# Tracing and Thinking on the history of human modernization Chivun Pei

School of Marxism, Wuhan University of Technology, Wuhan, Hubei 430070, China

**Keywords:** Human beings; Generation of history; Tracing to the source and thinking

Abstract: Chinese modernization road is a modernization road with Chinese characteristics and a new form of human modernization. According to Marx's theory of world history, the road of Chinese-style modernization was born in the background of world history, explored in the process of world history and created in the trend of world history. The road of Chinese-style modernization is embodied in following the general laws of modernization and keeping Chinese characteristics. The practice of this road shows that the leadership of the party is the prerequisite for China's modernization practice, the reform and opening-up is the driving force of China's modernization practice, the socialist market economy is the only way for China's modernization practice, and the people are the main body of China's modernization practice. Following the historical logic science, summing up our party's valuable experience in socialist modernization, deepening and expanding the scientific connotation of building a powerful socialist modernization country, and making clear the path choice, important principles and strategic arrangements to achieve this goal are the scientific guidelines and action programs that will lead us to achieve the goal of the second century. The centennial history of the Communist Party of China (CPC) is not only the history of striving for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, but also the history of striving for the modernization of Chinese style.

#### 1. Introduction

Marxist historical materialism holds that modernization is the integration process of human society on the basis of socialization and globalization of productive forces, including the demise of class, state and private ownership, mutual learning, blending and development of all ethnic groups and civilizations, and the realization of people's free personality under all-round communication[1]. Therefore, the historical process of modernization will eventually surpass capitalism and merge into the prospect of communism. All these expositions profoundly show that after a hundred years of hard exploration, the CPC people have found a "Chinese-style modernization road" suitable for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. This unique "road" has created a "new form of human civilization" and provided Chinese wisdom and experience for the modernization of the postdeveloping countries. As the largest developing country, China has achieved great-leap-forward development in the process of modernization, and has profoundly influenced the historical process of the world with an unprecedented great social revolution, making irreplaceable special contributions to the development of human society [2]. Understanding the connotation of profound historical dialectics and its manifestation in the new road of Chinese-style modernization will help deepen the understanding of the truth of Marxism and its innovative theory in China, and grasp the internal principle that the party leads the people to continuously achieve great historical achievements [3].

## 2. Theoretical logic of historical dialectics

## 2.1 The difficult start of China's modernization

Accelerating development and realizing modernization are the unremitting pursuit goals of several generations of Chinese people with lofty ideals, and also the historical task undertaken by the CPC since its foundation [4]. Since the Opium War, modernization has been the dream of

several generations of Chinese people, and the Chinese nation has never given up its efforts to pursue modernization. In order to save the nation from peril, the Chinese people rose up against it, people with lofty ideals ran and shouted, and various plans for saving the nation were introduced in turn. During the 81 years from the Opium War in 1840 to the founding of the CPC in 1921, there were three major modernization movements in China. Being in the background of globalization, people deeply understand that modernization is the only way for China to truly integrate into the world and realize national rejuvenation. The western bourgeoisie's opening of modernization and the creation of world history are historical processes that are carried out simultaneously. The bourgeoisie regards the low price of its commodities as a heavy artillery to destroy all the Great Wall and conquer the most tenacious xenophobia of barbarians [5]. During the new-democratic revolution, the CPC led the Chinese people to drive away the imperialist aggression, overthrow the feudal rule, get rid of the exploitation of bureaucratic capitalism, won the victory of the new-democratic revolution, and created the fundamental social conditions for realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. The modern world process is shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Modern processes of the world

First stage	Economic	Political	Global unification
	industrialization	democratization	
Handicraft period:	Handicraft industry	Enlightenment, Early	New air route
around 16th century-	is the basic form of	Capital Stage	development and
early 19th century.	capitalist industrial	Revolution: In 17th-	early colonial
	production in	18th century,	expansion: Breaking
	Europe.	capitalism was	the relative isolation
		established in	between continents,
		England, America	the world has
		and France.	increasingly become
			an interrelated and
			closely linked whole,
			creating conditions
			for the formation of
			the world market.

### 2.2 The soul and core of human modernization

Human modernization is the soul of modernization and the purport of modernization. The core of modernization lies in human modernization. In the process of modernization, human is not only the subject of practice but also the subject of value, but also the ultimate goal of modernization. Modernization without human can not be in the real sense. In the process of China's modernization construction, whether we can give full play to the role of human beings and establish a "peopleoriented" development concept is the basic yardstick to measure the correctness of China's concept and development thinking of modernization. According to Marxism, human history is driven by the contradictory movement between production relations and productive forces, which is conducive to the development of productive forces and the root of all social forms. Based on this historical development orientation, the CPC put forward the strategic conception of China's "four modernizations" [6]. In September 1954, Zhou Enlai pointed out in the "Government Work Report" made at the first session of the first National People's Congress: " For a populous country with backward economy and culture like China, the arduous and arduous task of modernization is rare in the world, the scale and complexity of contradictions and problems in the process of modernization are rare in the world, and the difficulties and risks in the process of advancement are rare in the world. To realize China's modernization, we must first create the political premise of modernization, which is to realize national independence and people's liberation through political revolution. The real expansion comes from the rule of financial capital combining bank capital with industrial capital [7]. "Concentrate all capital and monetary income, and turn thousands of scattered economies into a unified national capitalist economy, and then into a worldwide capitalist economy." Therefore, human history has truly become the history of the world.

# 3. Chinese people's cultural recognition of the road of "modernization"

# 3.1 Preliminary Exploration of Chinese Modernization Road

Capitalism has spread the achievements of western industrial civilization in the process of world history, and it has also caused worldwide subordination. As Marx and Engels said in the Manifesto of the Communist Party: "Just as it makes the countryside subordinate to the city, And this change of development background objectively determines that China's modernization process will be unique, and it is impossible to completely repeat the modernization development model of western developed countries [8]. From this perspective, the theory of "building socialist modernization with Chinese characteristics" put forward by China is of practical significance. Under the guidance of this value concept, we have completed the development path of the West for one and a half centuries in just over 40 years, which has been confirmed by our remarkable development achievements. Since then, in a series of works related to the future national construction, Mao Zedong has always stressed the need to realize industrialization in China and change from an agricultural country to an industrial country, and demanded that the socialization, modernization and collectivization of agriculture should be compatible with industrialization. Crush the "law of the jungle" of "a strong country must dominate" [9]. The modernization of the "first-mover" countries is largely based on plundering the wealth and resources of backward countries and nations, thus creating a cruel colonial era in world history, and on this basis, constructing the hegemonic world system of western capitalism. The exploration of modernization is shown in Figure 1.

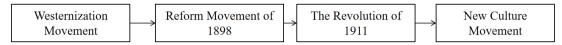


Figure 1 Exploration of Modernization

# 3.2 Practical logic of historical dialectics

Marx's theory of world history is an organic unity of regularity and purpose, which not only reveals the law of history, but also embodies the value pursuit of communists. In Marx's view, capitalism initiated world history, but the future of world history belongs to the communist society which realizes the free and all-round development of human beings. Theoretically, the new form of human civilization is a profound discourse revolution in the history of human civilization. It abandons the discourse of "western modernization centered on capital", "modernization of polarization", "modernization of materialism expansion" and "modernization of external expansion". To realize the unity of "the reconciliation of mankind and nature" and "the reconciliation of mankind itself". On the one hand, it puts forward the concept of "community of life on Earth" and firmly moves towards "harmonious coexistence between man and nature". This provides a strong guarantee for political stability, economic development, cultural prosperity, ethnic unity, people's happiness, social stability and national unity. In the period of being one of the Chinese nation, lose your life, and a variety of ideological have tried in China, the capitalist road has not gone through reformism, liberalism, social Darwinism and anarchism, but has failed to solve the problem of China's future and destiny. Nor are they to provide scientific theoretical guidance for China to achieve modernization. After investigating the three theoretical approaches of historical dialectics, we can analyze the practical logic contained in them through Marx and Engels' theoretical discourse. According to Marx's theory of world history, the economically and culturally backward countries in the East may not "pass" the development stage of capitalism, not only inherit the achievements of the capitalist era, but also avoid the "suffering" brought about by the capitalist system-that is, the Kafting Gorge, and directly enter socialism and carry out socialist construction. Although after the founding of the People's Republic of China, the CPC people with Comrade Mao Zedong as the main representative made some mistakes in the process of exploring modernization, on the whole, China's modernization process has indeed made significant progress in less than 30 years, making China successfully turn from capitalist modernization to socialist modernization [10]. The modernization of any country or nation is objectively a comprehensive social transition from the

material level to the spiritual level. Modernization is a systematic project, which has penetrated into the political, cultural and ideological fields of people's social life, showing a multi-level and multi-stage historical process. Chinese society is actually in a state of disintegration due to warlords' separatist regimes and mutual infighting. Modernization is a profound social change, which cannot be realized in a fragmented Chinese society.

### 4. Conclusions

Looking back at the historical process of human modernization and the road dispute, we deeply feel that without Marxism, there would be no development of socialist modernization road. To adhere to the correct direction of socialist modernization, we must adhere to Marxist world outlook methodology. The new form of human civilization created by the CPC, who led the people of the whole country, has depicted a bright future of promoting China's modernization under the scientific strategic planning of the party, and revealed the future direction of the party leading the people to uphold and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics. The concept and practice of "all-round development of human beings" and "all-round progress of society" have reached new heights in the process of China's modernization.

## References

- [1] Gao Jie. Historical traceability of science and culture and its contemporary situation [J]. Dialectics of Nature Newsletter, 2019, 41(12):6.
- [2] Hou Weimin. Tracing to the source and thinking of Chinese-style modernization from the perspective of a century [J]. Shanghai Economic Research, 2022(2):10.
- [3] Pang Qingming, Guo Zhiwei. The concept of socialist capital with Chinese characteristics: historical traceability, contemporary development and new era interpretation [J]. Journal of Northwest University: Philosophy and Social Sciences Edition, 2018, 48(1):13.
- [4] Song Lingli. Historical traceability and practical meditation of youth's political values [J]. Middle school political teaching reference, 2021(20):3.
- [5] Zhang Lei. Cultural traceability of modernization of state governance: based on the understanding of Chinese traditional political culture [J]. Theoretical observation, 2018(11):3.
- [6] Yirong Wang, Jia Lu. "Community of Shared Future for Mankind" under the Internet environment: historical theory tracing and future prospect [J]. Journal of Global Media, 2018, 005(003):38-45.
- [7] Wang Haojie, TU Jingfen. Historical Evolution and Contemporary enlightenment of MAO Zedong's Modernization Thought. Journal of Hunan First Normal University, 2019, 19(4):6.
- [8] Du Qiong, JIANG Jian. The historical exploration and realistic approach of Chinese style modernization development road [J]. Creation, 2022, 30(4):4.
- [9] Wang Yusi. History and Reality: Reflections on the modernization of Traditional Culture [J]. Popular Literature and Art: Academic Edition, 2021(9):2.
- [10] Pan Jingjing. Historical traceability and practical path of building a well-off society in an all-round way [J]. Journal of Taiyuan City Vocational and Technical College, 2020(3):2.