

The Practical Implications and Paths to Achieving the Ideology of Common Prosperity in the New Era of China

Jinlin Peng*

*School of Marxism, Anqing Normal University, Anqing, 246133, China
1012863235@qq.com*

**Corresponding author*

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Abstract: Common prosperity is an essential requirement of socialism with Chinese characteristics and the earnest expectation of the people. China has always made unremitting efforts toward achieving this goal. Since the 18th National Congress, in the face of complex political and economic situations, with Comrade Xi at the core, has taken a strategic direction to lead the people in the country toward common prosperity. However, the new era has brought new meanings and requirements for common prosperity. By deeply exploring the profound connotations and practical significance of the ideology of common prosperity in the new era, and by summarizing and exploring the paths to its realization, strong momentum and fundamental guidance for achieving the great goal of common prosperity will be provided.

1. Introduction

With the 18th National Congress of the CPC, a new era of socialism tailored to Chinese characteristics has emerged. This era is marked by the unity and struggle of all ethnic groups to improve their lives and gradually achieve common prosperity for all [1]. The connotations and requirements of common prosperity have evolved in this new era. This paper explores its profound implications, summarizes the path to its realization, and provides guidance for achieving common prosperity.

Common prosperity is a key feature of socialism, demonstrating the superiority of the socialist system. However, it cannot be achieved immediately after establishing socialism, especially in countries with less developed economies and cultures. After socialism's establishment, liberating and developing social productive forces to achieve common prosperity will be a long-term struggle. As socialism develops, the understanding of common prosperity and its realization will deepen.

The concept of common prosperity first appeared in the early years of New China in the "Resolution on Developing Agricultural Production Cooperatives," which stated: "To gradually enable farmers to escape poverty and achieve common prosperity" [2]. In 1995, Comrade Mao Zedong expanded on this concept, saying: "This wealth is common wealth, and this strength is common strength, shared by everyone" [3]. For Mao, the three major transformations culminated in the establishment of socialist public ownership, the task shifted from liberating the productive forces to developing them under new production relations [3]. During the early reform period, Deng

emphasized common prosperity, outlining a “three-step” strategy—from solving basic needs to achieving a moderately affluent social structure and then modernization [4].

Following the 18th National Congress, the CPC proposed a comprehensive blueprint for common prosperity in the new era, highlighting the completion of a moderately affluent society and progress toward national rejuvenation [5]. Understanding the scientific connotations and characteristics of common prosperity is essential for addressing issues like income inequality, social injustice, and unifying the nation’s efforts [6].

The CPC remains committed to scientific socialism, making common prosperity a long-term goal in social development. With the second centenary goal in sight, it is crucial to continue steadfastly working toward common prosperity for all.

2. Correct Understanding of the Scientific Connotations of the Ideology of New-Era Pursuit of Socioeconomic Equity

CPC has consistently adhered to the direction and principles of scientific socialism, making common prosperity a long-term goal in the exploration of social development. Currently, as we advance toward the second centenary goal, it is crucial to place greater emphasis on promoting common prosperity for all, striving steadfastly, and making active efforts toward this goal.

In the new era, the ideological connotation of common prosperity is comprehensive. It is primarily achieved through highly developed social productive forces, vast wealth accumulation, and significant improvement in the material living standards of the people. Without the development of productive forces and improvements in living standards, true common prosperity cannot be realized. Therefore, advancing social productive forces remains the fundamental task of CPC and the country in the new era. The ideology of common prosperity focuses on both material and spiritual productive forces, aiming to create a richer material civilization and spiritual civilization [7]. With substantial progress in material civilization, the construction of spiritual civilization has become increasingly important. General Secretary Xi emphasized, "When skyscrapers stand across the land of our country, the spiritual edifice of the Chinese nation should also stand tall." This statement highlights that common prosperity in the new era requires not only a strong material foundation but also a robust spiritual power [8]. The measure of common prosperity is not based solely on material wealth but as a comprehensive embodiment of the overall development and progress of socialist society.

The core of the ideology of common prosperity is a people-centered approach. The people-centered development thought is central to the CPC's ideology of common prosperity, reflected in shared development and the realization of fairness and justice. As the soul of common prosperity, universal sharing, fairness, and justice are primarily expressed in income distribution. The Central Committee of CPC has shifted from the previous concept of unbalanced development, where some became rich first, toward a more balanced and universally shared distribution.

The pursuit of common prosperity unfolds progressively, marking a substantial enhancement in living conditions built upon the achievements of a moderately well-off society. It stands as the ultimate aspiration of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era. However, common prosperity does not imply equal or simultaneous prosperity for all. The realization of common prosperity will inevitably be gradual. On one hand, it is reflected in the asynchronous timing of prosperity. Factors such as individual abilities, family environment, historical conditions, and system mechanisms affect the pace at which different people achieve prosperity. As a result, regional differences, urban-rural disparities, and industry discrepancies will influence the rate of prosperity. It is impossible for all members to achieve prosperity simultaneously. On the other hand, common prosperity is reflected in the unequal degree of prosperity. It is a starting point that will

continue to develop and improve as the country progresses toward higher levels of prosperity.

3. The Practical Significance of the Ideology of Common Prosperity in the New Era of CPC

The ideology of common prosperity in the new era of CPC has pointed out the direction for addressing the major issues in contemporary Chinese society and significantly promoted the realization of shared prosperity. Guided by Comrade Xi's important thoughts on common prosperity, and implementing the people-centered approach to shared development, it is of great significance for us to accurately grasp the connotations and characteristics of the process of common prosperity, ensure the direction of its development, and ultimately realize common prosperity.

3.1 Demonstrating the Advantages of the Chinese Path to Socialism

The ideology of common prosperity in the new era points out the direction and goal for our advancement. During the 14th Five-Year Plan period, after achieving the first centenary goal, how the CPC will lead all the people to actively strive forward and comprehensively build a socialist modernized nation, while marching toward the second centenary goal, is the task that the times have given us. As the primary engine promoting shared prosperity for all, in this new phase of development, adheres to the new development concept, unwaveringly follows the path of common prosperity, and has set a long-term goal—achieving substantial progress in common prosperity. This fully demonstrates the immense advantages of the socialist system with Chinese characteristics [9]. Common prosperity is a gradual process, and the CPC's leadership can ensure the consistency of direction, continuity of policy, and consensus on demands. At the same time, it is strategic in planning the top-level design of common prosperity and advancing relevant systems to become more mature and well-defined, turning institutional strengths into effective governance.

3.2 Deeply Illustrating the Value Pursuit of Putting People First

Entering the new era, the Central Committee of the CPC, with Comrade Xi at the core, has made profound statements on this matter: “We should adhere to a people-centered approach to development — ensuring that development is by the people, for the people, and that its benefits are shared among all. Institutional mechanisms should be refined to enable everyone to make steady progress toward shared prosperity” [10]. On the one hand, this reflects the development concept of putting people first. Focusing on the people and striving to improve their lives, achieving common prosperity for all, is the CPC's goal. On the other hand, this also reflects the basic principles of historical materialism—people are both participants in and creators of history. In the new era, on the road to realizing common prosperity through co-construction, co-governance, and shared benefits, the government does not take on everything itself but instead shifts from “giving people fish” to “teaching people to fish”, while fully utilizing the initiative of the masses and encouraging the people to actively participate in the struggle for common prosperity.

3.3 Vigorously Promoting Comprehensive and High-Quality Economic and Social Development in Our Country

Since the reform and opening up, CPC and the country have always focused on economic construction and unwaveringly insisted on developing productive forces, leading to a significant improvement in our economic level. However, in the new phase of development, after experiencing rapid economic growth, the main social contradiction has shifted from “material and cultural needs” to “the need for a better life”, which introduces new requirements for common prosperity.

Specifically, economic development must shift its focus from quantity to quality, pursuing high-quality development. Under the guidance of the ideology of common prosperity, we are solidly advancing high-quality economic development. The high-quality development of our economy is aimed at meeting the people's better life. Therefore, high-quality economic development must be implemented in areas such as education, healthcare, and other social welfare undertakings to deliver tangible benefits to the people, ensuring that the people experience a sense of achievement, happiness, and security.

3.4 Promoting Balanced Global Development

The trend of multipolarity in the world is irreversible, and there are significant imbalances in global economic development, with economic disparities gradually widening. It is precisely due to the profound insight and consideration of the global situation that General Secretary Xi proposed building a “community of shared future for mankind”, which fully reflects our great country's sense of responsibility. Furthermore, under the guidance of the ideology of common prosperity in the new era, China's battle against poverty has been comprehensively successful, achieving the first centenary goal, with 770 million rural poor people successfully lifted out of poverty and many more people enjoying better living standards. China's poverty reduction efforts account for over 70% of global poverty reduction during the same period, making a significant contribution to global poverty alleviation. The Chinese path and Chinese wisdom in this regard offer significant insights for the rest of the world [11].

4. Pathways for Achieving Common Prosperity in the New Era of the CPC

The ideology of common prosperity has deepened theoretical understanding. Based on the experience gained from the practical path, CPC and the government have led the people to focus on the new stage of development, apply new development philosophies, and build new development patterns. They aim to enhance social productive capacity through innovation-driven development, coordination, and green concepts, creating the material foundation for common prosperity, and using the concept of shared development to ensure that the development fruits are fairly and justly shared by all people, ultimately advancing substantial progress in common prosperity.

4.1 Leading High-Quality Development with an Innovation Concept

China's technological innovation is constantly emerging, and the country's global innovation index ranking continues to improve. However, as the world's second-largest economy, our innovation capability is still far from sufficient. There are major problems, such as insufficient original innovation capabilities, unclear scope of innovation entities, inadequate transformation of results, imperfect incentive mechanisms, and a lack of an active innovation atmosphere. General Secretary Xi emphasized the need to vigorously promote independent innovation, drive “connotative” growth through technological innovation, and establish a new development pattern focusing on breakthrough core technologies. Therefore, innovative development must rely on institutional innovation, integrating it into the entire industrial chain, establishing and improving mechanisms to promote the transformation of technological achievements, encouraging large, medium, and small enterprises to innovate together, and nurturing new development drivers. First, prioritize basic research. Basic research is the cornerstone of innovation and provides the foundation for technological progress. Second, highlight the main role of enterprises in innovation. As an essential component of China's market economy, the innovation capacity of enterprises determines the quality of our economic development. We should encourage enterprises to engage in

in-depth cooperation with universities and research institutions, jointly tackling technological challenges, and gaining competitive advantages for future development. Lastly, treat talent as the primary resource supporting development. Innovation fundamentally comes from people, as people are the main body of all innovation activities. Researchers should be given more autonomy in decision-making, and a scientific evaluation system based on individual ability, team collaboration, and contribution should be established, with corresponding incentives to encourage researchers to generate innovations that enhance personal earnings.

4.2 Leading Balanced Development with a Coordination Concept

Over the past forty years of reform and opening up, the economic and social development in China has progressed rapidly, and the overall national strength has significantly increased. However, unbalanced and insufficient development remains a key constraint preventing the realization of common prosperity. This is particularly evident in regional imbalances, urban-rural disparities, and the imbalance between material and spiritual civilization. To achieve common prosperity, the concept of coordinated development must be used to address these issues. First, promote regional coordinated development. Different regions have distinct spatial conditions and resource endowments. In promoting common prosperity, it is essential to tap into each region's unique features and advantages and adapt to local conditions. Second, promote rural-urban integrated development. In the new stage of development, the imbalance between urban and rural areas remains a pressing issue to be resolved. The 14th Five-Year Plan outlines the need to establish mechanisms for urban-rural integration to address these imbalances, ultimately achieving common prosperity. Third, coordinate the development of material civilization and spiritual civilization. The good life that people yearn for is multi-faceted and multi-layered. Based on the lessons learned from developed countries' modernization paths, it is essential to prevent the phenomenon of "filling pockets but leaving the spirit hollow". Currently, people enjoy abundant material lives; however, materialism, hedonism, and individualism have impacted the spiritual foundation needed for the practice of common prosperity. As the saying goes, "When the granary is full, people understand the value of etiquette." In the new era, where material civilization has advanced significantly, the coordinated development of material and spiritual civilization is crucial for realizing human development, promoting overall social progress, and achieving true common prosperity.

4.3 Leading Harmony between Humanity and Nature with a Green Concept

General Secretary Xi emphasized: "We must insist on the harmonious coexistence of humanity and nature, and work together to promote the prosperity of the people, the strength of the country, and the beauty of China" [5]. Leading the harmonious coexistence of humanity and nature with a green concept is the core of Xi's ecological civilization thought, which enriches and develops Marxist views on nature and dialectical materialism. The ecological environment is a fundamental element of productive forces, influencing the ability to create social wealth. Protecting the ecology is protecting productive forces, and improving ecology is developing productive forces. Currently, China faces notable resource bottlenecks, and decades of pursuing economic growth have resulted in environmental pollution that has not been thoroughly addressed. There are also gaps in relevant legal and regulatory frameworks. On the path to common prosperity, we must accurately understand the relationship between economic development and environmental protection, and realize high-quality development through ecological civilization.

4.4 Leading Fairness and Justice with the Concept of Shared Development

Common prosperity requires that all people share the fruits. The core of its realization is the establishment of a fair and just value distribution system. For a long time, we have only seen the phenomenon of income inequality among contemporary people, and thus, research on distribution policies has focused on achieving fairness in distribution outcomes. In reality, to establish a fair and just value distribution system in the new era, we should focus more on the systemic and institutional causes behind income inequality. Research should be conducted from the perspectives of distribution theory, institutional innovation, and top-level design, with greater emphasis on fairness in starting points and opportunities, as well as intergenerational distribution justice [12].

4.5 Leading China's Shared Prosperity with the World through Openness

The new era has endowed common prosperity with a new connotation, expanding from fulfilling the Chinese people's aspiration for a better life to realizing the global aspiration for a better life. The CPC is leading the 1.4 billion people along the path to common prosperity. Concepts of openness, inclusiveness, and universal benefits enable China to draw on valuable development experiences from abroad and contribute new solutions for global prosperity. First, China actively learns from the outstanding civilizational achievements of other countries. While China has made significant progress in socialist construction, challenges remain both domestically and internationally. Therefore, an open mindset is essential to exchange ideas, learn from others, and continue advancing development. Second, China provides assistance to other countries, advancing practical cooperation within its capacity. As a responsible major country, China adheres to peaceful development, avoids hegemonism, and balances national interests with the concerns of others, promoting common human interests. Finally, the “community of shared future for mankind”, proposed by the CPC, emphasizes advancing together, sharing both honor and disgrace, and fulfilling global aspirations for a better life. In advancing international cooperation and shared development, this proposition has played a crucial role [13]. China aims to promote a more just and reasonable international order, establish a new type of economic globalization, and elevate the global economy, ultimately achieving common prosperity for all mankind.

5. Conclusion

The ideology of common prosperity in the new era serves as a vital guiding principle for realizing socialism with Chinese characteristics. It reflects the CPC's consistent people-centered development philosophy and provides a scientific framework for promoting fairness, justice, and balanced growth. By adhering to innovation-driven, coordinated, green, and shared development concepts, China is advancing toward high-quality economic growth and comprehensive social progress. Meanwhile, promoting harmony between humanity and nature and pursuing openness in international cooperation embody China's vision of contributing to a community with a shared future for mankind. Ultimately, the realization of common prosperity is a gradual yet steady process that requires institutional innovation, social participation, and global collaboration to ensure that the benefits of modernization are shared by all people in both material and spiritual dimensions.

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