

# Seeking the Way of Vitalizing the Country from the Angle of Seeking Your Own

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**Abstract:** The countryside is a region which integrates nature, society, economy and culture. It has many functions, such as production, life and ecology. It complements and coexists with cities and towns, and becomes the main space carrier of human life. The revitalization of the countryside is the key to building a well-off society in an all-round way and a strong socialist modernization country in an all-round way. Since the reform and opening-up, the contradiction between the increasing needs of our people for a better life and the unbalanced and inadequate development is most prominent in the countryside. Since the Nineteenth National Congress, "the strategy of rural revitalization" has been praised as "the third agrarian revolution". So why should this reform be changed? For whom? Common township cadres would reply, "The above request for reform". National-level policies such as land rights, family farms, company plus farmers, land transfer, and the first secretary Baocun have successively landed in rural areas. So what is the problem in the countryside? What do farmers want to change, what to change, how to change, and how to reform? Should we take a top-down reform path? Or take a bottom-up reform path? Or is it a combination of up and down, effective linkage development model? This paper intends to explore the road of rural rejuvenation from the perspective of anti-seeking self in the historical practice of rural land use rights during the revolution and reform period of the Communist Party of China.

## 1. Introduction

China's revolution and reform have taken a successful road of "encircling the city by the countryside". It can be said that without the modernization of the countryside, there will be no modernization of the country, and without the revitalization of the countryside, there will be no great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Since modern times, the countryside has provided the strategic position and the source of war for the success of the Chinese revolution; since the reform and opening up, the countryside has provided a large number of labor force support for the development of cities. However, at present, the current situation of the rural people can be summarized as "three more and three less". That is, more land is idle, more left-behind children and more empty nesters. There are few social elites, young laborers and few effective resources. The British classical economist William Petty once said: Labor is the father of wealth, and land is the mother of wealth. Land has a guaranteed function and a development function. Especially for the vast number of farmers in China, land is their lifeblood. For rural areas, how to use land is the key to rural revitalization. The author intends to explore the effective path of rural revitalization in China from the perspective of counter-inquiring with the land circulation and possession in the history of the Chinese Communist Party.

## 2. Exploring the Revolutionary Way of "Surrounding the City by Rural Areas" in Land Use Method

Why is the country revitalized? The success of the Chinese revolution is a prerequisite. How is the revolution successful? First look for answers from history. The success of the Chinese revolution was due to the exploration of a road of "urban encircling the city" and "armed workers and workers" to meet the needs of Chinese farmers. Under the guidance of this road, the Communists experienced the three major reforms of the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, the War of Liberation, and socialism, and finally established a new people's political

power and a new socialist system in China. How was this road explored? I want to talk about the failure of the Great Revolution. After the failure of the Great Revolution, the first cooperation in the history of the Kuomintang and the Communist Party failed. For a time, white terror was hanging over the country's urban and rural areas, and the cause of the Communist Party was facing severe challenges. Facing the White Terror Policy of the Kuomintang, the "Eighty-seventh Meeting" of the Communist Party of China decided to oppose the "armed counter-revolution" with "revolutionary armed forces". The "Nanchang Uprising", "Autumn Harvest Uprising" and "Guangzhou Uprising" were launched successively. After the Autumn Harvest Uprising, Comrade Mao Zedong transferred the revolutionary ranks to the mountainous area where the Kuomintang was weak: Jinggangshan. After arriving in Jinggangshan, how to solve the farmers' land problems, mobilize their enthusiasm and open up rural revolutionary base areas represented by Jinggangshan became a difficult problem that the Communists had to solve at that time.

On the issue of mobilizing the enthusiasm of the peasants, the Communists headed by Mao Zedong successively issued three land laws. The first decree was the Jinggangshan Land Law, which was promulgated in December 1928. The core idea of this decree is all land was confiscated and owned by the Soviet government. However, the introduction of this policy has not been recognized by farmers. On the contrary, it was also opposed by the people. Therefore, in April 1929, a new land law, Xingtou Land Law, was promulgated. The Xingtou Land Law amended the Jinggangshan Land Law in principle, replacing "confiscation of all land to the Soviet government" with "confiscation of all public land and land of the landlord class to the Soviet government". The introduction of this policy also has little effect, but there is a welcome change that the people are less opposed and more neutral. Following the promulgation of the Land Law of Xingguo, a land decree was issued, which was an effective agrarian revolutionary program during the second domestic revolutionary war that promoted the abundance of the land revolution. This land law stipulates that the land that is confiscated will be distributed to the farmers free of charge, while allowing the land to be freely traded. This is a decree that really starts from the actual needs of the peasants and can solve the eagerness of the peasants and truly benefit the people. Therefore, it is welcomed by farmers. The Agrarian Revolutionary Movement has therefore flourished in various places.



Fig.1

### 3. The Advantages and Disadvantages of the Family Contract Responsibility System from the Land Transfer

In 1978, 18 farmers in Xiaogang Village, Fengyang County, Anhui Province signed the "life and death status" and contracted the land in the village separately. It pioneered the household contract responsibility system. In that year, Xiaogang Village had a bumper grain harvest. The "state of life and death" is now stored in the National Museum of China, which is a testimony of China's reform and opening up. This "state of life and death" is the embryonic form of China's household contract responsibility system. Its core content can be summarized as two aspects, one is to do everything in one's pocket. Each contractor pays the agricultural tax to the state, orders the products to be ordered, and pays the public to the public accumulation fund and public welfare fund. The rest of the

products are owned by the farmers themselves. The second is to produce the goods to the household. The implementation of fixed output, fixed investment, fixed points, over-production to their own, production compensation. In most areas, it is in the form of a package to the household. In October 1979, the small grain village of Xiaogang Village was golden, and the total grain output was 66 tons, which is equivalent to the total grain output of the whole team from 1966 to 1970.

At that time, "package production to the household" was a high-frequency vocabulary that was quietly talked among farmers, but it was often questioned and criticized. Even in 1979, when Xiaogang Village received a bumper harvest, the voice of criticizing "production to the home" was endless. The background of this concept is to start from the land reform in 1952. At the end of 1952, after the land reform was basically completed, the land was converted from the exploiting class to the peasant, and the "cultivators have their fields" were realized, which solved the remaining problems during the democratic revolution. After the land reform, the agricultural cooperative movement was launched in the countryside. In two steps, one is the primary agricultural cooperative; the other is the senior cooperative and the people's commune. Primary cooperatives produce jointly by means of land ownership, centralized management and unified distribution, thus transforming the peasant private ownership of land into the land system of peasant private ownership and collective unified management and use. Thereafter, through high-level cooperatives and people's communes, farmers' land private ownership was changed into cooperative collective ownership of working people, and farmers' private ownership of land was replaced by collective unified ownership. In December 1956, a total of 540,000 high-level cooperatives were established nationwide, and the proportion of farmers participating in the total households was 87.8%. By 1957, a total of 740,000 senior clubs had been established nationwide, and in 1958 they were merged into 26,000 people's communes. The high-level cooperatives and people's communeization have separated from the actual level of China's rural productivity development, coupled with highly concentrated labor methods and egalitarianism in distribution, which have affected the enthusiasm of farmers' production and the development of the rural economy has been constrained.

Until January 1, 1982, the central government approved the "National Rural Work Conference Minutes", pointing out the various responsibility systems implemented in the rural areas, including small-scale contract labor quotas, professional contracted joint production remuneration, joint production to labor, package production to households, to Groups, including households and households, are the production responsibility system of the socialist collective economy; in 1983, the central government issued a document stating that the "family joint production contract system" is a great creation of China's "peasants" under the leadership of the party. It is a new development in the practice of Marxist agricultural cooperation in China; The Eighth Plenary Session of the Thirteenth Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, held from November 25 to 29, 1991, adopted the Decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Further Strengthening Agriculture and Rural Work. The Decision puts forward that the responsibility system based on household contract and the two-tier management system combined with unification and decentralization should be regarded as a basic system of rural collective economic organizations in China, which has been stabilized for a long time and continuously enriched and perfected. As the first step in the reform of rural economic system, the household contract responsibility system breaks through the old system of "big pot rice" and "big pot rice". Moreover, with the implementation of the contracting system, individual pay is linked with income, which greatly increases farmers' enthusiasm for production and liberates rural productivity.

In 1978, the household contract responsibility system reform divided land property rights into ownership and management rights. Ownership still belongs to collective ownership, and management rights are subcontracted by collective economic organizations to peasant households to operate independently. Collective economic organizations are responsible for the supervision of contract performance, the unified arrangement, use and allocation of public facilities, land adjustment and allocation, thus forming a unified, separate and unified two-tier management system. The implementation of the household contract responsibility system has corrected the long-standing high concentration of management and the excessive monotony of the management mode, which

has turned farmers into simple producers and operators in the collective economy, thus greatly mobilizing farmers. The production enthusiasm has better played the potential of labor and land. This land system does not fundamentally change the collective ownership of the land, but separates the ownership and management of the land. However, at that time, it was indeed a great achievement for mobilizing the enthusiasm of the peasants and solving the problem of food and clothing for the peasants.

The household contract responsibility system is a great creation of Chinese peasants and a product of the reform of the rural economic system. The implementation of the household contract responsibility system has abolished the people's commune, and has not taken the road of privatization of land. Instead, it has implemented household contracting, mainly combining and double-layering, which not only exerts the superiority of collective unified management. It also mobilized the enthusiasm of farmers for production, which is a better economic form to adapt to the characteristics of China's agriculture and the current level of rural productivity development and management. While changing the pattern of rural economy, it laid the foundation for economic development and follow-up reform, mobilized the enthusiasm of agricultural producers, played an important role in lifting farmers out of poverty, promoted the rapid development of agricultural production, changed agricultural production and farmers' lives to a large extent, and was praised by Comrade Deng Xiaoping as the "first leap" of rural reform and development in China.

From the implementation of the household contract responsibility system, it can be seen that the liberation of rural productivity needs to start from the perspective of farmers, rural areas, and agriculture itself. From the bottom up, gather the wisdom of folk practice to find out the level of development suitable for rural productivity, and society. The method and path of rural development that is compatible with the overall level of development.

#### **4. Observation on the Current Situation of Rural Areas in China**

The observation of the current situation in the countryside can not help mentioning a long-term struggle in the front line of the countryside: Li Changping [1]. His book "I tell the Prime Minister the truth" has aroused strong repercussions throughout the country. At that time, as secretary of the township Party committee, he wrote to Premier Zhu Rongji to tell the truth that "the peasants are really bitter, the countryside is really poor and the agriculture is really dangerous". In the new round of reform today, how should rural reform be promoted? For more and more people living in towns and cities, due to the rapid changes in the towns and cities, it is taken for granted that the countryside has undergone earth-shaking changes. The reality is exactly the opposite.

Take a village: Xiaozhuwan as an example. Xiaozhuwan is an unknown "lost land village" and "hollow village" in the suburbs of Wuhan. It is a natural bend under the jurisdiction of Tongzhou Village, Wulijie Street, Jiangxia District, Wuhan. It is situated on the Bank of Liangzi Lake, with more than 29 households and 157 people in the whole bay. In 2010, Xiaozhu Bay was in ruins, with no decent roads and sewage running across it. Most of the houses are earthen brick houses, that is, the "earth brick shacks" that the peasants call, and the red brick houses that were made in the late 1980s. The only 700 acres of land in Xiaozhuwan was leased to the contemporary group to engage in lavender gardens. Without land, young people went outside to work, and middle-aged and elderly people worked in construction sites nearby. Therefore, Xiaozhuwan is a typical "lost village" and "hollow village".

There are countless Chinese villages represented by Xiaozhuwan. This situation is not difficult to see. In the past 40 years of reform and opening up, with the acceleration of urbanization, the rural population after the 80s has flowed to the towns. The situation that rural land is idle, agricultural products are cheap, and low-level decentralized operations are becoming more and more prominent. With the development of the economy and the changes of the times, the problems faced by rural development have become increasingly prominent. The main manifestations are as follows: first, the development of scale economy is restricted; secondly, farmers' control over land is limited; thirdly, agricultural production has a long period, high cost, low price, and production enthusiasm is limited. Fourthly, rural infrastructure construction conditions are poor and it is difficult to improve.

Fifth, the level of agricultural science and technology is not high. Sixth, the lack of standardized legal protection of farmers' right to use land restricts their ability to raise their income through land management. Seventh, the practice mode of the household contract responsibility system gradually does not meet the needs of the development of market economy.

## **5. Historical Enlightenment of Rural Construction**

When it comes to rural revitalization, let us first replay the idea back to China a century ago. At the beginning of the 20th century, there were a number of mobilizers of rural construction in China. "The Chinese rural construction movement that began in the 1920s not only enabled people at that time to have a deeper understanding of the Chinese countryside, Chinese farmers, and Chinese rural issues, but also provided scholars with a wealth of information on the study of Chinese rural society. Made a methodological contribution [2]." After a century, both rural construction and Rural Revitalization have common connotations, which reflect the national conditions consciousness, local consciousness and cultural self-confidence. It is a history of people's folk construction that is constantly formed in the broad participation of society.

In 1926, Yan Yangchu practiced rural education in Ding County in central Hebei, and established the China Civilian Education Promotion Association (Ping Church), recruiting a group of college students and volunteers to study in rural areas. The "Nine creeds" of the civilian education and rural construction of hand-written books at the age of 87 in Fuyang. That is to say, "First, the people are the foundation of the country, and the people are the foundation of the country; Second, we should go deep into the people to discuss and study problems and help the civilians solve problems; Third, we should integrate with the civilians; Fourth, we should learn from the civilians; Fifth, we should discuss the work of rural construction with the civilians; Sixth, we should not be prejudiced and adapt to local conditions; Seventh, we should transform the society if we do not accommodate the society; Eighth, rural construction is the way to develop the potential of the civilians." Voluntary force makes them self-reliant. Ninth, words must be acted and deeds must be acted." This is the experience summary of Yan Yangchu's rural construction practice, which has guiding significance across time and space for today's rural revitalization.

Liang Suming has both theoretical exploration and practical activities in rural reconstruction. In terms of theoretical exploration, Liang Xuming participated in the publication of the monthly magazine "Rural Governance", and wrote a series of works such as "General Ideas of Rural Construction", "Theory of Rural Construction" and "Answering Criticism of Rural Construction" to clarify his views on rural construction in China [3]. In terms of practical activities, Liang Shuo founded the Village Research Institute in Huixian County, Henan Province in 1929. In 1931, he founded the Shandong Rural Construction Research Institute in Zouping with a view to realizing rural reconstruction and revitalizing the village. In addition to Yan Yangchu and Liang Shu, Lu Zuofu also carried out a rural construction experiment in the north of Chongqing, and wrote the "Village Construction Movement of the Three Gorges of Sichuan Jialing River" [4]. In his 1930 article "Rural Construction", Lu Zuofu put forward the view that education is the first priority of rural construction, which opened the prelude of rural education in Sichuan. During the Anti-Japanese War, Sichuan was an important base for rural construction, and new counties were experimental counties for rural education in Sichuan. Yan Yangchu's Ping Church, in cooperation with the Sichuan Provincial Government at that time, set up an organizing committee to lead the rural education movement in Sichuan. "In September 1939, the National Government published the Outline of Organizations at County Levels, which adopted many experiences accumulated by the Ping Church in the past years in Dingxian, Xindu and other places, and planned to be implemented nationwide [5]. "

In the 1920s and 1930s, the construction of private villages was active. The institutions and groups that served the rural construction reached more than 600 at that time. More than 1,000 rural construction experimental zones were organized, and the rural construction model initiated by intellectuals and industrialists was initiated. More emphasis on rural culture and education, and insist on the education of civilians as the center [6]. These rural construction activities involve all

aspects of rural life, such as rural education, local autonomy, agricultural improvement, promotion of good varieties, pest control, rural lending, rural hospitals, public health, customs and habits. Rural construction was carried out from the aspects of education, governance, finance, medical treatment and culture. Efforts were made to improve the cultural quality and literacy of the villagers at that time, and effective social exploration and cultural practice were carried out for rural revitalization. At the same time, the Communist Party of China has also opened up experimental fields for rural construction in the base areas of the Central Soviet Area. During this period, the attempts and measures accumulated experience for promoting rural construction after the founding of New China.

A century ago, people with lofty ideals and current scholars seemed to be talking about a unified topic. The difference is the change of the world. The current rural construction and Rural Revitalization are no longer in the same era. But the historical experience and lessons deserve our consideration and reference. At that time, rural construction activities were full of forests and varied forms, but there was a fundamental problem that had not been touched and solved, namely, the problem of land ownership and transfer mode. This is something that the power of a farmer or a group cannot solve. The current rural revitalization, a good premise is the collective ownership of land. This is undoubtedly a double-edged sword. Once it is used well, it can once again liberate rural productivity and achieve a new leap in the rural economy. If the use is not good, it will repeat the historical mistakes and lead to social tragedy.

The current rural revitalization strategy has quietly set up pilots across the country to find an effective way out, and is known as the "third agrarian revolution." We cannot help but ask: Why reform? For whom to reform? The general township and county cadres will answer "the above requirements for reform." Such as land rights confirmation, family farms, companies and farmers, land transfer and so on. For the current rural revitalization itself, we should first make clear what the rural problems are, what the agricultural problems are, what the farmers' problems are, what the farmers want to change, what the reform is, how to change, how to reform. Comrade Deng Xiaoping has said that reform is a revolution of interest adjustment. The primary issue of reform is who is our tenant, who is our second child, who is our housekeeper and who is our partner.

Reform is the same as revolution, who leads and who is changed. This is a fundamental issue. From Mr. Li Changping's point of view, reform is a way of doing things if the new bourgeoisie wants to change or reform the lives of the small peasants. If reform is to safeguard the interests of small farmers and let them share equally the benefits of reform and opening up, reform is another way of doing it. Take the construction of new rural areas as an example: If the government purchases the services of rural construction institutions, assists farmers in building new rural areas, and at the same time truly activates rural endogenous motivation, this is a set of measures. If the government lets developers go to the countryside, it is natural to do everything possible to let the peasants go upstairs. This is another set of practice--this is called reform, but it is fundamentally different.

## 6. Conclusion

Looking at the era of revolution, the era of reform, and the era and new era before a century ago, it is not difficult to see that the core and focus of China's rural problem solving is focused on the land-centered reform path. Is the land private or shared? Is the right of land transfer handed over to farmers themselves or to collectives? Starting from the interests of farmers themselves, giving full play to the endogenous creativity of farmers, bottom-up reform? Or to carry out top-down reform based on policy and theory. The process of historical development and the historical facts of success or failure are the best answers.

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