

## Analyzing the Theoretical System of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics

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### Abstract

It was mentioned in the report at the Seventeenth National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) that the root causes of what we have achieved since the implementation of the reform and opening up policy are, in conclusion, that the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics has been created and the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics has come into beings. The theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics is a dynamic historical process and by now it has experienced three stages. Since the implementation of the reform and opening-up policy, it has become Chinese Marxism and expanded Marxism in three aspects of socialism, party and development. It has summed up thirty's practice and experience of implementing reform and opening up policy and made a theoretical summary. Therefore, it has become the guide to building the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics and the CPC's guiding ideology.

**Keywords:** Deng Xiaoping Theory, Important Thought of Three Represents, Theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics

The root causes of what we have achieved since the implementation of the reform and opening up policy are, in conclusion, that the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics has been created and the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics has come into beings.

### 1. The theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics is a dynamic historical process and by now it has experienced three stages.

The first is, from the 12<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the CPC to the 15<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the CPC, Deng Xiaoping Theory stage. At the 12<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the CPC, Deng Xiaoping said, "go our own way and build socialism with Chinese characteristics". As what is socialism with Chinese characteristics and How to build it, he did not explain in detail. The 13<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the CPC, according to comrade Deng Xiaoping theory of building socialism with Chinese characteristics, proposed thirteen points as to what is socialism with Chinese characteristics. The 14<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the CPC further raised the concept of comrade Deng Xiaoping Theory of building socialism with Chinese characteristics. The 15<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the CPC named the theory of building socialism with Chinese characteristics as Deng Xiaoping Theory. In other words, Deng Xiaoping Theory is the theory of building socialism with Chinese characteristics.

The second is, from the 15<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the CPC to the 16<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the CPC, the stage of the Important Thought of Three Represents. The 16<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the CPC hoisted the Important Thought of Three Represents to be the CPC's guiding ideology, and the theory of building socialism with Chinese characteristics has different value from Deng Xiaoping Theory. In the report at the 16<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the CPC, theory of building socialism with Chinese characteristics actually included the Important Thought of Three Represents. After the 16<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the CPC, three Chinese characters were omitted and theory of building socialism with Chinese characteristics becomes "theory of socialism with Chinese characteristics".

The third, from the 16<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the CPC to the 17<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the CPC, is the stage of the Scientific Outlook on Development. Since the 16<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the CPC, a series of important strategic thoughts such as scientific outlook on development, building a socialist harmonious society, etc have been put forward.

To sum up, the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics raised at the 17<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the CPC includes such vital strategic thoughts as Deng Xiaoping Theory, the Important Thought of Three Represents and the Scientific Outlook on Development and other major strategic thoughts. This new conclusion becomes one of the great contributions at the 17<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the CPC. It is a historical process in the same tradition.

## **2. Theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics has become Chinese Marxism since the implementation of reform and opening up policy.**

Comrade Hu Jintao pointed out that the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics is an open one, which develops unceasingly. Since the Communist Manifesto was published, about 160 years of practice has proved that only by combining with the national conditions of China, progressing with the times and sharing joys and sorrows of life with the people, can Marxism demonstrate strong vitality, creativity and inspiration force. This shows that the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics is an open system advancing with the times and can be able to continuously absorb the latest achievements of Chinese Marxism. An open theoretical system will not rigidly adhere to rules, and is not frozen in the dead theories. It does not worship the books either. A developing theoretical system is not conservative. It will change with the times and conditions to obtain innovation and development. Historical process of China's revolution, construction and reform has repeatedly shown that Marxism is not a dogma but a guide to action. Only by combining the basic principles of Marxism with the specific national conditions of a country, and the real needs of developing the causes of the CPC and the Chinese people, can the theory be developed continuously and the Party be armed to unite and lead the whole Chinese people to success. The fact that the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics has a strong vitality lies in that it does not only adhere to the basic principles of scientific socialism, but also gives it distinct Chinese characteristics in accordance with China's reality. In contemporary China, to adhere to the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics is to really abide by Marxism. With the further promotion of the reform and opening up policy and the increasing development of building socialism with Chinese characteristics, and the CPC's further understanding of the ruling law, socialist construction law and the development law of human society, the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics will surely continue to be interpreted from more new perspectives, to be continuously enriched and get fully developed.

## **3. The theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics has expanded Marxist theory in three aspects of socialism, party and development.**

Adhere to the Marxist ideological line, the Communist Party of China has constantly explored and sought the keys to some major theoretical and practical issues, for example, what is socialism and how to build socialism, what kind of Party it is to build and how to build it, what development it wants to realize and how to realize it, and so on, continuously pushed forward Chinese Marxism, upheld and enriched the Party's basic theory, basic line, basic guiding principles and basic experience. This shows that the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics bears the distinctive feature of innovation. I think people should in the aspect of the distinctive characteristics of the communists embodied in this theoretical system, in the great practice of guiding the reform in the new era, from the perspective of realizing the sublimation of ideological theory, understand and grasp the latest achievements of Marxism in China. The first great sublimation lies in continuously exploring and giving answers to the questions of what is socialism and how to build it. The CPC, from the new period of setting things right to the period of overall reform and opening up, has created a new situation of building socialist modernization. During this process, Deng Xiaoping Theory has been established, and a series of such fundamental issues that the CPC has in the primary stage of socialism as the vitals of rejuvenating China, the foundation for China and the strategy to strengthen China, have been distinctly put forward. The second great sublimation lies in constantly exploring and giving answers to the questions of what Party to build and how to build it. With the Important Thought of Three Represents advocated by comrade Jiang Zemin as a mark, the CPC deeply understands and grasps the changed conditions of the world, the country and the party organization in the new historical environment. It further settles the issues of what socialism is and how to build it. Meanwhile, it creatively answers the questions of what party to build and how to build it, thus clearly defining the new historical position of CPC. From the angle of adhering to the Important Thought of the Three Represents it proposes the contemporary programs of upholding and developing the Party's advancement and improving the Party's ruling capacity and a series of essential issues, namely, the foundation for building the Party, the cornerstone for its governance and the source of its strength. The third great sublimation lies in constantly exploring and answering what development to realize and how to achieve it. With the Scientific Outlook on Development proposed as a mark, the Party Central Committee with comrade Hu Jintao as general secretary, scientifically sums up the important experience of implementing the reform and opening up policy and development, accurately grasps the historical requirements of building an all-around well-off society in the new century and new stage, puts forward important strategic thoughts of Scientific Outlook on Development and of constructing socialist harmonious society, which hoists the issue of development to the high level of people first, displaying fairness and justice, achieving all-round growth of people and overall social development and the sustainable development of resources and environment. In this process, a series of essential problems such as the foundation, method, and law of development are clearly put forward. In the new era the

Party's three great sublimations in theoretical understanding have been continually promoting Marxism in China to a new real.

#### **4. The theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics is the experience summary and theoretical generalization of three decades of implementing reform and opening up policy.**

Broadly speaking, there are 15 theories, namely, (1) theory of primary stage of socialism, (2) theory of socialist reform and opening up, (3) theory of socialist market economy, (4) theory of socialist nature, (5) theory of basic economic system in the primary stage of socialism with the public ownership as the dominant role and the mutual development of diversified ownership economy, (6) the theory that science and technology are the primary productive forces, (7) theory about development of scientific socialism, (8) theory of socialist harmonious society, (9) theory of socialist democracy and the rule of law, (10) theory of building socialist spiritual civilization, (11) theory of socialist peaceful development, (12) theory of going the way of national defense and building the troops with Chinese characteristics, (13) theory of "One Country Two Systems" and peaceful reunification of China, (14) theory of building Marxist party, (15) theory of independent foreign policy.

This theoretical system runs through philosophy, political economy, scientific socialism and other fields and involves in economy, politics, science, technology, education, culture, ethnics, military, foreign affairs, united front, China reunification, Party building, and so on. It does not only get rid of the dogmatic understanding of Marxism, but also resists the false claim of abandoning the basic system of socialism. It does not only uphold the basic principles of scientific socialism, but also bears distinctive features of the times and Chinese characteristics. It does not only inherit the predecessors, but also break the stereotypes. It opens up a new realm of Marxism and becomes the latest development of Marxism.

#### **5. The theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics is the guide to build the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics. It also becomes the Party's guiding ideology.**

The road of socialism with Chinese characteristics is to, under the leadership of the party and on the basis of the fundamental national conditions, take the economic construction as center, adhere to the four cardinal principles and reform and opening up policy, liberate and develop social productive forces, consolidate and improve the socialist system, build socialist market economy, socialist democracy, socialist advanced culture, and socialist harmonious society in order to achieve a prosperous, democratic, civilized and harmonious modern socialist country. The reasons why the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics is absolutely right and can be able to lead China to great development and progress lie in that we Chinese people do not only stick to the basic principles of scientific socialism but endow it with distinct Chinese characteristics in accordance with the reality of China and time features. In contemporary China, adhering to the socialist road with Chinese characteristics is literally upholding socialism.

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