



# The Stages of Development, Background Guarantees, and Advantages of Whole-Process People's Democracy in the New Century

Ziqi Zhao<sup>(✉)</sup>

School of Government, Inner Mongolia Normal University, Hohhot, China  
China1999zzq@163.com

**Abstract.** Whole-process people's democracy is the essence of socialist democratic politics, a new form of people's democracy in the new era with a full chain, all-around and full coverage. By analyzing the process of the formation of full-process people's democracy, this article has gained an accurate and profound understanding of Whole-process people's democracy. In the past century, the formation of Whole-process people's democracy has benefited from the excellent traditional ideology of the Chinese nation, Marx's democratic ideology, and the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC), and its development has gone through different historical periods as the CPC has led the nation in its unremitting struggle; full-process people's democracy will continue to play to its strengths, guaranteeing the Chinese people's effective participation in democratic political practice, pointing the way for the Chinese nation to continue to write a new chapter for the second hundred years, and making a Chinese contribution to human political civilization.

**Keywords:** New century · whole-process people's democracy · development stage · background guarantee · development advantages

## 1 Introduction

On November 2, 2019, General Secretary Xi Jinping profoundly pointed out during a visit to Shanghai that “people's democracy is a kind of all-process democracy” The development of whole-process people's democracy is the latest achievement of Marxism and the practice of socialism with Chinese characteristics, as well as a clear requirement put forward by the Communist Party of China in the new century. By analyzing the formation process of whole-process people's democracy, this paper provides an accurate and profound understanding of whole-process people's democracy; at the same time, it summarises the advantages of the development of whole-process people's democracy in the new century of China's rule, which has far-reaching significance for the development of socialist democratic politics with Chinese characteristics and contributes Chinese experience and Chinese wisdom to mankind's exploration of effective forms of realization of democracy [1].

## 2 The Rationale for the Whole Process of People's Democracy

Whole-process people's democracy is an important practical achievement of the Chineseisation of Marxism in the 100 years since the Party was founded, and is the most extensive, real, and practical new form of people's democracy in the new era. The development of full process people's democracy is a long process, and its formation cannot be separated from the traditional people-based thinking of the Chinese nation, the combination of Marxian democratic thought with Chinese reality, and the leadership of the Communist Party of China, among other aspects.

### 2.1 Derived from the Excellent Traditional Thinking of the Chinese People

The traditional "people-based" thinking is reflected in the relationship between the people and the ruler, who should love and cherish the people, and be a model ruler who must "put the people first" by first valuing the people's bodies, valuing their status, sympathizing with their lives, and gaining their approval and praise. He must then make a name for himself [2]. Although China has been a centralized monarchy for thousands of years, from the unification of the Six Kingdoms by the Qin dynasty to the decline of the Qing dynasty, the idea of "the people first" has continued to change and develop. The whole process of people's democracy is a continuation and development of the traditional Chinese "people-based" thinking, which is in line with the excellent traditional culture of the Chinese nation. The importance of the people in the development of the state can be seen in the importance attached to the role of the people in economic, social, and political development by successive dynasties, and it is this importance that has gradually given the people a legitimate place in political life. In the process of inheriting and developing the ancient Chinese idea of the people, especially the development of the "democratic thought" of Confucius and Mencius, the word "people" has become the essence of the "people-centered" [3] Chinese Socialism with Chinese Characteristics. In the process of keeping pace with the times, the Chinese Communists have also given the term "people" a deeper historical deposit and the spirit of the times. People's democracy in its entirety is the latest summary of Chinese political theory and practice, and it also embodies China's rich traditional cultural heritage, reflecting the innovative development of traditional culture in contemporary China.

### 2.2 Derived from Marx's Idea of Popular Democracy

The Marxist concept of democracy is a profound understanding of the nature of democracy in the process of human social and political development. In the Marxist concept of democracy, "popular sovereignty" is not an abstract political concept, but a concept to be realized in real political practice. Marx's materialistic view of history asserts that the people are the main body of social practice and the creator of history. With the growth of proletarian power and the rise of the proletarian revolution, "democracy" [6] differed from its perception in previous eras and gradually broke away from the political concept, from its opposition to autocratic kingship, to reveal the authenticity of people's democracy. The unique combination of electoral democracy and direct democracy in Marx's concept of democracy provides the theoretical source for the development of people's

democracy in China, while the theoretical elements of Marx's concept of democracy, such as the breadth of democracy, the "unity of deliberation and action" and direct participation, define the basic framework of the organizational and representative systems of the people's congresses.

The Communist Party of China's concept of democracy is guided by the Marxist concept of democracy and has applied Marxist ideas and theories of democracy to the construction of democracy in China, providing a theoretical basis for the development of socialist democracy with Chinese characteristics. Over the past hundred years, our Party has insisted on combining the basic principles of Marxism with the specific realities of China, creating Mao Zedong Thought and Deng Xiaoping Theory, forming the "Three Represents" [4] Important Thought, the Socialist Thought of the Scientific Outlook on Development, Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era and other scientific and practical theories, which have guided the Party and the people's cause to continuously This has guided the Party and the people to break new ground. China's unique People's Congress, the fundamental political system, is an important guarantee for promoting the whole process of people's democracy, reflecting the concrete and real nature of people's democracy rather than the abstract and hypocritical democracy of the ballot box [5]. Several generations of the CPC leadership have insisted on taking the interests of the people as the starting and ending point, to achieve the comprehensive and free development of people in the true sense of the word, and have creatively applied and developed the Marxist theory of the people's subject.

### **2.3 From the Summary of the Leadership Experience of the Chinese Communist Party**

The Communist Party of China is a Marxist party that attaches great importance to summing up historical experience and is also good at doing so. During the period of the New Democratic Revolution, the Chinese people, under the leadership of the CPC, struggled hard to achieve national independence and people's liberation under the oppression of imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucratic capitalism and brought China from thousands of years of feudal dictatorship to people's democracy. During the period of socialist revolution and construction, the basic socialist system was established, an independent and relatively complete industrial system and national economic system were set up, and the Communist Party of China led the people to create great achievements and take a big step towards a socialist society. In the new period of reform and opening up and socialist modernization, the CPC led the people to create, uphold and develop the road to socialism with Chinese characteristics, and made great progress in developing socialist democracy.

The system of people's congresses, multi-party cooperation and political consultation, and regional ethnic autonomy established under the leadership of the CPC is the institutional guarantee of the people's mastery of their affairs. Under the correct leadership of the CPC, the construction of democracy in China has always ensured that the essential requirement of the people being the masters of the country has been fulfilled and that the unity of process and result, procedure and substance, form and content, and indirect and direct has been achieved in the life of the country and society. At the same

time, the whole process of people's democracy is constantly being improved and developed. This new form of people's democracy better reflects the people's will, safeguards their rights and interests, stimulates their creativity, fully manifests the advantages of our system, and enhances the effectiveness of national governance, making the building of democracy in socialism with Chinese characteristics even more powerful and vibrant in the new century.

### **3 Main Elements of the Theory of the Whole Process People's Democracy and Its Various Stages of Development**

The basic elements of full-process people's democracy include: adhering to the Party's leadership in the work of building democracy, adhering to the people as the center, adhering to the Chinese-style road to democracy, adhering to the system of institutions to ensure that the people are the masters of their own house, adhering to the development of full-process people's democracy on the track of the rule of law, adhering to democratic centralism, adhering to the Party's internal democracy to drive people's democracy, adhering to the system of people's congresses, adhering to socialist consultative democracy, adhering to the development of grassroots democracy, etc. The system of people's congresses created by the Communist Party of China guarantees the people's mastery and effectively safeguards the people's "five democracies" (democratic elections, democratic decision-making, democratic management, democratic supervision, and democratic consultation) and "four rights" (the rights to information, participation, expression, and supervision). This has truly realized that people's democracy is a kind of democracy in its entirety. Based on the centenary of the founding of the Communist Party of China (CPC), this book provides a comparative summary of the great practice of the CPC in developing Chinese-style people's democracy in different periods of history, which points out the direction for China to continue to adhere to the path of full process people's democracy in the new century, and at the same time helps to ensure that the Chinese people can effectively participate in the practice of democratic politics and contribute Chinese solutions to the development of democratic politics in the world.

#### **3.1 Initial Exploration of the Theory of the Whole Process of People's Democracy**

Since its founding, the Chinese Communist Party has been leading the Chinese people in a great revolutionary struggle to overthrow the feudal dictatorship and establish a people's democratic system. In November 1931, the first democratic constitution in China's history, the Outline of the Constitution of the Chinese Soviet Republic, was promulgated, stating that "the entire power of the Soviet Union belongs to the workers, peasants, Red Army soldiers and all the toiling masses."

This Red Constitution met the fundamental interests of the toiling masses of workers and peasants who had been sinking in the depths of suffering for thousands of years and was a concrete testimony to the transformation of the Chinese people into masters [7]. As ethnic conflicts deepened, the Communist Party of China (CPC) further promoted the development of people's democracy throughout the process to consolidate the anti-Japanese national united front and stimulate the people's enthusiasm for fighting. In

March 1940, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) first put forward the principle of the “three-three system”, a system commonly practiced by the CPC in the anti-Japanese base areas behind enemy lines, which was the embodiment of democratic politics in the base areas and made democratic consultation a fine tradition and a distinctive feature of the CPC’s regime activities [8]. The system of multi-party cooperation and political consultation was initially explored and a wealth of experience was accumulated. Throughout China’s history, people’s democracy was rapidly developed and consolidated during the period of socialist revolution and construction.

In October 1949, the establishment of the People’s republic of China led China to move from thousands of years of feudal dictatorship to a people’s democratic system. In September 1956, the first session of the first national people’s congress adopted the first constitution of the People’s republic of China, *the constitution of the People’s Republic of China*, in which the Party led the establishment of the system of people’s congresses, the system of multi-party cooperation and political consultation under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, and the system of regional national autonomy, which provided institutional guarantees for the people to be the masters of their affairs and greatly contributed to the formation and development of people’s democracy throughout the process. The Third Plenary Session of the Eleventh Central Committee of the Communist Party of China decisively put an end to the “class struggle as the program” [9] and achieved a strategic shift in the center of work of the Party and the State. During the period of reform and opening up, the Communist Party of China has led the development of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and significant progress has been made in grassroots democracy in China.

The development of grassroots democracy is an important form of realizing the people’s right to be the masters of their own house. The whole process of people’s democracy was further practiced at the grassroots level during this period. For example, the construction of grassroots democracy with urban community residents at its core and villagers’ autonomy are both forms of direct exercise of democratic rights by the people in China, and China has organized democratic elections, democratic decision-making, democratic management, and democratic supervision, as well as openness in the village and government affairs at the grassroots level since the reform and opening up. China’s national conditions dictate that we should not only develop the system of people’s congresses but also strengthen the construction of grassroots democracy, which has a rich and diverse connotation due to the differences at the grassroots level in China, directly affecting the political practice at the grassroots level. China’s grassroots people’s democracy has continued to innovate and develop, establishing a system of grassroots mass self-governance and implementing the governance of autonomous organizations for urban and rural residents.

### **3.2 The Formulation and Development of the Theory of the Whole Process of People’s Democracy**

Since the 18th Party Congress, when socialism with Chinese characteristics entered a new era, the Party has deepened its understanding of the laws governing the development of socialist democracy and put forward the important concept of “people’s democracy in its entirety”, and has published a series of discussions on the basis for the origin of

this concept, its characteristics and advantages, its fundamental purposes, institutional vehicles and the path to its realization. This is the latest theoretical understanding of the essential features of socialist people's democracy in China and provides a direction for the development and improvement of socialist democracy with Chinese characteristics. In September 2014, in his speech at the conference celebrating the 65th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Xi Jinping proposed the concept of "the whole process of democratic politics" from a holistic perspective, pointing out that consultative democracy is deeply embedded in "the whole process of socialist democratic politics in China". In November 2019, during a visit to Shanghai, Xi Jinping also pointed out that "people's democracy is a kind of all-process democracy"; [10].

In July 2021, in an important speech at a conference celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China, Xi Jinping explicitly proposed "developing all-process democracy" based on the formulation mentioned above; in 2021, Xi Jinping proposed "developing all-process democracy". In October 2021, at a meeting of the Central People's Congress, Xi Jinping made a systematic elaboration on the whole process of people's democracy. In the Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on the Major Achievements and Historical Experiences of the Party's Centennial Struggle, adopted at the Sixth Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee, the need to develop "people's democracy in the whole process" was explicitly stressed. The report of the 19th Party Congress points out that socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era and the main contradiction in our society has been transformed into the contradiction between the people's growing need for a better life and unbalanced and inadequate development. The institutional practice of full process people's democracy is the crystallization of the Party's experience in leading the people of all ethnic groups across the country to practice the theory of democracy and carry out institutional innovation under the guidance of Marxism. From the state system, the political system, the political consultation system, the united front system, the system of regional national autonomy to the system of grass-roots mass autonomy, the Party's struggle in the practical exploration of democratic institutions is all crystallized. The development of the whole process of people's democracy is necessary to meet the people's aspirations for a better life, and the fundamental purpose of implementing people's democracy is to meet the people's needs for life and development so that the people can share the fruits of social development and lead a better life.

### 3.3 The Entire Weak System

The whole process of people's democracy is formed and developed in the Marxist theoretical and practical exploration of the free and comprehensive development of human beings, and its essence is socialist democracy [11]. Compared to bourgeois democracy, which combines the basic principles of Western democracy and the practice of Western capitalist society, China's democratic theoretical innovations and democratic practices have transcended Western theories of political development and models of political systems. The core of the path of socialist political development with Chinese characteristics is the organic unity of the Party's leadership, the people's sovereignty, and the rule of law. "The leadership of the Party is the fundamental guarantee that the people are the

masters of their own house and the State according to the rule of law; the people's mastery is the essential feature of socialist democratic politics; the State according to the rule of law is the basic way in which the Party leads the people to govern the country; all three are unified in the great practice of socialist democratic politics in China" [12]. In the process of building socialist democracy, the CPC has led the Chinese people to insist on starting from the actual situation in China, drawing on relevant experiences and lessons from all forms of democracy in human history, especially from those of Western democracy, and gradually exploring the theory of full-process people's democracy with Chinese characteristics. It has enabled all public policies to fundamentally reflect the will of the people and the people's subject status, and all strata of Chinese society to participate in the political governance of the country in a real and effective manner, thus promoting the modernization of the national governance system and enhancing the modernization of national governance capacity. It has made a new contribution to human political civilization.

## 4 Conclusion

The Sixth Plenary Session of the 19th Party Central Committee pointed out that the development of a full-process people's democracy ensures that the people are the masters of their own house. In the process of its formation, full-process people's democracy cannot be separated from the excellent traditional culture of the Chinese nation, the Marxist ideology of democracy and the adherence to the leadership of the Communist Party of China over the past century, etc. Meanwhile, in the new century, full-process people's democracy provides guidelines and follows the development of socialist democracy and the building of socialist political civilization in the new era. This article analyses the formation process of full-process people's democracy to gain a comprehensive and profound understanding of it; at the same time, it summarises the advantages of the development of full-process people's democracy in the new century of China's rule, intending to give full play to the advantages of socialist democratic politics in the new century, contributing Chinese experience and Chinese wisdom to the development of human political civilization, and realizing the second century of struggle and the Chinese Dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation To lay a solid foundation for democracy.

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