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The ancients said, “truth is the inherent law of objects and is also the reason of things.” A development idea is a guide for development action, controls the overall situation, the fundamentals, the direction, and the long term, and is the centralized reflection of the development plan, development direction, and the key development point. If the development idea is effective, it will be easy to set the target task and easy to make decisions regarding policy measures.

Theory is the guide of action, and certain development practices are guided by certain development idea. Whether the development idea is fundamentally right determines the development results, and even success or failure.

Xi Jinping (2015)

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Chapter 1

Introduction: People-Centered Development Idea



In different development stages, a society will have different development tasks, themes, and priorities. China continues to pursue socialist modernization, maintaining Chinese characteristics in its choice of development paths and the planning of development strategies. During different development stages, China has had different development tasks, and has guided by different development concepts. With the development of practices, the concept of development is constantly evolving, staying current in the changing times. It constantly guides practices with a more scientific concept, and enables China to constantly move forward.

China is about to enter a new development stage and has just entered the “13th Five-Year Plan” period. The 13th Five-Year Plan is the final five-year plan following the creation of an all-round moderately prosperous society, and is the first five-year plan to be formulated following China’s economic development toward a new status quo. It is also the first plan formulated in the context of furthering China’s reform, implementing the rule of law and strengthening the discipline of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

The 5th Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee aimed to build an all-round moderately prosperous society by 2020, which is the first of the two centenary goals determined by the CPC. The 13th Five-Year Plan period represents the clinching of the final victory in the decisive push to build an all-round moderately prosperous society, and the 13th Five-Year Plan was formulated to achieve this goal. At the same time, it is necessary to adhere to the strategic layout of four comprehensive principles to promote the construction and development of the economic, political, cultural, social, ecological civilization and CPC aspects of society, and to ensure the achievement of all-round moderate prosperity as scheduled. The Plenary Session stressed that it is necessary to adhere to the following principles to realize the goal of building an all-round moderately prosperous society, and to promote sustainable and healthy economic and social development.

Key factors here include the subject status of people, scientific development, deepening China's reform, implementing the rule of law, planning China's domestic and international overall situation, and the leadership of the CPC. To achieve the development goals of the 13th Five-Year Plan, and to address development problems and strengthen any development advantages, it is necessary to firmly establish and implement a development idea covering innovation, coordination, greening, opening-up and sharing.

In the 13th Five-Year Plan period, China's development is occurring in a time of important strategic opportunities, wherein China will be able to accomplish great achievements but will also face severe challenges. Thus, many contradictions exist and there are new risks and hidden dangers. We need to properly understand the profound changes within this period of strategic opportunities, and we need to respond efficiently to various risks and challenges. Furthermore, it is essential that we continue to focus on completing our own tasks, and constantly expand and develop this new realm. A meeting of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee held on July 20, 2015 proposed that "in the "13th Five-Year Plan" period, the development of the environment, conditions, requirements, tasks, etc. of China has experienced significant change. To best understand China's new status quo, to adapt to this new state, provide guidance and maintain sustainable and healthy social and economic development, there must be new ideas, new lines of thought and new measures. Development strategies guide development action, and are the centralized reflections of the development plan, development direction, and key development point."

The 5th Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee first presented "five new major development" ideas: innovative development, coordinated development, green development, opening-up development and sharing development (see Text box 1.1). This is the new idea to manage state affairs and deal with political affairs by the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the general secretary. The new idea also serves as a guide for China's national economy and social development in the 13th Five-Year Plan period. There are five main guidelines specifically pertaining to the formulation of the concept, content, and overall planning and layout of the 13th Five-Year Plan. This will comprehensively guide the development practices of China in the coming years.

Text box 1.1. Five New Major Development Concepts

Innovation is the first impetus guiding development. It is necessary to focus on innovation in overall national development, and constantly propel innovation in various aspects, including theoretical innovation, institutional innovation, technological innovation, cultural innovation and so on. Thus, innovation occurs in all activities of the CPC and China, and becomes a common practice within society as a whole.

Coordination is an intrinsic requirement of sustainable and healthy development. It is necessary to understand the overall arrangements of the

socialist cause with Chinese characteristics, and to correctly handle the significant relationships within development. Similarly, it is important to promote coordinated regional development between urban and rural areas, coordinated economic and social development, as well as the synchronous development of industrialization, informatization, urbanization, and agricultural modernization. Importance must also be attached to improving national soft power whilst enhancing national hard power, and constantly strengthening overall development.

Green policies are a necessary condition for sustainable development and are an important reflection of the people's pursuit of a good life. It is necessary to insist on a basic state policy of resource conservation and environmental protection and also sustainable development. Furthermore, a civilized development path with production development is essential, as are wealth and the environment. Action should also be taken to speed up the creation of a resource-saving and environmentally friendly society, and a new pattern of modernization with harmonious development between human and nature. Such actions will result in the construction of an ideal China. Ultimately, efforts must be made to ensure global ecological safety.

Opening-up is the only way to ensure the prosperous development of China. It is necessary support the integration of China's economy into the world economy, pursue the opening-up strategy to achieve mutual benefits and win-win results, and seek internal and external demand coordination and import and export balance. Attention must also be paid to the introduction of new measures—to introduce ways to attract investment and the introduction of new technology and foreign knowledge. China needs to develop its open economy at a higher level, and actively participate in global economic governance and public product supply. It should work to improve its institutional discourse power in global economic governance, and create extensive benefits for its community.

Sharing is an essential requirement of socialism with Chinese characteristics. It is necessary to seek development for the people, development that relies on the people and development achievements shared by the people. A more effective system should be developed, and this would enable the people to have a greater sense of achievement in its co-construction, and development. Additionally, this would strengthen the impetus of development, enhance unity, and result in steady progress towards the direction of common prosperity.

Data source: *Recommendations for the 13th Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development* (Adopted at the Fifth Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on October 29, 2015).

1.1 The New Development Idea Is the Greatest Innovation of the 13th Five-Year Plan

The 5th Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee presented the new development idea for the first time, representing the greatest innovation of the 13th Five-Year Plan. The following aspects highlight the strengths of the plan.

First, the new development idea derives from China's most significant reform to date and opening-up development practices. Furthermore, it guides such practices. It embodies the interactions between practice and theory, and interactions among the people, CPC, and China. It "is from the people to the people, from particular practices to other practices". This strategy is both popular and understandable, and will become an inexhaustible source of strength for creation, innovation, entrepreneurship and intelligence for the people once mastered by the people, like a spiritual atomic bomb.

Second, the new development idea not only summarizes the innovation and essence of previous five-year plans and integrates the great achievements of the predecessors (such as the concept of "people-oriented" scientific development), but also keeps pace with changing times and greatly enriches the concept of scientific development ("promotes all-round human development") via further breakthroughs and innovation. It summarizes the best practices of the development of China and represents a novel and new development idea. China is the first country that has dared to promise its people (and implement) the concepts of sharing and development. Furthermore, it is the first great power to dare to proclaim two-way opening-up and win-win cooperation as new strategies to deal with international relationships, and is the first large developing country to actively advocate and effectively implement a green development idea.

Third, the new development idea represents a great breakthrough in the design of the five-year plan, and presents five major ways to realize an all-round moderately prosperous society as scheduled. "No thinking, no soul; and no idea, no direction". The new development idea represents the clear and substantial soul, thoughts and concept of the 13th Five-Year Plan, and effectively leads and guides the planning and layout of the plan. For a five-year plan, the new development idea has transformed a dry plan into a living plan.

Fourth, the new development ideas are part of comprehensive scientific development concepts, form a grand development framework, rigorous development logic, and a line of pragmatic development line of thought. The ideas relate to each other, promote each other, and support each other, so that the meaning behind scientific development is further embodied with greater guidance, direction, and mobility.

Fifth, China's development idea will have a great impact worldwide. China is not only a country enjoying one of the highest levels of development, but also a country with new innovations and development ideas. It has not only solved the issue of China's development path, but has also provided important knowledge and ideas for the development paths of countries of the South in the 21st century.

The new development idea does not only represent the latest Chinese version of theoretical achievements on development economics, but also the best practices of development economics in the contemporary world.

1.2 History of China's Idea of Development

The laws directing economic and social development are not unchanging, and develop as history develops, and change as history changes.¹ The development of Chinese socialist modernization has successively undergone different development stages, and has formed different development concepts² and three versions of Chinese-style socialism.³

In 2010, regarding China's path, China's history of the development of socialist modernization was considered to be neither a straight road nor a predesigned road. Rather, it was a road of constant exploration, summary, exploitation, and change. As can be seen from the history of socialist modernization since the founding of new China, we have experienced at least three generations of development concepts: Mao Tse-tung, Deng Xiaoping and Jiang Zemin and then Hu Jintao and later. As can be seen from the strategy and development of the three generations of development concepts, each generation represents a connecting link between the preceding and the following, advancing with the times and continuously innovating and reflecting on the characteristics of China's conditions in different periods. It also reflects the different responses of leaders in different periods to the challenges of modernization and globalization. Each generation of development idea has not only experienced historical advancement and rationality, but also historical stages and limitations.⁴ We can describe this as socialist modernization with Chinese characteristics and an upgrade and update of the "software version". During the development and design of this software version, because of the uncertainty and incompleteness of information and knowledge, as well as the lack of adaptability to and coordination with the actual situation, mutual associations and the constant upgrading of the software version has occurred via continuous improvement and

¹Here, we refer to the words of Comrade Mao Tse-tung: "different war situations decide different laws for directing war, which are different at different times and in different regions and have different properties. All the laws for directing war develop as history develops and as war develops; nothing is changeless." Mao Tse-tung: *Problems of Strategy in China's Revolutionary War* (December 1936), *Selected Works of Mao Tse-tung*, pp. 174–173, Vol. 1, Beijing: People's Publishing House, 1991.

²Hu AnGang, Wang YaHua: *National Conditions and Development*, pp. 163–167, Beijing: Tsinghua University Press, 2005.

³Wang ShaoGuang: *Thousands of Peaks Turn out After an Episodic Rain*, preface of *The Great Way Prevails*, February 2015.

⁴Hu AnGang: *China: New Development Concept*, Hangzhou: Zhejiang People's Publishing House, 2004.

constant additions and innovation. In other words, the last version is the foundation of the next version, and the next version is the reform, amendment, and upgrade of the last version. Thus, “socialist modernization with Chinese characteristics” occurs, as do changes in the software version from 1.0 to 2.0 and then to 3.0. The greatest achievement of Comrade Mao Tse-tung is that he created version 1.0, and that of Comrade Deng Xiaoping is that he initiated the upgrade to version 2.0. Comrade Jiang Zemin enriched version 2.0, and Comrade Hu Jintao was responsible for the upgrade to version 3.0, namely presenting the concept of scientific development and integrating the great achievements of China’s pathway for more than 60 years. At that time, we also predicted that, as can be expected, all future leaders would constantly engage in upgrading and updating (i.e., the three versions), thus insisting on “China’s path”, which is uniquely Chinese.⁵

1.3 People-Centered Development Idea

The CPC continually inherits from its predecessors, advances with the times and builds upon China’s original development idea. Since the 18th Party Congress, the CPC Central Committee (with Comrade Xi Jinping as general secretary) has further innovated the development idea and development theory of China’s path from a “people-oriented” development line of thought to “promoting all-round human development”, and then to a “people-centered” development line of thought.

After “continuously meeting the constantly increasing material and cultural needs of the people on the basis of production development and social wealth growth”, the general program of the CPC constitution modified at the 18th Party Congress adds “promoting all-round human development”, emphasizing that “it is necessary to consciously take the people-oriented principle as the core position of further implementing the scientific development concept, always ensuring to properly implement, maintain and develop the fundamental interests of the most extensive masses as the starting point and the foothold of all work of the Party and the state, respect the pioneering spirit of the people, guarantee the rights and interests of the people, and continually achieve new efficiency on the basis of realizing the development achievements shared by the people and promoting the all-round development of human beings.” The idea of “promoting all-round human development” not only promotes the above concept, but also moves with the times, reflecting the “development” of the concept of scientific development. Furthermore, it represents a further upgrade of scientific development, namely, the concept of all-round scientific development. If it is said that the “people-oriented” tenet mainly comes from China’s people-oriented principle, then “promoting all-round human development” comes mainly from and is fully reflected in the Marxist theory on

⁵Hu AnGang: *Genuine Knowledge Comes From Practice, Innovation Comes From Local Places*, *China Study*, No. 22 (2010), July 29, 2010.

all-round human development. Furthermore, it can better reflect the basic characteristics of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and is the perfect combination of integrated innovation from contemporary China and Marxist theory.

As is commonly acknowledged, within the grand territory of China the great “human being” is not only an abstract “human being” but also represents more than 1.3 billion “people”. The latter term is not only the plural form in the general sense of the notion, but a “community” composed of innumerable plural sets. We call this the “community of development”, the “community of interests” and the “community of destiny” of the People’s Republic of China. In China, all-round human development is the general objective of the all-round development of billions of people, and includes the “five-in-one” all-round development of economic development, social development, cultural development, political development and ecological civilization construction, as well as personality development, free development and the all-round development of each concrete person. The development of any (individual) person needs the help of the development of others (including other persons, organizations, society, etc.), and will also have a spillover effect on the development of other persons, thereby forming complementarity and relevant development between them. This includes also includes sharing development, common development and interactive development with others.

The Recommendations of the 5th Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee presents the basic principle of “adhering to the status of people”; furthermore, “it is necessary to adhere to the concept of people-centered development, and take improving the wellbeing of people and promoting the all-round development of human beings as the starting point and foothold of development.”

What exactly is China’s current five-year plan? Whom is the plan formulated for? What is its core idea? The full name of the outline of the 13th Five-Year Plan is the *13th Five-Year Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the People’s Republic of China*. Obviously, it is the national development plan, relating to the national economy and social development. It also relates to ecological construction, environmental protection, etc., but is essentially the plan of the people, the plan of people development and the plan of development achievements shared by the people. Therefore, “adhering to the status of people” enables the national five-year plan to fully reflect the following aspects:

The people are the subjects of China’s national development and entrepreneurship.

The people are the fundamental impetus promoting national development.

The people are the subjects of national innovation.

The people are the subjects sharing the development achievements.

As early as 1945, Mao Tse-tung commented that, “the people, only the people, are the impetus to create world history.”⁶ It can be stated that the national five-year plan is the development plan of the people and adheres to the idea of people-centered

⁶Mao Tse-tung: *On Coalition Government*, April 24, 1945, *Selected Works of Mao Tse-tung*, pp. 1031, Beijing: People’s Publishing House, 1991.

development. Furthermore, it considers the improvement of the wellbeing of the people and the promotion of all-round human development to be the starting point and foothold of development. Furthermore, the plan organically combines the macro national development plan with the people plan promoting all-round human development. This is the impetus for the Chinese people to create history, and is also the reason for the innovation of successful sustainable development of China.

How can we enable a community of more than 1.3 billion people to achieve common development, sharing and prosperity? This is not only a problem for China, but for the world. Before the creation of China's plan, no other country was able to offer China a ready-made model, a successful answer, and a feasible path. Thus, China's independent innovation will soon become a world innovation. It shall be said that the innovation, formulation and implementation of a five-year plan represents the most significant example of democratic decision making, national governance and scientific management implementation in the world. China's achievements have attracted the attention of the international community.

1.4 New Development Idea and All-Round Human Development

The concept of scientific development represents China's original development concept, and properly summarizes China's path in recent times. Furthermore, it will be a theme for sometime yet in China's future, and is a fundamental guiding policy. The report of the 18th CPC Congress stressed that it is necessary to maintain scientific development throughout China's process of modernization, and to reflect the concept of scientific development in all aspects of CPC development. For this purpose, it is necessary to strictly adhere to the concept of scientific development, and to further enrich and explain the concept within the practices of China.

The 5th Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee stressed that to achieve the development goals of the 13th Five-Year Plan, address development problems, and strengthen development advantages, it is necessary to firmly establish and implement the development strategies of innovation, coordination, greening, opening-up and sharing. Development within these five aspects is an important part of the concept of scientific development, and they maintain the essence of Chinese traditional culture. Development in these areas also fully reflects the new trends and characteristics of modern times, and summarizes the valuable experience of development practices in China.

The new development strategies are not independent of each other, but accommodate, integrate, and promote one another; they have a unified goal. Innovative development is the impetus of development, coordinated development is the art of development, green development is the mode of development, opening-up development supports development, sharing development is the goal of development, and