

## The Practical Logic of China's Political Development in the New Era

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**Abstract.** The political development is both a problem of cognition and a problem of practice. China's political development should be subordinated to both "meet the needs of the people for a better political life" and "meet the needs of stable development in the context of reform and opening up". Echoing the "two-tier" logic of China's political development, we should further focus on four key areas of China's political development in the new era, namely, democratic construction, rule of law in China, government capacity and party building.

### Introduction

Materialistic dialectics holds that knowledge and practice are the unity of concrete history. Knowledge is the active response based on practice. In practice, perceptual factors are repeatedly leaping from realistic perceptual knowledge to rational knowledge, which is tested in practice and finally confirmed as a scientific theory. The practice is to follow and to use scientific theory on the basis of the practice of the specific things; If the knowledge deepens and the practice lags behind seriously, this will cause things to stagnate; If practice is advanced, knowledge lags behind seriously, this will lead to the phenomenon of insufficient supply of theories to promote the development of things. In both cases, it's not good for things. Therefore, knowledge and practice should be unified, one can lead or lag behind the other appropriately, but the lead or lag "degree" cannot hinder the development of the other side. The report of the 19th CPC national congress pointed out that socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered new era and social principal contradiction, which means that for the knowledge of the Chinese national condition has been shifted, but also means that the knowledge of China's politics, economy, culture and other aspects has shifted. The shift of knowledge means that the corresponding practice must also be shifted. In terms of China's political development, what is the shift in the knowledge of China's political development from the perspective of the shift of social principal contradiction? Adapted to the development of Chinese practice and what kind of change happened? This article launches the research from the two aspects.

### The "Two-Tier" Logic of Promoting China's Political Development

In today's world, the source of ruling legitimacy of each country's ruling party is either constitutional democracy or governing performance. Of course, the choice of the source of ruling legitimacy must be based on the specific country, there is no better or worse. There is no doubt that the secret of keeping the ruling party in power for a long time is to serve the people, that is governing performance. However, the political development of a country is closely related to the subjective initiative of the ruling party. Therefore, there is a "two-tier" logic in China's political development: one is to meet the needs of the people for a better political life; the other is to meet the needs of stable development under the background of reform and opening up.

**To Meet the People's Needs for a Better Political Life.** The communist party of China is a party dedicated to serving the people. But for a long time, Chinese logic is to "take economic construction as the center task". In other words, other various areas other than the economic development and construction, are neglected to some extent. Reform is also a revolution. The essence of revolution is that the productive forces were liberated and developed. Accordingly, the essence of the reform is to ceaselessly adjust the superstructure that does not suit economic base namely. Economic take-off in the 40 years of reform and opening up led the Chinese people's material needs have been overwhelmingly increasing. In the last 40 years since the reform, the market economic system has been deepening. China's system design, the-rule-of-law level, democratic idea, the government administrative ability, the party's ruling ability, etc., are more and more showing that they are lagging behind economic development. This mainly shows that citizens' legitimate rights and interests' protection, the institutionalization of political participation channels, scientific decision-making and efficient political system and unbalanced development in various aspects such as the spread of political ideas of modernity are not sufficient. Therefore, in the new era, people's satisfaction in their political life should be fundamentally focused on solving the problem of inadequate and unbalanced political development.

**To Meet the Need for Stability in the Context of China's Reform and Opening up.** There are uncertain factors in the development of everything, which are the objective laws of the development of things. We should actively understand and grasp the law to avoid the emergence of this or that problem as far as possible as well as to understand the premise. As a result, the old system may be broken and the new system may not be established yet, and factors of instability are extremely likely to occur in such a background. Reform is to adjust the superstructure which is not suitable for the economic foundation. From this meaning, the biggest challenge facing China's political development is how to achieve steady development in the context of reform and opening up. Therefore, the first premise of China's political development is national stability. There is a dialectical unity between political development and national stability. Of course, It is wrong not to reform for the sake of national stability. To some extent, the political development is also to better achieve national stability, which cannot be achieved without the good operation of the state machinery. To sum up, the recommendation of China's political development must uphold national stability as our first principle, followed by bold attempts and practices.

The "two-tier" logic of promoting China's political development, that is, to meet the people's needs for a better political life and to meet the country's needs for stability in the context of reform and opening up, is dialectically unified. National stability is the inherent content of the people's good political life, which requires a stable national environment as a prerequisite.

### **The Focal Point of China's Political Development in the New Era**

The practice of China's political development should pay attention to the "two-tier" logic of political development, that is, to meet the needs of the people's good political life and to meet the needs of the country's reform and opening up for stable development. Therefore, echoing the "two-tier" logic of China's political development, we should focus on four key areas of China's political development in the new era, namely, democratic construction, rule of law in China, government capacity and the party building.

**Democratic Political Construction.** To advance the building of socialist democracy with Chinese characteristics for the new era, we must always strengthen the institutional guarantee that the people are the masters of the country, actively yet prudently advance political restructuring, and consolidate and develop a dynamic, stable and united political situation.

First, to strengthen the institutional guarantee that the people are masters of the country. China's current constitution clearly stipulates that all rights of the state belong to the people. This is only to confirm the legal rationality of "people being the masters of the country" from the highest institutional level. On the one hand, we need to continue to improve and develop the system of people's congresses, improve the organizational and working systems of people's congresses, and ensure that people's congresses exercise their legislative, supervisory, decision-making and

patronage powers. On the other hand, we will expand channels for orderly political participation by citizens, and ensure that people have the right to democratic election, consultation, decision-making, management and supervision in accordance with the law. The people are the direct beneficiaries of strengthening the institutional guarantee of being masters of the country. Therefore, the key to strengthening the guarantee of the system of the people as masters of the country is to strengthen the people's awareness of the people as masters of the country in the first place, so that the people can have a deep understanding of the inherent meaning of the system and consciously fulfill their rights and obligations as masters of the country.

Second, actively yet prudently advancing political restructuring. There is no identical political developing model in the world. China's political development and political restructuring must closely integrate with its own national conditions, choose a political system that meets its own development needs by "crossing the river by feeling the stones" and follow a political development path that suits its own national conditions. Political system reform must be carried out in stages considering the field, hierarchy, degree of planning, goals and order and so on to ensure the democratic political construction in a certain stage controllable and orderly, and actively yet prudently proceed with political system reform.

Thirdly, adhere to the consolidation and lively development of the political situation of stability and unity. "Democracy is our goal, but the country must be stable"<sup>[1]</sup>. Stability and domestic political situation of stability and unity is the premise of guaranteeing power of socialist modernization construction. Stability and unity are not lethargic and rigid in thinking. They are dialectically united. We must ensure that stability and unity include liveliness in our lives and that stability and unity are consolidated through liveliness, so as to fully mobilize the enthusiasm, initiative and creativity of the people in striving for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. At the same time, we firmly believe that we have the confidence and ability to give full play to the advantages and characteristics of China's socialist democracy and provide Chinese wisdom for promoting the development of human political civilization.

**Building a Law-based China.** The concept of "China under the rule of law" was first put forward at the third plenary session of the 18<sup>th</sup> CPC central committee. The fourth plenary session of the 18<sup>th</sup> central committee of the communist party of China made it clear that "China under the rule of law" is the new goal of China's rule of law construction. The 19<sup>th</sup> national party congress put forward "to strengthen the unified leadership of the rule of law in China construction", specially set up "the central leading group for the rule of law".<sup>[2]</sup> These series of important arrangements fully illustrate that the rule of law in China has ushered in the new era of "the construction of China under the rule of law".

First, from the aspect of the subject, the main body of China's rule of law is the broad masses of the people. The construction of China under the rule of law requires the concept of the rule of law to be highly recognized and consciously accepted by the broad masses of the people, the spirit of the rule of law to be internalized into the intrinsic beliefs of the broad masses of the people, and ultimately to realize the integration of the rule of law into the values, outlook on life and outlook on life of the broad masses of the people. At the same time, beware of being in a "high position" the rule of law will be alienated in the masses of the people as the object of the rule of law; and to prevent the "vulgar" rule of law, or the rule of law of Chinese people simple equivalent to the rule of law of "ordinary people".

Second, from the perspective of the object, the rule of law in China is an important means to regulate and restrict public power. The value orientation is to greatly protect the legitimate interests of the people and realization of the benign interaction between public power and citizens' rights. In this sense, the object of the rule of law in China is the state, the government, the ruling party and the society. Therefore, promoting the construction of a country ruled by law, a government ruled by law, a political party ruled by law and a society ruled by law is an important strategy of starting point for the construction of a country ruled by law.

Third, from the perspective of practice, China under the rule of law is not a renovation of the literal concept, but an upgrade and deepening of the concept of comprehensive rule of law. China

under the rule of law" is not abstract, but specific, emphasizing "the construction of China under the rule of law, adhere to the-rule-of-law country, the-rule-of-law government, the-rule-of-law society of construction"<sup>[3]</sup>. The idea that "the-rule-of-law construction of China" is based on the construction of the above three. Each dimension promoting construction of the rule of law in China construction is of great significance. Country under the rule of law construction, establish and improve a set of effective operation of the scientific and efficient law enforcement and effective oversight and other institutions and mechanisms; the-rule-of-law government construction, highlighting the surrounding the government under the rule of law of executive power, limiting government administrative power, to follow the law and administration according to law; social construction of rule of law, advancing the statue law method law-abiding usage, production and orderly, more harmonious social relations of life.

**Government Capacity Building.** Samuel Huntington pointed out: "the most important political differences between countries, lie not in the form of government, but in the level of the government."<sup>[4]</sup> At present, China is in a new position in history, strengthening government capacity building to cope with the new changes, new contradictions and new problems of the situation of the times and the national conditions; on the one hand, strengthen self-governance capacity building; on the other hand, we will strengthen capacity building in social services and government self-governance ability construction.

On one side, to strengthen self-governance capacity building. First, speed up the transformation of government functions and build a limited, effective and service-oriented government that is satisfactory to the people, so as to make the government clearer about its responsibilities and rights, namely "what can be done or not done" and "how to do it better". Second, improve their own quality and vitality, on the one hand, through improving the quality of public servants, optimize the organizational structure, the use of advanced administrative technology; Stimulating vitality mainly includes improving operational vitality, strengthening the leadership ability of leaders and enhancing the administrative level of public servants. In the new era, we will continue to make improving people's quality and invigorating their vitality the regular work of government capacity building. Third, we will improve our work style. Good work style is the foundation of the credibility of the government. Improving work style requires scientific and democratic decision-making process, law-based and procedural administrative process, and transparent and open governance results. At the same time, it emphasizes the sense of rule of law, code of ethics, spirit of public service and integrity of public officials.

On the other side, to improve government social service ability. First, improve the effectiveness of government social services. On the one hand, improve the government's ability to respond effectively and in a timely manner to people's interest of demands and public product of demands; on the other hand, improve the government's macro and micro means to rationally allocate the effective resources of the society and the market, that is, to produce the most public products with the least of resource consumption to meet the greatest society of demand. In order to improve the efficiency of the government, it is necessary to strengthen the coordination and cooperation between the government and other economic and social systems. The second is to improve the fairness of government social services. Our government is a government that serves the broad masses of the people, not a government that serves a few people. Whether we can achieve a reasonable and effective distribution of national wealth, social resources and public goods are an indication of the strength of the government's distribution capacity. The third is to enhance the government's ability to exercise dictatorship. Dictatorship ability refers to the ability to break the violent punishment to the bad national and people's interests and the lawless elements, and to exercise dictatorship to the lawless elements that damage the national and people's interests. In short, the government's capacity building should not only strengthen the government's own governance capacity building, but also strengthen the social service capacity building. Only by promoting the two together can we ensure the effective promotion of government capacity building.

**Party Building.** Since the founding of the party more than 90 years ago, from standing up to the rich and powerful, the party has led the people throughout the country to continue to win, and one

of the most important magic weapons is to focus on the party's own construction. In the era of prosperity, the key to the party leading the people in realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation lies in the party's self-construction. New era, new challenges, new historical mission, the party's construction also has new requirements.

Firstly, to strengthen the construction of the party for all the work of leadership. At the end of the 20th century, the drastic change and disintegration of some socialist countries warned us that the loosening of the party's leadership in various fields might lead to the loss of political power and the evolution of the system. To take history as a mirror and strengthen the party's leadership in all its work is both a requirement of the times and a practical need. The report of the 19th national congress of the communist party of China clearly stated that "the party exercises overall leadership over all areas of endeavor in every part of the country"<sup>[5]</sup> In the new era, the party's leadership is comprehensive, not one-dimensional. The party as the highest political leadership must ensure that its leadership can reflect and lead the economic, political, cultural, social, ecological and other fields and ensure that the party exercises overall leadership and coordinate the various aspects.

Secondly, to comprehensively improve the scientific level of party building. The report of the 19th national congress of the communist party of China put forward the scientific conclusion that "the communist party of China is the long-term ruling party of our country". The long-ruling communist party of China has long been faced with the "four-way test": the test of governance, the test of reform and opening up, the test of market economy, and the test of the external environment. To some extent, the scientific level of party building is related to whether our party can effectively resist corruption, resist change and resist risks, and further related to whether our party can realize long-term ruling party. In the new era, we will comprehensively promote great struggles, great projects, great undertakings and great dreams. It is even more necessary to comprehensively strengthen the party's long-term governing capacity, advancement and purity, continuously improve the scientific level, democratic and legal governance, and improve the party's ability to resist corruption, change and risks, etc.

Thirdly, to promote the comprehensive development and strict party governance. It takes a good blacksmith to make steel. In the new era, strict party governance in an all-round way must be developed in depth. "Corruption is the biggest threat to our party"<sup>[6]</sup>. The fight against corruption has gained overwhelming momentum, but has not been completely eradicated; it needs to be deepened both in symptoms and root causes so as to strengthen the deterrence against corruption, fasten the cage that cannot be corrupted, and enhance the consciousness of not wanting to be corrupted. We should give top priority to the political construction of the party, require all party members to focus on politics, train and select cadres to meet political standards, and create a sound political environment with clean conduct and a healthy atmosphere. We will be firm in our ideals and beliefs, exercise party leadership over cadres, be persistent in improving conduct and discipline, and strengthen discipline in an all-round way. The key to doing a good job in China is in the party and strengthening party construction is the fundamental guarantee of realizing the interests of the masses. Our party does not forget his original aspiration and has strong faith and determination to lead people of all ethnic groups to the revival of the Chinese nation and walk steadily into the center of the world stage.

## Epilogue

The political development covers economic, cultural, social and other fields. Therefore, its practice also includes all aspects, only the democratic political construction, the-rule-of-law construction, the government ability construction, the party construction respectively is difficult to include the practical proposition of the political development comprehensively. In terms of China's political development, the report of the 19th national congress of the communist party of China clearly stated that the social principal contradiction has shifted, which means that the principal contradiction in the field of political development has also shifted. In this context, the theoretical framework of social principal contradiction is used to analyze the principal contradiction in the field of political development. This can more scientifically and rationally grasp the challenges and objectives of

China's political development practice in the new era. However, the following questions, that is, what are the causes of the challenges faced by China's political development in the new era? How should we choose the practical path of political development in China in the new era? What is the significance of promoting China's political development in terms of the world's political development? etc., need to be specially pointed out that the practice logic of socialist political development road with Chinese characteristics is closely related to its historical logic and theoretical logic, which, at the same time, can also effectively promote the development of China's political practice.

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