

China's Peaceful Development Road in Vision of the "Four Comprehensive"

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Abstract: The "Four Comprehensive" (comprehensively building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, comprehensively deepening reform, comprehensively governing the country with the rule of law and comprehensive and stricter governing the CPC) strategic layout is a major strategic thinking to co-ordinate domestic development, and also a major strategic thinking to coordinate relations between China and the world, gets unified in the great practice of the CPC Governance of the country, takes into consideration both the Chinese characteristics and the trend of the world, will push the Chinese peaceful development road (PDR) to a new height. The "Four Comprehensive" strategic thinking and strategic layout provide the basic impetus, basic assurance, basic support and basic political guarantee for China's PDR. Meanwhile, the PDR is the external conditions for realization of the "Four Comprehensive" strategic layout, and the escort for its smooth realization. The "Four Comprehensive" strategic thinking broadens the PDR, enriches and expands the connotation and extension of the PDR, put new era characteristics on the PDR, and furthers and develops the diplomatic theoretical system with the Chinese characteristics.

After 18th Communist Party of China (CPC, or Party) National Congress, the CPCCC Political Bureau carries out the first, second, third and fourth collective study on respective subjects of "deepening study and implementating the spirit of 18th CPC National Congress," "unswervingly pushing forward reform and opening up", "unswervingly taking the peaceful development road" and "comprehensively promoting the rule of law", which is targeted, forward-looking, guiding, systematic and comprehensive. These topics are not isolated topics between them, but make overall consideration from the strategic perspective of the domestic and international situations. This fully demonstrates the CPCCC with Xi Jinping as the core raises building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, comprehensively deepening reform, adhering to the PDR and comprehensively ruling the country with law to the important position affecting the overall work, so it is not difficult to find the interconnection between the "Four Comprehensive" strategic thinking and the

PDR, which bears guiding significance for China to stay on the PDR.

China's following the PDR is a strategic choice for it to realize modernization and prosperity, and to make greater contributions to the progress of the world civilizations,¹ is a strategic choice made by the CPC according to the development trend of the times and the fundamental interests of China,^{2(p247)}, is the key strategic steps for realization of "Two Centennial" goals and the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. The "Four Comprehensive" is strategic layout and top-level design to achieve "Two Centennial" goals. Therefore, the "Four Comprehensive" strategic layout and the PDR are consistent on the goal, which is focused on both the current planning and long-term planning, basing itself upon China while looking forward to the world. Xi Jinping stresses: this strategic layout has both strategic objectives and strategic measures, each 'Comprehensive' has a major strategic significance.³ Thus, it can be concluded that each "Comprehensive" has guiding significance for China to adhere to the PDR, but also is

inseparable from the PDR, neither from a peaceful domestic and international environment. Therefore, an accurate and comprehensive command of the PDR in the vision of "Four Comprehensive" is the key to the smooth realization of this major strategic layout.

I. Building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and taking peaceful development road interact as conditions and promote each other.

Peaceful development is the consistent proposition of the CPC. From the 1950s proposal of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence to peace and development being the world's two major issues, to peace and development being the themes of the era, the connotation of China's PDR gets constantly enriched and its standing is on the rise.

As early as the 1980s, Deng Xiaoping pointed out: two major international issues are very prominent, one is the peace issue, the other is the South-North issue. There are many other issues too. But unlike these two issues, these issues are not related to the overall situation, neither have global and strategic significance.^{4(p.96)} In the world the major issues indeed, the global issues with strategic importance, one is the issue of peace, the other is the issue of economy or development. Peace is the issue between the East and the West, while development is the issue between the North and the South. In summary, it is the four-word issues - the East and the West, the North and the South. The North-South issue is the core issue.^{4(p.105)} This shows that the relationship between building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and the PDR is the relationship between "peace" and "development" and the relationship between China and the world.

Xi Jinping points out: China has entered a decisive phase of building a moderately

prosperous society in all respects. To achieve this goal is a key step in realizing the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. To put building a moderately prosperous society in all respects in the grand program of the great Chinese dream of the Chinese nation, and to upgrade the goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects to an important milestone of great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation are done for the first time in the CPC history. But development is still the "key" to solve all the problems of China.^{5(p.15)} To build a moderately prosperous society in all respects, achieve socialist modernization, and realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, the most fundamental and the most urgent task is to further emancipate and develop social productive forces.^{5(p.549)} Therefore, building a moderately prosperous society in all respects is fundamentally a development issue.

Peaceful development is the inevitable choice of upholding and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics. Entering the new era, the CPC takes the indispensable adherence to peaceful development as "one of the basic requirements to strive for a new victory of socialism with Chinese characteristics to be firmly grasped under the new historical conditions."^{5(p.11)}

The 18th CPC National Congress stresses: adhere to the open development, cooperative development and win-win development, develop China by securing a peaceful international environment, safeguard and promote world peace through itself development, expand the interests convergences of all parties, push the building of a harmonious world of lasting peace and common prosperity.^{5(p.12)} Xi Jinping on many occasions also emphasizes the significance of peaceful development for China and the world, "China takes the peaceful development road, which is not a matter of expediency, nor

diplomatic language, but the conclusion derived from the objective judgment of history, reality and future, is the organic unity of ideological self-confidence and practical self-conscious. The PDR is beneficial to China and the world, and we can't think of any reason for not adhering to the road which is proved to be feasible through practice."^{2(p.267)}

"Building a moderately prosperous society in all respects at a higher level that will benefit more than one billion people is a long-term goal of China's peaceful development."¹ This indicates that there is an internal logical connection between building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and the PDR. Building a moderately prosperous society in all respects is the long-term goal of the PDR, to provide the impetus for the PDR, to further consolidate the physical and social foundation for the PDR, so as to stay on the PDR more confidently relying on the continuous growing strength. Meanwhile, the PDR also advances the historical process of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects. Without peace, there will be no development. Without development, there will be no moderately prosperous society in all respects to be built.

Xi Jinping stresses that the 18th CPC National Congress clearly puts forward the "Two Centennial" goals, and the goal striving for realization of the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. To achieve this goal, we must have a peaceful international environment. Without peace, neither China nor the world will be able to develop smoothly. Without development, neither China nor the world will have lasting peace.^{2(p.248)}

In conclusion, just as the dialectical relationship between peace and development, building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and the PDR interact as mutual conditions, and mutually promote each other. Peaceful development is the premise and path

of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, while building a moderately prosperous society in all respects is the foundation of the PDR, the strategic objective in the leading position and core position. Xi Jinping points out: building a moderately prosperous society in all respects requires two basic conditions: one is a harmonious and stable domestic environment, another is peaceful and tranquil international environment.^{2(p.266)} There is no development without peace, peace is the eternal expectation of people. Peace is like air and sunshine, which provides indefinite benefits. Without peace, there would be no way to start development.⁶ Therefore, building a moderately prosperous society in all respects lays the material and social foundation for staying on the PDR, meanwhile, only staying on the PDR and pushing the building of a harmonious and stable domestic and international environment, can building a moderately prosperous society in all respects has a basic guarantee.

II. Comprehensively deepening reform and the PDR complement each other and become interdependent with each other

Reform is a powerful driving force for social development, is the dynamics to stimulate the internal vitality. In the early days of the reform and opening up, Deng Xiaoping pointed out: China is doing what it has never done for thousands of years. This reform will not only affect China, but also affect the world.^{4(p.118)} To achieve success in modernization, there are two decisive conditions. One is the domestic condition, i.e. to adhere to the current reform and opening up policy. There is also an international condition, i.e. a lasting peaceful environment.^{4(p.156)} This fully indicates that China's reform and opening up since the inception pays attention to its close ties with the world and to integration of reform and opening up with peaceful

development. The relationship between the comprehensive deepening reform and the PDR is concentrated on the relationship between reform and stability.

Facts have proved that the reform and opening up is the new great revolution carried out by the CPC leading the people of all ethnic groups in the new era, shows the most distinctive feature of contemporary China.^{5(p.511)} The reform and opening up is the key choice for the destiny of contemporary China, is an important magic weapon for the cause of the CPC and people to catching up with the times.^{5(p.511)} The reform and opening up is the key move to determine the destiny of contemporary China, but also the key move to achieve the "Two Centennial" goals, and the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.^{2(p.71)}

However, in the new historical period, the reform enters the deep water zone, the 30 year-reform has accumulated a large number of social contradictions. For today's China, how to resolve the growing social contradictions, how to further stimulate the power of reform, and how to expand China's road through reform? In the face of the new situation and new tasks, the Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee gives a clear answer: comprehensively deepening reform. "We must, through comprehensively deepening reform, make steady efforts to resolve a series of prominent contradictions and problems facing China's development, and constantly promote the self-improvement and -development of socialist system with Chinese characteristics."^{2(p.71)} In order to comprehensively deepen the reform, we must take into account the overall situations of both China and the world and take comprehensive advantage of the two situations, namely, correctly handling the relationship between the reform and opening up and the peaceful development. Xi Jinping stresses that China has entered a key phase to achieve the great

rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. The relationship between China and the world has undergone profound changes, China's interaction with the international community becomes unprecedentedly close, China's reliance on the world and participation in the international affairs continues to deepen, while the world reliance and impact on China is also deepening. Observing and planning the reform and development, we must make the overall consideration of and comprehensive use of both the international markets and domestic markets, both international resources and domestic resources, and both the international rules and domestic rules.⁷ Therefore, it is necessary to have correct understanding of the relationship between the comprehensive deepening reform and the PDR, and coordinate the domestic situation and international situation.

Superficially, the comprehensively deepening reform and the PDR are two different issues, but the two issues are complementary and interdependent to each other. That is reflected in two specific aspects: first, peaceful development is the premise and guarantee for the comprehensively deepening reform; second, comprehensively deepening reform agglomerates strength for the peaceful development and promotes the peaceful development of China and the world. Xi Jinping points out: only adhering to the PDR, only safeguarding world peace with the rest of the world, can China achieve its own goals, can it make greater contributions to the world.^{2(p.266)} "Stability is the prerequisite for reform and development, we must uphold the unity of reform, development and stability. Only with the social stability, can reform and development continuously advance; only with continuous advance of the reform and development, can social stability have a solid foundation."^{2(p.68)} China will unswervingly follow the PDR, unswervingly deepen the reform and expand the opening up, and strive to realize the

Chinese dream of great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, and vigorously push the lofty cause of peace and development of mankind."^{2(p.279)} Combine the PDR with comprehensively deepening reform, reform and opening up interact each other, the opening up and the world are connected to each other, which is the latest achievements of the CPC in exploring the new path of reform and development. Comprehensively deepening reform deepens the PDR connotation, provides the institutional guarantee for China's PDR; meantime, the PDR wins over a favorable international environment for reform, development and stability, and also pushes and promotes the in-depth development of comprehensively deepening reform.

III. The comprehensive rule of law and the PDR mutually promote each other, and interact with each other

General Secretary Xi Jinping points out: The rule of law is the basic strategy of the CPC leading people to govern the country, the rule of law is the basic way to govern the country."^{5(p.87)} He continues, to take the PDR is China's strategic choice, is the conclusion based on the objective judgment of the history, reality, and future."⁸ This shows that both the rule of law and the PDR are very important to us. From the grand Chinese dream pattern of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, to realize the "Chinese dream" needs both internal and external sound construction. Internally, an orderly and dynamic society is the fundamental guarantee for attaining the national rejuvenation. Externally, to realize the great rejuvenation also requires a peaceful international environment. Therefore, adherence to the rule of law and adherence to the PDR are both important strategic steps to achieve the great Chinese dream. In this sense, adherence to the rule of law and adherence to the PDR shares consistency in terms of goal,

and there is an inherent logic.

The fourth Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee further clarifies the relationship between the two and points out: to achieve the strategic goal of China's peaceful development, we must give a better play to the guiding and regulating role of the rule of law."⁹ To combine the rule of law with the PDR is drawn for the first time in the party's historical literature. It also proves that there is a close logical relationship between the rule of law and peaceful development. Governing the country according to law and the PDR are the two basic points of the CPC to coordinate the domestic and international situations. The rule of law is the basic way to govern the country internally, is the starting point and the foothold of coordinating the overall domestic situation; the peaceful development is the fulcrum of the diplomatic strategic thought, is the focal point and the breakthrough point of coordinating the overall international situation. The two aspects do not exist in isolation, but, like the relationship between the internal affairs and foreign affairs, are unified in the domestic and international overall situations, featuring internal and external interaction, mutual influence, mutual promotion, and mutual interplay.

First of all, the rule of law and peaceful development has a guiding role. To take the PDR, there must be a strong social foundation as a support, and the social foundation originates in the rule of law. Xi Jinping stresses: Taking the PDR is a strategic choice made by the CPC according to the development trend of the times and the fundamental interests of the country."^{2(p.247)} That is to say, China's following the PDR is determined by Chinese adaptation to the development trend of the world, is decided by Chinese national conditions, but after all is determined by the nature of a socialist country led by the CPC, while the nature of the state is defined by the

"Constitution of the People's Republic of China". The "Constitution of the People's Republic of China" uses the wording "peace" in 4 explicit places, and points out in its Preface: China adheres to an independent foreign policy of peace, and upholds mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual nonaggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit -- the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, ... to strive to safeguard world peace and promote the cause of human progress.⁹ Xi Jinping points out: the Constitution is the fundamental law of the state, is the general charter for governing the country, has the highest legal status, legal authority, legal effect." "The full implementation of the Constitution is the primary task and basic work to comprehensively promote the rule of law and build a socialist country under the rule of law."^{5(p.88)}

The fourth Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee points out: to adhere to national governance with the rule of law should first of all adhere to governance in line with the Constitution, to carry out the administrative governance with the rule of law should first of all uphold the governance in line with the Constitution."^{5(pp4-5)} Under the new situation, the CPC is to perform well its important responsibility of governing and rejuvenating the country, it must do so in line with the Constitution. Therefore, adhering to the PDR is the concrete practice of strictly abiding by the principle of Constitution, carrying forward the spirit of Constitution and fulfilling the mission of the Constitution. In this sense, the comprehensive rule of law leads and standardizes the direction and process of peaceful development. Meanwhile, that the comprehensive rule of law leads and standardizes the direction and process of peaceful development is also reflected in the use of the rule of law to promote it in

international relations. Xi Jinping points out: in the international community, the law should be the common criteria. The Communist Party of China and the Chinese Government should "promote all parties concerned to abide by the international laws and the universally recognized basic principles of international relations in international relations, and to use universally applicable rules to distinguish right from wrong, to promote peace and seek development,¹¹ together with the international community to jointly safeguard the authority and seriousness of international law and international order, and jointly maintain world peace and stability.

Secondly, adherence to the PDR has a pushy and assurance role for implementation of the basic strategy of ruling the country with law. Peaceful development is the consistent stance of the CPC, a reflection of the fundamental will of the people and through the legislature process is "elevated to the state will, turned into national development planning and fundamental policy, and is implemented in the wide-ranging practice of the Chinese development process."¹ Therefore, the historical process makes the PDR legally effective, which itself is an advance of the basic strategy of promoting the rule of law, enriches socialist legal system with the Chinese characteristics, provide a legal foundation to comprehensively promote the rule of law. Meanwhile, the full implementation of rule of law involves the fields of politics, economy and culture, etc. and is a systematic engineering of the overall situation. To do this work well, there must be a harmonious and stable social environment as a guarantee, which is a indispensable premise, otherwise, implementing the rule of law is only an empty slogan, while implementation and advance of the peaceful development strategy will undoubtedly provide such support to us. An international environment of peace and security

is an indispensable external condition for any country to develop itself.

Xi Jinping points out: "China is committed to peaceful development and will never waver in its determination. The Chinese nation has always been a peace-loving nation. China most needs a harmonious and stable domestic environment and a peaceful and tranquil international environment."¹² Practice since the reform and opening up has proved that peace is the condition for development, only adhering to the PDR, can the Chinese comprehensive national strength and people's living standards be rapidly improved, can the international image of China's peaceful development be fundamentally shaped, can the most basic harmonious and stable social environment be provided for governing the country with the rule of law, can greater contributions be made to the human civilization. In the process of pushing China's modernization and comprehensively carrying out the basic strategy of governing the country with the rule of law, a peaceful and stable external environment is an important condition. Therefore, adherence to the strategy of peaceful development plays a promoting and protective role in fully implementing the basic strategy of governing the country with law.

In summary, without comprehensively governing the country with law, the national life and social life can not be in orderly operation, social harmony and stability can hardly be achieved, the strategic goal of peaceful development cannot be attained either; without a peaceful development, there will be no sound governance of the country, the comprehensive goal of the rule of law cannot be accomplished. Therefore, the Fourth Plenary Session of the 18th CPCCC has the double guiding significance for the basic strategy of governing the country with law and major strategy for peaceful development.

IV. Comprehensive and stricter governance of the Party is the fundamental guarantee for achieving the strategic goals of peaceful development

Both history and reality show that the future of the CPC and the Chinese nation has formed a "community of shared destiny". China's general goal of peaceful development is to achieve national modernization and the common prosperity of its people.¹ Standing on the intersection of history and future, the CPC "shoulders the heavy task of uniting and leading people to build a moderately prosperous society in all respects, advance socialist modernization, and realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation."¹³ This shows that the strategic goal of China's PDR and the historical heavy responsibility shouldered by the CPC has a high unity. But how, under the conditions of profound changes in the international situation and domestic situation, to maintain and promote the reform, stability and development situation, and assure the cause of the Party and state to be carried forward and kept pace with the times?

In this regard, meeting Chinese and foreign reporters together with other member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPCCC, Xi Jinping stresses: our responsibility is to work with all comrades of the Party to adhere to the Party self-governance and strictly, and effectively solve the outstanding problems of its own, and effectively improve the work style, close ties with the masses, so that the Party is always a strong leadership core of the socialist cause with the Chinese characteristics."¹⁴ Therefore, it can be concluded that the key to the realization of the socialist modernization and the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation – the strategic objective of peaceful development – is the Party, i.e. comprehensive and stricter governance of the Party and the

PDR has the intrinsic logical relationship. It is specifically reflected as follows: comprehensive and stricter governance of the Party is the fundamental political guarantee for realization of the PDR strategic objectives, realization of the PDR strategic objectives raises higher requirements for comprehensive and stricter governance of the Party.

First of all, comprehensive and stricter governance of the Party is the fundamental assurance for realization of the PDR strategic objectives. The orientation of Chinese history since modern times shows that the key to solve China's problems is the CPC. The Party leadership is the most essential feature of socialism with Chinese characteristics, is the most basic guarantee for socialist undertakings. Xi Jinping stresses: to achieve the objectives and tasks determined by the 18th CPC National Congress and to carry out great struggles with many new historical features, the key is to the Party."¹⁵

The key lies in the Party: meaning to ensure that the Party is always the strong leadership core in the process of developing socialism with Chinese characteristics. Therefore, to achieve the strategic goal of peaceful development, the most fundamental is to uphold the Party leadership firmly. The CPC is the leading core, shouldering the duties of commanding the overall situation and coordinating all sides. China takes the PDR, which is stipulated by the Constitution of the People's Republic of China, and is required by the Constitution of the Communist Party of China, and must be led by the Party. Therefore, only adhering to the comprehensive and stricter governance of the Party, forging a strong leadership core, and ensuring the Party to always be the backbone of people, can a strong political guarantee for the PDR be provided, can directional guidance for the PDR be provided, can comprehensively building a moderately prosperous society in an all respects,

comprehensively deepening reform, comprehensively governing the country with law and staying on the PDR be coordinated and promoted, so as to crystallize consensus, wisdom and strength in order to achieve the "Two Centennial" goals.

Secondly, to achieve the PDR strategic objectives also raises higher requirements for comprehensive and stricter governance of the Party. Xi Jinping points out: Peace is the eternal expectation of people. "Peace is like air and sunshine, offering benefits without being felt, their loss is difficult to restore".⁶ Therefore, the CPC as the strong leadership core for the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics must adhere to the PDR, must strive to take care of the PDR and also must strictly adhere to the comprehensive and stricter governance of the Party in order to achieve the strategic goals of the PDR. The CPC 90-year development history proves that the key to solve China's problems lies in the Party's building itself. In 1992 Deng Xiaoping on his South Tour clearly pointed out: "If any problem emerges, it grows inside the CPC".^{4(p.380)}, he stressed, "the key is to improve the CPC internal building, and assure no accident occurs".^{4(p.381)}

Standing at a new historical starting point, Xi Jinping puts forward the "comprehensive and stricter governance of the Party" thinking for the first time in the CPC 90-year history. To promote the cause of reform, development and stability, the key lies in a good style of work shown by the vast number of Party members and cadres. Through the Party fine style, we can accumulate more political trust, can win more support of people, and continuously enhance China's comprehensive national strength, continuously ensure people to enjoy the benefits of peaceful development, and constantly reinforce the PDR material foundation and social foundation.

In summary, in China, the CPC is the

leadership core for the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics. The CPC is the PDR strategy maker, and also its guardian and facilitator, the Chinese PDR is inseparable from the CPC leadership. Meanwhile, to achieve the strategic objectives of the PDR also raises higher requirements for the Party building -- must adhere to comprehensive and stricter governance of the Party, without of which the Party can't become the "self-hardened" leadership core, it is difficult to achieve social harmony and stability. Therefore, to adhere to comprehensive and stricter governance of the Party is not only to inherit the fine traditions, but also the summary of practical experience, and more focuses on the long-term interests of the Chinese nation, centrally embodies the responsibility for the nation, responsibility for the people and the responsibility for the party, embodies the unity between the great cause and the great project, embodies the unity between the Party building and governing the country.

Conclusion

In a word, the "Chinese dream" is the height of China's strategic goal in the new period, the "Four Comprehensive" is a major strategic layout to reach this height, the PDR is an important strategic step to reach this height. To make positioning of the PDR in vision of the "Four Comprehensive", and to command the PDR in the history and reality, we will be able to thoroughly understand why the CPCCC with Xi

Jinping as the core has pushed China's PDR to a new height in the world.

The strategic layout of "Four Comprehensive" is not only the strategic thinking to coordinate domestic development, but also the important strategic conception to coordinate the relationship between China and the world, and unified with the grand practice of CPC's governing the county. The "Four Comprehensive" strategic layout is internally closely linked with the PDR, and promote each other. The "Four Comprehensive" strategic thinking and strategic layout provide the PDR the basic driving force, basic guarantee, basic support and fundamental political assurance.

Meantime, the PDR is the external conditions for the smooth realization of the "Four Comprehensive" strategic layout, a peaceful domestic and international environment provides the escort to successfully achieve the "Four Comprehensive" strategic layout. The "Four Comprehensive" elevates the socialist PDR with the Chinese characteristics to a new height, widens the PDR new pattern, enriches and expands the connotation and extension of the PDR, gives the PDR new era characters, and further enriches and develops the diplomatic theory system with the Chinese characteristics.

(Excerpts of an article from
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