



Original Research Article

Adhere to the Four Cardinal Principles and Socialism with Chinese Characteristics

Huiming Guo

Xi'an Hi-Tech Industries Development Zone, Xi'an 710065, Shaanxi Province, China

Abstract: Adhering to the four basic principles is the foundation of socialist China, the embodiment of the fundamental interests and will of the Chinese Communist Party and the people of all ethnic groups in the country, and the primary issue of the theory of building socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Keywords: Four Basic Principles; Socialism with Chinese Characteristics

On March 30, 1979, Deng Xiaoping emphasized the need to adhere to four basic principles at the party's theoretical work retreat: "First, we must adhere to the socialist road; second, we must adhere to the dictatorship of the proletariat; third, we must adhere to the Communist Party Fourth, we must uphold Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought."

The four cardinal principles are the foundation of our nation and are an important guarantee for the development and progress of the party and the country. To build socialism with Chinese characteristics, it is necessary to adhere to the four basic principles.

1. The reasons why Deng Xiaoping put forward the four basic principles

After smashing the "Gang of Four", the party convened the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee, restored the ideological line of seeking truth from facts, established a political line centered on economic construction, and made a great decision on reform and opening up. Through large discussions on the issue of truth, the majority of cadres and party members were freed from the dogmatism and personality cult of the past. The thinking inside and outside the party was active, and the thinking and style of seeking truth from facts became more and more popular. The political and economic situation of the country was improving and developing in good form. It has been proved that the line and policy of the Third Plenary Session of the Eleventh Central Committee are correct and have been endorsed and supported by people of all ethnic groups throughout the country. However, while criticizing the "Gang of Four" and the extreme "Left" line, there were two phenomena that violated the four basic principles and undermined the Third Plenary Session of the Eleventh Central Committee. First, a very small number of people took advantage of the party's chaos to oppose socialism and deny the party's guiding ideology, and the tendency of anarchism and bourgeois liberalization appeared. Second, some people expressed doubts and resistance to the line of the Third Plenary Session of the Eleventh Central Committee, and some even spread rumors against the line of the Third Plenary Session of the Eleventh Central Committee. At the same time, there are many comrades in the party who do not realize or acknowledge the danger of this trend of thought, and directly or indirectly support this trend of thought.

Facing various phenomena of vilification and destruction of socialist construction and the Party's guiding ideology at an important turning point in history, on the afternoon of March 30, 1979, Deng Xiaoping announced the adherence to the four basic principles at the party's theoretical retreat meeting. In his speech, he emphatically criticized the trend of thought that opposed or doubted the four basic principles. In his speech, Deng Xiaoping clearly emphasized: "If any one of these four basic principles is shaken, then the entire cause of socialism and the entire cause of modernization will be shaken." He particularly emphasized that putting forward the "four persistences" does not mean that the central government's policy has begun to "close" and that the policy of promoting democracy has changed, but rather to "resolutely overcome the bad tendencies that hinder the realization of the policies of the Third Plenary Session." Emphasizes that we must adhere to the "Four Basic Principles" in our ideology and regard it as the foundation of our nation, clearly stating that "this is the fundamental prerequisite for the realization of the four modernizations". After Deng Xiaoping proposed it in 1979, he proposed and reiterated it many times in the following ten years.

The Party Central Committee represented by Deng Xiaoping, in a critical period of history, proposed to unswervingly adhere to the four basic principles, oppose various erroneous trends of thought, and point out the ideological direction for socialist modernization. "If any one of these four basic principles is shaken, then the entire cause of socialism and the entire cause of modernization will be shaken." In June 1982, the Sixth Plenary Session of the Eleventh Central Committee of the Party further

clearly pointed out: The four basic principles are the common political foundation for the unity of the whole party and the unity of the people of all ethnic groups in the country, and also the fundamental guarantee for the smooth development of socialist modernization. All remarks and actions that deviate from the four basic principles are wrong, and all remarks and actions that deny and undermine the four basic principles are not allowed.

2. The content and new connotations of the four basic principles

In his 1979 speech, Deng Xiaoping summarized the guiding ideology that the party has always adhered to as “Four Basic Principles” and discussed the four basic principles one by one. He pointed out that the core of adherence to the four basic principles is to adhere to the leadership of the Communist Party. He also emphasized that no party member is allowed to waver in this fundamental position. He also emphasized that the two trends of thought are against Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought, and both hinder the progress of our socialist modernization drive.

2.1 Adhere to the socialist road

Adhering to the socialist road is the core of the four basic principles. From the May Fourth Movement to the New People’s Revolution to the founding of New China, they all demonstrated the correctness and importance of adhering to the socialist road. Only socialism can save China. From the establishment of the socialist system to socialist construction, it also shows that only socialism can develop China. Deng Xiaoping strongly refuted the statement that socialism is inferior to capitalism: China’s economy, technology, and culture are inferior to capitalism, but it is fundamentally caused by history. Socialist revolution and construction have greatly shortened China. The gap with advanced capitalism. Although we have made mistakes, we continue to sum up experience and lessons to promote socialist construction. Capitalist advanced technology and science are worthy of our study, but we will unswervingly adhere to the socialist road.

After the Third Plenary Session of the Eleventh Central Committee of the Party, a new era in history began. In the new historical period, we not only adhere to the socialist road, but also propose to walk our own path, integrate Marxism with the specific reality of our country, and build socialism with Chinese characteristics. In the great practice of socialism, adhering to the socialist road is clearly defined as adhering to the socialist road with Chinese characteristics. This also reflects our party’s understanding of the socialist road advancing with the times under the development of new practices.

2.2 Uphold the dictatorship of the proletariat

Upholding the dictatorship of the proletariat is the basic viewpoint of Marxism. When talking about upholding the dictatorship of the proletariat, Deng Xiaoping clarified the relationship between the dictatorship of the proletariat and socialist democracy. He believed that emphasizing this dictatorship not only guarantees socialist democracy, but also socialist democracy. Deng Xiaoping pointed out: The dictatorship of the proletariat is the people’s democratic dictatorship in China. “The dictatorship of the proletariat is a socialist democracy for the people. It is a democracy shared by workers, peasants, intellectuals and other laborers. It is the most extensive democracy in history.” He also pointed out: Without the dictatorship of the proletariat, we would not be able to defend and thus impossible to build socialism.

In the new era, we will still adhere to the people’s democratic dictatorship, continue to develop and improve socialist democratic politics, and strengthen the socialist rule of law. The 15th National Congress of the Communist Party of China summarized the development process of socialist democracy, clearly pointed out that democracy should be closely integrated with the rule of law, adhere to the rule of law, and it was written into the Constitution at the Second Session of the Ninth National People’s Congress. We must uphold the people’s democratic dictatorship, gradually realize the institutionalization and legalization of socialist democracy, and ensure that the people are the masters of the country.

2.3 Uphold the leadership of the Communist Party

The leadership of the Communist Party of China was formed in the long-term practice of China’s revolution, construction, and reform. The history since the May Fourth Movement has also proved that only under the leadership of the Communist Party of China can the socialist revolution and construction be carried out. The leadership is the choice of history and the people. From the macro perspective of the international communist movement and the socialist revolution and construction, Deng Xiaoping talked about the great significance of upholding the leadership of the Communist Party, and combined with the modern and contemporary history of China, he pointed out that there would be no New China without the Communist Party and without the correct and effective leadership of the Party. Organizational work in all aspects of socialism cannot be carried out.

In the new period, the party has led the people on the road of building socialism with Chinese characteristics. In the face of new world conditions, national conditions, and changes in party conditions, the party is also facing various challenges. While upholding the party’s leadership, it must continue to strengthen and improve the party’s leadership, improve the party’s ability and level of governance, and enhance the ability to face the four major dangers and the four major tests to build the party well, which is also the basic guarantee for whether the party can lead correctly and effectively. Therefore, in the new period, while adhering to the leadership of the party, we must also strengthen and improve the leadership of the party, insist that the party should manage the party, govern the party strictly, and give full play to the party’s leading role in the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

2.4 Adhere to Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought

Marxism-Leninism is the guiding ideology of our party. Under the guidance of Marxism-Leninism, adherence to its universal truth and the combination of China’s revolution and practice gave rise to Mao Zedong Thought. Under the guidance of Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought, we have won the Chinese revolution and construction. Deng Xiaoping discussed this principle mainly from the perspective of correct understanding and adherence to Mao Zedong Thought, clearly expounding the

difference and connection between Mao Zedong Thought and Mao Zedong Thought, and refuting the so-called “correct Mao Zedong Thought” and “wrong Mao Zedong Thought”. statement. It also points out the difference between the basic principles of Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought and specific theories, and emphasizes that our adherence to Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought refers to adherence to these basic principles or a scientific system composed of these basic principles.

In the new period, we continue to adhere to Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought, combine Marxism-Leninism with our country’s practice, and form the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the great practice of socialism with Chinese characteristics: Deng Xiaoping Theory, “Three Represents” “Important thoughts and the scientific system including the scientific development concept and Xi Jinping’s important series of speeches. This theoretical system upholds and develops Marxism and Mao Zedong Thought, and condenses the wisdom and hard work of generations of Chinese Communists to lead the people in unremitting exploration and practice. It is the latest achievement of the Sinicization of Marxism and the most precious spiritual wealth of the party. It is the ideological basis for the common struggle of the people of all ethnic groups across the country. In contemporary China, to adhere to the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics means to truly adhere to Marxism and Mao Zedong Thought.

The four basic principles are the foundation of the country. With the development of reform and opening up, they have been continuously given new connotations of the times. The four basic principles are an inseparable whole. Adhering to the socialist road is our direction; adhering to the people’s democratic dictatorship is the guarantee of several other principles; adhering to the socialist road and the people’s democratic dictatorship is inseparable from the leadership of the Communist Party; Marxist-Leninist Mao Zedong Thought is the guiding ideology of the Communist Party. It is also the theoretical basis of socialism and the people’s democratic dictatorship.

3. Four basic principles must be adhered to in building socialism with Chinese characteristics

3.1 The four basic principles are the political guarantee for socialism with Chinese characteristics

The building of socialism with Chinese characteristics must have a correct political direction and a strong political guarantee. The four basic principles are the political guarantee for socialist construction. Deng Xiaoping said: “One goal is to have a stable political environment. Without a stable political environment, nothing can be discussed.” In the early days of the founding of the People’s Republic of China, the political environment was relatively stable, and the socialist revolution and construction went smoothly during the “Cultural Revolution”. Lin Biao and the Gang of Four had “kicked off the party committee and made a revolution.” The whole country was in chaos and terror, causing huge losses to the national economy. Since the Third Plenary Session of the Eleventh Central Committee of the Party, we have completely corrected the mistakes of the “Cultural Revolution”, re-established the ideological line of seeking truth from facts, adhered to the four basic principles, and achieved social stability. It can be clearly seen from the historical development that only by adhering to the four basic principles can China have a stable and united political situation. Without a stable and united political situation, it cannot rest assured to engage in construction.

Under the new historical conditions, due to the constant changes in the world and national conditions, due to the mutual turbulence of different ideologies and cultures between China and foreign countries, due to the increasing manifestation of various deep-seated social contradictions, and the obvious increase of unstable and insecure factors hindering modernization, we can only unswervingly Only by adhering to the four basic principles can we effectively ensure the steady and healthy development of modernization. What we need to do is to unswervingly adhere to the four basic principles and provide a good political guarantee for the modernization of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

3.2 The four basic principles provide a firm political direction for the construction of socialism with Chinese characteristics

Deng Xiaoping pointed out in the “Current Situation and Tasks”: “We adhere to the four basic principles. The core of these four adherences is to uphold the leadership of the party. Our party is a party of Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought and is leading the cause of socialism. The core force leading the dictatorship of the proletariat is a proletarian, socialist and communist-conscious, and revolutionary advanced team.” Under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, in the great practice of socialism with Chinese characteristics, we have always adhered to Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought, formed a theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and constantly explored and answered what socialism is and how to build socialism. Major theoretical and practical issues such as what kind of party to build, how to build the party, what kind of development to achieve, and how to develop, and constantly promote the Sinicization of Marxism. In the great practice of leading socialism with Chinese characteristics, the Communist Party of China has always maintained the theoretical quality of advancing with the times. With the development and requirements of the times, it has continuously enriched and developed the party’s basic line, basic theories, and basic programs to provide a society with Chinese characteristics. Confucianism provides a firm political direction.

3.3 Adhere to the four basic principles to escort the realization of the Chinese dream

In 2012, when Xi Jinping visited the Road to Rejuvenation, he pointed out that the realization of the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is the greatest Chinese dream of the Chinese nation since modern times. We are closer than ever to the realization of the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. At present, unbalanced, uncoordinated, and unsustainable problems in my country’s development are still prominent, the income gap between urban and rural areas and residents is still large, and the problems in social development have increased significantly. To solve these problems and realize the

Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, four things are inseparable the escort of basic principles.

One is that adhering to the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics is the only way to realize the Chinese dream. The first of the four basic principles is to adhere to the socialist road. In the new era, upholding socialism with Chinese characteristics means upholding socialism. General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out that to realize the Chinese dream, we must follow the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics. The second is to insist that the people's democratic dictatorship is the political basis for realizing the Chinese dream. my country is a socialist country under a people's democratic dictatorship. The people are the masters of the country. One of the connotations of the Chinese dream to realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is the happiness of the people. In the final analysis, the Chinese dream is the people's dream. We must fully promote democracy and rely on the people. Arouse the enthusiasm of the people to respect and realize the Chinese dream. The third is that upholding the leadership of the Communist Party is the key to realizing the Chinese Dream. The history since the May Fourth Movement has proven that only the Communist Party of China can save China and develop China. We are closer than ever to the realization of the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Only by adhering to the leadership of the Communist Party can we realize the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. The fourth is to insist that the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics is an action guide for realizing the Chinese dream. The Communist Party of China has always adhered to the guidance of Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought, kept pace with the times, continuously explored and developed the party's theory, and formed a theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics. In the new era, adhering to the theory of socialism with Chinese characteristics means adhering to Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought, contemporary Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought. Only by adhering to the theory of socialism with Chinese characteristics can the Chinese dream be realized.

The four basic principles are a complete system and one is indispensable. Adhering to the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics must adhere to the four basic principles. Adhering to the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics means truly adhering to socialism; insisting on the dictatorship of the proletariat is the lifeline of the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics; only by adhering to and improving the party's leadership can socialism with Chinese characteristics be guaranteed The road develops healthily; Adhering to Marxism, Mao Zedong Thought, and the theory of socialism with Chinese characteristics provide a guide for the great practice of the socialist road with Chinese characteristics.

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