx sets out the footing of the old and new materialism. "Civil society" refers to capitalist society, and "human society or social humanity" refers to communist society and the liberation and happiness of all mankind. The idea of achieving common prosperity for all people is based on human society, on communist society, and on human development.

Material production has been greatly enriched, people's spiritual realm has been greatly raised, and everyone has developed freely and comprehensively. It is the basic feature of a communist society. Achieving common prosperity for all the people is to make constant progress towards this goal. The essence of common prosperity is not only material prosperity, but also the spiritual and cultural prosperity of the people. Common prosperity is synchronous prosperity or egalitarianism, and the promotion of common prosperity in stages.

In the final analysis, the modernization of Chinese style is about material civilization and spiritual civilization. The starting point and ultimate goal of the modernization of Chinese civilization lie in the people, and the people's material and spiritual life is prosperous. Chinese modernization has been going on for more than a century. Beginning with the Opium War in 1840, countless revolutionary forefathers and national heroes shed their lives in search of a development path suited to Chinese modernization. Since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th CPC Central Committee, China has embarked on the "accelerated path" of modernization, and

now ranks as the second largest economy in the world in terms of aggregate economic aggregate. However, China's per capital income still lags far behind the world average, and there are still problems of unbalanced and inadequate development. The development of modernization is objective and regular, just like the historical development of human society. How to get rid of the problem of imbalanced and inadequate development and achieve common prosperity for all the people has given the answer. Modernization in Chinese style means modernization along the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics. In the final analysis, modernization is about people and common prosperity for all the people.

#### **4.2. Chinese Modernization is a Modernization that Involves a Huge Population, and Achieving Common Prosperity for all People is a Key Part of Chinese modernization**

Up to now, 233 countries and regions in the world have achieved modernization in no more than 30 countries and regions, with a population of about 1 billion. China's total population exceeds 1.4 billion, accounting for about one fifth of the world's total. According to the 2023 Statistical Communique on National Economic and Social Development released by the National Bureau of Statistics, China's population stood at 1,409.67 million at the end of 2023. China's 1.4-billion-strong population is entering a modern society, larger than the combined population of developed countries. The challenge and complexity is unprecedented, and the path and means of development are bound to have their own characteristics. Chinese modernization has five features, of which a huge population is the most important. A super-large population not only provides sufficient human resources and a super-large market, but also brings a series of difficulties and challenges. Just feeding more than 1.4 billion people is no small challenge. There are also issues such as employment, distribution, education, medical care, housing, elderly care and childcare, none of which is easy to solve and each of which involves an astronomical number of people. This fully demonstrates that CPC has a clear understanding of achieving "modernization with a huge population". It fully recognizes the unique advantages of a huge population, objectively faces up to the realistic challenges brought about by a huge population. China is the largest developing country in the world and one of the countries with the greatest potential for development. The cornerstone of Chinese modernization lies in the modernization of the material and spiritual lives of the 1.4 billion-plus Chinese people. Achieving common prosperity for all of them is a key link in promoting Chinese-style modernization. At the same time, it is of great significance to the modernization of the whole world. Under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, the people of all ethnic groups in China have worked together to achieve a feat that has gone down in human history -- nearly 100 million people have been lifted out of poverty, 832 impoverished counties have been lifted out of poverty, and 1.4 billion Chinese people have moved towards a moderately prosperous society. To achieve common prosperity for all the people is another great goal built on the foundation of the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects. The leadership of the CPC has provided the fundamental guarantee for nearly one fifth of the world's population to achieve common prosperity and move toward modernization.

As a whole, China's 1.4 billion-plus people are striving for a modern society, larger than the combined population of the developed countries. The task is unprecedented in complexity and difficulty, and the path and means of development are bound to have their own characteristics. We always proceed from our national conditions in thinking about problems, making decisions and handling affairs, not adhering to conventional methods, maintaining historical patience. We are adhering to the principle of seeking progress while maintaining stability, gradual and orderly progress, and continuous progress.

### 4.3. Achieving Common Prosperity for all People is the Ultimate Goal of Chinese modernization

Chinese modernization has not only features common to the modernization of other countries, but also has Chinese characteristics based on its own national conditions. China is a socialist country under the people's democratic dictatorship. The essence of socialism determines that the Chinese-style modernization is a modernization in which all the people get rich, not just a few. To achieve modernization, in the final analysis, is to improve people's living standards and enrich their spiritual realm. The original aspiration and mission of the CPC is to seek happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation for the Chinese nation. To achieve common prosperity, improve people's living standards, and enhance people's well-being is the goal of the people of all ethnic groups under the leadership of the CPC in the coming decades. The goal of Chinese modernization is compatible with the common prosperity of all the people, and achieving common prosperity for all the people promotes the development of Chinese-style modernization. The two are dialectically unified in the practice of the people. To achieve common prosperity for all the people and achieve Chinese modernization, we must ultimately rely on the people and rely on the people to achieve it through their continuous practice of labor. Therefore, only by combining the people's aspirations for a better life with the work of our Party can we unremittingly promote Chinese-style modernization, achieve common prosperity for all the people and realize the Chinese dream of great national renewal.

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