

# The Formation Background and Scientific Connotation of the Concept of Shared Development

WANG Yi, QIN Shusheng  
Northeastern University, Liaoning, China

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the Party Central Committee with President Xi Jinping has put forward a new development concept of innovation, coordination, green, openness, and sharing based on profound insight into the basic characteristics of the new development stage. The party scientific grasps the essential requirements and development direction of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and continuously deepens understanding of the laws of economic and social development. Starting from three aspects of the times background, theoretical origin, and scientific connotation, the party aims to deeply understand the specific content and profound implication of the shared development concept in the new era.

*Keywords:* shared development, theoretical origin, scientific connotation

The Fifth Plenary Session of the 18th Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee proposed a shared development concept with “everyone participating, everyone doing his best and everyone enjoying” as its main connotation. This new development concept embodies the important guiding principle of upholding the people’s dominant position and common prosperity in the process of building a well-off society in an all-round way, and makes it clear that “sharing is the essential requirement of socialism with Chinese characteristics”. The core goal of the national development in the new era is to “make all the people feel more sense of gain in the process of co-construction and shared development, enhance the driving force for development, enhance the unity of the people and make steady progress towards common prosperity”. This paper holds that it is of great significance to further understand, implement, and develop the shared development concept with Chinese characteristics to clarify the theoretical origin and scientific connotation of the shared development concept in new era.

## The Era Background of the Formation of Shared Development Concept

### The Requirements of the Times to Build a Well-off Society in an All-Round Way and to Safeguard Social Fairness and Justice

The concept of “well-off society” was first born in the late 1970s and early 1980s. It was a strategic idea of Comrade Deng Xiaoping when he was planning China’s economic and social development blueprint. Since the beginning of the 21st century, China’s reform and opening-up has been promoted deeply, the economy and society have developed greatly, and the goal of a well-off society has been achieved. Under this background,

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WANG Yi, Ph.D. student, Marxism College, Northeastern University, Liaoning, China.

QIN Shusheng, professor and doctoral supervisor, Marxism School, Northeastern University, Liaoning, China; main research field: basic principles of Marxism and Xi Jinping's thought of governing the country.

the party and the state pay more attention to safeguarding and solving social fairness and justice. In the new era, we should not only pay more attention to social fairness and justice, but also comprehensively use various means to establish a social fairness security system in accordance with laws and regulations, speed up system construction, and provide a solid system guarantee for all people to make steady progress towards common prosperity with a comprehensive and complete social fairness security system.

Under the requirements of the era of building a well-off society in an all-round way and safeguarding social fairness and justice, the concept of shared development in the new era is playing an increasingly important role. The Report of the Fourth Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China puts forward that “we should adhere to and improve the social governance system of co-construction, co-governance and sharing, maintain social stability and safeguard national security”<sup>1</sup>. The concept of shared development in the new era has been elevated to a social governance system. It plays a vital role in building a community of social governance in which “everyone participating, everyone doing his best and everyone enjoying”. It ensures that people live and work in peace and contentment, society is stable and orderly, and a higher level of safe China is built. Shared development emphasizes “everyone participating, everyone doing his best and everyone enjoying”. This is not only the fairness of participation, but also the fairness of results. Through the organic combination of participation fairness and results fairness, the organic unity of fairness and efficiency has been realized. “Everyone” includes not only every social member in a social group, but also every region, department, and industry.

“Everyone participating, everyone doing his best” emphasizes the fairness of participation, which requires “everyone” to participate. This not only can mobilize all social members to participate in the process of economic and social development, but also can change the social members from passive objects to active participants in economic activities, and realize the change of identity. At the same time, the government and the society have also realized the transformation of their respective roles in the process of this transformation. The government has changed from leader of the initial direction and process in economic activities to the management and service of economic and social development. The government’s status in economic activities has also changed from the leader to the manager and service provider.

Under the premise of “everyone participating, everyone doing his best”, “everyone enjoying” emphasizes the fairness of distribution results. Through active participation and hard work, each participant in economic and social development can share his own part from the results of economic and social development. Shared development meets the requirements of building a well-off society in an all-round way and safeguarding social fairness and justice.

### **The Urgent Requirement of Enhancing Development Power Under the New Normal Economic Situation**

The concept of shared development in the new era comes from social practice and serves for the social and economic development. Since the economic development entered the new normal situation, the economic development speed has slowed down, the economic structure has adjusted, and various social contradictions has concentrated; these problems need to be solved with pertinence by a development concept adapted to the new normal of the economy. Xi Jinping pointed out profoundly: “We should have a strong sense of problems and

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<sup>1</sup> The 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. Decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on several major issues concerning adherence to and improvement of the socialist system with Chinese characteristics and promotion of modernization of the state governance system and governance capability, 2019-10-31.

orientation of major issues, seize key issues for further research and reflection and strive to promote the resolution of a series of outstanding contradictions and problems in China's development" (Literature Research Office of the CPC Central Committee, 2014). Specifically, these problems mainly refer to

the urban-rural regional development gap and the income distribution gap of residents are still large, social contradictions are obviously increasing, and there are many problems related to the vital interests of the masses such as education, employment, social security, medical care, housing, living environment, food and drug safety, safe production, social security, law enforcement and justice. (*Excerpts From Xi Jinping's Discussion on Comprehensively Deepening Reform*, 2014).

These problems and contradictions are not only history's legacy problems, but also problems that naturally occur at a certain stage of development, involving various fields, such as politics, economy, culture, society, and ecological civilization. The theme of "shared development" closely focuses on the concrete manifestation of the contradiction between people's growing needs for a better life and unbalanced and inadequate development. Under the background of economic development in the new normal situation, the importance of "shared development" is even more prominent. Shared development requires "everyone participating, everyone doing his best and everyone enjoying". This will greatly improve the people's production initiative, enthusiasm, and creativity, and provide a strong driving force for China's economy in the new normal situation.

The above problems have affected the enthusiasm, initiative, and creativity of the general public. It is urgent to put forward new development ideas to solve them. After the economy enters the new normal situation, we need a kind of development concept to enhance development power. The concept of shared development in the new era responds to major social contradictions in a timely manner, focuses on problems of development without fully sharing, adheres to the people-centered development goal, meets people's respective interests and concerns in a timely manner, stimulates people's enthusiasm and creativity, and enhances the development momentum under the new economy normal situation.

### **The Inevitable Requirement of Coping With World Development Problems**

The global trend of economic globalization has tightly linked all economy aspects of the world and formed a closely linked and interdependent relationship. However, at present, developed capitalist countries still dominate the current international exchanges and the development of the world economy. In order to exclusively enjoy the fruits of world economic development, they have prevented developing countries and even other capitalist countries from getting their own piece of cake through the above-mentioned ways. This kind of practice has no sharing in international development. The most direct consequence of this kind of non-sharing practice is that it brings many contradictions between developed and developing countries and seriously undermines world peace and development.

However, peace is the premise of development from the relationship between peace and development. A lack of fairness and justice and an environment full of confrontation are not conducive to the common development and progress of the whole world. Peace and development are still the themes of today's generation, but the changes taking place in the world are profound and complex. In order to face the unknown common challenges, the world needs to unite together, strengthen the ties and cooperation between countries, and form a closer community of shared future for mankind more than ever. At a critical moment in the current development, President Xi Jinping has put forward the global governance concept of "consultation, contribution and shared benefits".

Consultation means that all countries in the world should consult together, deepen exchanges and cooperation among countries, strengthen mutual trust and assistance among countries, and resolve frequent international political disputes and economic conflicts through consultation. “Contribution” refers to that all countries common participate in the international economy and politics, cooperate in building a new world order, share opportunities for the development of the times, and expand the common interests of all countries in the world to form a mutually beneficial and win-win global community of interests. “Shared benefits” means that all countries in the world have equal development opportunities and share the fruits of world economic development, so that all people in the world have equal development opportunities and share the fruits of world economic development.

President Xi Jinping’s global governance concept of “consultation, contribution and shared benefits” provides new methods and new ideas for solving the common problems of human society through better contribution of community of shared future for mankind with great significance. Under this background and for the common development of the world, China has chosen to unswervingly follow the development path of openness and cooperation for mutual benefit. This is not only in line with the interests of the most people in the world, but also helps to safeguard world peace and promote the common development and prosperity of the world.

### **Scientific Connotation of Shared Development Concept**

“Shared development” is one of the five development concepts put forward by the CPC Central Committee with Xi Jinping. It adheres to the basic principles of scientific socialism and the basic stand of historical materialism in the new historical period. It clearly expresses the idea that development is for the people, development depends on the people, and development results are shared by the people in both theoretical and practical aspects. Since entering the new century, the new contradictions and problems have occurred in the current society; the Chinese communists have given Marxism distinct Chinese characteristics by using the Chinese discourse system according to the changes of the times. The new concept of “shared development” is not only the party’s inheritance of Marx and Engels’ shared development thought, but also a theoretical innovation in practice. It has become the basic principle and practical guide that must be followed to realize the goal of a well-off society in an all-round way.

### **Shared Development Is the Essential Requirement of Socialism With Chinese Characteristics**

Sharing is the goal of development and the essential requirement of socialism with Chinese characteristics. The Party Central Committee with Xi Jinping has systematically expounded the significance, scientific connotation, and practical requirements of shared development, and made a series of decisions and arrangements to implement the concept of shared development, which has injected new connotation into the persistence and development of socialism with Chinese characteristics (Chen, 2016). The concept of shared development includes four aspects from the essential requirements of socialism with Chinese characteristics: The subject of shared development is shared by the whole people, the object of shared development is comprehensive sharing, the way of sharing is contribution and benefits sharing, and the process of sharing is gradual sharing.

The term “the whole people sharing” refers to all strata and groups that support and participate in the contribution of socialism with Chinese characteristics, including workers, peasants, intellectuals, and other

working people of all ethnic groups. Sharing all the fruits of shared development concept is an inheritance of the Marxist concept of development and people-oriented. The dominant position of the people in our country is determined by our state system. All the work of our party and country is to achieve the goal of common prosperity. For this reason, our country has established a people-centered development idea to protect the rights and interests of the people in development and to take people's happiness and sense of gain as the measurement criteria.

All-round sharing is to ensure the common enjoyment of people's legitimate rights and interests in all aspects, including the sharing of development rights, the sharing of development conditions, and the sharing of development achievements. The sharing of development rights is the basis for all-round sharing. All rights of citizens' survival and development are closely related to the fairness and rights. Therefore, the sharing of development rights is the first step to realize all-round sharing of society. The sharing of development conditions is the key to all-round sharing. The development of every member of society needs conditional guarantee. Without development conditions, personal development is impossible. Therefore, the sharing of development conditions is the main content to realize all-round sharing. The sharing of development achievements is the final goal of all-round sharing. Our all-round sharing development is ultimately to make the development achievements shared by all the people.

The relationship between shared benefits and contribution is dialectical and unified. Shared benefits require contribution and contribution is for shared benefits. Common contribution and common shared benefits are indispensable to a dialectical unity. On the one hand, contribution is the basis of shared benefits. Shared benefit is not enjoying without effort. If you want to enjoy the fruits of social development, you need to pay corresponding obligations to participate in joint contribution. The higher the level of co-contribution is, the more enough the shared benefits conditions will be and the stronger the foundation will be. On the other hand, shared benefit is the motive force and destination of contribution. Shared benefits of development results on the basis of reasonable and differential distribution can achieve a good dynamic mechanism in the common creation of social wealth and stimulate the vitality of people's joint contribution to the greatest extent.

Gradual shared benefits have the characteristic of sustainable development. The sustainable characteristic of gradual shared benefits means that it has the internal power to push forward and can promote the sharing to a higher level. The implementation of gradual sharing is, on the one hand, compatible with China's current productivity development and develops with the gradual development of productivity. On the other hand, shared benefits are a long-term process. We cannot focus on the short-term, but we should ensure long-term sharing, which requires a continuous impetus. This impetus comes from people's pursuit of a better life. Without this impetus, society will lose its vitality. Therefore, shared development must be a process of sustainable development of people's yearning for a better life.

### **Shared Benefit Is One of the Requirements of the Social Governance System of Consultation, Contribution, and Shared Benefits**

Social governance is an important aspect of state governance, and modernization of social governance is a necessary part of the modernization of national governance system and governance capability. The Fourth Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee proposed to adhere to and improve the social governance system of "consultation, contribution and shared benefits", and maintain social stability and safeguard national security. We must firmly follow this requirement, regard shared benefits as one of the requirements of the

social governance system of “consultation, contribution and shared benefits”, continuously reform and innovate, keep pace with the times, and further open up a new situation of social governance in the era of innovation.

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping has firmly grasped the general requirements for promoting the modernization of the country’s governance system and governance capability. It has started to solve social governance problems from different dimensions, such as ideas, systems, mechanisms, methods, and means. It has effectively cracked the old problems and continuously made significant progress. The overall social situation is stable; the people live and work in peace and contentment. At the same time, we also have a clear understanding that with profound changes in social and economic patterns, increasingly complex interest relations, and accelerated development of science and technology, there will be various foreseeable and unpredictable security risks; the people’s participation willingness in social affairs will become higher and higher. In the new era, only by further improving the modernization level of social governance, continuing to explore the road of socialist governance with Chinese characteristics in line with China’s actual national conditions and social conditions with self-improvement, self-development, and innovation, progress in stability can the whole society be more vibrant while maintaining orderly order.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Adhering to and perfecting the social governance system of “consultation, contribution and shared benefits”—Nine points on learning and implementing the spirit of the Fourth Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee. *Guangming Daily*, 2019-11-09(01).