

# The System Structure and Basic Features of Xi Jinping Cultural Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era

Chao Deng<sup>1, a</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Faculty of Teacher Education, Sichuan University of Arts and Science, Dazhou, Sichuan 635000, China.

<sup>a</sup>Email: 103281839@qq.com.

## Abstract

**Xi Jinping Cultural Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era consists of the system of "what is socialist culture with Chinese characteristics", "why do we need to develop socialist culture with Chinese characteristics", and "how to develop socialist culture with Chinese characteristics". It realizes the organic combination of unity and diversity, subjectivity and openness, tradition and innovation.**

## Keywords

**Xi Jinping Cultural Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, Marxism, Culture.**

## 1. Introduction

Xi Jinping Cultural Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era is the latest achievement of cultural construction in the field of socialist theory with Chinese characteristics. A preliminary discussion on the system structure and basic features of Xi Jinping Cultural Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era will help to further deepen the understanding of it.

## 2. The System Structure of Xi Jinping Cultural Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era

Xi Jinping's Cultural Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era consists of the system of "what is socialist culture with Chinese characteristics", "why do we need to develop socialist culture with Chinese characteristics", and "how to develop socialist culture with Chinese characteristics".

### 2.1. What Is Socialist Culture with Chinese Characteristics?

The 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China further enriched its connotation from the height of the new era. It notes that "the socialist culture with Chinese characteristics is derived from the excellent traditional Chinese culture nurtured by Chinese nation's 5,000 years of civilization and history and developed from the revolutionary culture and advanced socialist culture created by the Party during the process of revolution, construction and reforms. It also roots in the great practice of socialism with Chinese characteristics (Xi, 2017, p.41). "There are three meanings. One is that the socialist culture with Chinese characteristics is composed of three parts—excellent traditional culture of Chinese nation, red revolutionary culture and advanced socialist culture. The second is the emergence and development of socialist culture with Chinese characteristics. The excellent traditional culture of Chinese nation is the source and foundation. And the great practice of the Party during the process of revolution, construction, and reforms is the soil and melting pot. The last is that the socialist culture with

Chinese characteristics is a result of the combination of the theory and practice. It is scientific, national, and contemporary.

## **2.2. Why Do We Need to Develop Socialist Culture With Chinese Characteristics?**

In the report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, Xi Jinping said, "Culture is the soul of a country and a nation. Culture can rejuvenate a country and strengthen a nation. Without a high degree of cultural confidence or cultural prosperity, the Great Rejuvenation of Chinese nation cannot be achieved(2017,pp.40-41)." It highlights the importance of culture. Culture is the significant foundation for economic and political development, the crucial reflection of social life and the environment of times, as well as the important symbol that distinguishes a country and a nation from others. Different countries or nations have different cultural characteristics. "But the culture of every country and every nation is the spiritual product of the country and the nation's labor and ordinary life, as well as the spiritual force for the country and the nation's survival and development. The growth and decline as well as the strength and weakness of a culture will have a profound impact on the survival and strength of this country and nation(Xu Guangchun,2017,p.5)."

## **2.3. How to Develop Socialist Culture with Chinese Characteristics?**

Xi Jinping puts forward "one overall requirement", "three important principles", and "five strategic deployment" in the report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China.

An overall requirement. It means "to develop socialist culture with Chinese characteristics. Guided by Marxism, it requires us to adhere to the standpoint of Chinese culture, base ourselves on contemporary reality of Chinese nation, and combines the conditions of the current era to develop a national, scientific and popular socialist culture that faces modernization, the world, and the future. Culture promotes the coordinated development of the spiritual civilization and material civilization on socialism(Xi,2017,p.41)." The general requirement clarifies the guiding ideology, approach, nature, and purpose of the development of socialist culture with Chinese characteristics.

Three important principles. First, serve the people and socialism. This is the fundamental direction for the development of socialist culture with Chinese characteristics. Second, a hundred schools of thought emerge and contend. This is the guiding principle for the development of socialist culture with Chinese characteristics. Third, adhere to creative transformation and innovative development. This is the way to develop socialist culture with Chinese characteristics(Xi,2017,p.41).

Five strategic deployment. One is to firmly grasp the leadership of ideological work. The second is to cultivate and implement core values of socialism. The third is to strengthen the ideological and moral construction. The fourth is to greatly develop socialist literature and art. The fifth is to promote the development of cultural undertakings and cultural industries(Xi,2017,pp.41-44). These five strategic deployment have the following distinctive features: strengthening the guiding position of Marxism in ideology; giving full play to the leading role of mainstream social values; focusing on the combination of nationality and times, and insisting on cultural self-confidence and cultural innovation. It also requires that our country should come from the masses as well as go to the masses, insisting on taking the people as the center, highlighting the people's dominant position and emphasizing the simultaneous development of economic development and social services.

### **3. The Basic Features of Xi Jinping Cultural Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era**

Xi Jinping Cultural Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era realizes the organic combination of unity and diversity, subjectivity and openness, tradition and innovation.

#### **3.1. The Organic Combination of Unity and Diversity**

At the National Propaganda and Ideological Work Conference, Xi Jinping notes that "ideological work is an extremely important work of the Party. Thus, we need to consolidate the guiding position of Marxism in the field of ideology as well as the basis of common thinking of the whole Party and the people of the country for the unity and struggle (Propaganda Department of the CPC Central Committee, 2016, P.193)." It further clarifies that in the field of socialist ideology, especially in the field of ideology and culture, we must adhere to Marxism as a unified guiding ideology, and that the construction of socialist culture with Chinese characteristics must always take Marxism as the guiding ideology. Xi Jinping further emphasized in the report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China that to develop socialist culture with Chinese characteristics, we must persist in letting a hundred schools of thought emerge and contend. China is currently in the primary stage of socialism (Xi, 2017, p.41). The actual national conditions determine that China must implement the great strategy of reform and opening up, and adhere to the basic economic system with public ownership as the mainstay and the common development of multiple ownership economies. Therefore, Cultural and ideological values are bound to be diverse. In addition, China is a vast country with multiple minorities. There are different characteristics of regional cultures and ethnic cultures between the east, west, south and north, between urban and rural areas, and between ethnic groups. Therefore, cultural differences must be recognized and cultural diversity must be respected. To realize the integration of unity and diversity, we are required to strengthen cultural consensus and use Marxism to control, integrate and lead various ideological cultures.

#### **3.2. The Organic Unity of Subjectivity and Openness**

The subjectivity is embodied in the persistence of taking the people as the center and inheriting and promoting the excellent traditional Chinese culture. Xi Jinping pointed out in his speech at the symposium on literature and art work: "Socialist literature and art are essentially people's literature and art (2015, p.5)". The masses of the people are the main body of history and creators of history. This determines that the starting point and foothold of the construction of socialist culture with Chinese characteristics is to meet the spiritual and cultural needs of the people. We must insist on coming from the masses and going to the masses. Xi Jinping attaches great importance to the promotion and inheritance of China's excellent traditional culture. He emphasized that "excellent traditional culture is the foundation of the inheritance and development of a country and a nation. If it is thrown away, it will cut off the spiritual lifeline (2014, p.4)". The excellent Chinese traditional culture is the spiritual lifeline and unique identity of Chinese nation. At the same time, he also pointed out that inheriting and carrying forward the excellent traditional culture of Chinese nation, upholding and carrying forward the Chinese spirit does not exclude learning and drawing on the excellent cultural achievements of the world (Xi, 2014, p.3). We must earnestly learn from the excellent cultural achievements created by people from all over the world, learn from each other's strengths, take in all possible aspects, enrich and develop the Chinese nation's culture and continuously absorbing the nutrients of various civilizations at the same time (Propaganda Department of the CPC Central Committee, 2016, P.204).

### 3.3. The Organic Unity of Tradition and Innovation

Xi Jinping said, "never forgetting the history can open up the future, and be good at inheritance can be good at innovation(2014,p.3)." "We must be good at integrating the promotion of excellent traditional culture and the development of real culture organically and closely, so as to develop in inheritance and inherit in development(2014,p.3)." Excellent traditional culture is the cultural root of the Chinese nation. It embodies Chinese wisdom, Chinese spirit, Chinese values and Chinese characteristics. It can provide useful inspiration for us today to promote the modernization of the national governance system and governance capabilities. At the same time, we should be good at applying the Marxist dialectical development concept and insisting on creative transformation and innovative development. On the one hand, we combine excellent traditional culture with the actual conditions of socialist economy, politics, culture, society and ecology with Chinese characteristics. On the other hand, we must adapt to the characteristics and requirements of the times to transform, supplement, expand and improve the excellent traditional culture. In this way, we can achieve the goal that enhancing the soft power of culture. Xi Jinping Cultural Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era fully embodies the organic unity of tradition and innovation.

### 4. Conclusion

Xi Jinping Cultural Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era sets out the overall requirements for the development path of socialist culture with Chinese characteristics, and clarifies the guiding ideology, approach, nature and purpose of developing socialist culture with Chinese characteristics. It puts forward a series of major strategic initiatives. These overall requirements and strategic arrangements provide a scientific program and action guide for building a strong socialist culture.

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