

## **Leading Higher Education to Deepen Reform with Xi Jinping's Strategic Thinking**

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**Abstract:** Strategic thinking is an important part of the socialist ideology with Chinese characteristics in the new era. It has made top-level design and overall layout for the party and the country, and played an important role in guiding Xi Jinping's new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics and creating a "Chinese model." The comprehensive deepening reform of higher education is different from the previous higher education reform. The primary task is to reform the reform of higher education. It is necessary to abandon the "patch-up reform", do a good job in the top-level design of higher education, effectively promote the construction of a modern university system, and characterize higher education, and then cultivate a comprehensive reform of individualized talents that can innovate and dare to innovate. Guided by Xi Jinping's strategic thinking in the new era, comprehensive deepening reform of higher education within the framework of the "China model" has become an inevitable choice under the new situation.

**Keywords:** Xi Jinping's strategic thinking; Comprehensively deepen reform; Government; talent development

The important speeches of General Secretary Xi Jinping and the new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics put forward by the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China are the latest achievements of the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics. When reforms and developments face unprecedented new contradictions and new challenges, The important idea of building socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era. Grasping the strategic thinking, dialectical thinking, innovative thinking, historical thinking, and bottom-line thinking that it runs through can open up new horizons for us to find problems, analyze problems, and solve problems. In Xi Jinping's series of thinking methods, strategic thinking can guide China's steady and rapid development, make top-level design and layout for the comprehensive deepening reform of higher education, and solve the dilemma of higher education reform.

### **1. Exploring Xi Jinping's Strategic Thinking**

"Strategy" is an ancient concept, which is a way to win the final victory in the military war by planning the overall situation and then developing tactics. As early as the Spring and Autumn Period, Sun Tzu's Art of War established his position as a military book with his strategy. Strategic thinking refers to a way of thinking that uses the laws found to directly guide people to actual behaviors with clear expectations. The Chinese nation's emphasis on strategic thinking has been used to this day, and many brilliant stories have emerged. In Xi Jinping's new era of socialist ideology with Chinese characteristics, it is also placed in an important position.

Xi Jinping pointed out: "The strategic issue is a fundamental issue of a political party and a country. The strategic judgment is accurate, the strategy is scientific, the strategy is proactive, and the party and the people's cause are promising. The strategic thinking will always be the Chinese Communists. The way of thinking that should be

established.”<sup>1</sup> Thinking about strategic issues in the issue of national development is also one of the distinctive features of Xi Jinping’s socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era. When Xi Jinping discussed the comprehensive deepening of reforms, he quoted the famous saying of the Qing Dynasty Chen Ruran, "There is no way to find the world, and it is not enough to seek a situation. If you do not seek the overall situation, it is not enough to seek a domain." This inspires us to plan from the overall situation, and the line of sight can never be obtained. The real solution. General Secretary Xi Jinping believes that when the situation at home and abroad is undergoing unprecedented profound changes, the party and the government must rise to the forefront and be brave in change, and plan the issue from a global perspective. In the long run, the layout will not fall into the trap of facing the problem.

Starting from the overall situation and major issues of China's development, we must grasp the inevitable requirements of Xi Jinping's strategic thinking in the new era. Strategic thinking is a way of thinking that takes a comprehensive view of major issues and a comprehensive pre-judgment on the basis of choice. It is an important way of thinking that jumps out and simplifies complex problems. At present, in the process of building socialism with Chinese characteristics and creating a "China model," we must focus on strategic thinking, proceed from the overall situation, strengthen top-level design, describe the blueprint for development, and determine the direction of reform.

### **2.1 "Patch-up reform" is not uncommon**

The reform of higher education for more than 30 years since the reform and opening up has mainly adopted the method of “patching”, that is, under the premise of maintaining the original concept of higher education and the institutional framework of higher education, it is necessary to check and leak the problems arising in real higher education; Or, according to the new requirements of economic and social development for higher education, add some new ingredients and new practices.<sup>2</sup> Like the national reform as a whole, China's higher education reform is also a gradual strategy, which is a “patch-up” reform of higher education in response to the needs of the situation and the needs of social development, as well as newly discovered problems. Such as the reform of the university's enrollment and integration system, the reform of the university's teaching content and curriculum system in the 21st century, the implementation of college students' cultural quality education, the development of world-class universities, the implementation of higher education quality projects, and so on. This series of measures has enhanced the social adaptability of higher education and also solved some partial problems. However, from a strategic point of view, due to the lack of top-level design, there is a lack of integrity between the reforms, and more in the periphery, the thinking on the concept of higher education and the modern university system is not enough to comprehensively reform and form the synergy of reform.

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<sup>1</sup> "Xi Jinping's Talk on Governing the Country" (Volume 2), Foreign Languages Press, 2017 edition, p. 10.

<sup>2</sup> Zhang Yingqiang. The comprehensive deepening reform of higher education needs reform of higher education reform [J]. China Higher Education Research, 2014(10): 16-20.

## **2.2 The legacy of reform and the decision-making environment are complicated**

First of all, the traditional higher education management system, the enrollment system, the personnel training system, and the scientific research system have not undergone a fundamental transformation. The problems of fairness, administration, and talent assimilation have not been fundamentally resolved. Instead, new forms have emerged. A new problem has arisen. At the same time, the difficulties and variables facing higher education reform are increasing, and the interest groups involved are also increasing. Carrying the heavy responsibility of the builders and successors of the socialist cause, the reform of higher education has truly become a key measure for the development of the people's livelihood and the stable development of society. Higher education reform needs comprehensive considerations, including maintaining social stability, training and layout of talents, and evaluating market benefits. The role of multi-party games and various factors has greatly restricted the reform of higher education, and the drastic reform has become a luxury. The decision-making environment for reform is complicated, and high-efficiency decision-making is difficult to sustain.

## **3. Thoughts on Breaking the Dilemma of Higher Education Reform under Xi Jinping's Strategic Thinking of the New Era**

Starting from Xi Jinping's strategic thinking of the new era, returning the comprehensive deepening reform of higher education, overall design, and coordinating its fundamental intentions, we need to solve two main problems: First, the role and responsibility of the government in the comprehensive deepening reform of higher education; Adhere to the vigorous development of innovative talents as the most urgent strategic task of higher education.

### **3.1 The role and responsibility of the government in the comprehensive deepening reform of higher education**

For post-external modernized countries, higher education reforms tend to be carried out in a top-down manner, and governments are often the designers, promoters, and leaders of reforms. China's higher education reform is promoted and implemented by government departments. The promotion, promotion and implementation of higher education reform by government departments is in line with China's national conditions and the tradition of higher education management, and it does reflect its inherent advantages in many aspects. However, the comprehensive deepening of reforms in higher education must fully reflect the significance of "all-round deepening reforms", abandon the "patch-up" reform thinking that has been pursued for a long time, and reform the reform of higher education.

The government has led and promoted comprehensive deepening of reforms in higher education. It is not the government that manipulates and controls the entire reform process. The government should implement the service thinking as the organizer and use the government's own advantages to create the environment and conditions for the competition in the higher education market. On the one hand, it deregulates the university, on the other hand, it helps the university to improve its self-discipline and governance level. The construction of colleges and universities has

become an independent legal entity that organizes and trains talents in accordance with the law. In other words, it is necessary to fully and correctly perform government functions, further simplify administration and decentralization, deepen the reform of the administrative examination and approval system, allow the market competition mechanism to enter the higher education field, and minimize the intervention in colleges and universities. The best way to reform should be school self-reform. Advocating colleges and universities to carry out self-reform is not to say that the government will let go of the hands of the treasurer, but to ensure that all colleges and universities

The direction of socialist education, supervising the school's reform measures, so that its reform is within the scope allowed by national laws. The government's responsibility for higher education institutions is not management, but supervision. As long as the reform of higher education institutions does not violate the direction of socialist education, does not violate laws and regulations, and does not harm the interests of teachers and students and society, it should be supported by governments at all levels. Institutions of higher learning should also stop relying entirely on the government's thinking, give full play to their initiative, and make the initiative and discourse power of reform in their hands.

Higher education reform should combine comprehensive development with key breakthroughs. Although the past reforms have achieved certain achievements, they have failed to form synergies and have not achieved much results because of the various reforms. In order to change the stagnation of higher education reform, we must strengthen the top-level design from a strategic point of view, make overall considerations of reforms in all aspects, organically coordinate all aspects of reform, promote each other, and promote synergies, so as not to advance into individual situations. . Of course, comprehensive reforms should also focus on key advances, and drive reforms through key reforms to comprehensively promote reforms.

### **3.2 Cultivating innovative talents is the most urgent strategic task for higher education**

Starting from Xi Jinping's strategic thinking in the new era, comprehensive deepening reform of higher education should serve the cause of higher education, and the most fundamental goal of higher education is to cultivate innovative talents. The cultivation of innovative talents requires a set of institutional mechanisms suitable for the development of innovative talents. The core of innovative talents is creativity. Creative spirit, creative thinking and creative ability are the three elements of creativity. In other words, higher education reform should fully stimulate students' innovative thinking, deepen the reform of college students and postgraduate training system, give play to the innovative role of students in academic research, and give full play to the leading role of colleges and researchers in educational activities. The government must work hard to protect academic freedom, and not excessively interfere with education and teaching.

First, the reform of higher education should develop in both directions of internationalization and localization. Although China's higher education has achieved great development since the reform and opening up, compared with developed

countries, there is still a big gap in China's higher education. In terms of content, management system and management methods, China must learn from developed countries in developed countries, in line with international advanced aspects, master international advanced concepts, advanced management methods and advanced educational content. The object of cooperation in universities should not only be limited to domestic universities, enterprises, and trade associations, but also should cooperate with international organizations, international institutions, and foreign excellent enterprises and research institutions to establish strategic cooperative relations, coordinate development, and build international scientific research and technological innovation. And educational resources sharing platform. At the same time, in terms of management methods and educational content, we must also adhere to the characteristics of our country, start from the reality of our country, create higher education that suits the characteristics of our nation, and promote the fine traditional culture of the Chinese nation.

Second, the reform of higher education in colleges and universities must combine their own reality, carefully analyze their own problems, fully tap the potential of learners, and properly publicize their personality to create a personalized training model for learners. It is not the most intelligent choice to rely on the research of teachers to improve their influence. Under the trend of popularization of higher education, colleges and universities should be rationally positioned, correctly positioned, and give full play to the advantages and strengths of colleges and universities. First, in order to adapt to the knowledge needed for economic and social development in the region, secondly, in terms of type positioning, Discipline or single-disciplinary "teaching-type" colleges or "educational research-oriented" colleges; finally, in the subject orientation, we must fully consider the needs of students and society, whether this major is required for students to work in the future, vigorously carry out Innovative subjects of interest to students.

### **Conclusion:**

General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized that the development level and development potential of higher education is one of the important indicators of a country's comprehensive national strength. The comprehensive deepening of higher education reform is a major measure related to the development of the country and society. The ideological and theoretical system represented by Xi Jinping's new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics is a major theoretical achievement achieved by China's reform and opening up over the past 30 years. It is an important ideological and theoretical weapon for China's reform, opening up, and socialist modernization drive. General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out that the key to the leadership and ruling ability of the Chinese Communist Party in responding to the risk crisis is to establish strategic thinking and global vision, and continuously improve its strategic thinking ability, strategic grasping ability, and strategic operational capability.

From the perspective of Xi Jinping's strategic thinking in the new era, it is necessary to grasp the overall situation and make overall plans in the comprehensive deepening reform of higher education. It is necessary not only to unify the planning of higher education reforms, but also to coordinate with other reforms to promote

comprehensive reforms and abandon “patches”. "Traditional higher education reforms that focus only on local issues." Xi Jinping's strategic thinking in the new era tells us that the return of higher education reform to its roots is to clarify the orientation of government responsibility and maximize the role of government guidance and the main role of universities. At the same time, in the fundamental goal and strategic height of cultivating innovative talents in higher education, strengthen the top-level design, make the comprehensive deepening reform of higher education truly serve higher education, revitalize the vitality and vitality of higher education, and explore the road of "China model" Go one step further.