

**An Outline and Analysis of the Politics and Economics of Socialism with  
Chinese Characteristics**

**by**

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## **Abstract**

The exploration of the socialist path by the Communist Party of China (CPC) has undergone a tortuous process from "taking the Russian road" to "taking China's own road". Combined with the change of the CPC's understanding of the Soviet model, it is thus of great significance to make a thorough and systematic study of the tortuous development process, experience and lessons of China's socialist path as a whole, especially the innovation of the socialist path with Chinese characteristics. Marx and Engels had not systematically studied what kind of socialist path backward countries might take after the victory of the revolution, which required socialist countries to continue to explore the path in practice. The Soviet State was the first country in the world to explore the socialist model. It was once a model for all socialist countries, including China. The CPC's understanding of the Soviet model has had a far-reaching impact on China's socialist path.

The research contents of this paper include two interrelated parts. Firstly, it analyses the development path of socialism with Chinese characteristics from the political aspect, including the choice of political system, the political preferences of leaders in different periods, and the lessons learned from the failure of the Soviet Union as a whole. The second part is to analyse the socialist system with Chinese characteristics from the economic point of view. Including the establishment of the economic system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, its development background and course, etc. By comparing the failure of Soviet economic policy, this paper analyses the merits of socialist economic policy with Chinese characteristics. The CPC has developed from studying the Soviet model to socialism with Chinese characteristics. This is the origin of the CPC's exploration of a socialist road suitable for China.

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## **Introduction**

Socialism develops differently in different countries. In China, Marxism, which had been introduced into China for many years, had two products: Mao Zedong thought; and the Theory of Socialism with Chinese characteristics. China is the largest socialist country in the world. After the 19th National Congress of the CPC (18th Oct 2017). Socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era, which is not only with distinctive features of the times and Chinese characteristics, but also has theoretical and practical values. After nearly forty years of reform and opening up, great changes have taken place in Chinese society, and the transition from a survival society to a developing society has been realised. It is obvious that there are a lot of 'hot spots' and difficulties in practice and theory that need us to answer and explore.

To forefront socialism with Chinese characteristics, the main thing is not to solve what socialism is, and what characterises Chinese socialism theoretically, but focus on how to develop socialism in China and how to maintain the socialist nature of China through development, which is precisely the essence of the theory of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Socialism with Chinese characteristics is a kind of socialism carried out under the leadership of the Communist Party of China according to the historical and realistic logic of China. It adheres to the basic principles of Marxism, to the leadership of Marxist political parties, to the guiding position of Marxist ideology and takes a socialist path. It is essentially different from democracy. Socialism does not copy the experience of other countries; it proceeds from China's reality and takes the road with Chinese characteristics, which is more different from the Soviet model of socialism. Adhering to and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics can achieve national prosperity, national rejuvenation and the people's happiness.

Socialism with Chinese characteristics is a kind of socialism carried out under the leadership of the CPC according to China's national conditions. The "characteristics" of socialism with Chinese characteristics are manifested in the socialist economic system with Chinese characteristics: a socialist market economy; the political pursuit of socialism with

Chinese characteristics – realising people's ownership; and a society with Chinese characteristics. At the origins of this socialist culture are: the guiding position of Marxism; the fundamental purpose of socialism with Chinese characteristics – to achieve common prosperity; the inherent requirements of socialism with Chinese characteristics – to achieve social equity and justice; the fundamental guarantee of socialism with Chinese characteristics – the leadership of the CPC. From the perspective of 500 years of world socialism, before the maturity of new scientific socialism, there were three types of socialist practice: the Soviet Union model, democratic socialism (the Rhine model) and "the third road", which constituted the historical background of socialism with Chinese characteristics in Xi Jinping's new era. China's new scientific socialism practice, drawing lessons from the world's socialist practice, taking into account both "unity" and "diversity", opens up the fourth type of socialist practice, namely, socialist practice 4.0, which is also a new development model and can be called "the fourth road". In terms of China's practice, socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era is a reform. There is an upgraded version of socialism with Chinese characteristics since the opening up, socialism with Chinese characteristics 4.1. New scientific socialism has promoted the revival of world socialism, and its modernisation path has a reference significance for some developing countries.

From the perspective of social history, we can know that different social forms have different historical periods and different stages of development. In terms of social formation, human beings have experienced slave society, feudal society, capitalist society and socialist society; in terms of historical periods, our nation has experienced the Spring and Autumn Warring States, Qin, Han, Tang, Song, Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties, starting from Yao, Shun and Yu. The history of the country includes the rule of the Han Dynasty, the rule of Zhenguan in the Tang Dynasty, the prosperity of Yongle in the Ming Dynasty and the prosperity of Kang and Qian in the Qing Dynasty, all of which are relatively prosperous development stages in history. In this way, in different social forms, different historical periods and different stages of development, the main contradictions of social development are also different.

Socialist society is not a natural process of change in human society, but it is an emergence, a great outbreak of human thought, and it is also the result of a long-term exploration by advanced peoples of the basic problem of social relations between people since the history of human civilisation. The emergence of socialist thought and the opening of the path to socialist practice marked the beginning of the end of the division and confrontation of human social life, for a long time based on private ownership, and the coming of an era in which human groups jointly initiated innovative lives. The general layout of socialism with Chinese characteristics is the top-level design and strategic layout of the construction of socialism with Chinese characteristics. It was formed by the Chinese Communists on the basis of thinking deeply about "what is socialism and how to build socialism" and by realising the strategic objectives of socialist modernisation and the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Since the founding of New China 70 years ago, the CPC has led the Chinese people to forge ahead on the socialist road, and has written a magnificent epic of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. In the past 70 years, China has made remarkable achievements in its development. Its social productivity and comprehensive national strength have achieved a historic leap, the leap from poverty and backwardness to prosperity. The prosperity has not only brought about tremendous changes in our country, but also contributed China's experience to the development of the world economy. With its vivid practices and great achievements, socialism with Chinese characteristics vividly answers the important question of why socialism with Chinese characteristics succeeds. In these considerations, Chinese Characteristic Socialism can be a valuable theme for research in China and foreign countries.

To achieve the above, I will focus on the analysis of the Politics and Economics of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics and try to explain it from different aspects. By comparing with the Soviet Union, Britain and other countries, this thesis explains why China chose the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics, mainly from the political and economic aspects. This thesis analyses the developmental process of socialism with Chinese characteristics over the past decades and the stage achievements that have been made. This



thesis will also address the controversy of different scholars about socialism with Chinese characteristics and will try to respond to their questions and puzzles.

## **Chapter 1: Literature Review**

This chapter discusses the literature of socialism in China and foreign countries. The evolution of the logic system of scientific socialism in the 70-years of New China's history is as follows: the socialist planned economic system has set preconditions for the appearance of new China in the international system; through internal reform and opening-up, it has effectively solved the historic problems of new China's practice of scientific socialism in the international system; and brought in a new era of China. Socialism with Chinese characteristics opened up a new realm of scientific socialism in the 21st century. Therefore, people must realise that the 70-years history of new China is essentially a history of development that not only adheres to the basic principles of scientific socialism, but also endows it with distinct characteristics according to the conditions of the times: the inherent consistency in the direction of scientific socialism in the two historical periods before and after the reform and opening-up; and the new era should be pushed forward unremittingly. In the course of the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics, scientific socialism in the 21st century will be pushed to a new level.

The main thoughts of Scientific Socialism originate with Marx and Engels. Marx established the theory of Historical Materialism and Surplus Value, by which socialism has become science from utopia (Engels, 2014). Stalin (1946) also pointed out that the Political party is the leading force in the country, this means that if we want to build a strong country, we must adhere to the leadership of the Political party. David McLellan (1979) emphasised the importance of the people to the leadership. Some Scholars prefer to focus their researches on the history of socialism on different countries. Besides this, tremendous existing studies have focused on the relationship between Chinese Characteristic Socialism and the scientific socialism. For Ci Zhigang (2018), Algeria's self-governing socialism is a type of Arab socialism. It originated from the theory and practice of Saint-Simonists in the colonial period and became the political choice of nationalists in the struggle for independence. It has gone through two stages of workers' spontaneous self-management movement and government-led, self-management socialism, and formed a unique development model. Self-governing

socialism is of great significance to Algeria's economic and political independence in the early period of independence.

Qian Qin (2019) makes a thorough study of the history and reality of human labour so as to give a new understanding of scientific socialism, pointing out that the ancient origin of human labour is the origin of normal labour with a certain animal nature; normal labour is the normal labour representing good, it is human labour, and it determines that normal labour belongs to human labour. Human normal labour will realise the perfection of human labour. As a result, human society will enter the stage of communist social development. The process of perfecting labour is the stage of existence and development of socialist society. Therefore, the essence of socialism is the perfection of human labour. For Meng Xianbo (2019), the understanding and practice of socialism can be summarised as follows: the superiority of the socialist system is embodied in promoting the development of productive forces and realising people's common prosperity. Democratisation is the inherent requirement of the essence of socialism. Socialism must adhere to the people's dominant position and solve the problem of "for whom, who to rely on and who I am". To build socialism, we should adhere to the ideological line of seeking truth from facts and follow China's own path.

Su Zhe (2016) argues that in the overall development of the capitalist world system, we should examine the basis and origin of socialism in backward countries. The reason why we choose "marginal socialism" instead of "socialism in backward countries", is that perhaps the "marginal" can reveal the internal relations of the world system, while "backward" is only an intuitive and external comparison concept. Marginal socialism was realised against the background of imperial righteous war, but when it was first realised, it was not fully aware of its own historical basis, development path and the orientation of world history. In the process of transition from marginal countries to socialism, marginal socialism has been formed. Wang Rifeng (2013) holds the view that market socialism is a combination of market economy and socialism. Together, the social ideological trend of attempting to achieve the goal of socialist value through market mechanism has played an important role in the world's left-wing theoretical circles and is a general term for advocating and exploring the road and mode of

combining socialism with market economy for nearly a century. Although market socialism has been practiced for a short time (British Labour Party), it still remains at the level of theoretical design and has a strong fantastic colour. Luo Xianhua & Liu Luo (2012) demonstrate how democratic socialism originated from the second international revisionist Bernstein's "mainstream" view of the origin of democratic socialism. If the publication of 'The Communist Manifesto' in 1848 is regarded as the symbol of the birth of scientific socialism, then democratic socialism precedes scientific socialism. In his book 'What is Ownership' that was published in 1840, Proudhon not only advocated universal suffrage, an abandonment of revolution and "the third form of society", but also launched an attack on the Communist system in particular. These propositions of Proudhon have typical characteristics of democratic socialism, so Proudhon is the "originator" of democratic socialism and has original significance. In the book 'The Communist Manifesto', Marx and Engels analysed various popular schools of socialism and communism at that time. In essence, these schools belonged to democratic socialism.

In China, a substantial body of literature is available on my research theme. This can be divided into different parts by different topics. As for the origin of Chinese Characteristic Socialism, Deng Xiaoping (1993) pointed out that the so-called "socialism with Chinese characteristics", that is, "socialism with Chinese characteristics that suits China's reality", has combined the basic principles of scientific socialism with the concrete reality of China. Jiang Liu (2011) thought China has its own national conditions which means that it has particular development features. Huang Huaixiang (2016) pointed out that CPC has effectively avoided "short-term behavior" in its ruling practice, which ensures the long-term stability of the national fundamental policy. Ma En (1999) argues that China's reform is based on the historical basis of socialism: to achieve final success, we must fundamentally rationalise some key factors in the history of socialism. The peasant problem may become an essential clue to observe and explain the origin and change of socialism in China, under its leadership, it can be deepened.

Han Zhu (2018) holds the view that since the Han Dynasty, China has produced a simple socialist ideology: preventing land annexation and social polarisation have been regarded as a basic national policy of state governance in successive dynasties. The CPC is the successor of the excellent Chinese culture: combining traditional Chinese culture with scientific socialism introduced from Europe, it inherits and develops the simple socialist thought in the traditional culture, and chooses the road to socialism after mastering state power. It is not only a historical necessity, but also a realistic need. Moreover, because of the historical conditions at that time, if China did not choose the socialist road in the 1950s, it may be difficult for the new state power to be stable, and China would probably fall into the dilemma of war and dispute again.

Di Chengguang (2017) pointed out that since the Eighteenth National Congress of the CPC in the year of 2012, on the basis of the great achievements made in the development of China since the founding of New China, especially since the reform and opening up, the cause of the Party and the state has undergone historic changes, and socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new stage of development. Socialism with Chinese characteristics is closely related to the primary stage of socialism. Fundamentally speaking, the primary stage of socialism is the historical stage of gradually getting rid of underdevelopment and basically realising socialist modernisation, that is, gradually narrowing the gap with the advanced level of the world and realising the great restoration of the Chinese nation on the basis of socialism. In this historical stage of prosperity, with the continuous development of the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics, the primary stage of socialism is bound to have the characteristics of constant change. In some specific stages of its development, it presents different stage characteristics, and the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics will inevitably undergo some "historic changes".

Zhao guoying & Zhang Ronghua (2018) posit that the general layout of socialism with Chinese characteristics is a strategic cognition and arrangement for building socialism. Therefore, the general layout of socialism with Chinese characteristics can be divided into three forms from different angles, namely, the general layout of theoretical form, the general

layout of practical form and the general layout of institutional form. The general layout not only furthers our theoretical understanding of what socialism is as a concept, but also how to promote the realisation of socialist construction in practice, or the construction of a system to safeguard socialist construction. Among them, the general layout of theoretical form is the guidance, the general layout of practical form is the path, and the general layout of institutional form is the guarantee. Although the overall layout of the three forms is relatively independent and their functional objectives are different, they coordinate, embed and coexist harmoniously with each other, forming an organic whole of "trinity", which promotes the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics towards the established strategic objectives.

Wang Changjiang (2019) pointed out that after China's victory in the War of Resistance Against Japan in the year of 1945, the CPC, having determined to take the socialist path, caught up with the Soviet Union as soon as possible, entered socialism, and began to shape the society and the Party itself according to the Soviet model. Given the situation, where socialism and capitalism confronted each other and forced us to "lean to one side", we chose to join the socialist camp, because "leaning to one side" meant recognising that the Soviet Union was the eldest brother of socialism and that the Communist Party of the Soviet Union was the eldest Party of the Communist Party. This big party also explicitly required all parties to build socialism in accordance with the Soviet model, used as a criterion to judge the "completeness" of socialism in all countries. Under this pressure, a rigid system can be formed. Thirdly, the inertia formed by the Party leading the revolutionary struggle in the way of thinking and behaviour had an important influence on the Party's leadership and governance. Although the Communist Party of China obeyed the rules of the Soviet Communist Party from the beginning of its founding, they have taken root in their own land through a long process of "sinicisation", and thus formed their own unique thinking habits and behaviour. This highly centralised and unified way of thinking and behaviour has a very high degree of consonance with the Socialism that the Soviet Communist Party considers, but it is really indigenous and deep-rooted.

Turning now to question of ideology, Zheng Yongnian (2010) holds the view that the ideology represents the development direction of the whole country and how the party can act as a blueprint for the people to achieve this goal of development. If the political party cannot build a new ideology, the ruling ability of the party will also accelerate to decline because of the continued development of the economy. XuYan & Mi Huaquan (2019) highlight that the report of the Nineteenth National Congress of the CPC pointed out that ideology dictates the direction of cultural progress and the path of development, and we must build a socialist ideology with strong cohesion and leadership. Against a background of economic globalisation, social mediatisation and cultural diversity, to strengthen and improve socialist ideological construction we must implement the new development concept, the basic strategy of upholding and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era. Only by stimulating vitality through innovation, coordinating forces of convergence, improving quality by opening up and constructing pattern, and sharing and consolidating foundation, can we achieve the development goal of "two consolidations" and firmly grasp ideological leadership. Yu Bo (2019) analyses the construction of socialist ideology from the perspective of social stratification. This paper reveals the cultural challenges faced by the construction of socialist ideology against the background of stratum differentiation from the perspectives of Western elitism culture, domestic stratum subculture trends of thought, and efficiency and fair value conflicts. These can provide a useful reference for the era and give an international perspective of the construction of mainstream ideology in China against the background of effectively promoting stratum differentiation. As an important social phenomenon, stratum differentiation has objectivity. It has real relevance in the process of building socialism with Chinese characteristics and in the process of modernisation of the world's socialist countries.

Su Jin (1998) pointed out that the fifteenth National Congress of the CPC argued that public ownership is the basis for the common development of multi-ownership economy, which is a basic economic system in the primary stage of socialism in China. Liberate the productive forces. Only by developing productive forces can we promote the great development of socialist economy. The basic socialist economic system, as the inherent quality of socialism itself, embodies in the social and economic relations. Like the

development of any society, the development of socialist society has its own characteristics. Han Zhu (2018) thinks that in the period of reform and opening-up, we should solve people's livelihood problems by combining socialism with market economy. From the point of view of the mechanism of human social and economic development, a market economy, with the competition mechanism as its core, is the most effective form of resource allocation. In order to get out of the planned economy model of the former Soviet Union, it is obviously a better choice for China to introduce market economy mechanism. But the achievements of the reform in the past three decades also prove this point. China's market-oriented reform has been successful. Over the past three decades, China's economic growth has been the fastest in the world. Globally, among the 500 kinds of industrial products, China has 220 products with the highest output in the world. By 2011, China's economy had surpassed Japan's and become the world's second largest economy. And it is expected to surpass the United States as the world's largest economy in the next two decades.

Xi Jinping (2013) has drawn from an analysis of the historical process of the evolution of socialism, and identifies six periods: Utopian socialism; scientific socialism; Lenin's socialist ideology; soviet union model; our party's exploration of socialism after the founding of new China; and Socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era. This research has in turn had its own impact; Qin Shusheng & Sun Meixiao (2018) propose that Xi Jinping's socialist thought with Chinese characteristics in the new era is holistic, which is embodied in the following three aspects. First, it is a scientific theoretical system with distinct theme, clear content and clear logical level. There are not only logical connections among various parts, but also an organic whole, which shows the whole of theory. Second, it inherits and keeps pace with the times in the development of the theory of socialism with Chinese characteristics. The development from Xi Jinping's idea of governing the local government to the Nineteenth National Congress of the CPC is consistent and continuous, which demonstrates the integrity of the development. And third, it emphasises the construction of a community of human destiny, promotes the construction of a new type of international relations with win-win cooperation as the core, realises mutual learning, complementarity and coexistence of world



cultures, and works together to build an ecological civilisation, which highlights the integrity of space.

I will argue that the development of Chinese socialism in the past 40 years illustrates a predicament in revolutionary socialism. The Cultural Revolution of the 1960s, it will be maintained, was fundamentally an attempt to create a new revolutionary language. I will explore how Mao Zedong was absorbed in the rigidity of the revolution under the new regime, not because the Chinese society stayed obviously unchanged after 1949, but because the revolution had accomplished its direct goal, and the revolutionary leadership increasingly failed to see its socialist ideal. The study will show how the Cultural Revolution firmly believed that if we did not re-create a new language, history would certainly re-establish its hegemony over the revolution and transfer it from the road of socialist progress.

I will explore the contexts of the development of Chinese Characteristic Socialism, which of course includes two parts: The Chinese Characteristic Socialist Road, and the Socialist theories with Chinese characteristics. The new thought about Chinese Characteristic Socialism, namely Xi Jinping's Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a new era, falls into the latter section. Socialism with Chinese characteristics is the summary of the CPC's current programme. Its scientific implication is to combine the general truth of Marxism with the specific reality of our country, take the road suitable for Chinese characteristics, gradually realise the modernisation of industry, agriculture, national defence and science and technology, and building China into a strong, prosperous, democratic, civilised, harmonious and beautiful socialist modernisation power. On the one hand, we should adhere to the basic principles of Marxism and follow society's development. On the other hand, we must proceed from China's reality, not copy other countries' experiences and models, but take the road with Chinese characteristics.

## **Chapter 2: Methodology**

This chapter is mainly about the discussion of research methods. This study adopts qualitative research, mainly descriptive analysis. I mainly use the basic method of analysing the problem of the theory of Marxism to carry out the research. This study insists on applying the dialectical principle of the analysis of the problem of Marxism and the basic attitude of seeking truth from facts, and objectively expounds the development road and mode of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Dialectically analysed the socialist pattern with Chinese characteristics. At the same time, by comparing with the Soviet Union, we draw the conclusion that we should stick to the basic mode of socialism with Chinese characteristics and absorb the reasonable elements of market socialism. At the same time, this study will also dialectically criticise the views of different students and insist on the origin and development of socialism with Chinese characteristics as a researcher. As for the methods I will use the following.

The first method is literature analysis: literature research method mainly means collecting, identifying, collating documents, and through the study of literature, forming a scientific understanding of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Documentation is a common scientific research method. There exists a rich literature of research papers on socialism with Chinese characteristics. The documents include not only printed books, published periodicals, dissertations, scientific reports and archives, but also various materials including physical objects. I plan to adopt a traditional method in this research, namely, literature analysis. Concretely, the literature collection, review and analysis can enable me to get an overview of this issue, from which I can draw preliminary conclusions about the topic and hopefully find out a creative answer to it. Resources include Writings about Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping, Hu Jintao, Jiang Zemin, Xi Jinping and other famous scholars. Besides this, the reports of National Congress of the CPC from its 1<sup>st</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> sessions should also be on the reading lists, as well as the excellent periodicals on my research.

I will set out the background of the development of Chinese Characteristic Socialism. This will include historical and other realistic perspectives. I will argue that it was inevitable

for the Chinese people to embark on the socialist road. However, I will also argue that it was a historical choice made by the Chinese people under the leadership of the CPC. This is because of the special historical conditions of modern China and the historical process of globalisation. This part will also contain western scholars' views about Chinese Characteristic Socialism. Through the existing literature, we analyse the course of socialism with Chinese characteristics, especially why the CPC has persisted in the principle of "seeking truth from facts and concrete analysis of specific problems" since the reform and opening up. The practice of Sinicisation further proves that the theoretical achievements of Sinicisation of political economy of the main body of justice are always adhering to the fundamental position of "seeking truth from facts".

This study will also conclude that since the reform and opening up, the CPC has inherited and applied historical materialism and dialectical materialism, creatively put forward and applied a series of new methodologies that are full of the characteristics of the times, constantly innovating the theory of political economy, and led the development and prosperity of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the past forty years of reform and opening up, especially in the political and economic fields. Based on the argumentation of the basic theory and the value of the times of the political economy, this study focuses on the two aspects of political development and economic development, systematically combining and studying the course of the Chinese Communist Party's Sinicisation of the basic theory of Marxism and its corresponding theoretical achievements in the past century. Based on the historical logic of Sinicisation of Marx's political economy since the reform and opening up, this study summarises its practical contributions and basic experience. Through the analysis of the path of the reform of the political and economic system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, this paper summarises the new achievements and basic experience of the CPC's inheritance and development of the political economy, and forms research results with theoretical analysis significance, so as to enhance the ideological leading power and the discourse leading power of the political economy of the Marxist political economy.

The second method is the Case study. Case study is a common research method in the social science. I will select typical cases such as China, USSR and The UK to analyse the development of socialism. There are many sources of research materials. Not only can data be obtained through investigation, interview and observation, but also the aggregate results of literature, such as books and periodicals, letters and diaries, archives, maps, genealogical records, official statistics and photographs, videos and new media sound images, can be included in case studies. Case study method can use a variety of research methods or select several of them. I will obtain information about the origin and development of socialism according to the actual conditions such as libraries, networks and other databases. I will conduct in-depth political and economic studies on socialism with Chinese characteristics through case studies. This process must collect data through various means and ways, and analyse and integrate them, to understand the ins and outs of socialism and establish a sound foundation for the analysis of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Socialism with Chinese characteristics is the product of the Sinicisation of Marxism, which is a good typical case of socialist research. After a long period of development, socialism with Chinese characteristics has shown a strong driving force for development. The economic strength of socialism with Chinese characteristics is increasing day by day, and the comprehensive national strength and international status are gradually improving. I will analyse the success and development prospects of socialism with Chinese characteristics through case analysis.

The October Revolution of the Soviet Union ushered in a new epoch of history. It was fashioned into socialism; as a consequence, socialism changed from theory to reality, and the first socialist country in the world was born. The new Soviet regime represented the direction of the development of world history, the world pattern had changed, and the era of coexistence of the two social systems had come. Based on the development rule of the world's political and economic situation, and taking advantage of the favourable conditions provided by globalisation, we scientifically guided the Russian Revolution to build socialism in the era of coexistence of two systems, to realise the modernisation and electrification of industry and

agriculture, and consolidate the dictatorship of the proletariat. The Stalinist model had great influence on the development of Soviet socialism. With the continuous development of globalisation, the mode of Stalinist has seriously hindered the process of globalisation, and the increasingly rigid and closed mode of the mode has been out of step with such a globalised situation. In violation of the law of social development, we can only be mercilessly eliminated by history. Eventually, the process led to the collapse of the Soviet Union and the dramatic transformation of Eastern Europe under a wave of globalisation.

We may know that the Stalin model may have made some achievements in socialist construction, and it also has some significance for the promotion of socialist construction in the future. Precisely because of this, we need to objectively evaluate and reflect on Stalin's model in a global perspective. The socialist reform of the Soviet Union includes the globalisation motivation and orientation of the socialist reform of the Soviet Union and the globalisation perspective of the disintegration of the Soviet Union. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics ceased to exist and declared the end of an era. After that, the leaders of the Soviet Union underwent a great change, from simple resistance to socialist reform, to its uninformed and precipitous adoption. However, history shows that without the guidance of scientific theory, reform that cannot extract the essential trend of the times could only push the Soviet Union into the abyss of perdition. We can know that the development of socialism with Chinese characteristics and the development of socialism in Soviet Union are typical cases.

The development of British socialism is more diversified, with a continuous merging of theoretical and practical development. Some of the visionaries had practiced many emerging socialist practices in England. For example, there was a famous cotton mill at New Lanark, which was a socialist experimental village managed from 1800 by utopian socialist and British thinker Robert Owen. In this village he carried out a series of practices according to his own ideas, including creating good working conditions for workers and reducing working hours. The world's first nurseries and schools were opened for workers' children. Here,

education was provided, for children and adult workers(see from the Wikipedia of Robert Owen).

However, the practice of socialism ultimately failed. The Fabian Society is the oldest socialist group in Britain. Since its establishment in 1884, it has always regarded social reform as its fundamental goal. Fabian Socialist Thought is the Fabian Society's theory about the goal and method of socialism. Through the analysis of more than a hundred years, with the continuous development of British society and the course of changes of Fabian socialism, it first achieved socialist goals by "infiltrating" the Conservative Party and the Liberal Party, and then by making the affiliated Labour Party its think tank. It provides solutions to various problems in British society and has an important impact on all aspects of British society. It is also one of the important symbols of the development of socialism in British society.

The third method adopted in this study is comparative analysis: this mainly includes horizontal comparison and vertical comparison. Horizontal comparison is a comparison between different countries, for example, the general situation of socialist development in China, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and other countries. How did socialism with Chinese characteristics take root and sprout successfully in China? Why did the Soviet Union's socialist road fail and why Britain did not choose the socialist road? Vertical comparison is how the leaders of different periods in China choose the socialist road and how to promote the development of socialism. There is also a summary and summary of the development process of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

From a horizontal comparison comparative analysis, the development of socialism with Chinese characteristics is quite different from that of other countries and regions. For example, the development of socialism with Chinese characteristics is the product of Sinicisation of Marxism and the practice of scientific socialism. Socialism with Chinese characteristics is the path chosen by countless Chinese people after many attempts. Especially after the reform and opening up, great progress has been made in the political and economic aspects of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Socialism in the Soviet Union developed rapidly after the October Revolution. The political and economic reform measures gradually deviated from the socialist road, which also led to the disintegration of the Soviet Union. From the point of thinking about the socialist economic system, to the practice of the Communist Policy and the new economic policy in wartime, and to the implementation of the socialist industrialisation and the five year plan of the national economy and the promulgation of the 1936 constitution, this is the basic process of the selection and establishment of the economic system of the first socialist country in the world. Although the Soviet Union carried out some reforms later, the basic principles of the socialist economic system never changed.

The development of socialism in Britain has also risen and fallen in the long history, but Britain is heading down the road to capitalism. It was decided by the British bourgeois revolution. The bourgeois revolution was led by new landlords, aristocrats and petty bourgeoisies in Britain. Its purpose was to seek space and legal protection for the development of capitalism. The bourgeoisie adopted a compromise attitude in the face of monarchy, allowing the existence of monarchy and establishing a constitutional monarchy. At the same time, Britain was an early capitalist country: bourgeois forces were in the majority in the Britain, so they can only be capitalism, not socialism.

From a vertical comparative analysis, there are great differences in the origin and development of socialism with Chinese characteristics. During the early years, some revolutionary leaders explored the way of China's development: an example being Sun Yat-sen who tried to lead the Chinese people on a different road of development. After the founding of the people's Republic of China, the exploration of socialism was mainly in the spheres of politics, economy and diplomacy. Mao Zedong and others established 'new China', and gradually moved towards the socialist road through three major transformations. After reform and opening up in the year of 1978, we will realise the policy of reform and opening up and vigorously develop the economy. We should focus on economic construction and set up special zones to promote the development of foreign trade. In rural areas, the household contract responsibility system was implemented, and grain production greatly increased. The

political system of socialism with Chinese characteristics has been gradually improved and the pace of economic development has been continuously improving. Entering the new era, that is, the emergence of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era has further promoted the development of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and its contents and forms of expression have been continuously enriched. Through the comparison of these different periods, I will summarise the development of socialism with Chinese characteristics for decades. But I mainly analyse the origin and development of socialism with Chinese characteristics from the perspective of politics and economy.

The Fourth method is Data analysis, the process of analysing the collected data with appropriate analytical methods, studying and summarising the data in detail by extracting useful information and forming conclusions. In practice, data analysis can help us to make judgments and better understand the causes and consequences of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Data sources include: China Statistical Yearbook, government documents formulated by different countries. By collecting data, we analyse the development path of socialism with Chinese characteristics. For example, the development mode of socialism with Chinese characteristics can be analysed through the growth rate of GDP in China. China will achieve its goal of eliminating poverty in 2020 and explain the institutional advantages of socialism with Chinese characteristics through the policy of precise poverty alleviation, which embodies the superiority of socialist centralisation of power in handling major events. After the founding of the people's Republic of China, China adopted the "three major reforms" (agriculture, handicraft industry and socialist transformation of capitalist industry and Commerce) to take the road of socialist industrialisation. However, at that time, China's economy was lagging behind, and leaders of different periods, such as Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping and Hu Jintao, gradually resumed the development of the national economy by formulating relevant economic policies.

After the founding of the people's Republic of China, China implemented a five-year plan, that is, every five years there is a plan for economic development. From 1953 to 2019, China has gone through thirteen complete five-year plans. Although the social upheaval such as the



cultural revolution caused serious impact on economic growth, even in the most turbulent period, the formulation and implementation of the five-year plan was not interrupted, so I can analyse the important concept of China's economic development by obtaining the data of five-year plans over different periods. The analysis of these gives us valuable indicators. The implementation of the thirteen five-year plans was a continuous process of economic development, and each stage shows different historical characteristics. From the implementation of the Five-Year Plan, from the industrialisation of the First Five-Year Plan and the Second Five-Year Plan to the preparation for war and famine and for the people during the period of the Third Five-Year Plan, agricultural collectivisation was a typical compulsory change. Obviously, as a stakeholder, the factors to be considered in the economic decision-making and system selection of the state power are much more complicated than those of the individual economy. When compared to individual economic decision-making, different factors, such as political, military, social relations, international relations and other non-economic factors must be taken into consideration in government economic decision-making. In fact, under certain historical conditions, these non-economic factors replace economic factors and become the main determinants of economic policy and institutional change.

This study will explore the development experience of socialism with Chinese characteristics through the above research methods, focusing on how to transform the development experience of different countries into China's economic policies, systems and development ideas, and how to critically absorb foreign advanced experience according to China's national conditions, and explore the socialist road, theory and system with Chinese characteristics. This study will also summarise what resistance, lessons learned, and experience gained in the development of socialism with Chinese characteristics, which will be of reference to the socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era.

## **Chapter 3: The Political Dimension of Socialism with Chinese**

### **Characteristics**

Marx and Engels founded the theory of scientific socialism. Over the next hundred years, the world socialist movement underwent tremendous changes all over the world; it made many leaps from a theoretical form to a realistic social system. When the proletariat in these countries acquired political power and established the basic socialist system, we then need to discover what are the main tasks for the development of the country and how to achieve these tasks, and what stages of development they need to go through. Answers to these challenges cannot be found in the theory of Marx and Engels: they need to be found in the practice of realistic socialism. Only by finding the answers can we build socialism in these countries on a solid foundation. This requires us to find a suitable socialist road from our own national conditions.

The first part of this chapter introduces the general situation and course of socialist politics with Chinese characteristics. By reviewing the decades of history of socialism with Chinese characteristics, this part explains China's choice of socialism from the aspects of history, by its first leaders and compares this with the USSR.

Developing capitalism was the first channel of China's modern development. In order to get through this channel, many advanced personages put forward various policies and economic programs, which played an active role in social life, but failed to make China develop from a feudal society to a typical capitalist society. At the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century, the vision and thinking of the pioneers of the Chinese revolution began to shift to the second channel of China's social and economic development - socialism in China.

At the start of the previous century, in May 1905, Sun Yat-sen came to Brussels, Belgium, and visited the Executive Board of the International Socialist Party. He outlined some of his socialist views to the Secretary of the Bureau, Comrade Hussman, and put forward some ideas on how to reform China. Sun Yat-sen called it "the great revolutionary forerunner". This is Mao Zedong's evaluation of Sun Yat-sen. We can also say that Mao Zedong is a pioneer in

exploring the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Compared with the new democratic revolution led by Mao Zedong, the old democratic revolution led by Sun Yat-sen was undoubtedly a failure. However, this does not affect people's evaluation of his revolutionary achievements, nor does it affect his important position in the history of Chinese revolution. This is because without the exploration of the old democratic revolution under his leadership, the Chinese people would not be able to find the right way for the new democratic revolution. Ma Yanchun & Wang Tianwang (2010) hold the view that The CPC's preliminary exploration of the road to socialist construction suited to China's national conditions began with the first generation of leading collectives with Mao Zedong as the core. Many positive results were achieved in the exploration. The CPC creatively advanced the theory of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new period. The CPC successfully opened up the road to socialism with Chinese characteristics. The road also provided the most direct and important source of thought and theory, which can be regarded as the preparatory stage of socialism with Chinese characteristics and the source of the formation of socialism with Chinese characteristics. The great banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics was the banner of the development and progress of contemporary China. It pointed out the thematic content of Chinese social life in the new era. In the primary stage of socialism, the theme of all theories and practices in our country was to uphold and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics. Socialism with Chinese characteristics is not only a scientific theory, but also a great Chinese practice under the guidance of this theory. China has made many attempts in choosing its development path. After the founding of the People's Republic in 1949, China still faced different choices: whether to choose the western capitalist road, or to stick to the stage of new democracy, or to choose the socialist road? At that time, Chinese society was not without disagreement on this issue. But Mao Zedong, the leader of the CPC, insisted that new democracy was only a transitional period and that China must enter socialism. Mao Zedong's thought eventually became the mainstream in China. So, since 1953, the CPC has formulated the general line for the transition period, and China began the transition to socialism. By the end of 1956, China had completed agricultural cooperation and urban socialist transformation, and finally established a socialist system in China.

The political system is the system of the People's Congress, and the organs of the people's exercise of state power are the people's congresses at all levels and the people's governments at all levels. This fundamental political system guarantees the power of the broad masses of people to manage state and social affairs. Under this state and regime, New China implements such basic political systems as multi-party cooperation and political consultation under the leadership of the Communist Party, as well as the system of regional national autonomy. The state system and government of the people's Republic of China, as well as its basic political system, laid a fundamental institutional foundation for later exploration of the road of building socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Since the Third Plenary Session of the Eleventh Central Committee of the CPC in the year of 1978, the PRC has been engaged in the cause of adhering to the Party's basic line, emancipating and developing productive forces, emancipating and enhancing social vitality, creating, adhering to and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics, in order to realize socialist modernisation and the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. The Third Plenary Session made substantive decisions on reform and opening up. The focus of the work of the Party and the state shifted to the socialist modernisation construction centred on economic construction. In September 1982, Deng Xiaoping said in the opening speech of The 12th National Congress of the CPC: "put the universal truth of the doctrine of Marxism". It is our basic conclusion drawn from our long history experience that we should take our own road and build socialism with Chinese characteristics in line with the specific realities of our country. According to the guiding ideology of building socialism with Chinese characteristics, The 12th National Congress of the CPC enacted a program to create a new situation of socialist modernisation in an all-round way.

After the Twelfth National Congress, these understandings deepened. In October 1984, the Third Plenary Session of the Twelfth Central Committee of the CPC adopted the Decision on the Reform of the Economic System. For the first time, it explicitly put forward that a socialist economy is a planned commodity economy on the basis of public ownership, breaking with the traditional idea that a planned economy is opposed to a commodity

economy. In September 1986, the Sixth Plenary Session of the Twelfth Central Committee of the CPC passed a Resolution on the Guidelines for the Construction of Socialist Spiritual Civilisation, which is of great significance for ensuring the smooth development of the cause of socialist modernisation. Socialism with Chinese characteristics is closely related to the primary stage of socialism. Fundamentally speaking, the primary stage of socialism is the historical stage of gradually getting rid of underdevelopment and basically realising socialist modernisation, that is, gradually narrowing the gap with the advanced level of the world and realising the great restoration of the Chinese nation on the basis of socialism. The construction and development of socialism with Chinese characteristics is a long-term historical task, which must go through a long historical process. In this process, with the continuous development of the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics, the primary stage of socialism is bound to have the characteristics of constant change. In some specific stages of its development, it presents different characteristics, and the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics will inevitably undergo some "historic changes".

The development of socialism with Chinese characteristics mean that the Chinese nation, which had suffered for a long time since modern times, has achieved a lot: from its awakening, to getting rich and becoming strong. It means that socialism is glowing with great vitality in China and constantly opening up a new realm of development. It means that socialism with Chinese characteristics is expanding. The way for developing countries to modernise has contributed to China's wisdom and solutions to human problems. Since the 18<sup>th</sup> National Congress, after five years of hard work, the goal of building a well-off society in an all-round way will soon be achieved. We are making a historic leap from being rich to being strong. As General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out, we are closer to the goal of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation than at any time in history. We are more confident and capable of achieving this goal than at any time in history.

The second part of this chapter analyses the origin of Socialism with Chinese characteristics. It includes the road, theory, system and culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics. The socialist development road with Chinese characteristics refers to a

Chinese-style modernisation road opened up by the Chinese people's revolutionary practice of economic construction, reform and opening-up under the leadership of the CPC; the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics refers to the CPC's combination of Marxism and the Chinese reality of realising the Sinicisation of Marxism.

Socialism with Chinese characteristics is the product of the combination of the basic principles of scientific socialism and China's social reality, with distinct characteristics of the times and Chinese characteristics. Under the leadership of the CPC , the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics is to build a socialist market economy, socialist democratic politics, advanced socialist culture and society with Chinese characteristics, based on the basic national conditions, centring on economic construction, adhering to the four basic principles, adhering to reform and opening-up, emancipating and developing social productive forces. Socialist harmonious society and socialist ecological civilisation will promote the all-round development of human beings, gradually realise the common prosperity of all the people, and build a strong, democratic, civilised, harmonious and beautiful socialist modernisation power. Building socialism with Chinese characteristics was put forward by Deng Xiaoping, the chief designer of China's reform and opening up. The theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics is a scientific theoretical system including Deng Xiaoping's theory, the important thought of "Three Representatives", the scientific concept of development and Xi Jinping's socialist thought with Chinese characteristics in the new era.

After further emphasising a series of basic viewpoints of the theory of the primary stage of socialism, the 15<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the CPC in the year of 1995 clearly advanced the basic program of the Party in the primary stage of socialism, namely, the basic objectives and policies of building socialism with Chinese characteristics in terms of economy, politics and culture. This represented the development of the Party's basic line in the primary stage of socialism in terms of economy, politics and culture. It is the concretisation of the Party's basic line. It is the program of action for our Party to lead the people of the whole country to push forward the cause of building socialism with Chinese characteristics. Focusing on the goal of building a prosperous, strong, democratic and civilised socialist modern country, this basic

program further clarifies what is the economy, politics and culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the primary stage of socialism, and how to build such economy, politics and culture as well as the basic goals to be achieved. Ma Chunyan (2010) pointed out that theoretically speaking, the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics does not include Mao Zedong Thought, but this theoretical system upholds and develops Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought. As the two theoretical achievements of the Sinicisation of Marxism, they belong to the same system and solve the important historical problems they are facing. As a result, the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and Mao Zedong Thought is a theoretical system that keeps pace with the times.

As far as practice is concerned, the two historical periods of the 60 years since the founding of New China are the process of unremitting exploration and struggle to find a socialist road suitable for China's national conditions. This paper explores the first generation of leading collectives with Mao Zedong as the core, leading the Party and the people in their arduous exploration of the socialist road, and creating a new era. The formation of the theory of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and the successful opening up of the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics has provided the most direct and important ideological and theoretical sources, which can be regarded as the gestation and preparation stage of socialism with Chinese characteristics and the source of the formation of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

The next section analyses how Chinese leaders in different periods(such as before 1978, from 1978 to 1992) promoted the development of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Sun Yat-sen (see above) was an early exponent of China's democratic revolution and China's socialism. He first welcomed and supported the October Revolution in Russia, put forward the idea of "taking Russia as the teacher", taking the Russian-style revolutionary road, restructuring the Kuomintang, formulating the three major policies of "Union Russia, Union Communist Party and Support for Agricultural Workers", which contributed to the first Kuomintang-Communist cooperation and the arrival of the climax of the Great Revolution.

He fully realised that social and economic reform must be carried out step by step, sustained by the state power. He believed that overthrowing the feudal rule of the Qing Dynasty, seizing power and establishing a Republic through armed struggle were the political prerequisites for economic reform. However, we cannot anticipate the social problems that will arise in the future without explicitly putting forward a solution to economic problems in the programme of democratic revolution, that is, through tackling the lack of political responsibility. To this end, Sun Yat-sen did a lot, and from the strategic height of the democratic revolution, the "average land rights" as a major task of the democratic revolution itself, to clearly explain and stipulate. At that time, the focus on social contradictions in China had not yet been sharpened. Yang Mu (2015) pointed out that the gap between the rich and the poor was not obvious. The social revolution should be carried out in a peaceful way with average land rights and the foregoing of capital. Sun Yat-sen also made an initial exploration of the road and method of realising Chinese socialism. A re-evaluation of Sun Yat-sen's historical contribution to socialism is of great practical significance for building socialism with Chinese characteristics and promoting peaceful reunification of the motherland.

Mao Zedong led the people to revolutionise and build a new China. The exploration and struggle of the first generation of the Party's central leadership collective, with Mao Zedong as its core, led the people after the founding of New China, and has a historical and logical relationship with the socialism with Chinese characteristics that we uphold and develop today. The relationship between Mao Zedong and the Chinese road is fundamentally reflected in his leadership of the Party and the people, the establishment of the PRC, the establishment of the basic socialist system in China, and his exploration of the road to socialist construction in China.

Guo Dongmin (2013) pointed out that Mao's exploration was based on the actual situation in China. From February 1956, Mao Zedong spent a month and a half listening to the reports of 34 ministries and commissions such as industry, agriculture, commerce and transportation. On this basis, he made a report 'On Ten Relations' at the enlarged meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee in April 25, 1956. Its contents touched on



ten important issues and reflected the reality of China in an all-round way. A series of preliminary principles and policies for socialist construction suited to China's situation were presented along with a basic framework of socialist construction in China . In September 1956, the Eighth National Congress of the Communist Party of China took the idea of correctly handling these ten relations as its guiding principle, and clearly stipulated that the main tasks of the Party and the state had been transferred to socialist construction. Around this central task, it further formulated specific economic policies, perfected political policies of the legal system, developed policies of science and prosperity of culture and art, and strengthened policies of the construction of the ruling party. All these are the further development of the correct thought of 'On Ten Relations'. Subsequently, in February 1957, Mao also published a report on the issue of correctly handling contradictions among the people, systematically expounded the contradictions in socialist society, divided two kinds of contradictions of different nature, and discussed China's industrialisation path, agricultural cooperation, industrial and commercial problems, intellectual problems, and saving issues. This is another brilliant achievement of Comrade Mao's exploration of socialism after the publication of the ten major relations and the correct principles and policies formulated by the Eighth National Congress of the Communist Party of China.

Deng Xiaoping's contribution to China lies in the fact that he initiated socialism with Chinese characteristics. The key lies in that for the first time, we have answered a series of basic questions about how to build socialism and how to consolidate and develop socialism in a country with relatively backward economy and culture. We have inherited and developed Marxism from a new perspective, opened up a new realm of Marxism, and put forward the following suggestions: The understanding of socialism has been raised to a new scientific level.

Li Jie (2014) has also pointed out that adhering to and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics was a major advance; and that Comrade Deng Xiaoping has established basic ideas and principles for it. Li Jie identified the historic contributions made to reform and opening up and socialism with Chinese characteristics, concentrated on the following aspects.

First of all, we should break the long-term fetters of the "left" guiding ideology and rely on the two powers of seeking truth from facts and reform and opening up to continuously promote practical innovation and create the right path of socialism with Chinese characteristics. At the Third Plenary Session of the Eleventh Central Committee in the year of 1978, the Party resolutely stopped using the slogan of "taking class struggle as the key point" and made a historic decision to transfer the Party and state work centers to economic construction and implement reform and opening-up. Deng Xiaoping stressed that poverty is not socialism, that socialism should eradicate poverty, that the egalitarianism is not a socialism, and that some people and a part of the region should be encouraged to get rich first, and that the common prosperity can be achieved through the enrichment of the rich and the rich. Without democracy, there will be no socialism, and there will be no socialist modernisation. We must make democracy more institutionalised and legalised. A little more market is not the essential difference between socialism and capitalism. Planning and market are both economic means. On the relationship between China and the world, he pointed out: "the world is an open world". Summing up historical experience, China's long-term stagnation and backwardness was a serious consequence of its closed-door policy. Deng Xiaoping also stressed the unwavering implementation of the party's requirements for the general line in the primary stage of socialism and proposed that we should strictly manage the party and the party, and strengthen the building of the ruling party in an all-round way.

Jiang Zemin's contribution lies in the "Three Represents". In the political arena, the third generation of the central collective leadership of the party, with Comrade Li as the core, creatively answered the question of "building what kind of Party and how to build the party", thus forming the thought of "Three Represents" (Represent the development requirements of China's advanced social productive forces; always represent the direction of China's advanced culture; always represent the fundamental interests of the overwhelming majority of the Chinese people). After the third generation of central collective leadership came into power, it actively explored whether socialism could be combined with a market economy, and thus established the reform goal of socialist market economy system. After the 14th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in the year of 1992, we tightly locked the central

link of the economic restructuring of state-owned enterprises and tried to explore the relationship between public ownership and the market. Jiang Zemin also made some progress in Deng Xiaoping's thought of peaceful socialism. On the basis of the concept of national security, combining with this new reality, we put forward the idea of "abandoning the Cold War mentality and establishing a new concept of national security centred on mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and cooperation". In 1994, at the two session of the eighth National People's Congress, Jiang Zemin pointed out that reform, development and stability are like strategic posts with close relevance in the chessboard of China's modernisation drive. If each chess game is played well and mutually reinforcing, the whole game will be alive; if one is not played well, the other two will be in trouble, and the whole situation may be frustrated. In 1995, in a number of important relations in the correct handling of socialist modernisation, Jiang Zemin further analysed and expounded the essential attributes of reform, development and stability: "development is the absolute principle, and the key to solve all China's problems depends on its own development. Reform is the self-improvement and development of the socialist system. Its decisive role lies not only in solving some major problems in the current economic and social development, but also in promoting the liberation and development of social productive forces, and laying a solid foundation for the sustainable development of our economy and the long-term stability and stability of our country in the next century. "Stability is the basic prerequisite for reform and development. Development and reform must have a stable political and social environment, which is the consensus we have reached at a cost. Without a stable political and social environment, nothing can be said, and it will be difficult to achieve such a good plan and plan.

Hu Jintao's (from the year of 2002 to 2012) contribution lies in "The Scientific Development Concept" (The specific contents of the scientific outlook on development include people-oriented development outlook; comprehensive development outlook; coordinated development outlook; sustainable development outlook.). The methodology of "multidimensional integration", the essential attribute of "social harmony", and the construction practice theory of "scientific development" constitute the basic content of the socialist concept with Chinese characteristics, which clearly reflects the theoretical distillation

of the essence of socialism with Chinese characteristics and the profound summation of practical experience, which embodies the organic unity of epistemology, methodology and practice theory. The socialist stereotype is a theoretical proposition put forward in the South inspection tour. Since the Sixteenth Party Congress, the Party Central Committee, with the general secretary of the party as the general secretary, has made new contributions to the shaping of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the process of promoting practical, theoretical and institutional innovation. Its contributions are mainly manifested in six aspects: the strategic position, development concept, essential attribute, historical position, external development path, and the construction of the ruling party with Chinese characteristics. These contributions have laid a solid foundation for the CPC to continue to promote socialism with Chinese characteristics and build a moderately prosperous society in an all-round way at a new historical starting point. It also provides clear directions and requirements for the development of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new century.

The "The Scientific Development Concept" is also the main symbol of the development of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Hu Jintao advanced this important theory, and as one of the important theoretical achievements of Sinicisation of Confucianism, the proposition of "The Scientific Development Concept" has a specific historical background. From the perspective of the domestic situation, the proposal of this theory is not only the requirement of the times to fulfil the historical task of building a well-off society in an all-round way put forward by the 16th National Congress, but also the realistic requirement to solve the regional, urban-rural and inter-group differences in domestic development at that time and to solve the disharmony of economic and social development. From the international perspective, the proposal of this theory is to learn from the experience and lessons of world development and avoid entrapment: in effect to draw from the historical enlightenment of entering a "Latin American trap" phenomenon and avoiding social instability caused by major contradictions.

Xi Jinping's contribution lies in "Xi Jinping's Socialist Thought with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era". He adheres to the fundamental position of Marxism, inherits

the thread of Marxist theory, and based on a new historical position, continues to write the latest chapter of the localisation of Marxism in China. For example, the general task of adhering to and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics is clearly defined, and the goal of future development is further clarified; the principle of Marxism is emphasised to solve various development problems. Many new judgments are put forward, such as insisting on safeguarding and improving people's livelihood in development and implementing the strategy of rural revitalisation; and dialectical materialism and Historical materialism expounds the dialectical relationship between the main social contradictions of our country and the basic national conditions of our country. It regards people-centredness as one of the basic strategies for upholding and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, upholds the basic principles of scientific socialism and develops socialism with Chinese characteristics in accordance with the specific national conditions of our country. This latest achievement of the localisation of Marxism in China provides a scientific guide for us to accurately grasp the new historical orientation, adapt to the new development requirements, complete the new historical mission and achieve new great victories.

Ma Longshan (2008) claimed that Socialism with Chinese characteristics is a comprehensive breakthrough in the Soviet model. This is manifested in the fact that socialism with Chinese characteristics no longer "takes class struggle as its guiding principle", but shifts the focus of work to economic construction; socialism with Chinese characteristics is based on the basic national conditions of the primary stage of socialism in China, adheres to the theory of the primary stage of socialism; and socialism with Chinese characteristics adheres to reform and opening-up. We should break through the rigidity of closure and follow the Doctrine, insist on continuous innovation, and integrate our country into the currents of industrialisation, informatisation, marketisation, internationalisation and modernisation. Socialism with Chinese characteristics insists on seeking truth from facts, putting people first, attaching importance to people's livelihood, and developing a socialist economy based on improving people's living standards and actual needs. Socialism with Chinese characteristics adopts a socialist market economy system; socialism with Chinese characteristics adheres to the development of socialist democratic politics in order to expand intra-Party democracy and

promote people's democracy, and to implement decision-making democratisation and its scientific basis. All these constitute a comprehensive breakthrough in the Soviet model.

At the beginning of the new era, Deng Xiaoping led the whole Party to reform from the level of system and mode of the society , and opened up the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics step by step. The road of political development of socialism with Chinese characteristics is a logical system. This logic system was constructed historically and is the crystallisation of a century of hard exploration of the political road of modernity. It witnessed the process of the CPC leading the Chinese people to strive to construct a modern country and a modern political civilisation under the guidance of Marxism. The May 4th Movement is the spiritual origin of the political development path of socialism with Chinese characteristics. The "characteristics" of the socialist political system with Chinese characteristics, including the unique design of the system of the People's Congress, the system of multi-party cooperation and political consultation led by the Communist Party, the system of regional autonomy for ethnic minorities and the system of highly autonomous regions, are the inevitable requirements of China's modernisation practice. To correctly understand this road, we must adhere to materialism in political and economic and social relations and dialectics in understanding political issues.

## **Chapter 4: The Economic Dimension of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics**

The first part of this chapter introduced the general situation and course of the development of socialist economy with Chinese characteristics. By reviewing the achievements of socialist economy with Chinese characteristics in the past decades, this paper explains China's choice of socialist development path. This chapter explains China's choice of socialism from the aspects of history, first leaders and compare this with the USSR.

As a first example, I discuss the reform of state-owned enterprises and the relationship between government and market. How to understand and deal with the relationship between government and market is the core issue of a market economy. On this issue, there have been different understandings at home and abroad. At home, some people think that the socialist market economy is a kind of market economy, so more emphasis is placed on acting according to the requirements of a market economy, where the role of the government is avoided, or reduced to its minimum. Some people think that the difference between a socialist market economy and western market economy is that the government should play a better and more powerful role.

China has chosen to develop a market economy under socialist conditions, giving full play to the advantages of the market economy and the superiority of the socialist system. After long-term practical exploration, we have successfully realised the fundamental transformation from a highly centralised planned economy system to a socialist market economy system. At the Third Plenary Session of the Eighteenth Central Committee of the Communist Party of China in the year of 2012, it was pointed out that the core issue of economic system reform is to deal with the relationship between the government and the market so as to make the market play a decisive role in the allocation of resources and better play the role of the government. The report of the Nineteenth National Congress of the Communist Party of China in the year of 2012 further emphasised that we must adhere to and improve our socialist basic economic system and distribution system so that the market plays

a decisive role in the allocation of resources and plays a better role of the government. We have made new breakthroughs in our understanding of the laws of the socialist market economy and promoted the deepening of economic system reform, and entered a new stage of high-quality development.

Kong Yongsong (1994) discusses how in 1949, when the PRC was founded, the Communist Party seized the whole country's political power. Because of the international situation at that time, American imperialism launched the war of aggression against Korea and imposed an embargo and economic blockade on China, and the whole world formed a pattern of confrontation and cold war between East and West. The New Republic faced a grim situation. In order to maintain its survival, it was necessary to establish a strong military industry. With the low level of production and the weak foundation of heavy industry in New China, the overall structure of the national economy was simple. In 1952, Mao Zedong proposed giving priority to the development of the means of production, but he had no experience in how to realise socialist industrialisation. We could only learn from the Soviet Union.

In developing a socialist economy with Chinese characteristics, the determination of the basic nature, direction and purpose of China's economic development, as well as a series of important issues such as the basic economic system, economic system, distribution mode and development strategy must be taken in order to decide from the reality of China. Generally speaking, the guiding theory of socialist economy with Chinese characteristics asks that we must constantly solve the two major issues of economic reform and economic development under the guidance of the important thought of "Three Representatives". The 14th National Congress of the Communist Party of China summarised the history of socialist revolution and construction in China from the Marxist point of view and made a scientific summary of the theory of building socialism with Chinese characteristics. Under the guidance of the theory of socialism with Chinese characteristics and through the arduous exploration of the Communists of China, the economic model of socialism with Chinese characteristics has been formed, which can also be called "Deng Xiaoping's socialist economic model".



As Huan Taiyan (2018) discusses, this establishes the theory of the primary stage of socialism and its developing stage of prosperity and strength, which provides the background of the times for the construction of socialist political economy with Chinese characteristics. According to the general law of the development of social and economic forms revealed by Marx, socialism is also a natural historical process, moving from its generation, through development, to maturity. In this historical and natural process, socialism will manifest itself in different stages of development because of the different development conditions of productive forces and production relations. In the early stage of reform and opening up, according to the development of productive forces, China innovatively put forward the basic judgment that our country is still in the primary stage of socialism, established the theory of the primary stage of socialism, and found the road and theoretical guidance for the construction of socialism in large developing countries with relatively backward productivity development.

In this second section, I analyse how Chinese leaders in different periods promoted the development of socialist economy with Chinese characteristics. For example, the planned economy in the Mao Zedong era, the reform and opening policy in the Deng Xiaoping era, and the "one belt and one road" in the Xi Jinping era.

Since the founding of New China 70 years ago, especially since the reform and opening up, after repeated exploration, government has played a better role and firmly grasped the fundamentals to handle the relationship between the government and the market. On the one hand, our country is in and will remain in the primary stage of socialism for a long time. Besides providing the necessary public security for the development of market economy, such as system, environment and order, we should also shoulder the mission of taking economic construction as a focus and seeking happiness for the people. This requires the government to play a good role in promoting the sustained and healthy development of the economy.

On the other hand, our country took a detour: the government managed too much under the planned economy, and now the functions of the government are also in the process of transformation. The government needs to consciously change its functions, consciously

respect the law of market economy, and prevent it from going to the old way of conservatism and rigidity. The role of our government is not to address the problem, but to give market control to the market and the government concentrates on the facts that are conducive to the modernisation of our country, for example the improvement of people's living standards and the inability of the market to do bad things.

The theory of the basic economic and distribution systems of socialism with Chinese characteristics were established, which laid a solid economic system foundation for the construction of political economy of socialism with Chinese characteristics. According to the development of productive forces in the primary stage of socialism, in the early stage of reform and opening-up, China adopted a big discussion on "Practice is the sole criterion for testing truth" in order to apply the "Three Benefits" test (whether it is conducive to the development of productive forces in socialist society, whether it is conducive to enhancing the comprehensive national strength of socialist countries, whether it is conducive raising people's living standards) as the basic criterion for judging the success or failure of all work. This included regarding non-public economy as an important component of the basic economic system in the primary stage of socialism, giving full play to the role of non-public economy in promoting the development of productive forces, and creating a variety of primary stages of socialism with public economy as the main body. The basic economic system theory of the co-development of an ownership economy has found the right way for the reform of state-owned enterprises and consolidated the basic economic system in the primary stage of socialism by making the stock system an important way of achieving a public economy. We should focus on promoting high-quality development, building a modern economic system, strengthening and improving the functions of the government in economic regulation, market supervision, social management, public service and ecological environment protection, adjusting and optimising the functions of government institutions, comprehensively improving the efficiency of the government, building a service-oriented government satisfactory to the people, and better satisfying the people's growing needs. This will reflect and satisfy the need for a better life for growth, the realisation of all-round development of human beings and the common prosperity of social members.

Zhao Chao (2017) has drawn attention to The report of the Nineteenth National Congress of the Communist Party of China, and how this pointed out that China's economy has now moved from a stage of high-speed growth to a stage of high-quality development. China is in a critical period of changing modes of development, optimising the economic structure and transforming the driving force of growth. Building a modern economic system is an urgent requirement for crossing the threshold and a strategic goal for China's development. Since the Eighteenth National Congress of the CPC, the Party Central Committee, with Comrade Xi Jinping as its core, had concentrated on observing the general context, seeking the overall situation and doing practical work, and has successfully mastered the overall situation of China's economic development. In practice, it has formed a new socialist economic thought with Chinese characteristics in the new era with new development concept as its main content, which provides a scientific framework for promoting high-quality development.

We should persist in making the market play a decisive role in the allocation of resources and better play the role of the government. The adjustment of supply and demand structure is a difficult, worldwide problem, which poses a great challenge. The Party Central Committee, with Comrade Xi Jinping as its core, stands at the height of major strategic and theoretical innovations, proceeds from improving the quality of supply, promotes structural adjustment by means of reform, corrects distortions in the allocation of factors and leads China's economy to achieve a historic leap. Take "break"(means to get out from the old development model) as the first step, effectively resolve excess capacity and ineffective supply. Over the past two years, China has withdrawn more than 110 million tons of iron and steel production capacity and more than 400 million tons of coal production capacity. The relationship between supply and demand has improved significantly, and the quality of economic operation has greatly improved. Taking "Li"(means to establish the new Development Model) as the foundation, new momentums of economic development are constantly generated. Over the past five years, strategic emerging industries have developed rapidly, new products in line with the direction of industrial upgrading and consumption upgrading have emerged, new breakthroughs have been made in high-end equipment manufacturing, intelligent manufacturing and other fields, and the conversion of new and old energy has accelerated. In

order to reduce the cost of operation, the main part of the market burden continues to decline. With the implementation of business tax increases, China has finalised its business tax development, reduced all the taxes by 1.7 trillion yuan in the past five years, benefited more than 260 million taxpayers, and enabled market participants to engage in lightly.

Wang Shaoshun (1998) has argued that The Third Plenary Session of the Eleventh Central Committee of the CPC in the year of 1978 determined the policy of reform and opening up. Great changes have taken place in China's social and economic structure in the past 20 years and historic achievements have attracted worldwide attention. All these are inseparable from the gradual abandonment of Stalin's economic model and the formation of Deng Xiaoping's Theory. Stalin held the leading position of the party and state in the Soviet Union, the first socialist country in the world, for 30 years. For a long time, people used to regard a set of practices of the Soviet Union in Stalin's period as the only mode of socialism, and elements with great historical particularity as the universal law. Many socialist countries have imitated the practices of the Soviet Union in socialist construction, and China is no exception, copying Stalin's economic model.

The grim reality of the collapse of the Soviet Union and the drastic changes in Eastern Europe tell us that Stalin's economic model was not successful. The pace of reform and opening up of a country depends largely on the depth and breadth of the criticism of Stalin's economic model. Stalin's economic model can be summarised as follows. 1\ Ownership model – socialist public ownership has only two forms: ownership by the whole people and collective ownership. 2\ Economic structure model – giving priority to the development of heavy industry. 3\ Economic form model – consumer goods are commodities, means of production are not commodities. 4\ Distribution model of personal consumer goods – distribution according to work. 5\ Economic management system model – centralised, top-down mandatory plan, mainly using administrative methods, local and enterprise authority is very small, only recognising plan regulation, denying market regulation. Stalin's economic model used to be the starting point of some countries' economic system reform, and also the object of China's economic system reform.

The basic experience of Mao Zedong's exploration in the era of economic construction is mainly manifested in the following aspects: advocating the mobilising of all positive factors, turning negative factors into positive ones, and striving for the construction of a strong socialist country; proposing the strategic goal of realising socialist modernisation and the two-step development strategy; and proposing a series of strategies to promote socialist reality.

The strategic principles of modernisation construction included adhering to the policy of developing both industry and agriculture, taking the road of Chinese-style industrialisation; adhering to the general policy of developing national economy based on agriculture and guided by industry, putting agriculture at the top of economic construction; and doing a good job of the country in accordance with the principle of "overall consideration and appropriate arrangement". In seeking to reach a comprehensive balance of the civil economy. Mao advocated; carrying forward the spirit of arduous struggle, implementing the policy of increasing production and saving, building a country through diligence and thrift; adhering to the principle of self-reliance as the main factor, striving for foreign aid as the supplement, and combining learning with originality, etc.

Since the Third Plenary Session of the Eleventh Central Committee in the year of 1978, our Party has earnestly summed up the experience and lessons learned from previous ownership issues, got rid of the restraint of Stalin's ownership model, formulated a policy of common development with public ownership as the main body and various economic components, and encouraged a situation of diversification of forms of public ownership and common development of various economic components.

Russia has had a tradition of strong power since the time of the Principality of Moscow. Peter the Great aimed at building a strong country and carried out reforms under the guidance of nationalism. Stalin inherited this tradition and led the Soviet Union on a path of giving priority to the development of heavy industry. It should be noted that, in a certain era, this was necessary for the Soviet Union. However, the Soviet Union did not undertake timely adjustments to the development path, but became immobilised, cast in stone, and long-termist;

moreover, the problem was that the heavy industrialisation of the Soviet Union became misshapen, with a preponderance of heavy industry militarisation. The development of the national economy revolved around heavy industry, which itself was centred on military industry. In order to invest in heavy industry and military industry, long-term "taxation" was levied on the peasants, which made a mockery of them; the proportion of accumulation and consumption was seriously imbalanced, and the wages and livelihoods of urban residents and workers remained at a low level for a long time. In order to develop heavy industry, the people's needs for food and necessities of life was seriously neglected. During the period of severe famine in the Soviet Union from 1932 to 1933, people were starved and dying. Stalin even exported grain in exchange for industrial equipment. In the 1950s, the Soviet man-made earth satellite went into the sky, and people's living necessities were still very scarce. There were also breakthroughs in the understanding of public ownership economy. Public ownership economy included not only state-owned and collective economy, but also state-owned and collective components of mixed ownership economy. The main position of public ownership was mainly that as far as the whole country is concerned, public assets were dominant in the total social assets; the state-owned economy controlled the lifeline of the national economy and played a leading role in economic development.

## **Conclusion**

From the perspective of the history of human civilisation, the practice of socialism with Chinese characteristics has a unique charm. China is the first country in human history to achieve development success in a peaceful and win-win way. Behind the economic miracle, under the strong leadership of the Communist Party of China, we are constantly exploring the process of national governance capacity and modernisation of the governance system. Development is the "golden key" to solve all China's problems. China's development not only draws lessons from all the outstanding achievements of civilisation in the world, but also adheres to the road that conforms to its own national conditions. The practice of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era will fully embody China's determination, wisdom, responsibility, actively respond to the world's development difficulties and universal development dilemmas with the great practice of continuous innovation, and ensure the sustained and steady development of China's economy and society in the right direction. Since the founding of New China 70 years ago, the Communist Party of China has led the Chinese people to make arduous explorations and wrote a magnificent epic of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on the road of socialism. In the past 70 years, China has made remarkable achievements in its development. A qualitative leap has taken place in social productivity, people's living standards and comprehensive national strength. The Chinese people have made a historic leap from awakening, to getting rich to becoming strong. The reality of socialist society is a great outbreak of human thought, not a natural process of change in human society. It is the result of a long-term exploration by advanced peoples of the basic problem of social relations since the beginning of human civilisation. The emergence of socialist thought and the opening of the socialist practice path marked the beginning of the end of the long-standing divisions and confrontations of human social life based on private ownership, and the coming of an era in which human groups jointly initiated innovative lives.

The first half of the 20th century, since the victory of the October Revolution and the establishment of the socialist system by the Soviet Union, was a period of vigorous development of socialism in the world, during which time socialism made remarkable

achievements for the bourgeoisie. But in the 1960s, after half a century of a glorious socialist progress, this gradually disintegrated. Since the late 1980s, the Soviet Union and the socialist countries in Eastern Europe have fallen into the trap of the failure to reform and transform. The international communist movement has fallen into a low ebb, and world socialism has turned into a situation of "mountains and rivers with no way out". In contrast, China's reform, which began in the late 1970s, has brought socialism with Chinese characteristics to life and made remarkable achievements. Socialism with Chinese characteristics has increasingly attracted worldwide attention.

Foreign scholars have studied the nature, characteristics, value and significance of socialism with Chinese characteristics and put forward various opinions. Because of the differences in ideology and political standpoint, there are many misunderstandings about Chinese society, but at the same time, many foreign scholars can take a relatively objective and fair interpretation of socialism with Chinese characteristics from different perspectives, broaden our theoretical horizons, and provide us with unique and rich Enlightenment on many issues.

The author's opinion also provides us with the ideological resources to grasp the current situation of China from a new perspective, deepen the understanding of the regularity of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and deepen the study of the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Through reform, China has explored a new and vigorous road for the development of socialism, which combines Marxism with China's concrete reality. It is a road that keeps pace with the times and keeps innovating. China's success has made people see and believe that world socialism is still full of vitality and hope, which will certainly help people take China as an example and continue to explore the road of socialist development that reflects both the characteristics of the times and the reality of their own country, thus promoting the development of world socialist movement. On the basis of retaining the important achievements of socialism, China has broken through rigid dogmatic theory and introduced market mechanisms. However, the merger of socialism and a market economy in China has not deviated from the socialist track as predicted by some scholars. On



the contrary, the implementation of a socialistic market economy in China has not only highlighted the socialist system's superiority, but also give full play to the effectiveness of market allocation of resources, to promote the rapid development of China's economy. China's reforms and development not only theoretically, but also practically provide a new impetus for the development trend of socialism in the world today. The reason why the Chinese model is attractive to developing countries is that China has taken a road of modernisation that is suitable for China's national conditions since its reform and opening up. It not only makes the internal economy and society develop rapidly, but also exerts more and more important influence on the international community. As far as the particularity of the Chinese model is concerned, we should not neglect the universal reference significance of the Chinese model to these countries.

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