

The Practical Exploration and Theoretical Elevation of Adapting Marxism to the Chinese Context in the Rural Revitalization Strategy

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Abstract: This paper examines the historical process, practical exploration, and theoretical elevation of adapting Marxism to the Chinese context in the rural revitalization strategy. It reviews the historical development of adapting Marxism to the Chinese context during the New Democratic Revolution and the period of socialist construction, particularly its application in land reform and agricultural modernization. This study examines the theoretical guidance and practical experience of Deng Xiaoping's Theory, as well as the concept of a moderately prosperous society and socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, regarding rural development since the reform and opening up. The Communist Party of China put forward the rural revitalization strategy against the backdrop of the transformation of major social contradictions in the new era. It aims to achieve agricultural upgrading, rural development, and farmers' growth through systematic approaches, thereby enhancing urban-rural relations and safeguarding farmers' well-being. The Marxist theory guides the improvement of productivity and the adjustment of production relations to support rural revitalization, while promoting rural cultural construction and ideological and political work. Through the combination of theory and practice, rural revitalization has made significant progress in production, governance, and culture. Looking forward to the future, rural revitalization is facing challenges brought about by globalization and environmental concerns. Therefore, it is necessary to innovate theories, deepen reforms, promote the development of rural modernization with Chinese wisdom, and provide experience and reference for other countries.

Keywords: Adapting Marxism to the Chinese context; Rural revitalization strategy; Practical exploration; Theoretical elevation; Urban-rural integration development.

1. The Background and Significance of Rural Revitalization Strategy

1.1. The Historical Process of Adapting Marxism to the Chinese Context

The historical process of adapting Marxism to the Chinese context is a dynamic development process that combines the basic principles of Marxism with China's concrete reality. It runs through the practice of China's revolution, construction, and reform. During the period of new-democratic revolution, Chairman Mao combined the Marxist theory of productive forces and relations of production with the actual situation of rural areas in China, put forward the revolutionary road of encircling cities from the countryside, broke the feudal relations of production through land reform, and established farmers' land ownership, which added the practical connotation of China into the Marxist theory of rural development [1].

During the period of socialist construction, Marxist cooperative theory was creatively applied in rural areas, and the collectivized production mode was explored through agricultural production cooperatives and people's communes. Although it experienced difficulties in practice, it accumulated valuable experience for adjusting rural production relations. After the reform and opening up, Deng Xiaoping's Theory deeply integrated Marxist productivity theory with rural reform practice. He implemented the household contract responsibility system, which linked remuneration to output, and broke the big pot system, thereby liberating the rural productive forces. At the same time, he proposed the goal of building a moderately prosperous society

by incorporating rural development into the broader framework of modernization. It includes advancing the theoretical transition from merely adjusting production relations to truly liberating productive forces in the rural sector.

In the 21st century, The Important Thought of "Three Represents" and Scientific Outlook on Development have further focused on the issues concerning agriculture, countryside and farmers, combined rural development with the Party's advanced construction and coordinated urban and rural development, and put forward the strategic policy that industry feeds back agriculture and cities support rural areas, to promote the theoretical innovation of adapting Marxism to the Chinese context in rural governance and social security. Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the CPC Central Committee, with Comrade Xi at its core, based on summing up historical experience, has put forward the strategy of rural revitalization by combining the Marxist Theory of Rural Development with the practice of agriculture, countryside, and farmers in the new era. It has achieved a systematic breakthrough in the theory of rural development, providing a new practical carrier and theoretical expansion for the historical process of adapting Marxism to the Chinese context, particularly in the proposition of rural revitalization.

1.2. The Proposition and Purpose of Rural Revitalization Strategy

The rural revitalization strategy is a major initiative undertaken by the Communist Party of China (CPC), based on transforming major social contradictions and the overall situation of modernization in the new era. Because the

backward development of agriculture and rural areas hinders overall modernization, this strategy promotes systematic agricultural upgrading, rural progress, and farmers' development, achieving the optimal allocation of resources and implementing the Marxist theory of the dialectical relationship between urban and rural areas [2].

Its core goal is embodied in three dimensions. The first step is to establish a rural sustainable development system, which involves revitalizing industry, talent, culture, ecology, and organization as an integrated whole. This approach develops productive forces and adjusts production relations, guided by the law of the contradictory movement between productive forces and the relations of production. The second is to deepen urban-rural integration by breaking down barriers through industrial integration and the free flow of factors, and promoting the two-way allocation of resources. The third is to uphold the people's stance, based on improving farmers' well-being, and ensure the inclusive sharing of development achievements by improving governance, improving services, and broadening channels for increasing income.

The implementation of the strategy is not only based on the reality of rural development in China, but also innovatively develops Marxist rural theory. It undertakes the historical achievement of eradicating poverty [3]. It shifts its focus from solving absolute poverty to overall revitalization, which is not only a practice of Marxist productivity development theory but also a strategic initiative aimed at achieving the goal of common prosperity. This deployment offers a scientific methodology for addressing the challenges facing agriculture, the countryside, and farmers in the new era. It not only emphasizes systematic reform but also highlights a problem-oriented approach, building an urban-rural community with a shared future through various revitalization methods, which showcases the concrete practice of people-centered development thought in the rural field.

2. The Application of Adapting Marxism to the Chinese Context in Rural Revitalization

2.1. Combination of Theory and Practice

The application of adapting Marxism to the Chinese context in rural revitalization is essentially a dynamic process of combining the basic tenets of Marxism-Leninism with the specific conditions of rural development in China. The basic principle of Marxism—that productivity determines production relations—guides the practice of industrial upgrading and the adjustment of production relations in rural revitalization. By promoting supply-side structural reform in agriculture and developing new forms of rural businesses, productivity levels will be improved [4]. In addition, taking the reform of the rural land system and the collective property rights system as the breakthrough, we should adjust production relations to meet the needs of productivity development. They reflect the forward-looking guidance of theory to practice.

For the theory of urban-rural relationship, Marxist dialectical thought on the unity of opposites between urban and rural areas has been transformed into a practical path to crack the dual structure in rural revitalization. By establishing and refining the system and mechanisms of urban-rural integration development, it not only responds to the traditional understanding of urban-rural relations

development in Marxism, but also bases itself on the reality of unbalanced urban-rural development in China. Finally, a practical plan was formed to utilize the city as a driving force and promote agriculture through industry. The materialist view of history in Marxism, which posits that the people are the creators of history, is embodied in concrete terms in rural practices, as seen in the adherence to the principal position of farmers. Whether in the selection of industrial projects, innovation in rural governance, or the provision of public services, respecting farmers' will and stimulating their endogenous motivation serve as the premise, thus achieving an organic unity of theoretical principles and practical strategies. This dialectical interaction between theory and practice not only shows the theoretical vitality of adapting Marxism to the Chinese context but also provides scientific methodological support for rural revitalization.

2.2. Ideological and Political Work and Rural Cultural Development

In the rural revitalization strategy, ideological and political work, as well as rural cultural development, are concrete practices of adapting Marxism to the Chinese context in the realm of ideology. They provide spiritual power and ideological guarantee for rural development through theoretical guidance and value shaping. Marxist theory that ideology reacts on the economic base is embodied in the practice of rallying development consensus through ideological and political work: Through carriers such as theoretical lectures by primary-level Party organizations and the development of centers for civic and cultural activities in the new era, the Party's lines, principles and policies are transformed into the ideological consciousness of farmers. For example, guiding farmers to understand the strategic significance of rural revitalization through the theory of common prosperity, dispelling individualism and utilitarianism in rural development by core socialist values, and realizing the transformation of Marxist theory from text to practice [5].

Rural cultural development is grounded in the Marxist view of culture, and a new ecology of rural culture emerges through a process of criticism, inheritance, and innovation. We should examine traditional rural culture through the Marxist materialist conception of history and eliminate feudal superstitions and stereotypes. Furthermore, it is necessary to tap into high-quality resources, such as ecological wisdom and collectivist genes, in farming civilizations, and promote the creative transformation of traditional culture, including the integration of rural regulations with the modern spirit of the rule of law [6]. In addition, guided by the Marxist theory of all-round development of human beings, the state has improved the rural public cultural service system, such as the construction of libraries and cultural activity centers, cultivated new forms of rural culture, such as rural intangible cultural heritage workshops and red cultural tourism, and activated cultural productivity while meeting farmers' spiritual and cultural needs. The linkage between ideological and political work and cultural development not only consolidates the guiding position of Marxism in the field of rural ideology but also strengthens the endogenous motivation for rural revitalization through cultural empowerment, thereby realizing the deepened practice of adapting Marxism to the Chinese context at the spiritual and cultural levels.

3. Practical Exploration in the Strategy of Rural Revitalization

3.1. Land Reform and Agricultural Modernization

Land reform and agricultural modernization are the core practices of adapting Marxism to the Chinese context in the rural revitalization strategy, in the adjustment of production relations, and the development of productive forces. The two promote the systematic reform of rural economic forms by linking institutional innovation and technological upgrading. The basic principle of Marxism, that relations of production must conform to the state of productivity, is embodied in rural practice through the support of land system reform for agricultural modernization. Taking the reform of the separation of ownership, contracting and management rights of rural land as an example, by clarifying the relationship of land property rights, we not only adhere to the fundamental attribute of rural land collective ownership, but also activate the land factor market through the transfer of management rights, creating institutional conditions for large-scale and intensive agricultural production. This reform path represents the Sinicization of Marxist theory on land ownership [7].

In the process of agricultural modernization, the Marxist theory of productivity is transformed into concrete practice. We enhance productivity through agricultural, scientific, and technological advancements, such as popularizing smart agriculture, applying digital technology, and cultivating improved varieties, thereby realizing the transformation from traditional farming to modern agriculture. In addition, the theory of industrial integration is used to guide the extension of the agricultural industrial chain, promote the development of the agricultural products processing industry, rural tourism, and rural e-commerce, and form a series of industrial integration models. It not only conforms to the basic laws of Marxist theory on the evolution of industrial structure, but also is based on the reality of China's rural industrial development. The promotion of land reform and agricultural modernization is also reflected in the innovative development of rural collective economy: through the reform of collective management construction land entering the market and land joint-stock cooperation system, the economic strength of collective economic organizations is enhanced, which provides organizational guarantee for agricultural modernization, achieved the dialectical unity between the adjustment of production relations and the development of productive forces, demonstrating the practical vitality of the Sinicization of Marxism in the rural economic field.

3.2. Grass-Roots Organizations and Social Development

Grassroots organizations and social development are an important practice of adapting Marxism to the Chinese context in rural revitalization, which promotes the modernization of rural governance by combining organizational innovation with societal development. The Marxist theory that the economic base determines the superstructure is embodied in rural areas through leading governance innovations, such as the construction of party organizations. We strengthen the political and organizational functions of rural grassroots party organizations and run the party's leadership through the entire governance process, including improving the organizational model. This approach

not only gives play to the leading role of the CPC but also integrates production factors through organizations. It is a localized development of the Marxist theory of grassroots political power.

The construction of the governance system is based on Marx's materialist concept of history. On the one hand, the government improves the villagers' self-government system and promotes farmers' participation in public decision-making through consultative council and council of rural sages for advising on affairs; On the other hand, the government promotes the integration of the rule of law, the rule of virtue and autonomy, guides the rural rules and regulations with core socialist values, and regulates the operation of power with the rule of law, forming a pattern of co-governance. It conforms to the principle of coordination of Marxist social relations and is based on rural cultural traditions. The coordination between grassroots organizations and social development is also reflected in the conflict resolution mechanism. By improving mediation organizations and grid management, utilizing the Marxist method of contradiction analysis to address farmers' demands, maintaining social stability, and achieving the dialectical unity of organizational construction and social development, this approach demonstrates the practical effectiveness of adapting Marxism to the Chinese context in rural governance.

4. Theoretical Elevation of Rural Revitalization Strategy

4.1. Enrichment and Development of Adapting Marxism to the Chinese Context

The practice of rural revitalization strategy promotes innovation and breakthroughs in adapting Marxism to the Chinese context, forming a theoretical system suitable for rural development in China. For the theories of urban-rural relations, the Marxist thought on the unity of opposites between urban and rural areas has developed into the theory of urban-rural integration. By breaking the dual structure and constructing the mechanism of two-way flow of factors and equalization of public services, it not only follows the evolution law of urban-rural relations in classical theory, but also bases on the reality of urban-rural imbalance in China, forming a new theoretical framework of taking the city as the driving force for the countryside, which is a breakthrough development of Marxist urban-rural theory.

In terms of the theory of productivity and relations of production, rural revitalization transforms the principle that relations of production adapt to productivity into the practice of land system and industrial upgrading. The reform of the separation of powers clarifies land property rights and creates conditions for large-scale agricultural operations. The integration of the three industries promotes the extension of the agricultural industrial chain, forming an integrated development model of production, processing, and services. This dialectical path of system innovation, productivity release, and industrial upgrading has built a practical model of Marxist agricultural productivity theory in China. Additionally, the theory of common prosperity shifts the focus from merely alleviating material poverty to promoting comprehensive development for rural revitalization. It integrates various key players through the concept of a rural revitalization community, translating the idea of all-around development for people into practical governance in rural areas. This approach not only upholds the principles of

Marxist collectivism but also innovates the methods for achieving common prosperity, thereby contributing China's insights on rural development to Marxist theory.

4.2. Theoretical System of Rural Revitalization in the New Era

The theoretical system of rural revitalization in the new era is based on the achievements of adapting Marxism to the Chinese context, as well as on the practice of rural modernization. It forms a theoretical framework with the Five-Sphere Integrated Plan as its structure. The system regards industry, talent, culture, ecology, and organizational revitalization as an organic whole, which not only follows the dialectical principle of productivity and production relations but also develops a theoretical model of multidimensional coordinated promotion given the imbalance in rural development.

In terms of value, the system places people at the center, concretizing the Marxist theory of the all-round development of human beings into a mechanism that guarantees farmers' dominant position, and ensures that farmers share in the development results by improving their autonomy and participation channels. In practice, we should innovate the theory of urban-rural integration development, break through dual thinking, promote urban-rural industrial coordination and equalization of public services through market-oriented allocation of factors, and realize the development of Marxist theory on urban-rural relations. Methodologically, it forms a closed-loop logic of problem orientation, system reform, and practice verification. Using the method of contradiction analysis to focus on issues concerning agriculture, rural areas, and farmers, we promote interaction between top-level design and grassroots exploration, elevating practical experiences, such as land system reform and the integration of the three industries, into theoretical paradigms.

This theoretical system refines new concepts through the practice of rural revitalization. It presents a theoretical framework for rural development tailored to China's characteristics. This framework not only serves as a reference for rural modernization in developing countries but also enriches Marxist theory by incorporating insights from China's wisdom. It showcases the innovative application of Marxism adapted to the specific conditions of China.

5. Conclusion and Prospect

Rural revitalization strategy is a crucial aspect of China's development in the new era, embodying the practice of adapting Marxism to the Chinese context in the field of rural development and theoretical elevation. By adjusting the relations of production and productivity and combining theory with practice, the rural revitalization strategy not only enriches the practical connotation of Marxist theory but also provides an important approach for realizing sustainable development and common prosperity. Currently, rural revitalization in China has become a crucial component of promoting socialist modernization, yielding positive results and broad prospects.

In the practice of rural revitalization, through the reform of the land system, industrial upgrading, and the establishment of grassroots organizations, China's rural economic and social structure has been optimized, and unique development

models have gradually formed in many regions. It not only reflects the Marxist principle that the economic base determines the superstructure, but also emphasizes the importance of promoting rural governance modernization and ensuring that farmers can enjoy the benefits of economic development.

Looking forward to the future, there are new challenges and opportunities for the rural revitalization strategy. Globalization, informatization, and ecological changes have raised new issues for rural development. Therefore, it is essential to continuously synthesize experiences and develop theories to address these complex changes. In the development of rural revitalization, we should uphold the people-centered development thought, deepen the integration of urban and rural areas, promote the optimal allocation of resources and elements, and ensure the sustainable development of rural areas.

Rural revitalization is not only a vital means to address issues concerning agriculture, rural areas, and farmers, and to achieve agricultural modernization, but also a crucial driving force for the country's comprehensive development. Through continuous deepening of reform and innovative development, China will achieve a breakthrough in adapting Marxism to the Chinese context in rural revitalization and push socialist modernization to a higher level. The success of this strategy will promote the achievement of the goal of common prosperity, and also provide a reference for the rural development of other countries worldwide, showcasing the charm and creativity in the theory and practice of adapting Marxism to the Chinese context.

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