

# The Three-dimensional Characteristics of The Modern Chinese National Civilization

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**Abstract:** The Communist Party of China leads the Chinese nation through the modern national crisis, set foot on the historical journey of national rejuvenation, in the practice of building socialism to continuously promote the "two combination", born the modern civilization of the Chinese nation. The modern civilization of Chinese nation is the new form of human civilization, with the triple characteristics of Chinese civilization, socialist civilization and modern civilization: the dimension of Chinese civilization is the modern growth of Chinese civilization; the dimension of socialist civilization is the first construction of socialist civilization; and the dimension of modern civilization is the new pattern of modern civilization. The modern civilization of the Chinese nation is the modern development of the Chinese civilization that actively integrates into the history of the world and constructs the Chinese discourse system. The Chinese modern civilization breaks through the definition of the civilization of "private ownership", eliminates the shielding of the subjectivity of capital to people, and jumps the so-called "Thucydides trap", showing the new style of modern civilization.

**Keywords:** Modern Civilization of Chinese Nation, New Form of Human Civilization, Socialist Civilization, Modern Civilization.

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## 1. Introduction

On June 2, 2023, General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out at the symposium on cultural inheritance and development: "It is our new cultural mission in the new era to continue to promote cultural prosperity, build a cultural power and build a modern Chinese civilization from a new starting point." [1] This is the first concept of "modern civilization of the Chinese nation" after he visited Anyang City in Henan province in 2022. General Secretary Xi Jinping focused on the significance of the modern civilization of the Chinese nation. The modern civilization of the Chinese nation is a modern socialist civilization with distinct Chinese characteristics. It is a new civilization that the Chinese nation actively solved the negative impact of modernization after mankind entered the world historical era. The modern civilization of the Chinese nation is essentially a new form of human civilization.

## 2. The Modern Growth of Chinese Civilization

### 2.1. A Modern Chinese Civilization that is Actively Integrated into the World History

World history is the inevitable result of the development of the productive forces, and the capitalist mode of production promotes the development of the world history. Human history was originally a human history scattered everywhere. This history is a part of human history, but it does not have world significance. With the development of productive forces, all ethnic groups are constantly expanding their scope of communication, and the isolation between ethnic groups is gradually broken. "It is only with this general development of the productive forces that a general communication between people can be established." [2] World history is based on the universal communication of people, which can only promote human beings to bring the whole world into the scope of

human activities and break the isolation state. Entering the industrial age, with the rapid development of productivity, mankind has finally entered the world history.

The road of modernization that China takes belongs to the modernization of China. After the founding of new China, the Party led the people to take the initiative to embark on the road of modernization with Chinese characteristics. Comrade MAO Zedong led the Chinese people to carry out the new democratic revolution, and then launched the socialist revolution, and completed the three major reforms, which pointed out the direction, mapped up the blueprint and laid the foundation for China's modernization. Comrade Deng Xiaoping sought truth from facts, led the Chinese people to develop the socialist market economy, put forward the concept of "Chinese-style modernization", and was the chief architect of China's modernization drive. Comrade Jiang Zemin formally put forward the basic economic system and the distribution system, and established the socialist market economic system. Comrade Hu Jintao stressed the need to put people first and stand firm in the people's position in the process of advancing modernization. General Secretary Xi Jinping has defined China's historical position, stressing the need to effectively promote the creative transformation and innovative development of fine traditional Chinese culture, effectively promote the construction of socialist culture with Chinese characteristics, and build a modern civilization of the Chinese nation. China was forced to enter the world history in the process of human modernization. The Chinese modernization has reversed the passive situation of China. The modern civilization of the Chinese nation is the Chinese civilization that the Chinese nation actively integrates into the world history.

### 2.2. A Modern Chinese Civilization that is Actively Seeking for Change

At present, we are in the "world of great competition" of mankind, which is to position China from the perspective of world history. The world of great contention is a necessary

stage in the development of world history. The development of productive forces follows objective laws, and western developed countries cannot effectively respond to the cyclical economic crisis brought about by the basic contradiction of capitalism, while developing countries keep catching up with developed countries. In particular, the "bipolar pattern" has been broken, and the world has entered a period of "one super and many strong". The development of the United States has reached a "bottleneck period". The multiple power represented by China has risen rapidly, and the world has entered new changes. In a world of great competition, "fighting" is not a gentleman. "When the world of great struggle, and the rule of bowing, is not the rule of the saints." Seeking great harmony for the world is the Chinese nation's unremitting pursuit of the Chinese nation with a community with a shared future for mankind as the core, and realizing the liberation of all mankind is our great legacy inherited from the two founders of Marx and Engels. To lead the world toward communism, we need to be the first, to be the first, and to build an excellent modern civilization of the Chinese nation.

During the turning point of history, the Chinese nation has actively sought to change, and the Chinese civilization has lasted for more than 5,000 years without interruption. Qin unified the world, the Chinese civilization is continuous; the Communist Party of China leads the people of the founding of China, the Chinese civilization regained new life; the socialist movement to the wrong way, the Communist Party of China implements reform and opening up, develops the productive forces, and constructs the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, the Chinese civilization has gained new vigor and vitality. As mankind enters the "world of great competition", only by actively seeking change and constantly building the modern civilization of the Chinese nation can we realize the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and realize communism.

### **2.3. Chinese Modern Civilization of Reconstructing Chinese Discourse System**

Discourse system is the systematic thinking and response of the national ideology, culture and value system to the development and change of its own existence and external existence. Discourse system reflects the development degree and expression degree of a country's ideology, culture and value system.[3]The ancient Chinese civilization has created a discourse system that makes the world hear. In the era of agricultural civilization, China has become a major power in the East. However, in the face of the impact of modern and modern western civilization, the discourse power of Chinese civilization has gradually declined.

The ancient Chinese discourse system cannot adapt to the modern world, so it needs to reconstruct the discourse system to tell the Chinese story well. The ancient Chinese discourse system was established on the basis of the narrative mode of agricultural civilization. When the world became a more advanced industrial civilization, this discourse system would no longer adapt to the development of The Times. It is the world pattern of discourse power in modern times. In the face of the capitalist countries, the Qing government was defeated and almost lost the Republic of China ended the imperial system, but the international voice of the Republic of China was extremely weak; after the founding of new China, the world capitalist countries contained its development, China

was still very weak.

In the process of modernization of the Chinese nation towards rejuvenation, we actively builds the Chinese modern discourse system that keeps pace with The Times and builds the modern civilization of the Chinese nation. In the practice of modernization of China, create no investigation, no voice, Chinese modernization, "three represents", the concept of scientific development, the Chinese dream, human destiny community, the Chinese nation modern civilization and a series of modern discourse with distinct Chinese characteristics, the development trend of the world to know an old and young Chinese nation, seriously listen to the Chinese nation from the east of the world with five thousand years ago.

## **3. The First Construction of Socialist Civilization**

In 1516, Thomas More published "Utopia", marking the birth of utopian socialism. It was not until the Communist Manifesto was published in 1848 that the workers' movement had a scientific socialist theory. After the victory of the October Revolution in 1917, it took four hundred years for the socialist movement to truly establish the regime. However, only 74 years later, the world's first socialist regime fell apart. In 1949, the founding of the People's Republic of China, declaring to the world that the oldest nation took the socialist road. After twists and turns, the Communist Party of China led the people in carrying out reform and opening up, and established a theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics to enrich the Marxist theoretical system with Chinese and contemporary Marxism. The 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China declared to the people of the world: "Through long-term efforts, socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era. This is a new historical juncture in China's development." [4]More than 500 years after the birth of socialism, mankind has built a socialist civilization for the first time.

### **3.1. European Countries Such as Britain and France are Limited to Utopian Socialism and Have Failed to Establish the Theory of Scientific Socialism**

In the 300 years after the publication of Utopia, socialist movements in Europe rose, and dozens of utopian socialist thinkers emerged, who left hundreds of works for later generations. Unfortunately, however, they are only building socialism in theory. Just as Marx said, "Any real philosophy is the spiritual essence of his own time." [5]In another sense, any thought, including philosophy, has time limitations. Ideary socialism failed to break through the limitations of The Times, gradually turned to the opposite in the socialist movement, and became a factor hindering the socialist movement.

Britain, France and other countries are in the rising stage of capitalism when exploring utopian socialism, and it is impossible to produce scientific socialist thought. First, the contradictions of the capitalist society have not yet been fully exposed. "The bourgeoisie in its less than a hundred years of class rule has created more and greater productive forces than all those created in all past generations." [6]At that time, the capitalist mode of production was actively stimulating the development of productive forces, and the basic contradiction between the organization of individual factories and the anarchy of the whole social production had not yet been

exposed. Imaginary socialists only see the class contradictions between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie, but can not dig out the deepest basic contradictions of capitalist society. Secondly, utopian socialism adheres to the idealistic view of history. utopian socialists believe that reason is the decisive force of the socialist movement. Only through moral education can we improve human reason, and then transform reality into their ideal reality. In fact, they insist on bourgeois reformism, and they are not divorced from their class identity. Finally, utopian socialism has not found the right way for a violent revolution. utopian socialists sympathize with the exploited proletariat, but do not realize that the real liberation force is precisely the proletariat. They opposed the violent revolution, and tried to evoke the bourgeois "conscience" in a moderate way, and tried to build a "utopian" -style and harmonious world. The incompleteness of this revolution, rooted in the class position (utopian socialists do not completely stand on the proletarian position), is doomed that utopian socialism cannot be transformed into scientific socialism.

### **3.2. Germany Gave Birth to Scientific Socialism and Did Not Embark on the Socialist Road**

In the 1840s, the basic contradictions of capitalism together with other social contradictions gradually emerged. The working class, as an independent political force, constantly carried out revolutionary movements and was in urgent need of scientific theories. In 1848, the Communist Manifesto was published, and Marxism was born, marking the maturity of scientific socialism. However, Germany abandoned Marx and did not embark on the socialist road.

Germany is a fortress of European capitalist countries, and it is difficult to embark on the socialist road in the era of rapid development of capitalism. First of all, Germany is in a backward position in the historical process of capitalist modernization, and its productive forces have not met the requirements of building a socialist country. In 1618, the Thirty Years' War began in Europe, and Germany was often a battlefield; in 1648, Germany was divided into 314 states. In 1871, Germany was finally unified. Germany missed the golden period of capitalist development in the early 19th century, and its productive forces were far behind those of capitalist countries such as Britain and France, so it was impossible to support its establishment as a socialist country. Secondly, Germany eased the social contradictions through various ways, and the contradictions between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat did not intensify to the extent that the proletariat consciously accepts Marxism. German classical philosophy liberated the German people from the rule of religion. However, after completing the criticism of "the sacred image of human self-alienation", it produced "the self-alienation of non-sacred image". Marxism has completed a thorough criticism of this alienation, but in Germany, the theory cannot grasp the masses, and it cannot be transformed into a revolutionary material force. After its unification, Germany improved its class conflicts and tried to redivide the world. The class conflict in Germany was often passed on, and Germany produced reformism and gave up violent revolution. Finally, Germany lacked the leadership of a strong communist party to compete with the bourgeois regime. In 1918, the November Revolution broke out in Germany and destroyed the German Empire. However, the revolution was not led by the communist party. The coalition government

soon divided, the fruits of the revolution were usurped, and the November revolution failed. On December 30, the German Communist Party was founded in Berlin, but since then the workers' movement led by the German Communist Party was suppressed.

### **3.3. The Soviet Union became the First Socialist Regime, but it Did not Build a Socialist Civilization**

Lenin translated the Communist Manifesto into Russian, and spread it widely in Russia. In 1895, the Association for the Liberation and Struggle of the Working Class was established. In 1917, the October Revolution in Russia successfully overthrew the bourgeois interim government and established a new regime. In 1922, the Soviet Union was formally established. In 1936, the eighth Congress of the Soviet Union announced to the world that the Soviet Union had established the socialist system. In 1991, the Soviet Union collapsed, and an era ended.

The Soviet Union was a great attempt, and the socialist regime without socialist civilization could not last long. First of all, Marxism has not been integrated with the local culture, and it has become a rootless tree and a water without a source. "Whether at the beginning of the October Revolution, or during the implementation of the new economic policy, there were always voices of attack and distortion of the October Revolution." [7] The Soviet Union's denial of the October Revolution has not ended, which reflects from the side that the Soviet Union did not fully identify with socialism and cannot realize the integration of Marxism and local culture. The combination of the national conditions of the Soviet Union and Marxism only produced Leninism, but the evaluation of Leninism within the Soviet Communist Party also disagreed. The Soviet Union has always had a tendency of revisionism, trying to eliminate the revolution of Marxism, taking the road of moderate improvement, and failing to carry out the fundamental principles of Marxism. Secondly, the lack of economic construction experience, productivity can not obtain sustainable development. The new economic policy and the Soviet model indeed played a certain positive role. At the same time, there were also many problems. The Soviet Union did not correct them in a realistic way, which violated all the objective law of development proceeding from reality. The essence of the final "Cold War" of the Soviet Union was that the Soviet Union had no experience in building a socialist economy, indulged in superficial achievements, ignored the problems brought about by the Soviet model, and the lack of sustainability of productive forces development. Finally, people's subjectivity is blocked out, without uniting the vast masses of the people. The Soviet Union implemented a single public ownership of the means of production, ignoring the development level of productive forces, which seriously hit the enthusiasm of the people. Adopt the management of administrative orders is inefficient and unable to play the positive role of the majority of workers. The industrial structure is unreasonable, the industry involving the people's livelihood has not been fully developed, and the people's living standards are low. The development model developed at the expense of the people's interests cannot last long. The Soviet Union deviated from the fundamental principle of Marxism in the socialist construction, which was inevitably unable to construct the socialist civilization.

Looking back at the 500 years of socialist history, only

China has built a sustainable socialist civilization, which seems accidental, but in fact it is inevitable. All history is the result of the joint efforts of various factors, regardless of the will of people. Only by giving full play to the initiative of people by respecting the objective laws of history and seeking truth from facts can we realize our communist ideal.

## **4. The New Pattern of Modern Civilization**

Modernization is an inevitable requirement of the development of the productive forces and an inevitable trend of the development of human society. "Modernization reveals the overall historical process of human society shifting from tradition to modernity, and represents the general trend of the development of human society." [8]

### **4.1. Break Through the Definition of Civilization Defined by "Private Ownership" and the Pattern of Modern Civilization based on Public Ownership**

The western definition of civilization is based on private ownership. John Locke believes that private ownership is the foundation of human civilization, by which the western capitalist countries have long been used to define civilization and barbarism.

In essence, private ownership is the domination of others' labor force. Initially in the family, it later evolved into the exploitation, slavery and oppression of the non-ruling class by the ruling class. The unequal distribution of labor and its products produces private ownership, which is the result of the social division of labor. The German Ideology reveals the relationship between division of labor and private ownership: "Division of labor and private ownership are two synonyms, about the same thing, one for the activity, the other for the product of the activity." [2] That is to say, after the separation of material labor and spiritual labor, private ownership has already emerged. Engels revealed the essence of Western civilization in the Origin of the Family, Private Ownership and the origin of the State: "With the emergence of slavery, which had been most fully developed in the era of civilization, the first great division of society into the exploited class and the exploited class occurred. This division continued throughout the civilized period." [9] The reason why western modern civilization defines civilization by "private ownership" is essentially to cover up the truth of the bourgeois exploitation of the proletariat and to whitewash the injustice of the operation mode of capitalist society.

The modern civilization of the Chinese nation is a socialist and modern civilization constructed under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, which advocates the elimination of private ownership. "Communism does not deprive anyone of the right to possess social products, it only denies anyone the right to use this possession to enslave the labor of others." [6] It can be seen that the socialist society does not advocate the elimination of private ownership, that is, allowing individuals to occupy the products of labor. What we want to eliminate is the "private ownership" that the ruling class exploits the non-ruling class, rather than eliminate the "civilization" and return to the "barbaric age". On the contrary, the modern civilization of the Chinese nation that we want to build is a more civilized civilization without exploitation and oppression.

### **4.2. Eliminate the Concealment of Human Subjectivity and People-centered Modern Civilization**

Western modern philosophy ended the theological rule in the Middle Ages, liberated man from the bondage of religion, and awakened human subject consciousness. However, this shift only completes the transformation of the way of human existence from "the dependence of man to man" to "the independence of people based on the dependence of things" [10], "dependence of people" changes to "dependence of things".

The underlying logic of capitalist market economy is value proliferation, and the subjectivity of people is covered in bourgeois society. Modern western philosophy liberates people from the "self-alienation of the sacred image", but it makes people produce the "self-alienation of the non-sacred image". The capitalist mode of production is precisely the main culprit of this alienation, because the bourgeoisie has created a whole new world that suits its own interests. "On the whole, the whole period of civilization is under the control of these laws." [9] Engels pointed out that all "civilized societies" will be governed by the economic laws of commodity production. The production and exchange of commodities become an alien power, in contrast to the people in their activities. This phenomenon can be expressed in a more direct word: alienation. "In a bourgeois society, capital has its independence and personality, while the active individuals have no independence and personality." [6] In the world history era of bourgeois rule, people became slaves, no longer masters, and their subjectivity was covered.

The essence of socialist modernization is the modernization of human beings, and the modern civilization of the Chinese nation is a modern socialist civilization centered on the people, which fully demonstrates the subjectivity of human beings. Civilization is the human civilization, there is no human civilization. Civilization is the civilization created by people, and man is the main body of all civilizations. The people here are not the kind of abstract people that western philosophy concerns, but the perceptual people who live in reality, who are the people who make history. The modern civilization of the Chinese nation is a civilization of "anthropocentrism". The "anthropocentrism" here does not oppose man against nature, but "a community with a shared future for mankind". The modern civilization of the Chinese nation we want to build is not a civilization that meets the interests of the minority, but a splendid civilization in which the people think together, jointly build and share by the people. The ultimate goal is to meet the people's ever-growing needs for a better life and fully demonstrates human subjectivity.

### **4.3. Skip the So-called "Thucydides Trap" and Adhere to the Modern Civilization of Harmony**

In 2012, Graham Allison proposed the "Thucydides trap": a new power must challenge the existing power, and it has to respond to the threat, so war became inevitable. The "Thucydides Trap" is almost regarded as the "iron law" of international relations, and historical facts seem to confirm this invented law. The typical examples include the Four Anglo-Dutch wars, the Russo-Japanese War, two world wars, and the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union. In fact, these wars were provoked by capitalist

countries to compete for colonies and maintain their hegemony, and they did not have universality and inevitability.

The modern civilization of the Chinese nation is a modern civilization born in the national gene of the "harmony" culture, and harmony is the most valuable. Since ancient times, the Chinese nation has rarely initiated wars, especially unjust wars of aggression. Confucianism emphasizes the peace of order, Mohism emphasizes the peace of action, Taoism emphasizes the peace of taking natural nature, and the excellent traditional Chinese culture has outstanding peace. Comrade MAO Zedong was firmly opposed to war. He advocated that the study of the laws of war is to eliminate war: "Not only seek peace for a country, but also world peace, not only temporary peace, but also permanent peace." [11] Comrade Deng Xiaoping proposed "peace and development are the two major problems in the world"; Comrade Jiang Zemin put forward eight proposals of peaceful reunification and firmly promote the peaceful reunification of the motherland; Comrade Hu Jintao proposed "two harmonious ideas": a harmonious world of building a harmonious society and promoting a harmonious world of lasting peace and common prosperity; General Secretary Xi Jinping established the concept of building a community of shared future for mankind, contributed Chinese wisdom, Chinese solutions and Chinese strength to solve the problems of world peace.

## 5. Summary

The Chinese civilization is a holistic concept, with three historical forms of ancient civilization, modern civilization and modern civilization. The modern civilization of the Chinese nation is a new form developed in the historical process of China's modernization, which is in line with the ancient civilization and modern civilization. The Chinese nation has a splendid ancient civilization, leading the way in thousands of years of history. However, in the historical process of modernization of the world, it is in a backward position, resulting in the dust of modern civilization. Now, we once again take the initiative to seek change and actively build a modern civilization of world historical significance. Modernization originated in western capitalist countries. The Party and the people have made unremitting efforts to actively explore socialist modernization with Chinese characteristics,

take a new path of Chinese-style modernization, and build a modern civilization of the Chinese nation.

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