




# "Chinese path to Modernization" in the Perspective of the Centennial History of Chinese Marxist Philosophy

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**Abstract.** From the perspective of the century long history of Chinese Marxist philosophy, the study explored the issue of "Chinese path to modernization". In the new era, it is necessary to return to the context of the century long history of Marxist philosophy in China to deeply understand the era, ideological and cultural connotations contained in the major philosophical proposition of "comprehensively promoting the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation with Chinese path to modernization". Research and explore the dialectical interaction between the theoretical logic of Marxist philosophy with Chinese characteristics and the practical logic of Chinese path to modernization, present the theoretical contributions made by Chinese Marxist philosophy in the dialectical interaction between problem consciousness and subjectivity consciousness, and thus build China's independent Modernization theory knowledge system matching Chinese path to modernization. This will mean creating iconic concepts, creating or inventing significant philosophical propositions, engaging in academic debates, and innovating academic theories and knowledge systems in both methodological and subjective consciousness.

**Keywords:** History of Chinese Marxist philosophy. Chinese path to modernization. Knowledge system of China's independent Modernization theory

## 1 Introduction

The report of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China pointed out: "From this day forward, the central task of the CPC will be to lead the Chinese people of all ethnic groups in a concerted effort to realize the Second Centenary Goal of building China into a great modern socialist country in all respects and to advance the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernization." <sup>[1]</sup> From the perspective of the history of philosophical theory innovation, "comprehensively promoting the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation with Chinese path to modernization" is another major philosophical proposition after the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China put forward "building a human community with a shared future" "building a strong sense of the Chinese Volksgemeinschaft" and "realizing the people's aspirations for a better life". To deeply understand the era connotation, ideological connotation and civilization connotation con-

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tained in this major philosophical proposition, we need to return to the context of the century long history of Chinese Marxist philosophy, think about the dialectical interaction between the practical logic of Chinese-style modernization and the theoretical logic of Chinese Marxist philosophy, and comprehensively present the historical theoretical contributions of the party leaders and leading groups, and Chinese Marxist philosopher groups, then build a knowledge system of China's independent Modernization theory that matches Chinese path to modernization.<sup>[2]</sup>

## **2 "Chinese path to modernization" in the Interaction between Practical Logic and Theoretical Logic**

In the process of dissemination and acceptance of Marxist Philosophy in China, it has been influenced by the specific historical background of China, and has also been inspired and challenged by China's own practice. Therefore, the contribution of Chinese Marxist philosophy to the theory of modernization is unique.

In the interaction between practical logic and theoretical logic, Chinese Marxist philosophy pays attention to finding problems in practice, solving problems and promoting social change. The great changes and development of Chinese society have given birth to the high attention of Chinese Marxist philosophy to practice. Chinese Marxist philosophy emphasizes the subjectivity and creativity of practice, the problem consciousness of practice and the ability to solve problems. This feature of practical logic enables Chinese Marxist philosophy to better understand and deal with the practical problems of Chinese society in the process of modernization.

At the same time, the interaction between Chinese Marxist philosophy and theoretical logic cannot be ignored. Chinese Marxist philosophy pays attention to theoretical innovation and development, and constantly enriches and improves the theoretical system of Marxism.<sup>[3]</sup> The efforts of Chinese Marxist Philosophy in theoretical logic enable it to better explain China's unique practical problems and provide theoretical guidance and support for China's modernization process.

### **2.1 The spread and acceptance of Marxist Philosophy in China**

Marxist philosophy is a new school of thought spread and accepted in China at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. Its dissemination and acceptance can be traced back to the early 20th century, when China was facing a period of internal and external difficulties and social unrest. Under this background, some advanced young people began to contact and learn Marxist philosophy, believing that it has the theoretical and practical tools to solve China's problems.<sup>[4]</sup>

The early dissemination of Marxist philosophy was mainly through the translation and introduction of the works of the famous Western Marxist philosophers. In 1903, Li Dazhao translated the Manifesto of the Communist Party, which attracted the attention of some intellectuals. Subsequently, Chen Duxiu, Li Dazhao and others established the Communist Party of China and began to promote the thought of Marxist Philosophy in China. In the 1920s and 1930s, Chinese Marxist philosophy was further

developed and spread. Some intellectuals actively participated in the research and promotion of Marxist philosophy, such as Mao Zedong, Chen Duxiu, Li Dazhao and others. They passed on the thought of Marxist philosophy to more people by establishing journals, setting up research institutions, organizing lectures and other ways. After the founding of new China, Marxist philosophy has become the dominant ideology in China. [5] The Chinese government promotes Marxist philosophy through education and publicity, making it the guiding ideology of China's socialist construction. At the same time, Chinese Marxist philosophy has also begun to combine with the actual situation in China, forming a theoretical system of Marxist philosophy with Chinese characteristics.

## **2.2 The influence of China's specific historical background on Marxist Philosophy**

The spread and acceptance of Marxist Philosophy in China began at the beginning of the 20th century, when Chinese society was undergoing drastic changes and turbulence. During this period, China was faced with the tasks of national independence, national liberation and social change. Social contradictions were acute, and people lived in poverty. The country was faced with huge historical tasks and challenges.

The characteristics of China's feudal society and semi colonial and semi feudal society make the spread and acceptance of Marxist Philosophy in China different from that in western countries. In the process of spreading Marxist Philosophy in China, we must interpret and apply it in combination with the actual situation in China. The historical background of China has made Chinese Marxist philosophy develop a unique style and characteristics. In the process of the development of Chinese Marxist philosophy, the profound understanding of Chinese feudal society and semi colonial and semi feudal society has made Chinese Marxist philosophy pay more attention to the liberation of the people and national independence. Chinese Marxist philosophy combines the universal principles of Marxism with China's special practice, forming a Marxist philosophy system with Chinese characteristics. China's specific historical background also urges China's Marxist philosophy to pay more attention to practice and solve practical problems. Chinese Marxist philosophy emphasizes that practice is the only criterion for testing truth, and advocates that practice can transform the world and solve social problems. The emphasis on practice and the promotion of practice in Chinese Marxist philosophy have made great achievements in the process of modernization.

## **2.3 The contribution of Chinese Marxist philosophy to modernization theory**

Chinese Marxist philosophy emphasizes the importance of practice and combines practice with theory. Under the specific historical background of China, Marxist philosophy has been given the mission of solving China's social problems. Through in-depth research and Reflection on Chinese practice, Chinese Marxist philosophy has put forward a series of theoretical viewpoints and methods that adapt to China's na-

tional conditions. This interaction between practical logic and theoretical logic provides a unique theoretical support for China's modernization.

Chinese Marxist philosophy emphasizes the consciousness of problem consciousness and subjectivity. In the process of modernization, China is facing numerous complex problems and challenges. Chinese Marxist philosophy encourages Chinese scholars to conduct in-depth research and explore solutions to practical problems through the cultivation of critical thinking and problem awareness. At the same time, Chinese Marxist philosophy emphasizes the consciousness of subjectivity and encourages Chinese scholars to play an active role in the modernization process, actively exploring modernization paths that are suitable for China's national conditions.

Chinese Marxist philosophy has made important contributions to the construction of China's independent modernization theoretical knowledge system. Chinese Marxist philosophy, while accepting and absorbing Western philosophical ideas, emphasizes the integration of traditional Chinese culture and ideological resources, forming a unique theoretical system. Through in-depth study of Chinese history, culture and social practice, Chinese Marxist philosophy has put forward a series of modernization theories that adapt to China's national conditions, providing theoretical guidance and intellectual support for Chinese path to modernization.

From the perspective of the centennial history of Chinese Marxist philosophy, we can see more clearly that behind the interaction and interweaving of the practical logic of the great reform of "Chinese path to modernization" and the theoretical innovation logic of the sinicization and modernization of Marxist philosophy, it reflects the contributions made by the promoters of great practice and creators of great theories in question consciousness and subjectivity consciousness, that is, the leaders and leading groups of the Party. In the historical process of China's revolution, construction, reform and the new era, the Chinese Marxist philosopher group launched research and exploration on "Chinese path to modernization" as a major practical issue and a major philosophical issue, realized the philosophical expression of "Chinese path to modernization", and opened up a new realm for the sinicization of Marxist philosophy.<sup>[6]</sup>

### **3 "Chinese path to modernization" in Problem Consciousness and Subjectivity Consciousness**

Philosophy is the theoretical form of human self-awareness, which is the ideological creation made by philosophical researchers with personalized styles, national forms, contemporary content, and human care.<sup>[7]</sup> From the perspective of the century long history of Chinese Marxist philosophy, we can see the unique performance of "Chinese path to modernization" in terms of problem consciousness and subjectivity consciousness. Consciousness of problem consciousness is the keen perception and profound reflection of Chinese Marxist philosophy on social and historical issues. In China's modernization process, there are many complex problems, such as rural issues, urbanization issues, environmental issues, etc. Chinese Marxist philosophers have conducted in-depth research and reflection on these issues, proposing a series of unique theoretical viewpoints and solutions.

Chinese Marxist philosophy emphasizes subjectivity consciousness, which refers to the subjective status and conscious actions of the Chinese people in the process of modernization. The modernization process in China is a complex and diverse process that requires the Chinese people to push forward with independent thinking and action. Chinese Marxist philosophers emphasize the subjectivity of the Chinese people, encourage them to actively participate in the modernization process, and unleash their wisdom and creativity. They have put forward many theoretical views on the subjectivity and conscious actions of the Chinese people, such as the fact that the people are the creators of history and the main body of China's modernization.<sup>[8]</sup>

On the basis of problem consciousness and subjectivity consciousness, Chinese Marxist philosophy has constructed a modern theoretical knowledge system that is suitable for China's national conditions.<sup>[9]</sup> This system includes many unique theoretical viewpoints and methodologies, such as the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and the theory of the Chinese road. These theoretical viewpoints and methodologies have played an important role in China's modernization practice, providing theoretical guidance and ideological support for China's modernization process.

### **3.1 The Emphasis and Development of Subjective Consciousness in Chinese Marxist Philosophy**

Chinese Marxist philosophy emphasizes subjective consciousness, that is, the conscious initiative of individuals and collectives. In traditional Chinese culture, emphasis is placed on individual self-cultivation and self-education, emphasizing individual subjectivity and autonomy. In the process of dissemination and acceptance of Marxist philosophy in China, it has been integrated with traditional Chinese culture, forming a characteristic that emphasizes subjectivity and self-awareness. Chinese Marxist philosophy believes that individuals and collectives should have a conscious sense of goals, values, and action abilities, and achieve their own values and social development through conscious effort and struggle. This emphasis on subjective consciousness makes Chinese path to modernization pay more attention to the initiative of individuals and collectives in practice, and emphasize people's subjective position and independent choice.

The development of subjectivity consciousness in Chinese Marxist philosophy is also reflected in its concern for the comprehensive development of human beings. Chinese Marxist philosophy emphasizes the comprehensive development of human beings, that is, the unified development of both material and spiritual aspects. In the process of Chinese path to modernization, we should not only pursue economic modernization and scientific and technological progress, but also pay attention to the promotion of human spiritual civilization and the overall development of human beings. Chinese Marxist philosophy emphasizes the unity of human subjectivity and human all-round development, which makes Chinese path to modernization pay more attention to human dignity and human happiness, human subjective initiative and human all-round development.

### **3.2 The Problem Solving and Innovative Contribution of Chinese Marxist Philosophy to Modernization**

Chinese Marxist philosophy emphasizes the cultivation of problem awareness, and through in-depth observation and analysis of social reality, a series of problems in China's modernization process have been discovered and solved. For example, in the process of economic development, issues such as resource shortage and environmental pollution have emerged. Chinese Marxist philosophy has proposed the concept of sustainable development, emphasizing the coordination between economic development and environmental protection, and promoting the sustainability of China's modernization process. Chinese Marxist philosophy emphasizes subjectivity and consciousness in the process of modernization, emphasizing human autonomy and creativity. Chinese Marxist philosophy emphasizes the subjectivity of the people, encourages them to actively participate in modernization construction, and proposes the viewpoint that "the people are the creators of history".<sup>[10]</sup> This viewpoint has stimulated people's enthusiasm and creativity, promoting the rapid development of China's modernization process.

Chinese Marxist philosophy has also made theoretical innovations in the process of modernization. Chinese Marxist philosophy has innovated and developed Marxist theory based on China's actual situation, forming a modern theoretical knowledge system with Chinese characteristics.<sup>[11]</sup> For example, Chinese Marxist philosophy has proposed important theories such as the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics and modernization with Chinese characteristics, providing theoretical guidance and ideological support for China's modernization process.

## **4 The Construction of China's Independent Modernization Theoretical Knowledge System**

G.W.F. Hegel pointed out, "Without a system, philosophy cannot become science. Without a system, philosophical theories can only express individual subjective special emotions, and their content must be accidental. The content of philosophy can only be correctly proven as an organic link in the whole, otherwise it can only be unfounded assumptions or individual subjective beliefs."<sup>[11]</sup> The history of philosophical development is also proof, only systematic philosophical theories can become science and truly guide human practice. Examining "Chinese path to modernization" from the perspective of the century long history of Chinese Marxist philosophy, to complete the central task of the party of "comprehensively promoting the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation with Chinese path to modernization", we must build a theoretical knowledge system of modernization that is compatible with Chinese path to modernization, dominated by the Chinese modern Marxist philosophy, and independent of China. By reviewing the century long history of Marxist philosophy in China, we can clearly realize that the fate of theory and China, as well as the fate of philosophy and China, are closely related. At every important historical stage of China's revolution, construction, reform, and the new era, the innovation of philosophical

theory directly promotes the transformation of major realities, which directly promotes the innovation of philosophical theory.

In the perspective of the century long history of Chinese Marxist philosophy, the leaders and collective leadership of the Party, as well as the group of Chinese Marxist philosophers, have made sufficient theoretical reserves and methodological preparations for building China's independent modern theoretical knowledge system since the revolution, construction, and reform, especially in the new era.<sup>[12]</sup> This will undoubtedly provide us with ideological guidance and methodological guidance for further discussions. Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the leaders and collective leadership of the Party have been the first to achieve the grand goal of "realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation as soon as possible". Based on innovative and iconic concepts and major philosophical propositions such as "socialist modernization", "socialist modernization power", and "socialist modernization with Chinese characteristics", they have recreated and developed them in a new historical perspective, "Chinese path to modernization new road", "Chinese path to modernization road" and "Chinese path to modernization" have been put forward successively and explained in different contexts and logics. Specifically, first, in the dialectical relationship between the "new path of Chinese path to modernization" and the "five civilizations", it emphasizes the creation of a new path of Chinese path to modernization; second, in the dialectical relationship between the "new path of Chinese path to modernization" and the "new form of human civilization", it points out that the world historical significance of the new path of Chinese path to modernization lies in the creation of a new form of human civilization, Third, in the dialectical relationship between "Chinese path to modernization" and "the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation", it is emphasized that "from now on, the central task of the CPC is to unite and lead the people of all ethnic groups in the country to comprehensively build a strong socialist modernization country, achieve the second centennial goal, and comprehensively promote the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation with Chinese path to modernization."<sup>[13]</sup>

## 5 Conclusion

The development of Marxist philosophy in China over the past century has shown that the history of philosophy is not only a history of ideological nature, but also a history of ideological grasp of reality and promotion of practical transformation. It is a history of activating theory with reality and illuminating reality with theory. We can see the unique performance of "Chinese path to modernization" in the interaction between practical logic and theoretical logic. Under the specific historical background of China, Marxist philosophy has been disseminated and accepted, while also influenced and shaped by Chinese practice. Chinese Marxist philosophy has made unique contributions to the understanding and development of modernization theory. Chinese Marxist philosophy emphasizes problem consciousness and subjectivity consciousness. The cultivation of problem awareness enables Chinese Marxist philosophers to have a profound insight into practical problems and propose corresponding solutions.

The emphasis on subjectivity and self-awareness enables Chinese Marxist philosophers to persist in independent thinking and innovation, and promote problem-solving and innovation in China's modernization process. Another important feature of Chinese Marxist philosophy is its efforts to build an independent modern theoretical knowledge system in China. Chinese Marxist philosophy plays an important role in the study of modernization theory, providing theoretical support and guidance for China's independent modernization process through innovation and development of modernization theory. Chinese Marxist philosophers not only drew on the achievements of Western Marxist philosophy, but also formed a unique system of Chinese Marxist philosophy based on the actual situation in China.

Through the above efforts, a theoretical knowledge system of Chinese modernization based on existing academic accumulation, reflecting the spirit of the times, and possessing the connotations of the times, ideology, and civilization will be established. The construction of a new era of China's independent theoretical knowledge system of modernization, which matches Chinese path to modernization and the new form of human civilization, and is dominated by the Chinese contemporary Marxist philosophy, is bound to be in the dialectical interaction between the emergence logic of history and the emergence logic of ideas, in the dialectical interaction between the emergence of system consciousness and the emergence of problem consciousness, and in the dialectical interaction between the rebirth of philosophical speculation and the awakening of reality, Remodeling the self of contemporary Chinese philosophical thought.<sup>[14]</sup>

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