

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
AND TRAINING**

**HO CHI MINH NATIONAL
ACADEMY OF POLITICS**

ACADEMY OF JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATION

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**XI JINPING'S THOUGHT ON SOCIALISM WITH CHINESE
CHARACTERISTICS FOR THE NEW ERA**

Programme	: Philosophy
Major	: Philosophy
Code	: 9229001

SUMMARY OF DOCTORAL THESIS IN PHILOSOPHY

Supervisors: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nguyen Minh Hoan

HANOI – 2025

**THE DISSERTATION IS COMPLETED AT
ACADEMY OF JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATION**

Supervisors: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nguyen Minh Hoan

Examiner 1:

Examiner 2:

Examiner 3:

The dissertation is defended at the Academy-level dissertation committee,

Academy of Journalism and Communication - Hanoi

At on, 2022

The dissertation can be found at:

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INTRODUCTION

1. Rationale for Choosing the Topic

Marxism originated in Europe, yet it has taken on distinct forms in different countries. China upholds Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, the system of theories of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics, and Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era as its guiding line; Viet Nam relies on Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought. Marxism has led China onto a bright path toward comprehensively building a modern socialist power. Chinese Communists-steadfast, faithful adherents to Marxism-Leninism-have consistently worked to uphold and develop Marxism-Leninism. Friedrich Engels observed that “the theoretical thinking of every age-including our own-is a historical product that assumes very different forms in different epochs and therefore has very different content” [98, p. 487]. For every socialist country, and for China in particular, research into and understanding of socialism, the road to socialism, the construction of the political system, socialist democracy, Party building, state building, and so forth are indispensable.

Through their own efforts, Chinese Communists have woven the ancient wisdom of Chinese civilization into Marxism-Leninism while fusing it with the spirit of the great age; the result is a form of Marxism embraced and understood by the Chinese people. In more than a century of Party building, the Communist Party of China (CPC) has persistently advanced the Sinicization, modernization, and popularization of Marxism-Leninism. Under the mainstay leadership of Comrade Mao Zedong, Chinese Communists answered, in scientific fashion, the question of which path China and its revolution should follow during the semi-colonial, semi-feudal period-giving rise to Mao Zedong Thought. Since the policy of reform and opening up, successive generations of Chinese Communists have responded to a series of questions such as “What kind of socialism should be built and how?” “What kind of Party should be built and how?” and “What kind of development should be pursued and how?” From this process emerged the theoretical system of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics, invigorating scientific socialism in China as the nation entered the twenty-first century. In the new era, with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core, the CPC has put forward a creative, contemporary body of new ideas, thinking, and strategies, culminating in Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, which further enriches and develops the theoretical system of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics.

Xi Jinping Thought continues to explore and answer major questions- “What is socialism and how is it to be built?”; “What kind of Party must be built and how?”; “What kind of development is needed and how is it to be achieved?”- while also addressing “how to govern and administer the country.” These contributions

constitute an important development of Marxism-Leninism in the twenty-first century.

Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era is China's latest theoretical achievement. It stands as one of China's significant contributions to the global theory of socialism in general and, in particular, to those countries advancing toward socialism on the theoretical foundation of Marxism-Leninism. This thought is not the creation of one individual alone; it is the cumulative legacy of Chinese leaders and theorists from the CPC's founding to the present day. Over nearly a century of evolution-and amid rapid practical changes, General Secretary Xi Jinping, as leader of socialist China, has elevated this doctrine to new heights. His ideas are essential not only for China but also for another country progressing toward socialism: Viet Nam.

For Viet Nam, the advance to socialism is the aspiration of the Vietnamese people and the correct choice of President Ho Chi Minh and the Communist Party of Viet Nam (CPV), consistent with Vietnamese realities and historical trends. This truth has been tested and verified in more than 90 years of revolutionary struggle, especially in nearly 40 years of *Đổi mới* (renovation). After almost 40 years of *Đổi mới*, socialism in Viet Nam has achieved historic successes: Viet Nam now ranks 32nd in the world by economic size and maintains continuous growth despite a complex and unpredictable international environment and global economic headwinds. These achievements strengthen the confidence of Vietnamese Communists and the Vietnamese people in the socialist path chosen by the Party, Ho Chi Minh, and the nation-a path entirely right, suited to Vietnamese conditions, and aligned with humanity's developmental laws.

Viet Nam and China are close neighbors sharing many historical, cultural, and social-system similarities. Grounded in the realities and socialist-construction goals of both countries, and in the spirit of the "both comrades and brothers" relationship cultivated personally by President Ho Chi Minh and Chairman Mao Zedong and carried forward by successive leaders and peoples-the friendship between the two nations is bound to strengthen as each pursues socialist construction, thereby contributing to the global socialist cause today. General Secretary Nguyễn Phú Trọng emphasizes: "Socialism and the path toward socialism in Viet Nam is a fundamental theoretical and practical question of great breadth, richness, and complexity, demanding painstaking, serious research and profound, scientific summation of practice." Hence, the application of Marxism-Leninism in both countries shows many commonalities.

Under CPC leadership and successive outstanding generations at its core, China's reform and opening up have propelled the nation vigorously along the road of building a great socialist power and realizing the Chinese Dream of national

rejuvenation. Nearly half a century of reform has seen Socialism with Chinese Characteristics continuously innovate, perfect its model and path, and achieve remarkable accomplishments across the board, making China one of the world's leading economies. The socialist achievements of both Viet Nam and China further boost the pride and confidence of the two Parties and peoples; sharing material, spiritual, and contemporary experiences is therefore vital to secure even greater successes in each country's socialist construction and to help build a peaceful, prosperous world.

Accordingly, China's successful lessons and experience in developing Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era offer meaningful reference points for other socialist states, including Viet Nam, and for developing countries generally, and vice versa. To draw on Xi Jinping Thought for Viet Nam's own research and socialist-construction endeavors, it is essential first to grasp the circumstances of its emergence, its basic content, and its significance for world socialism. For these reasons, the doctoral candidate has chosen the topic "Xi Jinping's Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for the New Era" for this dissertation.

2. Research Aims and Tasks

2.1 Research Aim

The purpose of this dissertation is to clarify Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese characteristics for a New era, including issues related to its theoretical foundations, main content, practical implementation, and the lessons learned from Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese characteristics for a New era, thereby drawing referential implications for the contemporary world.

2.2 Research Tasks

To achieve the stated aim, the dissertation focuses on accomplishing the following specific tasks:

- Provide an overview of previous studies related to the topic, identifying issues already addressed and areas requiring further exploration.
- This study aims to clarify the theoretical foundations of Xi Jinping's Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, tracing its development from the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (2012) to the present. The dissertation systematically examines the theoretical basis for the formation and evolution of Xi Jinping's Thought, which integrates three key components: Marxism-Leninism, the essence of human civilization and China's excellent traditional culture, as well as the ideological contributions of successive generations of CPC leaders including Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping, Jiang Zemin, and Hu Jintao. The research conducts a comparative analysis of socialist theories adopted by ruling parties in various socialist countries across different historical periods. This

includes examining the theoretical achievements of the Communist International movement regarding socialism and its developmental path, Vietnam's model of "prosperous people, strong nation, democratic, equitable and civilized" socialism, Laos' sustainable development ideology toward socialist goals, North Korea's socialism with Juche characteristics, Cuba's theory of independent, sovereign, prosperous, democratic and sustainable socialism, as well as China's socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era. The study conclusively demonstrates that Xi Jinping's perspectives on socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era are both rooted in the foundational theories of his predecessors and represent innovative theoretical developments that advance socialist theory.

- This study analyzes and elucidates the historical context of China's new era and the core content of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, tracing its development from the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China to the present. The dissertation systematically examines the requirements for implementing and advancing Xi Jinping Thought in contemporary China, highlighting both its theoretical foundations and practical applications in guiding China's development path.

- This study examines the theoretical and practical significance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era in relation to global socialism and the contemporary world. It identifies key requirements for further developing and innovating this thought system to align with China's development and global trends. The research analyzes world affairs transformation trends through the lens of Xi Jinping Thought, while proposing areas requiring further scholarly investigation. Importantly, the study establishes the theoretical foundation guiding all policy formulations and ideological positions of the Communist Party of China.

3. Research Subject and Scope

3.1 Research Subject

The research subject of the dissertation is Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, covering the period from the 18th CPC National Congress to the present.

3.2 Research Scope

- *Content Scope:* The dissertation examines Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, focusing on its theoretical foundations, key content such as the overall "Five-in-One" layout, the "Four Comprehensives" strategic framework, the "Ten Clarifications," the "Fourteen Upholds," and its significance as a reference for the world.

- *Time Scope:* From the 18th National Congress of the CPC (November 2012) to the present.

- *Geographical Scope:* The People's Republic of China.

4. Theoretical, Practical Foundations and Research Methods

4.1 Theoretical Foundation

The dissertation is grounded in Marxism-Leninism and the viewpoints of successive generations of Chinese Party and State leaders on building a modern socialist power with Chinese characteristics. It also incorporates relevant interdisciplinary scientific theories to explain and clarify the aims, tasks, and contents of the dissertation. Additionally, it builds upon previous theoretical and practical studies related to the topic, including CPC congress reports and summaries of socialist construction in China.

4.2 Practical Foundation

The dissertation analyzes the major achievements China has made in revolution, nation-building, and reform and opening up. It also draws lessons from current socialist countries, demonstrating that the path of socialism in China is correct and suited to its specific conditions.

4.3 Research Methods

- The dissertation employs the specialized methodology of scientific socialism to study Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, identifying its systematic nature and stages of development based on the Marxist-Leninist doctrine of socialism and CPC theories across various periods. The following specific methods are also applied:

- *Dialectical and Historical Materialism:* Applied to the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, which has evolved through continued supplementation and development grounded in the principles and methodology of scientific socialism, combined with China's practical realities and the spirit of the times.

- *Analytical and Synthetic Methods:* Used throughout the chapters to analyze and interpret various aspects of the topic.

- *Information Collection:* Drawing from official Party documents, statistics, academic studies by Chinese and international scholars relevant to the topic.

- *Historical-Logical Method:* Applied to identify the characteristics and stages in the theoretical understanding of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, and to place them in the context of China's national development goals.

- *Specialized and Interdisciplinary Approaches:* As the topic lies within political theory, the research integrates methods from philosophy, political science, scientific socialism, political economy, etc.

- *Sociological Methods:* Including comparative and statistical methods used in analyzing relevant data during the research process.

5. Novel Contributions of the Dissertation

- First, the dissertation systematizes Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era.

- It clarifies key theoretical foundations and identifies the principal components of this thought in China, while also pinpointing its relevance to the contemporary world.

- Second, the dissertation analyzes and evaluates practical experience gained under socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era—highlighting achievements and limitations, tracing their causes, and examining major projects currently implemented under the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought.

- Third, the dissertation outlines global trends as interpreted through Xi Jinping's thought, identifies areas requiring further research, and presents key perspectives forming the basis for the policies and viewpoints of the Communist Party of China.

6. Theoretical and Practical Significance

6.1 Theoretical Significance

- By illuminating several theoretical questions surrounding Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, the dissertation enriches the body of socialist theory grounded in Marxism-Leninism and contributes to the broader corpus of world-socialist scholarship.

6.2 Practical Significance

- The experiences distilled from China's practice of socialism in the new era offer useful reference points for other nations striving to build socialism and pursue national development today.

- The dissertation can serve as a reference for researchers, educators, students, and anyone interested in the subject matter.

7. Structure of the Dissertation

In addition to the Introduction, Conclusion, Bibliography, and Appendices, the dissertation is organized into four chapters comprising twelve sections.

Chapter 1

OVERVIEW OF XI JINPING THOUGHT ON SOCIALISM WITH CHINESE CHARACTERISTICS FOR A NEW ERA

1.1. Scholarly Works on the Formation of Socialism

1.1.1. *Studies on Socialism*

This dissertation reviews 28 scholarly works—comprising books, scientific research projects, journal articles, and theses—organized along the following thematic lines:

- First, Chinese-language studies related to socialism.
- Second, Vietnamese-language studies related to socialism.

1.1.2. *Studies on the Formation of Socialism in China*

The dissertation also surveys 11 relevant studies focusing on:

- First, Chinese-language research on the formation of socialism in China.
- Second, Vietnamese-language research on the formation of socialism in China.

1.2. Scholarly Works on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics

A total of 38 works relevant to the dissertation topic are reviewed, categorized as follows:

1.2.1. *Studies on Socialism in China from the Founding of the PRC to the Reform Era (1949–1978)*

1.2.2. *Studies on Socialism in China from the Reform Era to the 18th CPC National Congress (1978–2012)*

1.2.3. *Studies on Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era (2012–present)*

Based on the systematization of previous research related to the topic, the author presents the following general observations:

- First, research on Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era has attracted widespread scholarly attention, sparking vigorous academic debates at an unprecedented scale. Topics span from revolutionary ideas and traditional cultural creativity to core socialist values, ideological education, cultural confidence, and the exchange of Chinese wisdom. Numerous studies and publications have addressed Xi Jinping's theories in areas such as military strategy, religion, and digital governance. In recent years, digital transformation and theoretical application have emerged as research hotspots, while ideological and institutional culture debates have become rising trends. These developments offer a rich resource base and a solid theoretical foundation for this dissertation.

- Second, theoretical research on the emergence of Xi Jinping Thought covers diverse domains and has achieved a new level of maturity with substantial outcomes. Prominent topics include the Sinicization of Marxism, socialist ideals and

convictions, core socialist values, Party culture, institutional innovation, and historical lessons. Scholars have contributed a wide range of original perspectives on conceptual definitions, theoretical foundations, content structures, characteristics, values, strategic orientations, and methodological approaches. It is now possible to find dozens of proposed pathways toward building Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, along with hundreds of interrelated theoretical and practical aspects. These contributions have broadened research horizons and methodological approaches, offering valuable groundwork for this dissertation.

- Third, studies on Xi Jinping Thought often center on specific topics but remain closely interlinked with related thematic areas, reflecting the thought's internal coherence. For example, research on cultural confidence often intersects with themes such as core values, China's traditional heritage, revolutionary culture, advanced socialist culture, national soft power, and reform of cultural and artistic mechanisms. Similarly, discussions on Party building frequently address ideological independence, a people-centered approach, strict Party governance, and connections to military management and moral development. These interconnections help highlight the structural logic of Xi Jinping Thought and provide important suggestions for organizing and conceptualizing the dissertation's framework.

1.3. The value of the reviewed scientific works and the research issues the dissertation needs to focus on

The abundant body of existing research has significantly contributed to the development of theoretical frameworks related to Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. However, several areas still require further exploration and clarification, as some aspects remain insufficiently articulated or systematically presented.

- First, there is currently a lack of comprehensive and systematic theoretical studies on Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. President Xi's major speeches on this ideological system span a wide range of domains including politics, the military, and diplomacy, both in breadth and in depth. As a result, most scholars tend to focus on narrow or specific topics within this broad framework, yielding many valuable insights. However, as research deepens, it becomes increasingly necessary and meaningful to construct an overarching and systematized analysis of Xi Jinping's major theoretical contributions.

- Second, existing studies often reflect the phenomenon of "fragmented completeness," wherein each scholar tends to emphasize specific research focal points. This fragmentation makes it difficult for readers to grasp a comprehensive understanding of the overall framework and essential characteristics of Xi Jinping Thought. Furthermore, the connection between this ideology and theories on building a socialist culture in China is not always clearly identified. Although studies may

exhibit internal coherence within subfields, they often lack a holistic logical structure at the macro level. Consequently, current research does not fully capture the continuity and innovation of Xi Jinping Thought, nor does it adequately reflect the linkage between theory and practical implementation.

- Third, in the process of in-depth academic inquiry into the diverse and complex dimensions of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics, there has been both creativity and inconsistency in the use of terminology. Conceptual definitions often lack standardization, which leads to ambiguity or misinterpretation. For example, in the field of cultural confidence, terms such as *definition*, *proposition*, *implication*, *connotation*, and *meaning* are used variably. Similarly, in discussions of ideological foundations, terms such as *basis*, *foundation*, *logic*, *spatial dimension*, and *advantage* frequently appear. This inconsistent use of scholarly language can hinder comprehension. Therefore, the clear, concise, and standardized articulation of academic terminology is a shared goal that researchers in this field must pursue.

Summary of Chapter 1

Chapter 1 provided a comprehensive overview of the existing body of research related to the formation and development of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. Through reviewing domestic and international literature, the chapter identified key themes, scholarly contributions, and areas where knowledge is still fragmented or incomplete. It highlighted three main research gaps: the lack of systematic and holistic theoretical studies, fragmented and narrowly focused research approaches, and inconsistencies in academic terminology. These gaps form the foundation for the dissertation's research focus and underscore the necessity of a coherent and structured theoretical inquiry into Xi Jinping Thought. This sets the stage for the next chapter, which explores the theoretical underpinnings that support the formation and development of this ideological system.

Chapter 2

THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF XI JINPING THOUGHT ON SOCIALISM WITH CHINESE CHARACTERISTICS FOR A NEW ERA

2.1 Theoretical Foundations Derived from Marxism-Leninism, the Quintessence of Human Civilization, and the Traditional Chinese Cultural Heritage

2.1.1 Marxism-Leninism on socialism and the path to socialism

- First, the fundamental principles of Marxism are reflected in the construction of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics, serving as its theoretical backbone.
- Second, these foundational Marxist principles have provided a scientific basis

for China's reform processes.

- Third, Marxist theory has enhanced the practical orientation of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics.
- Fourth, Socialism with Chinese Characteristics maintains an intrinsic theoretical connection to the foundational principles of Marxism.

2.1.2 The Essence of Human Civilization and the Outstanding Traditional Culture of the Chinese Nation

- China is a vast country with a population of over 1.408 billion people and 56 ethnic groups. Its outstanding traditional culture, shaped over more than 5,000 years of continuous civilization, has provided a solid spiritual foundation for national resilience and development.
 - The philosophical values embedded in China's traditional culture have offered insights for national development and practical governance, serving as a valuable resource for the Communist Party of China (CPC).
 - The humanistic spirit in traditional Chinese culture informs approaches to work and social relationships.
 - Ethical norms embedded in traditional Chinese culture have served as moral benchmarks for distinguishing right from wrong, deeply influencing the behavior and value system of the Chinese people.
 - The CPC emphasizes cultural confidence, promotes the cultivation and application of the core socialist values, and fosters national identity through shared cultural consciousness. It upholds the universal values of peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy, and freedom, contributing to the vision of building a shared future for humanity.

2.2 Theoretical Foundations Derived from the Ideological Legacy of Successive Generations of CPC Leadership

2.2.1 Mao Zedong Thought

Key elements of Mao Zedong Thought include:

- Analysis of the principal contradictions within Chinese society
- The overall strategic layout for national development
- The strategic configuration of key sectors and reforms
- Foundational theories to be clarified
- Core principles to be upheld
- Mao Zedong's significant ideological contributions

Mao Zedong Thought represents the Sinicization and development of Marxism-Leninism within China. It has been historically validated as a set of correct theoretical principles and practical experiences for revolution and nation-building. As the collective intellectual crystallization of the CPC, Mao Zedong Thought includes key ideas such as:

- The theory of principal social contradictions, which laid the groundwork for new-era conceptualizations;
- The "Three Worlds Theory," which helped shape Xi Jinping's diplomatic worldview;
- The theory of the people's democratic dictatorship, foundational to Xi Jinping's development of whole-process people's democracy;
- Mao's military doctrine, which influenced Xi Jinping's thought on strengthening national defense;
- Mao's views on literature and the arts, which contributed to Xi Jinping's current ideological approach to cultural and artistic work.

2.2.2 Deng Xiaoping Theory

Key areas of Deng Xiaoping's theoretical contributions include:

- The analysis of the principal contradictions within Chinese society
- The overall strategic framework for national development
- Strategic layouts for key areas of reform and governance
- Clarification of essential theoretical principles
- Enduring core principles to be upheld
- Major ideological contributions

Specifically, the inheritance and development of Deng Xiaoping Theory are reflected in the following aspects of Xi Jinping Thought:

- First, Xi Jinping Thought builds upon and develops Deng Xiaoping's economic theory, thereby forming the foundation of Xi's economic philosophy in the new era.
- Second, Deng's theory on establishing a modern enterprise system has been further developed into Xi Jinping's views on reform, the development of state-owned enterprises (SOEs), and Party building within these enterprises.
- Third, Deng Xiaoping's theory on opening up to the outside world has evolved into Xi Jinping's comprehensive vision for China's global openness and active participation in international affairs.

2.2.3 The Important Thought of the "Three Represents"

Key dimensions of Jiang Zemin's contributions include:

- The principal contradictions of Chinese society
- The overall national development framework
- The strategic layout of reform and governance
- Clarifications of important theoretical foundations
- Key principles to be maintained
- Significant contributions to Chinese socialist ideology

Xi Jinping Thought inherits and advances Jiang Zemin's strategic thinking in several key areas:

- First, it develops Jiang's vision of building a moderately prosperous society into Xi Jinping's comprehensive blueprint for building a modern socialist power.
- Second, it extends Jiang's regional development strategies—such as Western China development—into Xi's policy of coordinated regional development.
- Third, Jiang's emphasis on rule of law and basic governance strategies provided a foundation for Xi Jinping's more holistic approach to building a socialist rule-of-law system.

2.2.4 The Scientific Outlook on Development

Hu Jintao's Scientific Outlook on Development contributed important insights in the following areas:

- The principal contradictions of Chinese society
- National development layout
- Strategic approaches to modernization
- Theoretical issues requiring clarification
- Principles to be upheld across Party and government work
- Major contributions to scientific and sustainable governance

Xi Jinping Thought continues and elevates these contributions in key domains:

- First, it builds upon the Scientific Outlook on Development to promote the construction of a socialist cultural power.
- Second, it extends the scientific development perspective to the construction of ecological civilization, emphasizing harmony between humans and nature.
- Third, it evolves Hu Jintao's approach to Party building into a more comprehensive and systematic framework for enhancing Party leadership in the new era, encapsulating the overall requirements for Party construction.

2.2.5 The Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era in China

1. The Theory of Principal Social Contradiction in Chinese society.
2. The Concept of Overall CPC Leadership Layout, which demonstrates both continuity and development.
3. The Concept of National Strategic Framework, continuously inherited and upgraded.
4. The Concept of the People.
5. The Concept of CPC Leadership.
6. The Concept of the Military.
7. The Concept of Culture.

2.3 Theoretical Perspectives on Socialism from Ruling Parties in Contemporary Socialist Countries

2.3.1 Theoretical Contributions of the International Communist Movement to Socialism and the Path Toward Socialism

- First, the Soviet Union served as the core driving force in promoting Marxism-Leninism internationally. As the first socialist state, it established a model for socialist governance and provided both ideological and practical support to communist movements around the world.

- Second, Marxism-Leninism was disseminated and adopted in various socialist countries, forming the theoretical foundation for national development strategies aligned with socialist ideology. These countries localized Marxist principles to reflect their unique political, cultural, and economic contexts while maintaining allegiance to the core tenets of scientific socialism.

2.3.2 Vietnam's Model of "Socialist Orientation: Prosperous People, Strong Nation, Democracy, Justice, and Civilization"

The Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) has steadfastly upheld Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought as its ideological compass for over 90 years. Under its leadership, the Vietnamese people succeeded in liberating the nation from colonial rule and have made significant strides in socialist construction and renovation (Đổi mới).

Key theoretical developments include:

- First, the CPV has continually refined, supplemented, and expanded the defining characteristics of the socialist society in Vietnam—currently articulated as eight key features.

- Second, it has elaborated eight strategic orientations that reflect new understandings of socialism in the Vietnamese context.

- Third, the CPV has identified ten major relationships that must be properly managed and balanced throughout the process of building socialism. These include relations such as economic growth vs. social progress, market regulation vs. state management, innovation vs. stability, and others.

Despite numerous challenges, the CPV has forged ahead through constant adaptation and theoretical innovation. Vietnam's achievements in theory and practice represent a significant contribution to contemporary socialist thought and serve as a source of inspiration for the continued development of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era.

2.3.3 Laos' Vision for Sustainable National Development Toward Socialist Goals

The Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) continues to pursue a sustainable development strategy as part of its gradual transition toward socialism. The key accomplishments of the Lao model include:

1. Stable economic growth is maintained as the foundation for national development.

2. Tangible improvements in social infrastructure, such as health, education,

and public services, have been achieved.

3. Political stability is ensured through consistent Party leadership and social consensus.

4. National defense and security capabilities are actively strengthened.

5. Mass organizations have effectively mobilized popular participation and played a critical role in socio-political activities.

6. Diplomatic engagement has yielded notable achievements, elevating Laos' international standing.

7. Party building efforts are continuously enhanced to strengthen political capacity and leadership.

The balanced and stable development of Laotian society offers hope and confidence to the broader international communist movement. At the same time, it provides additional encouragement and reinforces faith in China's ongoing journey to advance Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era.

2.3.4 The Theory of Socialism with North Korean Characteristics

In the 1990s, as the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe underwent profound upheavals, the global socialist movement entered a period of decline. However, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) stood firm against both external and internal pressures, overcoming difficulties and actively seeking a socialist path suited to its unique national conditions.

Key strategies in the DPRK's development of socialism include:

1. Strengthening ideological and political education to reinforce unwavering belief in the correctness and ultimate victory of the socialist cause.

2. Developing national defense capabilities, asserting that socialism in Korea must be defended through military readiness and deterrence.

3. Upholding the principle "everything for the people, everything relying on the people", thereby solidifying unity between the Party and the people and ensuring political stability.

4. Affirming that the success of the revolution must occur under the leadership of the great leader and the Party, with a strong emphasis on the legitimate inheritance and continuation of leadership.

5. Maintaining an anti-imperialist, independent, and socialist stance, firmly defending the sovereignty and ideological integrity of the nation.

The peaceful development of socialist Korea holds significant implications for peace and stability in Northeast Asia and contributes positively to the revitalization and strength of the global socialist movement.

2.3.5 The Theory of Independent, Sovereign, Prosperous, Democratic, and Sustainable Socialism in Cuba

1. Following the victory of the Cuban Revolution in 1959, Cuba embarked on a

long and difficult journey of exploring a socialist construction model. Throughout this process, domestic and international policy adjustments were made continuously in response to changing realities.

2. Since 2006, under the leadership of Raúl Castro, Cuba has gradually promoted economic and social reform, shifting its strategic focus toward the “economic battle”, with the goal of building a “prosperous and sustainable socialism.”

3. The 8th Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba (April 2021) was held in the context of significant constitutional reform, structural reorganization of the state and government apparatus, and the beginning of a “deep-water zone” of reform, all amidst a changing and volatile international environment.

Despite mounting pressure from external forces, geographical limitations, and economic difficulties, Cuba has remained committed to independence, self-reliance, and the socialist path. Its steadfastness has become a source of strength and inspiration for the global socialist movement. Moreover, Cuba’s resilience offers valuable motivation and spiritual reinforcement for the advancement of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era.

Chapter 3

KEY CONTENTS OF XI JINPING THOUGHT ON SOCIALISM WITH CHINESE CHARACTERISTICS FOR A NEW ERA

3.1 Requirements for Implementing Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era

3.1.1 Recognition of the New Era in the Context of Global Affairs

3.1.1.1. The World Faces Rising Conflicts Leading to Regional Wars

Political, economic, social, and cultural contradictions in developed countries are becoming increasingly severe. The current Russia-Ukraine conflict, as well as Israel’s airstrikes on areas such as Gaza, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, and Iran, have added to global instability and escalating tensions. Unprecedented upheavals are intensifying rapidly in the world today.

3.1.1.2. The New Era in the Context of Economic Globalization

Economic globalization is the most significant trend shaping global development since the modern era. It has unleashed and enhanced human society’s productive capacity, facilitated large-scale trade flows, promoted prosperity in commerce, improved investment conditions, and accelerated technological advancements. The rise of global supply chains, value chains, and industrial networks, with participation from increasing numbers of countries, exemplifies this trend.

3.1.1.3. The Fourth Industrial Revolution

China is emerging as a leader in new technologies such as artificial intelligence

(AI). Chinese enterprises have intensified their research, development, and investment in AI chips, particularly in fundamental research and overcoming critical technological challenges, which is driving the country's sustainable development.

3.1.1.4. China's Relationship with the World Opens New Frontiers, Offering New Solutions and Chinese Wisdom to the Global Community

The path, ideology, system, and socialist culture of China are continuously evolving, broadening the road to modernization for developing nations. The Communist Party of China (CPC) has advocated for the construction of a community of shared future for mankind, global development initiatives, global security initiatives, and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), offering new opportunities for the world's development. These initiatives provide new choices for countries and peoples globally, balancing accelerated development with the preservation of national independence, and contributing China's solutions and wisdom to address global challenges.

3.1.1.5. Great Power Competition

When a rising economy surpasses the industrial output of a leading economy and its GDP exceeds 60% of the GDP of the latter, it often signals the onset of great power competition. In 2010, China's manufacturing output surpassed that of the United States, and by 2016, China's nominal GDP had reached over 60% of the U.S. GDP, marking the official entry of both countries into the phase of great power competition. China supports a multipolar world where nations are equal participants, while the United States seeks to maintain its hegemonic system.

3.1.2 Key Features of the New Era in the Context of China

3.1.2.1. The main contradictions in society have changed

- First, during the New Democratic Revolution in China (1949-1956), the main contradiction was between imperialism and the Chinese nation, as well as between feudalism and the people.

- Second, during the socialist transformation period (1956-1978), the main contradiction was between the people's demand for the construction of an advanced industrial nation and the reality of China being an underdeveloped agricultural country, which reflected the gap between rapid economic and cultural development needs and the existing economic and cultural conditions.

- Third, during the period of reform and opening-up and socialist modernization (1978-2012), the primary contradiction was between the growing material and cultural needs of the people and the backwardness of social production.

- Fourth, in the New Era of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics (2012-present), the primary contradiction has shifted from the gap between growing material and cultural demands and the underdeveloped social production to the contradiction between the people's growing desire for a better life and the uneven and inadequate development of society.

3.1.2.2. Theoretical innovations of the party have achieved new advancements

- First, the establishment of Mao Zedong Thought, which marked the first historic step in the Sinicization of Marxism.

- Second, the formation of the theory of socialism with Chinese characteristics, incorporating Deng Xiaoping's theory, the "Three Represents," and the Scientific Outlook on Development, which represents a new stage in the Sinicization of Marxism.

- Third, the establishment of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, representing a further leap in the Sinicization of Marxism, with a focus on enhancing the comprehensive modernization of the nation.

3.1.2.3. The party and people have established new aspirational goals

At the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) (2012), the Party set a major goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects by 2020.

At the 19th National Congress of the CPC (2017), the Party set out a two-step development strategy:

- The first step: From 2020 to 2035, building upon the completion of a moderately prosperous society, China aims to modernize its socialist system by 2035.

- The second step: From 2035 to the mid-21st century, China seeks to transform itself into a strong, democratic, civilized, harmonious, and beautiful modern socialist power, based on the achievements of the first stage of modernization.

3.1.2.4. The CPC has demonstrated a clear shift in party management

Since the beginning of the New Era in 2012, China has taken an uncompromising stance against corruption, with a broad, unprecedented crackdown on corruption that targets both high-ranking officials ("tigers") and low-ranking ones ("flies"). This has become a distinguishing feature of the era.

3.1.3. China has achieved a leading global economy

The establishment of the People's Republic of China (PRC) marked a pivotal moment in China's rise. By 2010, China's industrial output surpassed that of Japan, making it the second-largest economy in the world. Reform and opening-up policies have contributed significantly to China's wealth. In 2020, China successfully built a moderately prosperous society in all respects, bringing the country closer to the global center stage and reflecting its increasing power on the world stage.

3.2 Key Elements in Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era

3.2.1 The "Five-in-One" overall plan for the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era

The "Five-in-One" strategic layout for Socialism with Chinese Characteristics

in the New Era includes the following key areas:

- Economic construction
- Political construction
- Cultural construction
- Social construction
- Ecological civilization construction

3.2.2. The “Four Comprehensives” strategic layout in the cause of building socialism with Chinese characteristics

The “Four Comprehensives” strategy focuses on:

- Building a moderately prosperous society.
- Deepening comprehensive reform.
- Advancing comprehensive rule of law.
- Strengthening comprehensive Party governance.

3.2.3 The "Ten Clarifications" of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era

- Clarifies that the most essential feature of socialism with Chinese characteristics is the leadership of the Communist Party of China.

- Clarifies that the overarching mission is to uphold and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics, achieving socialist modernization and the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

- Clarifies that the principal contradiction in Chinese society during the new era is between the people's growing needs for a better life and unbalanced and inadequate development.

- Clarifies the overall plan and strategic framework for advancing socialism with Chinese characteristics.

- Clarifies that the overall goal of comprehensively deepening reforms is to improve and develop the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

- Clarifies that the overall objective of advancing the rule of law in all respects is to build a socialist rule-of-law system with Chinese characteristics.

- Clarifies the necessity of upholding and improving the basic socialist economic system, where the market plays a decisive role in resource allocation while the government plays its role effectively.

- Clarifies that the objective of building a strong military in the new era is to forge a people's army that follows the Party's command, can fight and win, and maintains excellent conduct, building it into a world-class force.

- Clarifies that China's distinctive diplomacy must serve national rejuvenation, promote human progress, foster a new type of international relations, and build a community with a shared future for mankind.

- Clarifies the strategic principle of exercising full and rigorous governance

over the Party.

3.2.4 The "Fourteen Upholds" of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era

- Uphold the Party's leadership over all work.
- Uphold a people-centered development philosophy.
- Uphold comprehensive and deepening reforms.
- Uphold the new development concept.
- Uphold the people's mastery of the country.
- Uphold the rule of law in all aspects of state governance.
- Uphold the core socialist values.
- Uphold ensuring and improving people's livelihoods through development.
- Uphold harmonious coexistence between humanity and nature.
- Uphold a holistic approach to national security.
- Uphold the Party's absolute leadership over the People's Army.
- Uphold the "One Country, Two Systems" policy and promote national reunification.
- Uphold building a community with a shared future for mankind.
- Uphold full and rigorous governance over the Party.

3.3 Requirements for building and implementing Xi Jinping thought on socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era

3.3.1 Requirements for Various Areas of Construction

- Economic construction
- Political construction
- Cultural construction
- Social construction
- Ecological civilization construction
- National defense and military construction

3.3.2 Requirements for National Governance

- Upholding the comprehensive leadership of the Party.
- Enforcing strict and comprehensive Party discipline.
- Deepening comprehensive reform and opening-up.
- Implementing comprehensive rule of law in national governance.
- Ensuring national security.
- Adhering to the principle of "One Country, Two Systems" and promoting national unity.
- Advancing China's distinctive foreign diplomacy as a major global power.

Chapter 4

SIGNIFICANCE OF XI JINPING THOUGHT ON SOCIALISM WITH CHINESE CHARACTERISTICS FOR A NEW ERA FOR THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD

4.1 Theoretical Significance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era for World Socialism

4.1.1 *Significance for the Creative Development of Marxism-Leninism in Socialism*

4.1.1.1. Affirming the Correctness of Scientific Socialism as Defined by Marx, Engels, and Lenin

Xi Jinping Thought upholds the foundational principles of Marxism-Leninism, affirming the scientific correctness of the theory and its universal relevance in the context of contemporary global socialism.

4.1.1.2. Affirming the Need for Creative Application and Development of Scientific Socialism in Accordance with National Contexts

Xi Jinping Thought advocates for adapting and developing Marxism-Leninism to meet the specific conditions of each country, ensuring that socialism remains dynamic and responsive to local challenges.

4.1.1.3. *The CPC's One-Hundred-Year History is a Continuous Drive Toward the Sinicization of Marxism-Leninism*

The century-long history of the Communist Party of China (CPC) is marked by an ongoing process of Sinicizing Marxism-Leninism, making it a theory that is both historically grounded and relevant to modern China.

4.1.1.4. *Ongoing Promotion of the Sinicization of Marxism-Leninism and Its Application to Practical Governance*

The CPC continues to innovate in applying Marxist-Leninist principles to the governance of China, ensuring that theory and practice are aligned to meet the needs of the nation in the New Era.

4.1.1.5. *Unifying the Adherence to Marxism-Leninism with Its Ongoing Development*

Xi Jinping Thought seeks to balance the persistence of core Marxist principles with their development in response to evolving global and domestic realities.

4.1.1.6. *Opening a New Chapter in Contemporary Chinese Marxism and Marxism for the 21st Century*

Xi Jinping Thought marks a new stage in the evolution of Chinese Marxism, contributing to the development of Marxism for the 21st century with an emphasis on its adaptability and global applicability.

4.1.1.7. *"Two Combinations" Expand the Core Content and Methods of Sinicizing Marxism-Leninism*

The "Two Combinations" refer to combining the fundamental principles of Marxism with the practical realities of China's modernization, enriching the overall approach to socialist governance.

4.1.1.8. Creating a New Chapter in the Sinicization of Marxism-Leninism in the Practical Implementation of the "Six Upholds"

The "Six Upholds" are core guidelines within Xi Jinping Thought that represent a new chapter in the practical application of Marxist theory in contemporary China.

4.2 Practical Significance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era for the Contemporary World

4.2.1. Contributing to the Protection and Development of Socialism Worldwide After the Collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991

Xi Jinping Thought provides a critical theoretical and practical response to the challenges facing socialism in the post-Soviet world, offering new strategies for the survival and growth of socialism globally.

4.2.2. Contributing Practical Experience to the Socialist Movement Worldwide

The unique Chinese model of socialism provides valuable practical insights and experience that can guide other countries in their socialist development.

4.2.3. Offering a Completely New Option for Developing Countries to Achieve Modernization

Xi Jinping Thought presents a distinct model of development for emerging economies, highlighting a pathway to modernization that maintains national sovereignty while promoting social and economic progress.

4.2.4. Contributing Chinese Wisdom to Global Governance

China's evolving approach to governance, as articulated in Xi Jinping Thought, contributes innovative ideas and practical solutions for global governance, especially in addressing issues of international cooperation, security, and sustainable development.

4.2.5. Guiding the Global Socialist Movement

Xi Jinping Thought serves as a guiding theoretical framework for the socialist movement worldwide, offering fresh ideas for promoting equality, justice, and cooperation among nations.

4.2.6. Contributing Practical Innovation to the Development of Human Society

The practical innovations introduced by Xi Jinping Thought in social, economic, and political governance offer a model for broader human development, inspiring global reforms in areas such as governance and sustainability.

4.2.7. Contributing a Model of Governance for Political Parties Worldwide

Xi Jinping Thought also provides a new model for political parties across the world, emphasizing effective governance, leadership, and the development of a shared national vision.

4.3 Requirements for Continuing the Creative Development of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era for the Common Development of China and the Contemporary World

4.3.1 Observations on the Changing Global Situation According to Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era

4.3.1.1. The World is Entering a Phase of Great Development, Transformation, and Adjustment

The world is experiencing profound shifts, with significant adjustments in global governance structures and rising geopolitical tensions.

4.3.1.2. The Instability of Non-Traditional Security Threats

Global security is increasingly affected by non-traditional threats, such as cyber warfare, pandemics, and environmental challenges, requiring new approaches to international security cooperation.

4.3.1.3. The Challenge of the Sino-U.S. Trade War

The trade war between China and the U.S. represents a major challenge, signaling a shift in global trade dynamics and the balance of economic power.

4.3.1.4. The Trend Toward Greater Solidarity Among Global South Countries

There is an increasing trend for nations in the Global South to unite in their efforts to promote development, equality, and fair representation in global institutions.

4.3.1.5. Armed Conflict as a Consequence of Capitalist Competition and Hegemony

Armed conflicts often arise due to capitalist competition and hegemonic ambitions, particularly between major powers, requiring a new approach to international diplomacy and conflict resolution.

4.3.2 Areas Requiring Further Research and Development

4.3.2.1. Modernizing the Chinese Model

Further research is needed on how China's development model can be modernized to address emerging global challenges and ensure sustainable growth.

4.3.2.2. The Development of New Quality Productive Forces

The role of technological innovation and the transformation of China's productive forces are crucial areas for future study.

4.3.2.3. From the Belt and Road Initiative to the Initiative for Building a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind

Research should explore the evolution of these initiatives and their impact on global development.

4.3.2.4. The Development of Whole-Process People's Democracy

Further exploration of how China's model of people's democracy can be expanded and deepened.

4.3.2.5. Digitizing China

The ongoing process of digital transformation in China requires careful study to understand its implications for governance, economy, and society.

4.3.3 Foundations for Formulating All Policies and Views of the Communist Party of China

4.3.3.1. Based on Marxist-Leninist Theory

All policies of the CPC are grounded in the fundamental principles of Marxism-Leninism.

4.3.3.2. Based on the Traditional Culture of the Chinese Nation

The CPC's policies are deeply informed by the rich cultural heritage of China.

4.3.3.3. Under the Leadership of the CPC

The policies and strategies are crafted under the leadership of the CPC, which provides the ideological and practical direction for the country.

4.3.3.4. Based on a People-Centered Approach

The CPC emphasizes the importance of placing the people at the center of all governance efforts.

4.3.3.5. Based on the Practical Conditions of China

All policies are formulated in response to the current realities and conditions of China's socio-economic environment.

4.3.3.6. Based on the Responsibility to Combat Imperialism and Hegemony

The CPC is committed to resisting imperialism and hegemonic ambitions, both domestically and internationally.

4.3.3.7. Based on the Responsibility to Contribute to Global Peace and Progress

The CPC also focuses on its duty to promote peace, stability, and progress for humanity.

CONCLUSION

Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era represents contemporary Marxism in China and Marxism for the 21st century. It is the essence of Chinese culture and spirit, realizing a new leap in the Sinicization of Marxism.

This thought combines the basic principles of Marxism with China's specific reality and traditional culture, offering new ideas and leading concepts in philosophy, political economy, and scientific socialism. It provides profound insights into the CPC's governing strategies, the development of socialism, and the evolution of human society.

As a guiding ideology for the CPC's work, it remains a continually evolving system of thought, critical for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and global socialism in the New Era. It serves as a manual for action in realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and is an ever-evolving ideological system. Xi Jinping has stated, "The Sinicization of Marxism has achieved important results, but it is far from finished." The study and interpretation of the holistic, systematic, and rational learning aspects of Xi Jinping's Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era will not stop; it is certain to continue developing and enriching in the future.

LIST OF RESEARCH WORKS RELATED TO THE DISSERTATION

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2. Vi Hong Nguyet (2023), “Key Aspects of Xi Jinping's Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era”, *Journal of Political Theory and Communication*, No. 02, pp. 102–104.
3. Vi Hong Nguyet (2024), “Upholding Marxism in Building Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era”, *Journal of Political Theory and Communication*, No. 01, pp. 65–67.
4. Vi Hong Nguyet (2024), “The Connotation of the Chinese Modernization Model in Xi Jinping’s Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era”, *Journal of Political Theory and Communication*, No. 02, pp. 75–77.