

The Dual Logic of Urban and Rural Development Led by the Communist Party of China

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Abstract: Since the founding of the Communist Party of China, over a century of arduous yet remarkable exploration of the urban - rural relationship has been carried out, propelling China's urban and rural development from separation to coordinated integration. Based on the theoretical and temporal logics of the CPC's leadership in adjusting the urban - rural relationship, this paper clarifies the logical starting point, core, and purpose of the CPC's leadership in this regard, providing a fundamental rationale for the logical motivation behind the Party's leadership in adjusting the urban - rural relationship. It also explores the profound significance of the CPC's leadership in adjusting the urban - rural relationship at the theoretical, value, and practical levels, revealing its development and innovation of Marx and Engels' thoughts on the urban - rural relationship, and offering useful references for exploring a more fair, just, and sustainable urban - rural relationship.

Keywords: Communist Party of China, Urban - rural relationship, development and innovation

The report of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China states: "Adhering to the Party's overall leadership is the inevitable path for upholding and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics^[1]." This assertion profoundly reveals the core position of the Communist Party of China in comprehensively overseeing the overall situation and coordinating all parties in the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Urban-rural integration development, as a universal key issue in the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics, must always adhere to the Party's overall leadership and continuously advance urban-rural integration towards a high-quality development stage.

1. Theoretical Logic of the Communist Party of China's Leadership in Urban and Rural Development

(1) Logical Starting Point: The Practical Demands of China's Revolution and Modernization Construction

Marx and Engels pointed out: "When the relationship between urban and rural areas changes, the entire society will change accordingly^[2]." 237 The adjustment of the relationship between urban and rural areas by the Communist Party of China is rooted in its profound insight into and practical exploration of the historical changes of Chinese society. It is a scientific grasp of the development laws of the relationship between urban and rural areas and a firm pursuit of the goal of coordinated development between urban and rural areas.

From a historical perspective, the historical backdrop of the Chinese revolution constituted the primary logical impetus for the development of urban and rural areas. The vast majority of the peasant population were subjected to dual oppression from both feudalism and imperialism, fostering an intense desire to alter their circumstances and secure their interests. Consequently, they emerged as the principal force driving historical progress, the foundational element in social

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and economic life, and the most extensive driving force behind the Chinese revolution, as well as the natural and most reliable allies of the proletariat^[3] 643. However, significant barriers exist between urban and rural areas, which not only diminish the revolutionary resolve and combat capabilities of the peasants but also severely hinder the flow of resources and information between these regions. This exacerbates the imbalance in urban-rural development. Therefore, to harness a formidable revolutionary force, it is essential to fundamentally improve the living conditions of the peasants, elevate their political status, and dismantle the barriers and estrangements between urban and rural areas. Simultaneously, revolutionaries must prioritize the economic interests of the peasants and implement measures such as land reform to achieve land ownership, thereby enhancing their production enthusiasm and living standards and further motivating them to actively engage in revolutionary endeavors.

Secondly, with regard to modernization construction, in order to achieve the phased objectives of national independence, people's prosperity, and national strength, the Communist Party of China has consistently addressed the relationship between urban and rural areas within the overarching strategic framework of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. During the revolutionary period, the Communist Party of China mobilized and relied on the vast number of farmers to establish stable rural revolutionary bases, thereby laying a popular foundation for achieving national independence and people's liberation, and taking the first critical step toward the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. In the socialist construction period, the Communist Party of China actively adjusted development strategies between urban and rural areas, accumulating material foundations and institutional experiences for the country's long-term development, and promoting significant progress in the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. During the reform and opening-up era, the Communist Party of China prioritized economic construction, effectively stimulating the vitality of urban and rural development, reinforcing the robust defense line for people's livelihood security, and further advancing the new phase of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the Party has concentrated on resolving the contradiction between the people's ever-growing needs for a better life and unbalanced and inadequate development, providing powerful momentum and support for the smooth realization of the second centenary goal and the steady advancement of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

(II) Logical Conclusion: The Intrinsic Requirement of Integrating the Criterion of Truth and the Criterion of Value

First and foremost, the realization of the value scale must be premised on adherence to the truth scale. In guiding the adjustment of urban-rural relations, the Party has consistently pursued the value goal of fulfilling the needs for a better life among urban and rural residents. This pursuit is not arbitrary but grounded in a scientific understanding and grasp of the laws of social development. That is to say, during the process of leading the adjustment of urban-rural relations, the Party has strictly followed the objective laws of social development, ensuring that the achievement of its value goals rests upon a solid foundation of truth. Simultaneously, while upholding the value scale, the Party has continuously advanced the deepening and evolution of the truth scale. Specifically, to meet the ever-growing demands for a better life among urban and rural residents, the value scale motivates the Party to continually uncover new truths in the evolving practice of adjusting urban-rural relations, thereby establishing the truth scale as a guiding principle for the Party's leadership in this domain. The Party's leadership in adjusting urban-rural relations not only actively responds to people's needs but also demonstrates respect for and adherence to social objective laws, reflecting the Party's commitment to relentlessly pursuing truth and courageously innovating in practice.

Secondly, from the perspective of epistemological logic, the value and truth dimensions of the Party's leadership in adjusting the urban-rural relationship have been basically synchronous during the exploration process. The value dimension inherently contains elements of the truth dimension, and the truth dimension also includes elements of the value dimension. The two complement each other and are dialectically unified. The value dimension of the Party's leadership in adjusting the urban-rural relationship is a correct understanding and reflection of what kind of urban-rural relationship conforms to the people's aspirations and demands for a better life, and it is an exploration of the purposiveness of the adjustment of urban-rural relations. The truth dimension of the Party's leadership in adjusting the urban-rural relationship

reflects the scientific revelation and rational grasp of how to achieve the goal of integrated urban-rural development, and it is a reflection of the regularity of the adjustment process of urban-rural relations. The Party's leadership in adjusting urban-rural relations is a vivid display of the dialectical unity of the value dimension and the truth dimension.

2. The Era Logic of the Communist Party of China Leading the Adjustment of Urban-Rural Relations

The leadership of the Communist Party of China in adjusting the urban-rural relationship is a major strategic decision and work arrangement made in light of China's actual national conditions and the requirements of modernization construction. It has answered a series of major issues at the theoretical, value and practical levels regarding the urban-rural relationship in our country, and has developed and innovated the urban-rural relationship thought of Marx and Engels.

(1) At the theoretical level: The process of the Communist Party of China leading the adjustment of urban-rural relations has scientifically answered the question of what kind of urban-rural relations to uphold and develop, enriching the theoretical treasure house of Marx and Engels' thoughts on urban-rural relations.

On the one hand, the Communist Party of China has keenly perceived the era characteristics presented by the urban-rural relationship at different stages, leading the people to forge a path of urban-rural integrated development with Chinese characteristics, demonstrating a high degree of theoretical self-awareness and practical wisdom. On the other hand, Marx and Engels held that highly developed productive forces are the material foundation for achieving urban-rural integration development, but China is currently still in and will remain in the primary stage of socialism for a long time, and the productive forces level still needs to be improved. Nevertheless, the Communist Party of China, based on its historical position, emphasizes the dynamic matching of production relations and productive forces, and promptly makes corresponding adjustments to the policies and strategies at each stage, improving its development goals and development methods, and ingeniously solving the issue of how to gradually advance from the separation and opposition of urban-rural relations to coordinated and integrated development under the condition of underdeveloped productive forces level in this era. Meanwhile, the new quality productive forces not only have been formed and demonstrated in practice to exert a strong driving force and supporting power for high-quality development, but also have provided new ideas for addressing the imbalance between urban and rural development and promoting the formation of a shared and prosperous urban-rural development community.

(II) Value Dimension: The Communist Party of China has always been committed to adjusting the relationship between urban and rural areas from the perspective of the people. This has deepened the humanistic connotation of Marx and Engels' thoughts on the relationship between urban and rural areas.

"Asset owners 'reduce people to a mere 'force' for generating wealth', which is an excellent compliment to people^[4]!" Marx and Engels deeply sympathized with workers and criticized unfair social realities, advocating that all individuals should enjoy equal dignity and value. This reflects the distinct people-oriented nature of Marxism. The Communist Party of China, in leading the adjustment of urban-rural relations, explicitly stated that enhancing people's well-being and promoting the all-round development of individuals should be the fundamental starting point and ultimate goal of all work. It upholds the people's principal position, adheres to the people-centered principle, and relies closely on the people's strength to promote development and reform, committed to realizing, safeguarding, and developing the fundamental interests of the broadest masses of the people, and enhancing the people's sense of gain, happiness, and security. In this regard, the series of policies and guidelines launched by the Party and the state to accelerate urban-rural economic and social development are the concrete practice and vivid embodiment of the concept of putting people first in the path of integrated urban-rural development with Chinese characteristics. In 2019, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council jointly issued the "Opinions on Establishing and Improving the Institutional Mechanism and Policy System for Integrated Urban-Rural Development", emphasizing "Give full play to the leading role of farmers... Promote the all-round development of farmers^[5]". In the notice issued by the National Development and Reform Commission on "2022 Key Tasks for New Urbanization and Integrated Urban-Rural Development", it was mentioned that

"We should further promote the new urbanization strategy centered on people, improve the quality of new urbanization construction". The Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China further emphasized that "We should adhere to 'Letting the people build their own cities and serving the people' and 'Letting the cities serve the people'^[6]". In the process of leading the adjustment of urban-rural relations, the Communist Party of China actively responded to the people's yearning and expectations for a better life, cared about the fundamental interests of the people, profoundly embodying the theoretical essence of Marxism on the people's position, and thereby promoting the process of China's modernization and laying a solid foundation for realizing the Chinese Dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

(III) Practical Aspects: The process by which the Communist Party of China has led the adjustment of urban-rural relations is the key secret to promoting the process of China-style modernization. It has implemented the modernization concepts contained in the ideas of urban-rural relations proposed by Marx and Engels.

When Marx and Engels deeply analyzed the inherent contradictions of capitalism and sought solutions to escape the predicament of modernity^[7], they conceived the theory of modernization aimed at achieving harmonious coexistence of social relations, social structure and social mechanism. They affirmed the positive promoting effect of modernization on social development and sharply criticized various drawbacks in the modernization process under the dominance of capital logic. Therefore, they had to transcend the "trap of modernity" and achieve comprehensive and coordinated development of the economy and society as well as the free and comprehensive development of human beings. Marx and Engels pointed out: "When the relationship between urban and rural areas changes, the entire society changes accordingly^[2]." 237 This assertion profoundly reveals the fundamental position of the relationship between urban and rural areas in the modernization process. For China, modernization is not only the inevitable path to achieve the transformation from agricultural civilization to industrial civilization, but also an inherent requirement for building a modern socialist power. On the path of urban-rural integration led by the Communist Party of China, on one side, there is the high-speed train of urban prosperity, and on the other side, there is the green expressway of rural revitalization. The two run side by side, jointly heading towards the future of Chinese-style modernization. This path not only focuses on the realistic national condition of "a huge population scale", but also strives to achieve "a modernization with common prosperity for all people", "a modernization with the coordination of material civilization and spiritual civilization", and "a modernization with harmonious coexistence between man and nature". In the process of leading the adjustment of urban-rural relations, the Communist Party of China not only inherited and developed the beautiful ideals of Marx and Engels regarding social fairness and harmonious coexistence in the urban-rural relations thought, but more importantly, under the comprehensive leadership of the Party, this ideal has taken root and blossomed in China.

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