The Philosophical Thinking and Characteristics of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era

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Abstract: The way of thinking is the internal mechanism and process of the occurrence and operation of cognition, which affects the success or failure of human cognition and practice activities to a large extent. Based on the inheritance and innovation of Marxist philosophical thinking, Xi Jinping thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era has formed a philosophical thinking wisdom including the dialectical thinking, system thinking, innovative thinking, historical thinking, strategic thinking, bottom-line thinking, and value thinking all which shows the characteristics of the optimization of the individual order, the observation of the social order, and the exploration of the world order.

Keywords: Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, Philosophical Thinking.

1. The Philosophical Thinking of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era

1.1 The Fast and Steady Dialectical Thinking

Dialectical thinking is the way of thinking that analyzes contradictions, grasps the key problems, and pinpoints the key points from the perspective of universal connection and eternal development, thereby revealing the relationship between things and clearly seeing the law of development of things.

As an advanced form of human thinking, dialectical thinking plays a directional and principled role in solving the complex, flexible and profound problems. Dialectical thinking is an important reason for the profound philosophical foundation of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, which plays an important role in the construction of Socialism with Chinese characteristics. Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the central collective leadership with Xi Jinping at the core insist on the unity of the two-point theory and the key point theory, and both adhere to the “ten fingers play the piano” (comprehensive coordination), and hold “the nose of an ox” (grasp the key). With broad global concept and thorough reform in local thinking strategy, Xi conducts the planning of reform to collaboratively deal with the relationship between emancipating the mind and seeking truth from facts, struck a balance between overall progress and breakthroughs in key areas, and struck a balance between boldness and steady progress. As a result, reform and opening up in the new era has presented a new situation in which both areas are integrated, breakthroughs in key areas are made, and further progress is made.

Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era the fine quality of dialectical thinking in all fields of development in the new era. In terms of overall planning, Xi emphasized the need to take into account both domestic and international interests and promote the “Four greats” in a coordinated manner; In terms of the strategic arrangements, Xi emphasized that the overall layout of the “Five-sphere Integrated Plan” must be considered comprehensively, and the various internal fields and links must be promoted coordinately; and in terms of strategic practice, Xi the need to focus on economic construction, and also points out that ideological work is also an extremely important task.

Specifically, the dialectical thinking of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era is particularly prominent in the “Four Comprehensive” strategy. For example, in terms of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, Xi points out that “the key to building a moderately prosperous society depends on the fellow villagers”, and he emphasizes the need to achieve
high precision and full coverage; in comprehensively deepening reform, he points out the need to attack the “stubborn disease”, to touch “deep-level interest relations and contradictions” and break down the “interests curing barriers”, and the aspect of comprehensively governing the country according to law, Xi emphasizes that we need to make systematic and holistic plans. In the aspect of comprehensively governing the Party with strict discipline, Xi emphasizes that the construction of party conduct and clean government should be regarded as a breakthrough point.

1.2 The Systematic Thinking of Overall Coordination

A system is an organic whole with a certain function formed by several elements connected in a certain structure. Everything is in a certain simple or complex system. Any system, large or small, is an organic whole, rather than a mechanical combination or simple addition of various system elements. Systematic thinking is the way of thinking that reveals the connection and development of the world from the perspective of systems and elements, whole and part. The biggest feature and advantage of system thinking is to emphasize the overall concept, have overall awareness, fully grasp the system relationship, and take into account the relationship between the elements in the system, so as to promote the system optimization of each element and system, and achieve the “1+1>2” overall effect.

Xi Jinping Thought on socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era has an overall coordinated systemic thinking in terms of specific content and basic development strategies. On the one hand, the thought fully demonstrates systematic thinking in terms of its content. the thought fully demonstrates systematic thinking in terms of its content. On the other hand, the thought fully demonstrates systematic thinking in terms of its content. The development strategy for the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era is embodied in the overall plan for promoting the “five-sphere integrated plan” and the “four-pronged comprehensive” strategy. At the same time, the “five-sphere integrated plan” is an integral system in which every “bit” is extremely important and plays an indispensable role. The “five-sphere integrated plan” is an integral system in which every “bit” is extremely important and plays an indispensable role. The “five-sphere integrated plan” are “internally unified, organically linked, mutually reinforcing and inseparable”, reflecting the integrity of scientific development and universal connection. At the same time, each “bit” in the “five-sphere integrated plan” has its own qualitative stipulation and rich connotation, and forms its own system. The internal elements of each system are interrelated, promote and influence each other, and come into effect. Comprehensiveness is a system, and the “four-pronged comprehensive” strategy is also a whole system, each of which is a subsystem. We need to pool our strength by building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, energize it by deepening reform, regulate order through law and discipline, Xi emphasizes that the construction of party conduct and clean government should be regarded as a breakthrough point.

1.3 Innovative Thinking of Keeping Pace with the Times

Innovative thinking is a way of thinking that breaks conventional thinking, makes new thinking about things, makes new adjustments to structures, and makes new plans for strategies. The main purpose of innovative thinking is to break the old and create the new, surpass outdated stereotypes, change the old ideas, theories, models and methods that do not conform to the development process of objective things, discover and apply new laws and methods, so as to understand and transform the world more effectively.

As the proverb says: “Smart people will change their opinions based on changing time”. Over the past 40 years of reform and opening up, China’s productive forces, comprehensive national strength, scientific and technological strength and international influence have reached a new level, but at the same time, the unbalanced, inadequate and unsustainable problems of China's development are still prominent. At present, the restraint pressure of natural resources and the environment is increasing, and the value of science and technology and talents is becoming more and more obvious. Therefore, breaking the traditional development model of the past and turning to the path of innovation-driven development is a necessity. Innovation is “the deepest national endowment of the Chinese nation” and also the essential requirement of the advanced nature of Marxism.

Innovation is the first driving force leading development, and all innovations are rooted in innovative thinking. During the development of the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics, Xi Jinping
Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era successively proposed the “four-pronged comprehensive strategy” at the level of national comprehensive development. At the level of economic development, Xi puts forward the strategies of “accelerating the implementation of free trade zones”, “targeted poverty alleviation”, “supply-side structural reform”, and “targeted poverty alleviation”. At the diplomatic level, Xi puts forward strategies such as “One Belt and One Road” and “building a community with a shared future for mankind”. The implementation of these strategies all reflect the deep understanding and accurate judgment of the CPC Central Committee with Xi Jinping as the core of the development and changes of China’s national conditions, and show the innovative thinking of keeping pace with the times.

1.4 Historical Thinking of Learning from the Past and the Present

The historical thinking refers to the scientific thinking that uses Marxist historical materialism to think and analyze problems, grasp the direction forward and guide practical work from the historical perspective and the law of development. Its fundamental task is to find historical laws through complex historical phenomena and grasp the general direction and trend of historical development.

“Take history as a mirror can know the rise and fall.” History is the “encyclopedia” of its predecessors, which contains many thoughts on the country, society, nation and individual success and failure, prosperity and decline, peace and danger, good and evil, honor and disgrace, righteousness and benefit, integrity and corruption, etc. It is a governance textbook to see success or failure, gain and loss, knowing prosperity and replacement. Chinese civilization has a continuous history of 5,000 years. Since modern times, the Chinese nation has a history from decline to prosperity for more than 170 years. The communist party of China has led the people to achieve the great social revolution with a hundred years history. The founding of the People’s Republic of China has a history of more than 70 years. The great leap of reform and opening up has a history of more than 40 years. All of these histories have provided rich fertile soil and nourishment for the reform, development and innovation of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era.

Only by having an insight into the historical development trend and following the historical trend can we enhance our initiative and foresight, and can avoid detours or avoid detours in development. Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era has profound historical thinking and is widely used in all aspects of governance. First, historical issues should be treated with historical thinking. Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, from the standpoint of dialectical materialism and historical materialism, has always analyzed historical issues objectively and comprehensively, paid attention to understanding things from the historical relevance and mutual restriction of things, and emphasized that the analysis of problems should be based on time, place and conditions. It is mainly reflected in scientific evaluation of historical events, historical figures and correct treatment of Chinese traditional culture. Second, the realistic problems should be reviewed with historical thinking. Although practical problems appear in the contemporary or present, the occurrence and manifestation of any problems need to go through a process. If we analyze it only from the current perspective, we will have an incomplete understanding of the problem due to the local vision. Xi Jinping If we analyze it only from the current perspective, we will have an incomplete understanding of the problem due to the local vision. Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era focuses on the present, draws on historical experience to advance the governance of the country, and formulates specific strategies for governing the Party, the state, the military, internal affairs, national defense, and foreign affairs, as well as reform, development and stability. Third, future trends should be foreseen with historical thinking. Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era through cognition of history, summing up historical experience, forming and deepening the understanding of regularity, and pointing out the direction for future development.

1.5 Foresighted Strategic Thinking

Strategic thinking is the overall thinking about practical activities. It is a scientific way of thinking that objectively and dialectically handles the relationship between various aspects and stages of practical activities from the overall perspective and a long-term perspective, so as to correctly grasp the overall trend and direction of the development of things. It stresses the overall and long-term nature of thinking, and shows the height and depth of the problem.

Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era has a far-sighted strategic thinking, which profoundly demonstrates the theoretical quality of Marxism in assessing the
situation. It has a deep insight into the current domestic and international development situation, uses long-term vision and strategic thinking to analyze problems, and puts forward forward-looking ideas and policies and measures.

On the one hand, starting from strategic thinking, it has comprehensively planned a new situation in the internal and external affairs of socialism with Chinese characteristics for the new era. In terms of internal affairs, this ideology pointed out that “the strategic arrangement for the development of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era is to move from completing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects to basically realizing modernization, and then to building a modern socialist country in an all-round way.”[5] Centering on this strategic arrangement, this thought proposed the “five-sphere integrated plan” and the “four-pronged comprehensive” strategic layout in the top-level design, forming a series of strategic matrices, such as rejuvenating the country through science and education and strengthening the country through human resources. In diplomacy, to achieve the “two Centenary Goals”, this thought is also actively exploring the alignment of international strategies----seeking to build a new type of international relations with “win-win cooperation” at its core.

On the other hand, strategic arrangements for specific tasks should be made based on strategic determination. General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized that we must have a forward-looking strategic thinking in all tasks in reform and development. We should have a view of political achievements in specific work, and must be good at viewing problems from a comprehensive perspective, thinking about problems with a long-term perspective, and grasping the problems from the overall thinking and the strategic analysis should be forward-looking, and the strategic plan should be scientific and feasible. In strategic implementation. We should be good at seizing opportunities and strive to work quality and efficiency. In the process of strategic operation, it is necessary to strengthen the management and control of the strategy, and “adjust the strategic plan in time according to the changes in the internal and external environment, and ensure the strategic plan up-to-date with the times.”[6]

1.6 Bottom-line Thinking of Prevention

The bottom line is the insurmountable limit, and is also the critical point of qualitative change of things. The bottom line thinking is to plan the work from the worst, not to avoid contradictions, not to cover up the facts, and to focus on the analysis of possible problems, so as to grasp the initiative in the work and avoid being in a passive situation. Bottom line thinking has distinct characteristics. On the one hand, it has a typical backward thinking orientation. It attaches great importance to the definition and prevention of crises, risks and bottom lines, and fully studies and judges possible difficulties and challenges and other unfavorable factors to make adequate preparations so as to ensure that major risks are remain timely addressed when they emerged. On the other hand, it is also a proactive defensive thinking, based on the overall situation, highlight key points, foresight and take precautions, thereby ensuring the steady progress of social development.

The core spiritual character of bottom-line thinking is the awareness of unexpected development. Just as the old saying goes “the wise man usually try to prevent adversity in the future.” The CPC is a party born, grown, and strengthened by adversity. The sense of adversity is both a responsibility and a sense of accountability. Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era has drawn a series of bottom lines and red lines in the process of governing the country and put forward a series of bottom-line principles, with a bottom-line thinking to prevent potential problems.

First, we should accurately and scientifically analyze the risk, and strive to understand the micro. This thought accurately recognizes and scientifically analyzes the profound changes in the internal and external environment. It points out that from the outside, the world is in a period of major changes and adjustments, the international situation and the surrounding environment is complex and sensitive. Internally, our country is in a period of economic and social transformation and reforms. There are many uncertain factors in reform, development and stability, and the tasks are complicated and arduous. Under this interweaving of complexity and uncertainty, various contradictions have gradually emerged, and various risks and challenges have swarmed. The Party Central Committee with Xi Jinping at the core emphasized that it is necessary to be highly vigilant and scientifically judge significant risks in the fields of politics, ideology, economy, science and technology, society, and the external environment, and to take control of the overall situation.

Second, we should constantly improve the rules and systems, and strive to prevent problems before they happen. Only the formation of a perfect system, is the most effective guarantee, and can also give full play to its effectiveness and role. On the basis of full investigation and careful analysis of major risks
and challenges that our country may face, this thought clearly calls for the continuous establishment and improvement of risk research and judgment, evaluation, prevention and control systems and responsibility mechanisms.

Third, we should actively do a good deal of coping strategies, and strive to be well prepared. When major risks become reality, if you do not make preparations and plans in advance, you will inevitably panic and be at a loss. “To be prepared” is also a summary of the experience of the Chinese Communist Party in dealing with risks and challenges over the years, and it is also a scientific attitude that it has always held. General Secretary Xi Jinping has stressed on many occasions that we need to “plan ahead and think ahead”. We need to take “highly effective measures to cope with and defuse risks and challenges” before major risks emerge, so as to ensure that we are well prepared.

1.7 People-centered Value Thinking

The important significance of the methodology of philosophy of value lies in “providing people with a way of thinking about understanding, grasping, and evaluating issues in relevant knowledge domains.” Based on the scientific application of the methodology of philosophy of value, Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era has formed a people-centered value thinking, which has epoch-making innovation. Value itself belongs to human nature, so value thinking is not a kind of “objective thinking” that is outside of people and has nothing to do with people, but a kind of subjective thinking, that is, a person-centered thinking that highlights human subjectivity. Value thinking is a way to reflect on people and grasp oneself, and it is a scale to measure people’s own development.

Just as an old saying goes “If everything is for the people, the people aspire to it.”. “People-centered” is a concentrated embodiment of the Chinese Communist Party’s view of the people, as well as a clear expression of the CPC’s commitment to original aspiration and keeping its mission firmly in mind. The 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China regards “perseverance to the people as the center” as one of the basic strategies for the construction of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, and clearly writes “adherence to the people-centered development thinking” into the party constitution, which means China in the new era must adhere to the people-centered approach in all fields. This clearly embodies the purpose of “serving the people wholeheartedly” and fully shows the scientific connotation of value thinking.

The basic connotation of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era adheres to the people’s position, improves people’s democracy, and promotes people’s happiness. It embodies the value pursuit of the people first contains rich people-centered value thinking. In the basic strategy for socialist construction, it also insists on the organic unity of internalization in mind, externalization in practice, and solidification in system, and the unity of everything for the people, for all the people, and for all the interests of the people, is a vivid interpretation of his people-centered value thinking.

The goal of the people-centered value thinking is to realize the all-round human development, and the sense of people’s acquisition is a realistic yardstick to measure people’s all-round development, and it is also an evaluation standard that reflects social fairness and justice. Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era always puts the sense of people’s acquisition at the core. On the one hand, the government cares about the interests and demands of the people, their values, rights and interests and freedom, deepen reform in an all-round way, constantly meets the people’s growing desire for development and diverse needs, and lays a benchmark for good governance; On the other hand, the government respects and protects human rights, gives full humanistic care, cares about people’s quality of life, development potential and happiness index, etc., so as to constantly achieve social fairness and justice.

2. The Characteristics of Xi Jinping’s Philosophical Thinking on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era

The innovation system of Xi Jinping Philosophical Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era is extensive in content, rich in meaning and of far-reaching value. On the whole, it shows the characteristics of optimizing the order of subjects, observing the order of society and exploring the order of the world.
2.1 The Optimization of the Order of the Subject

The order of the subject explains the prescriptive nature of human beings, and it promotes the subject to form a sound and healthy personality and achieve a state of internal and external coordination. To optimize the order of the subject, the most important thing is to fully respect the dignity of the subject, fully consider how the subject should realize its own value, and promote the subject to form a sense of identity and belonging.

Xi Jinping thought on socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era contains profound feelings and a clear stand of the people. All aspects involved are based on the standpoint of the subject, people-oriented, and it regards the human development as the goal, and also constantly explore the real life and practical activities of the subject, seeking to optimize the subject’s living conditions and life order.

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, unprecedented breakthroughs have been made in attaching importance to the people’s subjectivity. A large number of measures to benefit the people have been implemented. People’s livelihood issues have been emphasized and improved, and the people’s sense of gain and happiness has been continuously enhanced. Entering the new era, Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era has continued to fully implement the thought on people-centered development, put into practice the principle of “wholeheartedly serving the people”, and constantly realize the goal of “yearning for a better life”. It also adheres to the dominant position of the people and continues to improve the system of the people as the masters of the country. Meanwhile, “To improve the wellbeing of the people and address their concerns”, the government continuously promotes the all-round human development and common prosperity for all, and unites and lead the people to make continuous efforts to realize the great dream which embodies the strong value appeal of subject order both in theory and in practice.

All in all, Xi Jinping Thought on socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era pays close attention to the vital interests and good wishes of the Chinese people in both ways and methods. It is full of sincere feelings for the people, and the pursuit of happiness, development vision, and a better life of the Chinese people. It is a scientific theory that serves the overwhelming majority of the Chinese people and always represents the fundamental interests of the Chinese people. It has also constantly optimized the order of the subject in the process of development and deepening.

2.2 View of the Order of Society

The order of society is the orderly state of society and the maintenance and consolidation of social order, and it is a dynamic, orderly and balanced social state. The order of society is not only manifested as the level or hierarchy of the social structure, but also as the rules that maintain social order, restrict and regulate the behavior of members of society. Observing the order of society requires not only an accurate understanding of the current social situation, but also an active investment in social construction to continuously promote the formation of a harmonious, stable, and orderly society.

Only through social harmony, stability, fairness and justice can people live and work in peace and contentment. Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era also give great values to the order of society. It not only leads and regulates the social value order by practicing and cultivating the social core value system, but also maintains and guarantees the harmony and stability of the social order in the process of social construction and social governance.

In the process of social construction, it insists on the unity of complementing the shortcomings and sticking to the bottom line, guaranteeing the unity of comprehensiveness and highlighting the key points, improving the system and guiding the expected unity of the organic combination. Besides, it constantly establishes and improves the public service system, promotes a healthy and beautiful China strategy, and meets the people’s growing needs for a better life.

In the process of social governance, it adheres to the unity of everyone’s responsibility and everyone enjoys, innovates the way of social governance, constantly strengthens the mechanism for preventing and resolving social conflicts, and promotes social fairness and justice. It has built a social security prevention and control system, a social and psychological service system, and a community governance system, created a social governance pattern featuring joint construction, joint governance and shared benefits, and formed a sound social order, so as to continuously enhanced the people’s sense of gain, happiness and security.
2.3 Exploration of the Order of the World

The order of the world refers to an order in which all countries in the world respect each other and live in harmony. The establishment of a real world order is to continuously reconcile different views of national interests and conflicting goals. On the one hand, different countries and regions need to form a relatively consistent view of order and link the orders of different countries and regions with each other; On the other hand, it is also necessary for different countries and regions to jointly build a global, structural, and legally rational cultural consensus and value identity while maintaining their respective cultures and values.

Arnold Joseph Toynbee, a famous British historian, has been committed to studying the history of civilization. After comparing and studying and studied 26 civilized forms existing in world history, he pointed out that Chinese culture is the only culture that has continued today and has never been interrupted. In his book History Research, completed after more than 30 year’s travel in China, he praised Chinese civilization, pointing out that “if China cannot replace the leadership of western mankind, the future of the whole mankind is sad.” At the same time, he also proposed that the spirit most needed by people in the future is “harmony, the essence of Chinese civilization”.\(^8\)

Nowadays, the Chinese culture passed down through five thousand years of civilization, especially the Confucian “harmonious” culture, has shown extremely high superiority and practical value on the issue of rebuilding the world order. Therefore, Xi Jinping the spirit most needed by people in the future has a clear mission and responsibilities, fully taps and exerts the world value of Chinese civilization, and contributes Chinese wisdom and Chinese solutions to world peace and development.

As the Chinese proverb says: “A just cause should be pursued for the common good”. “Champions harmony, unity and a shared community for all nations”. In the process of formation and development of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era has always implemented the value concept of “harmony”, and advocated and appealed to all countries in the world to guide the world order with the concept of “harmony” values. From implementing the Belt and Road initiative to promoting the building of a “community with a shared future for mankind”, China has continuously contributed Chinese wisdom, Chinese propositions, and Chinese solutions to the building of an effective world governance system and the establishment of a fair, just and reasonable world order. It shows China the image of a responsible great power also shows China’s determination and actions to benefit all the people in the world.

Overall, the philosophical thinking and features of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era is the inheritance and development of Marxist theory and its achievements of Sinicization, as well as the inheritance and exertion of the deep core heritage of excellent traditional culture. It is the persistence of China’s values in the new era, and it not only explains to the Chinese people and the world where China comes from, where it takes and where to go, to make Chinese people more confident and conscious of socialism with Chinese characteristics, but also to allow the world to have a more comprehensive, objective and rational understanding of socialism with Chinese characteristics and its contribution to the world. Meanwhile, the thought also looks forward to the construction of the future world order, indicating that the value system of maintaining the future world order requires all countries to realize value liberation on the basis of adhering to their own values, that is, “to realize the value freedom of harmony without uniformity.”\(^9\)

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