

# The Realization Path of Safe Countryside Construction under the Rural Revitalization Strategy

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**Abstract:** The revitalization of the countryside cannot be separated from the construction of a safe countryside. Scientifically promoting the construction of a safe countryside, making up for the shortcomings in the supply of public security products and services in rural areas, and solving complex and diverse social security problems can help respond to higher quality security needs and maintain social security and stability in rural areas. At present, the lack of a shared governance pattern, insufficient social participation, and inadequate scientific and technological support are the main practical dilemmas in the construction of safe villages. In response to these dilemmas, the article proposes paths to promote the construction of safe villages by updating the working concept of safe villages, strengthening the resolution of social risks and conflicts in rural areas, and improving the socialization and intelligence of the construction of safe villages.

**Keywords:** Peaceful Village Construction; Rural Revitalisation; Public Safety Governance

## 1. Introduction

The report of the 19th Party Congress proposed the implementation of the rural revitalization strategy, and the subsequent Opinions on the Implementation of the Rural Revitalization Strategy specifically proposed "building a safe countryside", and the 2019 Central Committee No. 1 document, "The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, State Council on Adhering to the Priority Development of Agriculture and Rural Areas and Doing a Good Job in the "Three Rural Areas In 2019, the Central Committee's No. 1 document, "Several Opinions on Adhering to the Priority Development of Agriculture and Rural Areas and Doing a Good Job in the "Three Rural Areas", once again proposed "continuously promoting the construction of safe villages", which shows the importance of the construction of safe villages. The construction of safe villages is a fundamental guarantee for promoting the modernization of agriculture and rural areas, an important part of building a higher level of safe China, and a cornerstone of security for achieving the goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all aspects. Comrade Deng Xiaoping stressed, "No matter how beautiful the city is, it will not work without the stable foundation of the countryside." [1] Since the 18th Party Congress, the capacity and level of public security governance of local governments have been continuously improved, and the vast majority of rural areas in China are socially stable and continue to improve. However, it cannot be ignored that, along with the continuous promotion of comprehensive deepening reform, the adjustment of social interest patterns will also give rise to many public safety issues and social contradictions, which become new situations, new problems, and new challenges affecting the construction of safe villages, and improper governance may evolve into a constraint on rural social stability. Therefore, it is necessary to further improve the scientific understanding of the construction of safe villages and continuously strengthen the theoretical innovation and practical exploration related to the construction of safe villages.

## 2. The inner logic of building a peaceful village

### 2.1. Responding positively to the need for a higher quality of social security

When security needs are met and responded to, the sense of security is enhanced. Forty years of reform and opening have greatly enriched the material culture of the countryside, and people have raised

higher demands for peace. The implementation of the rural revitalization strategy is a very crucial decision to achieve the integrated development of urban and rural areas by winning the victory in building a moderately prosperous society in all aspects, and it prominently reflects the Party Central Committee's profound understanding of the laws of development. After the 19th National Congress, with the transformation of the major social contradictions, it is a necessary prerequisite and inherent need for the revitalization of the countryside to speed up the construction of a safe countryside, actively respond to the higher quality security needs of the people, protect the growing needs of the masses for a better life, and provide a more high-quality and efficient public security environment, so that the sense of security of the masses is more fulfilling, more secure, and more sustainable. At the same time, the ability and willingness to respond positively to the security needs of the masses can enhance the status of grassroots power and public security governance, and therefore rural governance will be better.

### ***2.2. Bridging the gap in the supply of public safety products and services***

Efficient and quality public safety products and services are an important guarantee for the construction of safe villages. The core issue is effective to supply, but due to some historical or institutional factors, there is still a large gap between the supply and demand for public safety products and services in rural areas. The non-equalization of public safety services between urban and rural areas, especially the persistence of the urban-rural dichotomy, has inhibited the supply of public safety products and services in rural areas, resulting in an uneven allocation of resources for public safety services in urban and rural areas. Only by focusing on improving the overall effectiveness of public safety governance in urban and rural areas can the shortcomings of rural public safety products and services be made up; otherwise the "barrel effect" will become more pronounced. In addition, compared to other public goods and services, public security products and services are not very visible, and only after the occurrence of major criminal cases do they become the focus of attention of the government, society, and other parties.

### ***2.3. Tackling the complex and diverse social security issues in rural areas***

With the acceleration of social transformation, urbanization, and marketization, the security risks facing the construction of safe villages are increasing, and the specific security environment for rural governance is more complex, showing obvious unevenness and diversity. In recent years, there has been a significant increase in the scale and number of large-scale national projects, such as high-speed railway projects, public infrastructure projects, and old city renovation projects, during which mass incidents and other violent and bloody incidents have evolved and been triggered by issues such as the demolition of rural houses and land compensation. Of course, there is also an increase in the number of cultural and customary conflicts caused by the movement and concentration of people, mostly in areas such as centralized resettlement communities and resettlement sites for poverty alleviation in rural areas.

As a large number of young and strong rural workers go out to work, a large number of children, elderly people, and women are left behind in rural areas, resulting in a large number of empty nest villages, leading to a reduction in the ability to prevent social security in rural areas, giving criminals an opportunity to take advantage of the situation, with cases of burglary, robbery, and rape occurring, and cases of non-contact illegal fund-raising and telecommunication fraud rising year by year. Left-behind children and adolescents are influenced by vulgar and low culture for a long time, such as film and television works and online games full of violence, pornography and gang culture, bad interactions, and gang up, becoming village bullies or black and evil forces that oppress the people and endanger one side, which can easily escalate juvenile delinquency. At the same time, some cults and illegal religious activities have infiltrated rural areas, especially "Falun Gong", "Almighty God", "Disciple Society", and "Zhong Gong". Some cults, such as Falun Gong, Almighty God, Discipleship Society, and Zhong Gong, and some "godly men" and "goddesses" cloak themselves in mysterious religious garb and use feudal and superstitious activities to cheat people out of money, endangering the political and social security of the grassroots regime.

## **3. The real-life dilemma of building a peaceful village**

### ***3.1. The pattern of shared governance has not been formed***

The 19th Party Congress proposed to create a social governance pattern of common construction, common governance, and sharing. However, at present, in the field of social security governance in

villages, a governance situation in which the party committee and government are unified in leadership, relevant departments are working together, and everyone is responsible for peacebuilding has not been formed. Some of the village security associations, mediation associations, security joint defence teams, and other group defence and governance organizations have been disbanded, while others exist in name only; in many rural areas, villagers are actually in a state of disorganization. [2] There is a general absence of some departments, awareness of participation in security governance needs to be improved, enthusiasm and initiative of work need to be improved, the link between departments is not enough, social coordination and governance is insufficient, public security organizations are actually in charge of the main. Grassroots public security organs have always played an important role in the construction of safe villages, and township police stations have played an irreplaceable role in maintaining social security in rural areas. However, for a variety of reasons, the sinking of the police force has not been effective, with the number of civilian police officers in some police stations remaining at around three year-round, sometimes making it difficult to carry out normal policing activities when they encounter the situation of going out to meetings to handle cases or when police officers take leave. The pattern of long lines and wide areas of rural public security work has objectively resulted in greater pressure on rural social security governance.

### ***3.2. Low willingness to participate in self-government***

A sound rural governance system that combines self-governance, rule of law, and moral governance has pointed the way to the construction of safe villages. However, due to the public nature of public security products and services, it is decided that there is not enough power to participate in the common construction and that the government alone cannot meet the increasing public security needs and individual requirements. As we all know, the "Chaoyang Masses" are an important autonomous force in the joint defense of public security and play a pivotal role in maintaining local public security. Compared to the "Chaoyang Masses", some rural people are not sufficiently motivated to "keep watch over their neighbors", and are less willing and motivated to participate in public security governance, and have a weaker and weaker sense of identification with the traditional prevention and control model of paying without reward. "Some of them even dare not speak out even when they suffer from oppression. Of course, the main factor in this process is the weakness of the grassroots party organizations and their inaction and lack of responsibility. In 2018, the public security authorities in Sichuan province cracked down on black and evil forces that use family and clan power to threaten, bribe, and entice people to run rampant in the countryside and stop projects, and investigated a total of 25 cases involving the erosion of grassroots power involving black and evil. [3]

### ***3.3. Insufficient scientific and technological support***

The continuous update of public security governance technology and equipment has greatly improved the efficiency and effectiveness of governance. Some units and departments have built their video surveillance systems, lacking unified planning and design, and video resources have not been integrated and utilized. Public security infrastructure construction lags, rural road traffic safety facilities in the security card monitoring system, most of them are only laid in the key routes, and the village roads are rarely set up inside. Motorbikes and electric vehicles "car guards" vehicle anti-theft equipment installation coverage rate is not high, and theft of vehicles cases occur from time to time. The Opinions of the State Council of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on the Implementation of the Strategy for the Revitalization of the Countryside propose to promote the construction of rural "snow-light projects". Construction of the "snow bright project" can achieve full coverage and dead-end public security video surveillance. However, due to insufficient investment in resources such as capital and manpower for the construction of safe villages, the construction of the "snow bright project" in some areas has been slow to advance, and the coverage rate is not high, and the application capability of monitoring personnel using the "snow bright project" is not strong, which has restricted the construction of safe villages. The pace of speeding up.

## **4. The path to a peaceful village**

In response to real-life dilemmas in the construction of safe villages, four aspects can be considered to promote the construction of safe villages, namely updating the working concept, strengthening the resolution of social risks and conflicts in rural areas, and improving the socialization and intelligence of the construction of safe villages.

#### ***4.1. Update the working concept of building a safe countryside***

To build a safe countryside, we should adhere to the guidance of Xi Jinping's thought of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, earnestly study and understand and implement the important remarks of General Secretary Xi Jinping on sound public security system, as well as the spirit of his speech at the seminar for major leading cadres at the provincial and ministerial levels to adhere to bottom-line thinking and make efforts to prevent and resolve major risks, deeply understand and accurately grasp the new situation, new problems and new challenges facing the construction of a safe countryside, adapt to the new requirements for the construction of a safe countryside arising from the complex situation at home and abroad, focus on priorities, fill the shortcomings, and strengthen the foundation. New challenges, adapting to the complex situation at home and abroad, changes to the new requirements for the construction of safe villages, grasp the focus, fill the shortcomings, and strengthen the foundation. To promote the construction of a safe countryside, we should, based on in-depth investigation and research, adhere to the new people-centered development concept, focus on the outstanding security problems and social contradictions facing or existing in the region, apply the rule of law thinking and the rule of law, carry out multilevel and multidisciplinary public security governance in rural areas, and meet the people's urgent need for improved livelihood security. It should also improve the stable investment guarantee mechanism for the construction of safe villages, reverse the long-standing mindset of "heavy industry over agriculture and urban over rural areas", and establish an institutional mechanism for the integrated development of urban and rural areas in favor of rural areas. [4] According to the actual situation, all places should scientifically and reasonably allocate resources such as people, money, materials, and information for the construction of safe villages, abandon the erroneous and backward development concept of "buying a security at any cost", and do everything possible to improve the efficiency of the use of financial investment funds for the construction of safe villages. Construction of a safe village cannot be separated from other economic and social development but must be scientifically understood and judged, which is the basis of understanding to promote the construction of a safe village. In addition, in the process of promoting the construction of safe villages, it is important to be aware of the differences and gaps between the sense of security in the sample survey and the actual sense of security felt, to truly enhance the people's sense of security.

#### ***4.2. Strengthening the resolution of social risks and conflicts in rural areas***

On 24 January 2018, the National Conference of Directors of Public Security Offices held in Beijing explicitly requested that the construction of safe villages be promoted in depth and that the security and control system in rural areas be accelerated and improved. Under this requirement, one is to improve the public security governance system in rural areas. We will continue to carry out special struggles against blackness and evil, fight and prevent both the symptoms and the root causes, and promptly remove black and evil forces that have infiltrated the rural grassroots regime to prevent them from eroding the Party's ruling foundation and endangering national political security. Second, we should promote the improvement of the risk assessment mechanism for social stability in rural areas. Always adhere to the problem-oriented approach, insist on cracking down on security problems that are eagerly awaited or strongly reflected by the people, continue to rectify them, and insist on early detection and early treatment of major security hazards that are related to social harmony and stability. Third, we must strengthen the construction of grassroots public security organs, especially rural police stations, and comprehensively change and innovate the operational mechanism of rural police. We should vigorously promote the "one village, one police assistant" model, implement joint regional police work, joint rectification, and joint security prevention, and maximize police resources to ensure that public security organs can better serve rural economic and social development. Fourth, we must adhere to the development of the new era of the "maple bridge experience", and continue to deepen the investigation and mediation of conflicts and disputes. Contradictions and disputes can easily be transformed into public security or criminal cases, so people's mediation must move forward, vigorously promote the "police mediation linkage" model of work for public security disputes, go deep into the fields, find them in time, follow up and resolve them in time, establish a ledger of contradictions and disputes, prevent intensification, prevent and resolve risks and hidden dangers affecting social stability from the source, and ensure The government has also established a register of contradictions and disputes to prevent their intensification, prevent and resolve at the source the risks affecting social stability, and ensure social harmony and stability in rural areas.

#### ***4.3. Improving the socialisation of the construction of safe villages***

Based on the perspective of cooperative governance, the construction of a safe village requires the

joint efforts of the whole society. The government-led construction of a safe village is not a panacea; it must mobilize the participation of social forces, to achieve group defense and neighborhood watch, and always guard against the spillover of market risks and technical risks. Firstly, based on improving the public participation mechanism in society, integrate various social resources and strive to build a community of social synergy, public participation, common construction, and sharing, peace, and harmony in the construction of a safe village. Secondly, strengthen the organizational leadership and institutional construction of public safety governance, focus on top-level design and systematic planning, focus on rationalizing the relationship between the main bodies of safe village construction, break the multiple management and fragmented governance drawbacks caused by the safety supervision mechanism, strengthen the synergy and linkage between functional departments, and build a perfect collaborative governance mechanism for safe village construction. Second, give full play to the respective advantages of social organizations and actors such as the government, civil organizations, enterprises, and individual citizens in terms of resources, knowledge, and technology, etc., and also try to attract the cultivation and investment of social capital using the PPP model, to inject capital and technology and other elements into the construction of safe villages. [5] Encourage residents of rural communities to participate in the management of the safety of the rural community and enhance the level of governance of the management of public safety in rural communities through community autonomy. [6] Finally, villagers have played a pivotal role in rural governance since ancient times, and the current transformation of the rural governance system has activated new villagers, whose participation in the construction of safe villages can bring into play their advantages in compensating for the shortage of rural governance talent and other aspects.

#### ***4.4. Enhancing the intelligence level of the construction of safe villages***

The fourth industrial revolution has spread through the countryside, presenting both opportunities and challenges to the construction of safe villages. The report of the 19th Party Congress proposes to continuously improve the intelligence level of social governance. With the rapid development of a series of science and technology such as artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and big data, intelligent policing and intelligent transportation models based on information technology are emerging, which will show great power in the process of promoting the construction of safe villages. Based on scientific and technological progress, we will accelerate the construction of an intelligent and information-based rural social security prevention and control system, strengthen the level of technical prevention, and actively use emerging technologies such as intelligent policing and big data for public security to achieve artificial intelligence security, three-dimensional prevention and control, and early warning, and deter criminals. Although the 'SkyNet' project extends to rural areas, it continues to promote the construction of a rural 'snow bright project' and continuously improves the monitoring and coverage of high-definition video probes. The company has also conducted research on standards and specifications related to the construction of rural technology and prevention, and set up "basic", "improved", and "advanced" security systems according to the actual situation of an imperfect construction of public infrastructure and backward economic conditions in rural areas. [7] Vigorously promote the 110 networked alarm security service for rural stores, vigorously implement the project of "technical prevention in households" in rural areas, and thoroughly promote the construction of "technical prevention demonstration villages". The police have opened online police rooms, and through instant communication tools such as WeChat and QQ, have strengthened communication between the police and the public, issued timely warning information, guided the public in preventing and preventing crime, and improved farmers' security awareness.

## **5. Conclusions**

Under a unified national policy and institutional arrangement, the construction of safe villages also requires innovative local practice and exploration. This is because China's rural areas are vast, with more than 600,000 administrative villages, and the rural situation is very different, with large differences in security issues and risks of conflict. Local innovation in the construction of peaceful villages is the result of a combination of factors and is the result of realistic local needs. Therefore, it is necessary to take the initiative to respond to the requirements of times of social change and transformation in the new era, reconstruct the rural public safety governance system, rationalize the public safety governance system, and form a new pattern for the construction of safe villages. In general, the construction of a safe countryside is a complex process and a long-term systematic social project, and it is necessary to adhere to systematic governance. Of course, special governance can also be effective in achieving short-term

governance goals, choosing special operations of lower campaign intensity and smaller scale to gather law enforcement resources and focus on outstanding law-and-order problems. [8] To strengthen the "hardware" of the public security infrastructure in rural areas to a high standard, the "software" should also be built in parallel, strengthening the social control role of village regulations and family rules, and establishing a long-term mechanism for management and care, to achieve mutual promotion of rural civilization and security. This will enable civilization to be promoted and security to be improved.

At present, in some places, the use of family and clan power to run rampant in the countryside and the erosion of grass-roots power seriously endangers the country's ruling base and political security, and is a matter of concern and attention. Therefore, the construction of grass-roots power must strictly control the "two nodes", first, when the "black-related forces" voter registration, and comprehensive qualification examination, resolutely excluded, from the source to stop the black-related background forces into the grass-roots autonomous regime; second, after the election of village cadres. The second is that when village cadres become "black and black-related" after being elected, they will be dealt with by the law and promptly cleaned up and adjusted to eliminate the breeding ground for the spread of black and evil forces. At the same time, we must also resolutely crack down on election manipulation, violent intervention in elections, and other illegal acts, safeguard farmers' rights to self-governance, purify the rural political ecology, and effectively enhance the people's sense of security.

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