

A Study of the Traceability of Risk Theory and Its Modern Implications

Ci Ma^{1,a}, Jinfan Shen^{2,b,*}, Yu Yan^{1,c}

¹School of Information Science and Technology, Northeast Normal University, Changchun, China

²School of Political Science and Law, Northeast Normal University, Changchun, China

^a 1215943155@qq.com, ^b shenjf@nenu.edu.cn, ^c 1357297574@qq.com

*Corresponding author

Abstract: *With the social and economic development, the risk frequently appears, and the academia pays more and more attention to the risk and its theory, and the western scholars create the theory of “risk society” and expand it to multi-disciplinary fields. Early on, the “local” and “origin” theories of risk were all based on the idea that risk originated from natural dangers, but with the evolution of the times, the meaning of risk has been expanded to encompass the kernel of uncertainty and danger, which has been defined differently by different disciplines. Risk theory has been elaborated by a number of scholars, the meaning is more and more rich, Ulrich Beck from the economic, social, political and legal dimensions of the analysis of the risk society; Anthony Giddens put forward the risk of “breaking” with the modern industrial civilization of the society, and distinguish between external risk and the risk of production, emphasizing that the risk of two-sided; Nicholas Luhmann Nicholas Luhmann believes that risk is created by human beings, and constructs the concept of risk responsibility; Mary Douglas and Scott Rush interpret from the perspective of risk culture, and believe that risk is a civilized phenomenon. Risk theory, on the one hand, reveals that environmental risks are accompanied by high-quality development of society, requiring countries to pay attention to environmental protection; on the other hand, it emphasizes the dialectical view of the two-sided nature of scientific and technological development, as well as the use of dialectics to perceive the positive and negative utility of risk. It should be clear that risk theory is essentially a cognitive thinking method, and as China is facing multiple risks during the critical period of globalization and transformation, which are different from the causes of risks in the West, it should, under the guidance of the thought on socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, critically absorb the experience of risk theory, promote green development and ecological civilization, and move forward towards a modern socialist powerhouse.*

Keywords: *risk; risk theory; modern implications*

1. Introduction

With the development of social economy, risk appears in people's view with higher frequency and becomes a state of the current society. This makes people begin to pay attention to and study risk. Western scholars use the perspective of sociology to study risk, creatively put forward the theory of “risk society”, and on this basis, the study of risk is developed into various disciplines. With the perspective of risk society, we can have a feasible perspective on the understanding of innovation risk. Through the integration of the theory of risk society, combined with the lexical combing of risk, under the guidance of Marxist thought, and in combination with the actual situation of China's development in the new era, we will carry out the sublation and absorption of risk and risk theory, clarify the modern connotation of the risk theory, and provide a theoretical tool for the development of China's rule of law.

2. Etymology and origins of early risk

The origin of the term “risk” can be broadly categorized into the “native theory” and the “origin theory”. Native theory that risk is the ancient period fishermen fishing at sea encountered natural phenomena, that is, fishermen in the process of navigation because of storms produce a lot of unpredictable, uncertain dangers; source of the “origin theory” said by a number of statements, but one of the general theories that the word risk is a foreign product, which is a translation of the Italian “RISQUE”, the word's ancient meaning is still expressed as the objective existence of danger. The archaic

meaning of the word is still expressed as an objective danger, which generally refers to occasional natural events such as storms and reefs encountered by the population while at sea, and also encompasses encounters with other natural events that may cause damage. Whether it is indigenous or originated, it is believed that risk is a kind of objective danger from nature, and the existence of wind is often accompanied by the emergence of risk, risk is due to the wind, if there is a wind, it means there is risk, that's how the word 'risk' comes into being.

With the passage of time, the language has undergone a long evolution and development, the modern meaning of the word risk is no longer confined to the narrow meaning of natural danger, but extended to the chance of encountering damage or destruction or the danger of a larger meaning, more emphasis on the possibility and uncertainty. With the development of human society, risk is given to sociology, economics, philosophy, jurisprudence and other fields of deeper meaning, and with human decision-making and behavioral consequences of the increasingly close connection, although the risk of different disciplines in different expressions and meanings, but the core meaning is still inseparable from the result of uncertainty.

As for the meaning of risk, from the perspective of different disciplines, each discipline has different emphasis on the definition of risk, and even within the same discipline, there are many different expressions of the concept of risk, so that there is a lack of a unified and clear definition of the meaning of risk. Therefore, to clarify the meaning of risk, it is necessary to synthesize the definitions of risk from different perspectives:

From the early origin of the concept of risk, risk is a potential natural danger that is difficult to predict and cannot be determined, which human beings try to avoid in their productive life.

From a linguistic point of view, the Modern Chinese Dictionary defines risk as "the danger that may occur^[1]".

From the sociological point of view, risk is "a characteristic of the uncertainty that exists in the world when certainty disappears^[2]".

From the point of view of economics, risk is "a probability value that can be given to various situations that may occur in the future although the information of the economic subject is not sufficient^[3]".

From a philosophical point of view, risk is "a possible, uncertain negative value of the object to the subject; in other words, risk is the possible outcome or possible attribute of the object brought about or generated by the subject's activity in opposition to the subject's goal^[4]".

Summarizing the above content, it can be concluded as follows, risk is actually an uncertain state of danger, which represents the possibility of the occurrence of danger. People recognize that danger may exist, so the vast majority of people want to take measures to avoid all kinds of risks and seek a safe state.

It can be concluded that uncertainty and danger constitute the kernel of risk. When people face risks, although they know the objective existence of danger, they cannot anticipate whether the danger will occur or not, and the danger may or may not occur. In this way, uncertainty has become a symbol of the distinction between risk and danger, when the uncertainty determines the transformation, the risk is transformed into danger, so monitoring and grasping the uncertainty has become the key to avoid the occurrence of danger.

Based on the above definition of risk, it can be described as: in a particular objective situation, individuals or organizations are in a conflict and balance of the objective state during the production and life process at every moment.

3. Formation and Evolution of Risk Theory

Since Ulrich Beck created the theory of risk society, risk society has been analyzed from four dimensions: economic, social, political and legal, providing a fresh perspective on risk society. Giddens, Luhmann and others developed on the basis of Beck's risk society, correlating risk with the role of human beings and conducting in-depth research on aspects such as the duality of risk. Douglas and Rush look at risk through the lens of risk culture, providing another viable perspective for risk research.

3.1. Ulrich Beck's Theory of Risk Society

German sociologist Ulrich Beck studies the concept of risk with the help of sociological perspective and, on this basis, elaborates the characteristics of risk society from economic, social, political and legal levels.

1) In Beck's view, the first characteristic of the risk society in the economic level is described as a kind of "subversion" of logic. This subversion is in fact a description of a social phenomenon, that is, the dual function of social production in the context of the risk society. While social production creates wealth, it also brings risks that cannot be solved by itself. With the continuous development of social economy, human society also gradually shows the characteristics of the risk society, at this time, the productivity is similar to the positive and negative sides of the coin also surfaced, and its "potential side effects" will have a direct constraint on the accumulation of social wealth and the sustainable development of the economy. The development of productive forces is accompanied by the creation of risks, and in today's highly industrialized societies, dangers and potential threats are unleashed to an unprecedented degree, creating a threat that implies the self-destruction of all life on earth^[5]. The important economic characteristics of the risk society are manifested in the fact that the risks produced by the productive forces have directly become an important threat that restricts the growth of wealth and economic development.

2) The social dimension of the risk society, Beck's argument for the social dimension of the risk society is carried out through a comparative approach, with the help of comparing the risk-taking of different classes to elaborate the social characteristics of the risk society. Beck believes that there is a connection between risk and class nature, which is reflected in basic inequality. People with high class status often have higher risk status and can transfer risks, while people with low class status usually have lower risk status and often unconsciously accept transfer risks and face potential risks in their own field of existence. Thus, risk is distributed in a risk society according to class status; and, from a macro perspective, there is a sharp contrast between underdeveloped and developed regions in a risk society, where poverty will "potentially invite risk" and affluence will "purchase security and the privilege of being exempted from risk". With this, it can be seen that, in reality, the allocation of risk is based on the rules set up by the ruling class. Beck points out that the artificial distribution of risk essentially creates new inequalities in the international community and makes it difficult for the weaker parties to refuse. The developed countries, relying on their own development base, took the lead in reforming their production structure, entered into social transformation, and packaged a large number of production projects that implied great risks and sent them to poorer and less developed countries and regions; the latter not only had to face the risks arising from their own backwardness in productivity, but also had to bear the risks arising from the transfer of production projects by the developed countries. The people of the poorer, less developed countries and regions bear more risks, not only those generated internally, but also those transferred externally.

3) Risk society at the political level. Beck emphasizes that objective communities (groups) of global risk form. The most notable phenomenon is the recognition of environmental risks, which contain both opportunities and crises, not only as a "stop sign" for production and the opposite of opportunity, but also as a perfect opportunity to open up environmental markets. Members of society of all parties and classes are becoming aware of environmental risks. Without distinguishing between age and occupation, they created a social force "without class, industry, or politics," whose purpose was to prevent the risk of environmental pollution from toxic waste, nuclear power, and other sources, as well as to curb the destruction of ecosystems. This force has grown and evolved into a large, organized "risk community". This group has made significant efforts to curb the spread of risks of global concern. The risk community's claims about environmental risk are non-discriminatory and public good, but its advocacy of international agreements and interstate negotiations as effective ways to address environmental risk means that its claims are limited and aspirational.

4) The performance of risk society at the legal level. Beck points out that the modern legal system constructed by the advanced capitalist countries in the West is essentially masking the real risks and recognizing the legitimacy of the existence of risks through law. Beck emphasized that the traditional theory that environmental risk is only a "potential threat" has long departed from the needs of today's risk society. In the past, people in the actual production and life activities are difficult to contact and recognize the danger, along with people's awareness of the degree of risk gradually revealed its true nature. However, the existing laws of the mainstream ideology are always trying to find an "acceptable threshold", or to install a "filter" while retaining the "source of pollution". The systems explicitly provided in these legal texts for regulating the environmental risks posed by industrial production

activities do not regulate in a way that is absolutely prohibited or effectively deterred, but only in a symbolic sense. The means adopted by the current legal system to reduce or eliminate the growth of risks are surprisingly comfortable and reassuring. Thus, the current Western legal system is not designed to protect the fundamental interests of the population.

3.2 Anthony Giddens' theory of risk

Anthony Giddens, a British sociologist, studied the theory of risk mainly from his academic works: "Out of Control World", etc. Giddens and Beck's theory of risk has some connections, but more obvious differences.

1) Risk is a "break" with "modern industrial civilization society". Giddens sees risk as a modernity that reflects on radical institutions, noting that it is internally close to an infinitely antagonistic, saber-rattling reflexivity. Giddens defines it as "Risk suggests a society that is attempting to make an active break with its past and with the dominant features of modern industrial civilization^[6]". In layman's terms, the risk society is actually the antithesis of the highly developed industrial society. This antithesis is a kind of criticism and introspection on the traditional society, and it greatly impacts and transcends the traditional order, and then evolves into a brand-new order and system to cope with the risk, and the most significant feature of Giddens' theory of the risk society is the theory of this kind of "a kind of introspection on the antithesis".

2) There are two paths through which risks can be analyzed and categorized as external and produced risks. External risks are those that come from outside of human society and are a traditional, natural "risk from invariance and fixity". In Giddens' view, external risk is an objectively existing risk, the existence of which stems from human ignorance and unforeseeability. External risks existed before the creation of human societies, and they are inherently traditional, arising from the laws of nature, and have remained unchanged or seldom changed for a long time. Produced risks, on the other hand, are risks that are triggered while human beings continue to develop their own knowledge and, in doing so, transform and influence the world, risks that human beings "have produced without much historical experience". Produced risk cannot be divorced from human activity; it is a risk that arises in future seasons and is not expected to occur by humans who aspire to take control of it as they continue to absorb knowledge and develop skills. Giddens is pessimistic about preventing produced risk: in his view, such risk cannot be calculated, so it is difficult to predict what will happen in the future. This is why Giddens describes modern life as a "runaway world". In a world out of control, the predominance of external risk is gradually transformed into "produced risk". A phenomenon of the end of nature has emerged: this phenomenon does not imply the demise of the physical world, but merely points to the fact that energy, matter, and many other factors in the human environment have been "left unaffected in some way by human interference". There is basically no such thing as pure nature; all natural things are more or less affected by human activities.

3) Risk is the unity of positive and negative sides, manifesting as duality, which has the content of negative attributes, but also covers the content of positive attributes. Giddens emphasized that risk is a two-sided coin, with dual attributes, as long as we correctly understand and actively respond to risk, it can still be used as an opportunity to open up many innovations. Therefore, the more the future requires human society to respond positively to risk, the more human beings must strengthen the perspective of using risk in their thinking. It is for this reason that Giddens emphasizes that in this out-of-control risk society, it is imperative that people change their attitudes toward risk and respond to and accept it positively. This is what drives people to create the highly industrialized production and market economy of modern societies, and in so doing, to pursue greater wealth and seek sustained development. In particular, Giddens emphasizes that the precautionary principle of risk has its limitations; in other words, the precautionary principle is not a panacea; it does not apply to everything at all times. Today, the out-of-control risk society is recognized. The traditional view of risk and its consequences as being limited to a defined sphere and targeted at specific victims is no longer relevant to the current needs of globalization and modernization. Therefore, people need to understand first of all that they are and will be in the context of a global risk society for a long time, and that they have to consciously cope with the crises caused by a global risk society. In the face of this reality, the public must still try to choose optimism as a way of dealing positively with risk and thus creating more appropriate systems for regulation and change.

3.3. *Nicholas Luhmann's theory of risk*

German sociologist Nicholas Luhmann's risk theory is an expansion on Beck's risk theory. Luhmann absorbed and summarized many risks on the basis of technical risks, which are all associated with human behavior.

1) Risks are created by people, which means that they are affected by human behavior. Luhmann distinguishes between risk and danger by defining the dominant role of subjective and objective factors. According to Luhmann, risk is related to "human decisions^[7]", and when a certain decision has a possibility of harm, the act of that decision is characterized as a risk; a danger does not depend on a person's subjective assumptions but exists objectively, i.e., it is called a risk when the cause of a certain damage is completely unrelated to the conduct guided by the person's subjective will.

2) Risk responsibility is constructed as a concept. Risk responsibility can be expressed as, since human decision-making behavior is directly related to the creation of risk, when the risk causes damage, an individual or group will necessarily incur the responsibility for reducing or eliminating this risk of damage, at the same time, society also incurs responsibility for the risk of damage. Guided by this logic, Luhmann places special emphasis on the need to construct a theory for analyzing and making decisions about potential risks in current society. He points out that the current conception of risk analysis and decision-making has fallen into a misconception that limits it to a small range of scientific and technological problems. Such risk analysis and decision-making should be extended to all risks related to human society; these risks should be analyzed and decided in a comprehensive and systematic manner. To realize the scientific analysis of risk and decision-making, it is necessary to use the method of observation, therefore, Luhmann puts forward two methods of observation, one is the objective observation of the facts, and the other is the observation of the results of human assessment of risk.

3) Human behavior constructs the risk of the existing society. Therefore, the subject who carries out the behavior, which is also the subject of risk responsibility, should at the same time assume the role of observing the risk; while other subjects who have not yet constructed the risk are greatly influenced by the behavior decided by the person who is responsible for the risk, and may likewise construct the risk. Strictly speaking, people must work together to carry out the decision-making and assessment of risk in a prudent manner.

3.4. *Mary Douglas, Scott Rush's theory of risk*

British scholars Mary Douglas and Scott Rush differ from scholars such as Beck, Giddens, and Luhmann in their research perspectives, as Douglas and Rush unfold a new explanation of risk from the perspective of risk culture.

In *Risk and Culture*, Douglas points out that risk is not a social phenomenon but a civilizational one. Along with the enhancement of people's ability to recognize risk, people's awareness of perceived risk has also increased. It can be seen that the development of science and technology does not have a decisive effect on risk, and the increase in risk may not be the result of scientific and technological development, but the result of public perception. The public is aware of the damage potential of risks and expects to be able to control them. As a result of increased public awareness, people can perceive more risks and expect to be able to avoid them more and more. So, in the final analysis, risk is a kind of increase in people's awareness^[8].

Rush notes that the current rapid development of science and technology has made the measures and procedures for coping with and regulating risks more complicated. It is argued that this phenomenon will create a huge crisis that equally affects all of humanity, which announces the dawn of the age of risk culture. However, Rush does not fully agree with Beck's theory of risk society, and he also reflects on it. In Rush's opinion, risk society arises from various issues in society that are of wide public concern, so it seems that risk society does not accurately describe the phenomenon, and the use of risk culture can be more in line with the concept of risk. In the context of globalization, this culture spreads and penetrates into all spheres of society and brings with it more observed concerns and uncertain risks. This culture is at the same time a culture of insurance. Therefore, in a risk culture, people not only make proactive risk avoidance and response their main goal, but also focus on preventing and eliminating the occurrence of risks that threaten the security of the human community, which is triggered by rapid scientific and technological development.

Rush does not share Beck's views on risk regulation and resolution. He argues that in the context of risk culture, one cannot pinpoint every risk through formulaic rationality, let alone respond to the

occurrence of different risks with the help of normative assumptions. The problem of risk should be solved by adopting confidence and theory, and therefore, he emphasizes the need to establish ideals and beliefs as a positive guideline for regulating and solving the real-life difficulties encountered by the risk culture.

4. Criticism and reference of risk theory

In the 1980s of the twentieth century, Ulrich Beck put forward the theory of risk society, which has a history of more than forty years. After nearly half a century of academic discussions and theoretical practice, the research on risk society has largely formed a relatively systematic and complete theoretical system and structure. The research on the theory of risk society is based on the change of social structure in the western capitalist society. For countries outside of Western capitalism, the theory cannot be fully applied. However, the theoretical value and practical significance of the risk society theory should not be erased because of this. With the help of Marxist dialectics, the main viewpoints of the risk society can be discarded and absorbed, and the risk theory can be localized and transformed, so that we can deal with the risk theory in a more scientific way, and then we can establish our country's theoretical viewpoints and systems in face of the risk by means of the theory, and provide the idea of the high-quality development of our country's social practice.

4.1. The companion relationship between environmental risk and social quality development

The development of human society has gone through a transformation from conquering nature to living in harmony with nature, but in the course of once wantonly exploiting and transforming nature, triggered a large number of environmental pollution and ecological damage problems, which have caused negative impacts on human society that can not be ignored. As Giddens warned: human beings in the process of transforming nature, their production and living behavior has a profound impact on nature; the high degree of modernization of human civilization accompanied by more and more serious consequences - environmental pollution, water depletion, desertification and other ecological disasters are becoming more and more intense. Beck warned that the ecological environment on which human beings depend for their survival has been seriously damaged by human beings' greedy plundering, irrational utilization and exhaustive development. Therefore, no matter whether it is a modernized developed country or a relatively backward developing country, no matter whether it is a capitalist system, a socialist system or a feudal monarchical system, all of them will be faced with this consequence--that is, the environmental risks triggered by human behaviors will be inflicted on everyone without discrimination.

Western risk society theory has produced a comprehensive and profound understanding of the impact of human activities in the natural environment, which also makes environmental risk a clever analytical perspective of risk society, with the help of which, not only we can analyze the impact of risk society on the process of industrialization of human society, but also deeply analyze the impact of risk society on each individual in the human group. It can be seen that at the beginning of the exploitation of nature, human beings were able to obtain substantial benefits from nature according to their own needs. However, in the long run, the overburdened nature will no longer be able to bear the endless demands of human beings and will fall into a state of "sickness". After the natural world's self-purification and regulation, and the cleansing of human traces, the natural world will return to a partially primitive state. But in this process, human beings will pay a painful price for their own behavior.

Through the lens of environmental risk, countries are no longer using GDP as the only measure of development, but are instead focusing more on high-quality development that harmonizes human beings and nature, and General Secretary proposed at the 20th Party Congress that we should "promote green development and harmonious coexistence between human beings and nature^[9]", China's development "requires both mountains of gold and mountains of green water. I would rather have green mountains and green water than gold mountains and silver mountains. And green water and green mountains are golden silver mountains". When dealing with the contradiction between developing the economy and protecting the environment, countries should pay more attention to protecting the environment and carry out economic construction and development on the basis of environmental protection.

4.2. Dialectical materialism's view of science and technology, scientific and technological development under the threshold of dialectics

With the progress and development of society, human beings have mastered and will master more and more science and technology and knowledge. These science and technology and knowledge are a “double-edged sword”, proper utilization will be transformed into more and more powerful productivity. At the same time, irrational use will lead to more and more numerous and insurmountable risks, which will damage the natural environment on which human beings depend for their survival and spread the risks to the whole world. Beck emphasized that “some high-tech industrialization behaviors and industrialization products may cause great risks and disasters to human society^[10]”, but in fact, in a highly modernized era today, the production and life under various social systems on a global scale cannot be separated from these industrialized behaviors and industrialized products at all. Therefore, “these risky productions that have the potential for evil and disaster” will continue for quite some time.

The theory of risk society makes people realize that in the era of risk society, everything has its positive and negative sides, and science and technology is certainly included. In fact, the typical feature of highly industrialized society is the industrial innovation triggered by the progress of science and technology, and industrial innovation often invites brand-new risks while creating productivity, so science and technology naturally has a closer connection with the risk society. Thus, the development of science and technology is accompanied by a double impact. In the era of the risk society, science and technology can play a positive value, that is, innovating productivity and production levels to provide a more comfortable living environment for the majority of the members of the society; at the same time, it is also accompanied by a negative effect, that is, science and technology is involved in the increasingly complex risks, and also causes the biological crisis, nuclear threats, biological and chemical threats and other unprecedented disasters. Nonetheless, risk society theories have not been abandoned, and the dual nature of science and technology continues to be viewed with optimism. In the process of scientific and technological spiral, if human beings can use rational judgment and adopt the use of science and technology for the purpose of maximizing the benefit of human beings, it will be less likely to end up in extinction.

Scholars of risk society theory are not blindly questioning and denying the role of science and technology, but comprehensively and holistically recognizing its positive and negative sides. This also inspires us to recognize the positive and negative aspects of science and technology from the Marxist dialectical viewpoint: on the one hand, science and technology enable human beings to enhance the ability to recognize and resist uncertain risks in the future; on the other hand, inappropriate use of science and technology will lead to huge risks such as energy depletion, ecological damage, and environmental pollution.

4.3. Risk perception under the threshold of dialectics

The world is contradictory and unified, which is an important point of view of Marxist dialectics. In fact, risk is the emergence of contradictions in the process of human practice. The development of society is driven by the interaction of contradictions.

In their research on the social theory of risk, Beck, Giddens and others do not consider risk as something that needs to be completely dissolved, but rather maintain a rational attitude toward risk as a product of social pathology; and repeatedly emphasize that risk has a dualistic unity of intertwined positive and negative utility, and that risk is both a fresh start and creative opportunity for new socio-economic development, and also triggers impediments to the development of socio-economic Negative events that hinder socio-economic development. As it is in people's nature to seek advantage and avoid harm, the regulation of risk has become^[11] an effort to maximize the positive effects of risk.

Scholars of the social theory of risk have seen that risk naturally maps uncertainty and crisis, and that simmering ecological crises, irreversible environmental pollution, and nuclear war, all catastrophes that lie beneath a beautiful reality and are highly susceptible to global repercussions, have “painted an unsettling and dangerous picture for each of us”. They at the same time value the wisdom and hope of human beings to cope with and manage risks. In fact, risk lurks a brand-new impetus for social development, and human beings, in order to comprehensively recognize, effectively regulate, and appropriately manage the real needs of risk, make unremitting efforts to improve their cognitive and practical talents, which is “the source of economic vitality and most innovations, including those of a scientific or technological nature^[12]”.

Risk society scholars' relatively comprehensive thinking about risk is the fruit of their reflection on and critique of the Western risk society era. The value of these results must not remain only at the level of theoretical understanding, but should thus call on the public to correctly understand risk, maximize the positive effects of risk, and curb the negative effects of risk. In this way, the theory of risk society can provide relatively systematic and realistic solutions for the dilemmas and crises of risk society, and seize the opportunities and trend of risk society.

5. Modern Connotation of Risk Theory

Western risk society theory is a deep understanding of the continuous emergence of a variety of risks that are still related to each other, and on the basis of such understanding of the concept of risk, role, meaning and so on for a holistic and systematic discussion. In fact, human society did not enter the era of risk society in the modern era, but only due to the recent emergence of a large number of public security incidents and social production problems. These problems have triggered scholars' reflection on the reality of industrial development and social system, and at the same time prompted scholars to think about a series of dilemmas that have emerged in the process of modernization.

From the Marxist point of view, the theory of Western risk society is a dialectical evaluation of Western modernization, including positive affirmation of Western modernization and negative criticism of Western modernization. The theory of risk society is grounded in the reality of the structural change of the Western society, and its essence is only a phenomenon of the risk society depicted, and does not impact the existing social structure of the West.

Therefore, risk theory is essentially a cognitive method of thinking. It reflects on the current modernization model, and through this threshold to re-conceptualize, reflect on, and construct regulatory measures for the current modernization to provide a path that is more in line with the interests of future human development as a whole.

China is currently at a critical stage of its development, facing not only the era of globalization, which is changing rapidly, but also a critical period of national transformation. The era of globalization brings not only global markets and opportunities, but also global risks and challenges. This risk of being shed by capital in global expansion will have a huge impact on the world. China will also be affected by this global risk. At the same time, China is currently in a critical period of social transformation, which Beck describes as a "compressed cookie". According to Beck, "China is presenting various problems in social transformation in the form of historical condensation, bringing unprecedented civilization conflict and culture collision, where history and reality, tradition and modernity, local culture and Western civilization, and other factors are intertwined^[13]". In the process of reform and opening up and social transformation, China is facing the dual challenges of structural and process risks, and is in a critical period of risk complications. Cautious handling of the intertwined multiple risks is essential at this time.

The reason for the significant differences between China and the West in terms of risks is due to the essential difference in the pursuit of values between the two sides. China, as a typical country implementing a socialist system, has never pursued the maximization of capital and profits. China's core social values are tightly focused on the people, and the fruits of its development are designed to satisfy the fundamental interests of all working people and to be enjoyed by all of them, China's development is for the sake of the people and relies on the people. For this reason, what China is facing is not the risk of inherent defects in the system, but the risk arising from the process of reform and development. This risk is the risk arising from solving specific economic and social problems in the process of China's development.

Led by the thought of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, we must adhere to the "five-in-one" strategic layout, base ourselves on the social background of high-quality development, critically learn from the beneficial experience of the theory of the risk society, and combine it with China's actual situation of development, so as to promote China's green development and the construction of an ecological civilization, and to promote the harmonious coexistence of human beings and nature. We will strive to build China into a civilized and harmonious modern socialist power.

6. Conclusions

Since its inception, risk theory has developed with the society, from a simple term focusing on natural disasters to a multidisciplinary, deep and complex meaning. Scholars such as Ulrich Beck, Anthony

Giddens, Nicholas Luhmann, and Mary Douglas and Scott Rush have added to the theory from a variety of perspectives, constructing a theoretical edifice that provides insight into the multifaceted ways in which risk manifests itself in economic, social, political, legal, and cultural dimensions.

This theory profoundly reveals the close intertwining of environmental risks and social development, and warns that the development of all countries should not be at the expense of the environment, and should pursue the harmonious coexistence of human beings and nature; it prompts us to look at science and technology with a dialectical eye, recognizing its powerful creativity, but also facing up to the risks brought about by its inappropriate use; and guides us to rationally perceive the risks themselves, and to grasp the intertwining of their positive and negative effects, in order to turn challenges into opportunities.

Nowadays, China is standing at the critical junction of globalization and transformation, and although it is facing a risk situation different from that of the West, risk theory is just like a navigation light. Under the guidance of the thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, we take the essence and remove the dross, deeply integrate the theory with the national situation, hold the rudder of green development and ecological civilization construction, and march towards a modern socialist powerhouse. We believe that with scientific knowledge of risks and strong measures to deal with them, China will be able to break the waves of the times, write a magnificent chapter that emphasizes both development and security, and create a better future for the happiness of the people and the rejuvenation of the nation.

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