

**A New Model for Human
Advancement and Its Global Significance**

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Introduction

"We are in an era of epic transformation — facing challenges unlike any we have ever seen—challenges that demand global solutions. . . We are edging towards the unimaginable—a powder keg that risks engulfing the world..."^①

These are the warnings given by the UN Secretary-General António Guterres in his address to the opening of the seventy-ninth session of the UN General Assembly on September 24, 2024. World leaders present at the assembly all expressed deep concern over the current world situation.

Today, profound changes of the world, of the times, and of history are revealing themselves in a way that is unseen before, and humanity finds itself again standing at the crossroads, as the global community is confronted with ever-tougher challenges for world peace, development, security, global governance, and various others. What has happened to the world? How should we respond? Where is humanity headed? These are the vital questions that concern the future of humanity and demand our answers.

Through long-term practical explorations, the Communist Party of China (CPC) has led the Chinese people in achieving a rapid economic surge and maintaining long-term social stability —both remarkable miracles rarely created throughout the world. More significantly, China, under the leadership of the CPC, has developed its distinct path to modernization, and thereby created a new model for human advancement, which provides effective solutions to the problems facing the entire humanity and China's own answers to the three questions raised by the world.

The emergence of the new model for human advancement comes from the development of the Chinese path to modernization, a historical practice pioneered by the CPC. China, a latecomer to modernization, has now become a new growth pole of world modernization. The nation once endured intense humiliation, with its people subjected to great pain and its civilization plunged into darkness, but today it has created a new model for human advancement, marking the most extensive and profound change that China has ever undergone in the history of its national development since the modern times.

The emergence of the new model for human advancement has brought the Chinese civilization back to the frontier of human advancement. Today, China enjoys a well-coordinated development of material, political, cultural and ethical, social, and ecological civilization, and its economic strength, scientific and technological capabilities, and composite national strength have reached new heights. China, a nation with both ancient splendor and modern glories, now stands majestically in the east of the world, teeming with vitality and prosperity.

^① <https://press.un.org/en/2024/sgsm22378.doc.htm>

The emergence of the new model for human advancement has exerted enormous influence upon the whole world. It busted the myth that "modernization is Westernization", and created an effective path toward modernization for almost one fifth of the world population, thus offering a brand-new option for large numbers of developing countries seeking modernization. The new model for human advancement is a huge contribution that China has made to innovating both the theory and practice of the world's modernization efforts, as it contributes the Chinese wisdom to tackling global challenges, and points out the right way to further progress of human advancement. Highly inclusive, this new model for human advancement sticks to allowing cultural exchanges to transcend estrangement, mutual learning to transcend clashes, and coexistence to transcend feelings of superiority. This new form, constantly enriched and developed as it fuels the construction of a better world, will play a huge role in making the garden of the world civilizations more colorful and vibrant.

The British historian Arnold J. Toynbee once predicted that if China can blaze a new path in its social and economic strategies, then it can prove its capacity to endow a gift on China and the world. Today, the CPC, together with the Chinese people it has been leading, has already presented the world with such a gift, that is, the development of the Chinese path to modernization, and the creation of the new model for human advancement.

The best inheritance of history is the creation of history, and the greatest tribute to humanity is the creation of a new model for human advancement. The CPC never stops on its course of advancing Chinese modernization and developing the new model for human advancement. It remains committed to its great cause of seeking happiness for the Chinese people, rejuvenation for the Chinese nation, progress for humanity, and harmony for the world.

Chapter 1

What Has Happened to the World: Common Challenges for Human Advancement

Humankind is in the midst of an era of major development as well as profound transformation and change. At the same time, humankind is also in an era of numerous challenges and growing risks. What has happened to the world and how should we respond? The whole world is reflecting on this question, and it is also very much on my mind.^①

——Xi Jinping

Civilization is the essential attribute of human society. The history of human society is very much one of evolution and exchanges of and among human civilizations. In the 21st Century, human civilization has arrived at a new crossroads: we have created booming economies, cutting-edge technologies, and splendid cultures, but at the same time we find ourselves vexed by challenges both old and new, and by complex problems clashing, overlapping, or intertwined with one another globally. Growing deficits of peace, development, security, and governance in this world are revealing themselves in a way that is never seen before. The world today is therefore undergoing a scale of change unseen in a century, and human society, therefore, is facing unprecedented challenges.

1.1 Growing Peace Deficit

Peace has always been the essential guarantee of humanity's existence and development, the lofty goal shared by the entire world, and a common cause pursued by all human beings. Ever since the Second World War was put to an end, human society has, in general, enjoyed peace for the past decades, but still the world peace is under accumulating threats as global challenges and risks emerge one after another, international relations show greater complexity, and major-country rivalries become ever fiercer. In the

^① http://en.qstheory.cn/2021-05/19/c_623968.htm

meantime, regional conflicts and local wars get increasingly intense, various global issues keeps mounting, and arms race continues to haunt the globe. All this has put global peace into grave peril.

1.1.1 Mounting Rivalries among Major Countries

Major countries assume major responsibilities for maintaining world peace, as major country relations matter much to the global strategic stability. On July 20, 2023, the UN Secretary-General António Guterres presented his Policy Brief on A New Agenda for Peace, in which he described today's world as "a world at a crossroads", warning that "the post-cold war period is over. A transition is under way to a new global order... There is greater competition among major powers and a loss of trust between the global North and South."^① The world today is witnessing profound shifts in the global power dynamics, and mounting competitions and conflicts are increasingly threatening the global community. We are already seeing clear signs of a weakened consensus of global cooperation that we have long held since the 1990s, and major country rivalries are much likely to get intense in the coming decades. Some of the countries, which falsely hold on to hegemony, power politics, and the Cold-war mentality, keep bullying and plundering other members of the world community. Such countries deliberately provoke conflicts in politics, security, economy, technology, and other domains, and they even bother to pool strength from their governments, societies, and global allies for their attempts to launch the so-called "superpower competition" with other countries. Faced with wars and conflicts, certain countries refuse to assume their due responsibility as peacemakers; instead, they pursue the so-called "absolute security" of their own, therefore casting the people of other countries into the abyss of pain caused by geopolitical conflicts, while staying out of everything and fishing for benefits. Some countries, in order to reach their certain purposes, constantly have the economic rules, tariffs, staple commodities trading, and other economic exchanges weaponized, and such growing mentality of weaponization is severely threatening the world peace. Even worse, strategic rivalries among major countries are showing the sign of extending into new domains like deep sea exploration, aerospace, polar exploration, and cyberspace, which contribute to even greater instability in the global situation.

1.1.2 Constant Regional Conflicts and Local Wars

The constant local conflicts and wars going on in many parts of the globe today have pushed the people—children in particular—of many countries into enormous sufferings, and maintaining world peace still remains a long and arduous task. The Ukraine Crisis has exposed and highlighted the fragility of peace in today's world, and especially in Asia; the recurrence of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict has brought a new round of complex reshuffling and violent swings to the landscape of geopolitical security in the

① https://unoau.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/n2319035_english.pdf

Middle East. According to The State of Global Peace and Security, a report released by the United Nations in 2022, in the past decade the world witnessed an increase in regional conflicts and local wars, widespread famine and epidemics, and intensifying clashes and confrontations. A research done by the Swedish university Uppsala found that within the year 2021, nearly half of the intrastate conflicts occurring in various countries and regions across the world were ultimately internationalized.^① Regional conflicts and local wars are seriously hampering the sustainable development of the global community. As is shown by the figures released by Peace Research Institute Oslo, within the year 2022 only, conflict-related deaths in the world reached a 28-year high, which caused disastrous consequences to the people and societies in all the countries involved.^② Statistics from Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) show that almost one fourth of the world population lived in conflict-stricken areas in 2022. Therefore, if the world fails to realize a significant reduction in conflicts, violence, and the proliferation of weapons, peace and development of the entire humanity will face even graver threats.

1.1.3 Intensifying Arms Races

Today, the situation of international security is becoming increasingly complex, with geographical competitions getting ever more intense. The process of international arms control and disarmament is suffering setbacks as the world is now facing intensifying arms races. People from all countries in the world yearn for peace and security, and the demand for cooperation therefore becomes increasingly urgent. According to a report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the global military spending surged to a record US\$2.44 trillion in 2023, rising 6.8% over the previous year, the largest year-on-year rise on weapons spending since 2009. Meanwhile, the global military spending continues to rise, showing significant increases particularly in Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. The United States remains on top of the list, with its military spending reaching US\$ 916 billion in 2023.^③ Sales of the U.S. military equipment in 2023 rose by 16% to a record US\$238 billion.^④ All this has greatly damaged the world peace and security.

1.2 Increasing Development Deficit

Development, which has always been the theme of human society, is the ultimate key to all kinds of global issues. Economic globalization in recent years has encountered

① Uppsala University, "Armed conflict by type, 1946 - 2021", Uppsala Conflict Data Programme database. Available at https://ucdp.uu.se/downloads/charts/graphs/png_22/armedconf_by_type.png.

② Peace Research Institute Oslo, "New figures show conflict-related deaths at 28-year high, largely due to Ethiopia and Ukraine wars", 7 June 2023.

③ https://www.sipri.org/sites/default/files/2024-04/2404_fs_milex_2023.pdf.

④ Mike Stone, "US Arms Exports Hit Record High in Fiscal 2023," Reuters, January 30, 2024, <https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/us-arms-exports-hit-record-high-fiscal-2023-2024-01-29/>.

"counter-currents", which, compounded by the lack of momentum for global economic growth and recovery, and the increasing deficit of global development, are contributing to even greater instabilities and uncertainties in the world economy.

1.2.1 Counter-Currents against Economic Globalization

In recent years, the resurgent trend against globalization, featured by unilateralism, protectionism, and hegemony, is posing greater threat to the development of the world economy. The world landscape today is undergoing profound changes in economy, technology, culture, and various other aspects. Trade protectionism keeps worsening, as some countries make rules that are favorable only for their own interests on bilateral or multilateral platforms, while adding into trade agreements terms that are unfavorable to other countries, in attempt to sabotage international cooperation. Some other countries show scarce interest in international cooperation, as they remain obviously inward-looking in immigration, investment, market supervision, social policies, and others. Even free trade and overseas investments are facing backlashes in some of such countries. More ridiculously, a small number of countries preach what is called a "de-risking strategy", pushing actions of "decoupling" and their so-called "small yard, high fence" approach, while advocating concepts like "on-shoring", "near-shoring", and "friend-shoring". Such ideas and actions are hampering the normal exchanges between countries in trade, investment, currency, and finance, therefore adding to the uncertainties in the global economy. Such resurgent trend against globalization, to a degree, is disturbing the order of fair competition on the global market, reducing the efficiency of global allocation of resources, and blocking the recovery and development of the world economy.

1.2.2 Weak Momentum for World Economy

In recent years, the world economy has been undergoing a sluggish recovery and a lack of momentum for growth. This is partly a result of certain periodical factors like the Covid-19 pandemic, high inflation, and rising debts; besides, it has much to do with a series of deep-seated problems like the weakened momentum of the existing technical pattern, increasingly intensifying competitions among various economic bodies, and growing "involution" found in economic development. In its report *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2024* released on January 4, 2024, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations predicted that "global GDP growth is projected to slow from an estimated 2.7 percent in 2023 to 2.4 percent in 2024. Growth is forecast to improve...but will remain below the pre-pandemic trend growth rate of 3.0 percent."^① The development dividends brought by the three scientific and technological revolutions in human history are running out, while prospects for the application of what comes from a new round of revolution remain uncertain. Inter-

① See "World Economic Situation and Prospects 2024", UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, January, 2024, <https://desapublications.un.org/publications/world-economic-situation-and-prospects-2024>.

est rates stay high in developed economies, international trade keeps slackening, and climate disasters are hitting more frequently. All this has brought tougher challenges to global development. According to the World Bank's newly-released report *Global Economic Prospects in June, 2024*, "Escalating geopolitical tensions could lead to volatile commodity prices...The persistence of inflation could lead to delays in monetary easing." The report further forecast that "by 2026, countries that are home to more than 80 percent of the world's population would still be growing more slowly, on average, than they were in the decade before COVID-19."^① In the meantime, the traditional development pattern is largely unsustainable, as an economic growth driven merely by factors of production like energy, raw materials, and labor has resulted in too much excess capacity and therefore the low efficiency of economic growth. The *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023: Special Edition* of the United Nations just painted a concerning picture: according to analyses, the world is falling short of reaching its targets, as it is indicated in the report that "of the approximately 140 targets that can be evaluated, half of them show moderate or severe deviations from the desired trajectory. Furthermore, more than 30 percent of these targets have experienced no progress or, even worse, regression below the 2015 baseline."^② Then *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024* of the United Nations again sounded the alarm: the world is starved of momentum for economic growth, and "only 17 percent (among the assessable targets) display progress sufficient for achievement by 2030."^③

1.2.3 Imbalance in Global Development

The global economy has been stuck in low gear, and gaps between rich and poor, and between the global North and South keep widening. In his book *The Fourth Industrial Revolution*, Klaus Schwab, founder and executive chairman of the World Economic Forum (WEF), expressed his grave concerns over the broad and deep impacts that would come along with the fourth industrial revolution. Such impacts, according to Schwab, include greater inequality, and particularly a wider gap between the return on capital (ROC) and the return on labor (ROL). For quite a number of households in the world today, basic guarantees for life like decent shelters, adequate food, and stable work are still far beyond their reach. This poses a huge challenge for the global community, and explains the ongoing social instability in some of the countries. While the sustainable growth of developing countries plays a crucial part in pushing global growth, most of the developing countries, however, have long remained on the margins of the global economy, sharply contrasted with the developed countries, which remain on the center stage with large superiority in both capital and technology. The *Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2023* launched by the United Nations Development Programme

① "Global Economic Prospects", World Bank Group, June 2024, <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/6feb9566-e973-4706-a4e1-b3b82a1a758d/content>.

② <https://desapublications.un.org/publications/sustainable-development-goals-report-2023-special-edition>.

③ "2024 SDG Report: Global Progress Alarmingly Insufficient", 28 June, 2024, <https://unsdg.un.org/latest/stories/2024-sdg-report-global-progress-alarmingly-insufficient>.

(UNDP) found that "1.1 billion people remain poor" within the year, after it compiled data "from 110 developing countries covering 6.1 billion people."^① Many of the developing countries, particularly those in East and West Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean Region, are afflicted by problems like tightening financial conditions, shrinking fiscal space, and slackening external demand; besides, they are facing a dim prospect of short-term growth. It is true that emerging and developing economies are making increasing contribution to the global economic growth, but we have to nevertheless face the fact that the system of global economic governance still fails to fully protect the rights or effectively respond to the appeals of and from the global South. Such failure undermines the positive effects that could have been produced by multilateralism, blocks possible deeper cooperation between the global North and South, and makes it difficult for the entire world community to share or benefit from the achievements made along the advancement of human society.

1.3. Widening Security Deficit

Security is the basic requirement for human existence and advancement, and it is also the very foundation and precondition for global modernization. Security has much bearing on the well-being of people in all countries, on the noble cause of world peace and development, and on the future of humanity. Today's global security landscape, however, is undergoing profound and complex changes, as different security threats interweave and reverberate with one another, and various security crises continue vexing the world. Humanity is facing a widening security deficit.

1.3.1 Grave Threats from Hegemony

The world today is undergoing increasingly rapid changes, with multiple challenges compounded by various crises. Certain countries, driven by the Cold War mentality, are constantly hyping up geo-threats. They take certain values and ideologies as a means of exerting pressure on others and pushing forward with their geographic strategies. In the meantime, they constantly instigate confrontation among different ideologies and political camps, attempting to provoke value conflicts. False beliefs such as "cultural superiority" and "culture clashes" are resurfacing, which makes it difficult for countries to reach consensus in their security efforts, and thereby results in a severe lack of concerted actions within the global community against security challenges. Some countries adopt a rather pragmatic approach to international rules, as they choose to only abide by the rules that are favorable for their own interests, while turning a blind eye to or even violating those that they think unfavorable. They even put their own laws above the international law, as they constantly launch unilateral sanctions, impose maximum pressure, and even exercise the so-called "long-arm jurisdiction" on other countries.

^①"2023 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)", United Nations Development Programme, July 11, 2023, <https://www.undp.org/india/global-multidimensional-poverty-index-mpi-2023>.

Such actions terribly damage the interests of other members of the world community, severely hindering their efforts for economic development and greater well-being of the people. Such actions, in every respect, is seriously impairing the multilateral international order that is based on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. "The law of human coexistence should not be the law of jungle, policy of peace is diametrically opposed to the militant and hegemonic power politics, and the way to development rejects the zero-sum game and principle of 'winner takes all'."^① Any interference, impediment, or action of bullying by certain countries upon others are undermining the fundamental principle of sovereign equality. They pose a grave threat to the global security system and force the world to face an even tougher security dilemma.

1.3.2 Compound Impact of Traditional and Non-Traditional Security Threats

In a time of globalization, security issues are found increasingly interwoven with one another, and meanwhile, they show greater variety, and are increasingly going beyond borders. The global security deficit thus adopts a content that shows greater complexity and changeability, covers an even larger number of domains of global society, and affects more areas with longer-term effects. Energy, food, and debt crises keep haunting the globe, while non-traditional security threats, like terrorism, cyber attack, transnational crime, and bio-security issues, are posing greater challenges to the world community. According to The Global Report on Food Crises issued by the Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC) in April, 2024, almost 282 million people in 59 countries or territories "faced high levels of acute food insecurity" in 2023, an increase of 24 million people as compared to the previous year.^② The world is now witnessing a shockingly rapid surge in the number of people who face severe food insecurity and are direly in need of food aid or livelihood support. In the meantime, the escalating crisis in Ukraine has led to harsher sanctions on Russian oil and natural gas exports, which has resulted in the prolonged supply shortage of natural gas in the world. Even worse, as investment in fossil energy slackens and application of renewable energies increases, the global energy supply is expecting greater instability, and even frequent occurrence of minor energy crises. The ongoing energy and food crises have forced the global economy to face an increasingly likely recession. The growing economic crises have led to rising public anger towards governments and societies, which gives an open door to populists and extremists. A series of actions with the means of new technologies, like beeper explosions and unmanned aerial vehicle attacks, begin to threaten regional peace and stability, and have caused quite a stir in the world. The growing interplay of various traditional and non-traditional security issues, together with the combined effects they pro-

① Xi Jinping. "Remember History, Open up the Future." *People's Daily*, Chinese edition, May 8, 2015.

② "Global Report on Food Crises-2024", Global Network Against Food Crises, April 4, 2024, <https://www.fsinplatform.org/report/global-report-food-crises-2024/#introduction>.

duce, puts global security and stability under severe threat and hugely affects international relations.

1.3.3 Rampant Terrorism and Extremism

Terrorism is the common enemy of humanity, and a huge threat to global peace and security. Through joint efforts by countries, the international cooperation against terrorism has achieved remarkable success, as al-Qaeda and many other well-established terrorist organizations have become less active after taking hard hits. However, today's world is undergoing increasing geopolitical conflicts and bloc confrontations, and the development of terrorism against such a background shows a number of new trends, for example, the proliferation of major terrorist attacks related to race or religion, and increasing cases of individual radicalization and lone-wolf terrorism. Terrorism remains a high risk for the world community. According to Global Terrorism Index 2023, the 10th edition of the annual report by the Australia-based Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), "sub-Saharan Africa, MENA and South Asia...are the most impacted by terrorism," and "Afghanistan remained the country with the highest impact from terrorism for the fourth year". The Report also indicates that Pakistan suffered from frequent massive terrorist attacks, and wars in Syria, Iraq, and Yemen had again reduced these countries to centers of terrorist activities. However, the accurate number of deaths (civilian deaths included) from terrorism remains unclear till today. Another aspect deserving our concern is that a number of cutting-edge technologies, like artificial intelligence, nanotechnology, quantum technology, and genetic engineering, are becoming increasingly mature and widely applied, which means an imminent transformation to the ways wars are fought. There is a high possibility that terrorist organizations possess new weapons that are more lightweight or highly mechanized, and terrorists will very likely take advantage of online social platforms, encrypted communication, virtual currency, artificial intelligence, and other emerging technologies in their terrorist attempts. Under such complex impacts, the global community still faces a long and arduous journey in its fight against terrorism.

1.4 Rising Governance Deficit

Global governance bears on where a country stands within the international order and what role it plays in the global system. More importantly, it is much required by humanity for effective responses against global challenges. Across the globe, flash-points keep emerging. Non-conventional security threats, such as climate change, cybersecurity, and the refugee crisis, are spreading. Protectionism and unilateralism are mounting. The global governance system and the multilateral system are under assault. "The global community generally believes that the institutional reform in global governance is now at a historical turning point."^①

^① Xi Jinping. *On Building a Global Community of Shared Future*, Chinese edition, Beijing: China Compilation and Translation Press, 2018.

1.4.1 A System that Needs Improving

The pattern of global governance depends on the international balance of power, and the transformation of the global governance system originates from changes in the balance of power. The rapid development of emerging markets and developing countries, together with their increasing global influence, mark the most revolutionary change ever seen in the international balance of power over recent years. The deepening economic globalization is turning the world into a close-knit village where the interests and future of all countries are tightly interlinked. Countries have extensive converging interests and are mutually dependent, and a community of shared interests is thus formed. With constant changes in the international balance of power and the increase in global challenges, however, the long existing problems in global governance are becoming more serious. Dominated by Western powers, the current international order and system are much out of step with the times, as they cannot adequately represent the various existing governance models, and are far less inclusive. Such order and system are actually going the opposite direction from an international order of justice and equity, and are at the same time out of line with the profound changes taking place in today's international balance of power. Today, with a rising awareness of sticking together for mutual support, large numbers of developing countries show strong wills to join a new mechanism for global governance featured by independence, and thereby a mechanism free from the Western dominance is gaining strength. Despite such progress, we still have to see that the current system of global governance is running increasingly out of step with the times, and even worse, it fails from time to time to tackle many of the global issues. Therefore, it is the urgent call of the times that we reform global governance and create a better system.

1.4.2 An Approach that Needs Reforming

Today's world still sees clashes of views with regards to the approaches of global governance, and different governing bodies often interpret the same concept in different ways. Such conflicts are seriously hindering the development of global governance. Certain countries even turn blind eyes to the trend of global development, as they place their own interests above those of humanity, and constantly form exclusive groups, factions, and so-called alliances. Facing other members of the world community, they drift apart rather than sticking together, and erect walls rather than tearing them down, attempting to create separation and even isolation. In a world amid major development and changes today, such approaches seriously undermine the effectiveness of the global sharing mechanism, and badly hamper the exploration for new forms of global cooperation. More terribly, they are hindering human advancement, sabotaging world peace, and harming the common interests of humanity. Therefore, we should follow the trend of global development and update the approaches of global governance; we should put the common good of humanity first, conduct extensive consultations, and build exten-

sive consensus, so that global governance shall head back onto a right track featured by greater equity and justice.

1.4.3 Practices in Emerging Areas that Need Updating

Global governance in today's world is facing multiple crises: crises of energy, food, and debt keep worsening, global climate governance requires urgent efforts, and transformation towards a greener world remains a long and arduous task. Taking environmental governance as an example, a worrying number of challenges of the recent years, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, growing desertification, and increased frequency of extreme weather, have all posed grave threats to human existence and advancement. Some of the developed countries, however, are contributing to even greater ecological risks by taking a beggar-thy-neighbor approach in seeking their own development, as they shift risks onto others while excessively exploiting resources from developing countries.^① Meanwhile, these countries always put their own interests above those of the others, and simply ignore the shared interests of the global society, as they remain inactive in fulfilling emission reduction commitments and offering financial or technological aids, while escaping their due environmental responsibilities commensurate with their economic strength. Besides, the growing ecological deficit in the world today is also a result of the constant attempts from certain countries to have climate issues politicized and exploited for certain purposes. The Global Risks Report 2022 issued by the World Economic Forum (WEF) sees "the impacts from 'climate action failure' as top risks" of that year.^② With a new round of technological revolution well underway, various emerging areas, like nuclear security, the Internet, artificial intelligence, genetic engineering, deep sea and polar explorations, and aerospace, have become areas with absolute lack of jurisdiction. Besides, some of the areas marking the frontiers of science and technology still face severe problems and risks, like ethics controversies, private information leakage, and data insecurity. Technological progress has, to a degree, transformed into a double-edged sword, boosting efficiency while intensifying risks, giving rise to fresh inequalities, and widening digital divides. While the world is eagerly awaiting a governance system that can provide effective solutions to multiple risks, the rule-making process for emerging areas is still largely dominated and manipulated by a small number of countries. As competition for technological superiority intensifies, related topics tend to get increasingly politicized or ideologized, which results in even greater complexity in global governance.

Humanity is now living in a world of profound complexity, constant changes, and mounting challenges. Where is humanity headed? —This is a question facing the entire global community. To this question, China has already offered its own answers through its concrete actions and endeavors.

① Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), "Summary for Policymakers" in *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*, Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2022, p.8.

② World Economic Forum, *Global Risks Report 2022*, pp. 23-56.

Chapter 2

How Should We Respond: Chinese Modernization as a New Model for Human Advancement

As we have upheld and developed socialism with Chinese characteristics and driven coordinated progress in material, political, cultural–ethical, social, and ecological terms, we have pioneered a new and uniquely Chinese path to modernization, and created a new model for human advancement.^①

——Xi Jinping

Modernization is a common pursuit of people around the globe, and its key lies in finding a development path that is consistent with the national conditions and the rules for the development of human society. Over the past 100 years and more, the CPC has led the Chinese people in relentless and unremitting efforts to achieve Chinese modernization. At present, amidst the changes unseen in a century, the CPC is leading the people in realizing coordinated material, political, cultural-ethical, social, and ecological progress. It has thus created a new and distinctively Chinese path to modernization, presenting a new chapter of human advancement and contributing Chinese plans and strength to addressing governance deficit, security deficit, peace deficit, and development deficit, and to pioneering a bright future for world peace and development as well as human civilization and progress.

2.1 Material Abundance

2.1.1 Chinese Miracle of Rapid Economic Growth

Economic development serves as the material foundation for modernization. Since the early years after the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC), despite its own difficulties in rebuilding, China has established a vibrant socialist market economy through 75 years of exploration and innovation, unleashing the full potential of labor,

^① <https://language.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202107/02/WS60de676ca310efa1bd65f4fe.html>

knowledge, technology, management, and capital, and allowing all sources of social wealth creation to flow freely, thereby creating a miracle of rapid economic growth rarely seen elsewhere in the world. In 1952, China's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was only RMB67.9 billion, which increased to RMB367.9 billion in 1978. Since the launch of reform and opening up in 1978, China's economic aggregate has consistently reached significant milestones, surpassing RMB1 trillion in 1986, RMB10 trillion in 2000, and RMB20 trillion in 2006. Thereafter it consistently surpassed the RMB10 trillion threshold every one to two years, reaching over RMB100 trillion in 2020 and exceeding RMB126 trillion in 2023. This firmly established China as the world's second largest economy. In 2023, China's GDP was 224 times that of the 1952 figure in terms of constant prices, with an average annual growth rate of 7.9 percent. Over the past 75 years, China's economic structure has undergone continual adjustment and improvement, significantly enhancing the comprehensiveness, coordination, and sustainability of its development. The industrial structure has transformed from being agriculture-dominated to a coordinated development of the three major industries, with the added value of the primary, secondary, and tertiary industries accounting for 7.1 percent, 38.3 percent, and 54.6 percent of GDP in 2023, compared to 50.5 percent, 20.8 percent, and 28.7 percent in 1952, respectively. Additionally, the annual grain output has remained steady at over 650 million metric tons for nine consecutive years.^① In just a few decades, China has accomplished the industrialization process that took hundreds of years for Western developed countries, establishing a comprehensive, independent, and complete modern industrial system. For 14 consecutive years, China has ranked first in the world in terms of the value-added of the manufacturing sector. Since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, China has experienced a historic leap in its economic strength, overall national strength, and international standing, becoming the world's largest industrialized country, the largest trader of goods, and the largest holder of foreign exchange reserves. From 2013 to 2023, China's contribution to global economic growth exceeded 30 percent on average, establishing itself as the biggest engine driving this global growth. Today, China is advancing towards sustained and healthy economic development with even greater resolve.

2.1.2 Substantial Progress in Common Prosperity

Common prosperity for all is a key feature of Chinese modernization. China insists on fairly dividing the "pie" of the global economy on the basis of making it bigger, with a focus on addressing income gaps, as well as disparities between urban and rural areas and among different regions. The growth of personal income in China has been generally in step with economic development. The national per capita disposable income rose from less than RMB50 in 1949 to RMB39,218 in 2023, while the per capita GDP exceeded \$12,000, which was higher than the global average. Since the 18th

^① "Witnessing 75 Years of Great Achievements with Data," *People's Daily*, Chinese edition, September 29, 2024.

CPC National Congress in 2012, China has continually improved its income distribution system, and built an institutional framework under which primary distribution, redistribution, and tertiary distribution are well coordinated and mutually complementary, with a focus on increasing the share of personal income in national income distribution. Furthermore, the roles of taxation, social security, and transfer payments in regulating income distribution have been strengthened, thereby establishing China as the country with the world's largest middle-income group. China has made significant strides in narrowing the gap between its eastern and western regions by implementing poverty relief collaboration. This involves the paired assistance between nine eastern provinces and 14 eastern cities that provide assistance to 14 central and western provinces, regions, and cities. Support from other areas of China has also been directed towards promoting the social and economic development of Xizang and Xinjiang. Furthermore, 343 economically developed counties (county-level cities and districts) in the east have launched the "Working Together for a Moderately Prosperous Society" initiative, collaborating with 573 impoverished counties in the central and western regions. China has actively promoted income growth among low-income groups and mobilized national efforts to implement poverty alleviation initiatives. By the end of 2020, China had achieved a complete victory in the battle against poverty. All of the 98.99 million rural poor, as well as the 832 counties and 128,000 villages classified as poor, had emerged from poverty.^① Through poverty alleviation, there has been a substantial improvement in the incomes and welfare of the poor, and the goal of "The Two Assurances and Three Guarantees" (i.e. assurances of adequate food and clothing, and guarantees of access to compulsory education, basic medical services and safe housing for impoverished rural residents) has been fully achieved. China has fulfilled the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects, created a remarkable chapter of poverty alleviation in the history of humanity and made substantial progress towards promoting common prosperity for all its people.

2.1.3 Accelerated Development of New Quality Productive Forces

Cultivating and developing new quality productive forces is essential for promoting high-quality development and achieving Chinese modernization. The establishment and development of new quality productive forces will provide significant support for China to adapt to the trends of the latest round of technological revolution and industrial transformation, achieve a sustainable and transformative leap forward in the productive forces, promote Chinese modernization through high-quality development, and build China into a great modern socialist country in all respects. Since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, China has actively sought to optimize and upgrade traditional industries, focusing especially on such key sectors as petrochemicals, chemicals, steel, non-

^① *Selected Works of Xi Jinping*, Volume II, Chinese edition, Beijing: People's Publishing House, 2023, p. 429.

ferrous metals, building materials, machinery, automobiles, light industry, textiles, and electronics. By making traditional industries higher-end, smarter, and more eco-friendly, China has accelerated the upgrading of industrial structures, innovation in technological research, and optimization of development models. To date, the penetration rate of digital R&D and design tools in key industrial enterprises has reached 80.1 percent, while the digitization rate of key industrial processes stands at 62.9 percent. A total of 421 national-level smart manufacturing demonstration factories and over 10,000 provincial-level digital workshops and smart factories have been developed. Technologies such as artificial intelligence and digital twins have been applied in more than 90 percent of these demonstration factories. China has also focused on fostering emerging industrial ecosystems, with new growth points continuously arising from sectors such as next-generation information technology, artificial intelligence, new energy, new materials, and high-end equipment. China's 5G technology plays a crucial role in supporting the communications and mobile Internet across many countries. In 2023, China accounted for over 60 percent of global electric vehicle output and sales, ranking first in the world for nine consecutive years. China is strategically positioning itself for the development of future industries, with various regions competing to invest based on their technological and industrial foundations. Beijing, Shanghai, Zhejiang, and Shenzhen in Guangdong province have released development plans, action strategies, implementation schemes, and supporting policies for future industries, prioritizing forward-looking strategies for their development. With the systematic implementation of a range of mature, practical, and accessible reform measures, new quality productive forces characterized by high technology, high efficiency, and high quality will surely grow faster, and thus provide fresh impetus for high-quality development.

2.2 Political Integrity

2.2.1 Leadership Core of the CPC

Chinese modernization is a form of socialist modernization led by the CPC. Achieving this goal in a country like China, which has weak foundations and a huge population, would be impossible without a strong leadership core that provides unified direction. Since its founding, the CPC has remained true to its original aspiration and founding mission of striving for the people's well-being and the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. It has been steadfastly moving forward to foster steady and continued progress in Chinese modernization. Since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, the Party has displayed remarkable political courage in leading comprehensive deepening reforms, achieving historic changes, systematic reshaping, and holistic restructuring across various fields. The modernization of China's national governance system and governance capacity has infused Chinese modernization with inexhaustible momentum. As the governing party, the CPC has always adhered to its fundamental purpose of serving the

people wholeheartedly, maintaining a close connection with the people, and earning their genuine support and endorsement. A report released by Edelman, the world's largest public relations consulting firm, indicated that trust in the government among the Chinese people reached 91 percent in 2021, ranking first globally for several consecutive years. By the end of 2023, the CPC had a total of 99.185 million members and 5.176 million grassroots organizations. The CPC's ability to lead politically, to guide through theory, to organize the people, and to inspire society enable it to unite the Chinese people and harness the immense strength of advancing Chinese modernization.

2.2.2 Whole-Process People's Democracy

China has developed a whole-process people's democracy to ensure that the people are the true masters of the country. This model integrates procedural democracy with substantive democracy and combines direct democracy with indirect democracy. It unifies people's democracy with the will of the nation, making it democratic at every stage, in all dimensions, and across all areas. It is democracy in its broadest, most genuine, and most effective form. The Constitution of the People's Republic of China stipulates that all power in the PRC belongs to the people. The people manage state affairs, economic and cultural initiatives, and social matters through various channels and in multiple forms in accordance with the law. In China, citizens of all ethnic groups, professions, genders, and property statuses are eligible to be elected as NPC (National People's Congress) deputies. During the NPC and CPPCC (Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference) sessions in 2024, nearly 5,000 NPC deputies and CPPCC National Committee members gathered in Beijing to discuss national affairs, with frontline workers and farmers accounting for 16.69 percent of the NPC deputies. As of April 2024, the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee had solicited public suggestions on 183 legal drafts through local legislative outreach offices, and received nearly 27,900 pieces of feedback.^① In Wenling, eastern China's Zhejiang province, the "democratic talk" mechanism has been in operation for 25 years, integrating consultative democracy at the primary level with the NPC's budget review and supervision system to achieve full-scale review, full-spectrum participation, and whole-process supervision of the budget. Over the past two years, through the "participatory budgeting" initiative, the local government has gathered 193 pieces of public suggestions and adjusted budget allocations totaling RMB 95.43 million. Carlos Martinez, a British writer and political commentator, observed that China's whole-process people's democracy ensures that the people always enjoy democratic rights, not just during elections.

2.2.3 Law-Based Governance on All Fronts

Law-based governance on all fronts is an inherent requirement and essential guaran-

^①"Local Legislative Outreach Offices of the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee Have Collected Nearly 27,900 Pieces of Public Suggestions," Xinhua News Agency, Chinese edition, http://www.npc.gov.cn/c2/c30834/202405/t20240531_437289.html.

tee for Chinese modernization. China adheres to the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the field of law, promotes scientific legislation, strict law enforcement, impartial administration of justice, and law-abiding behavior among all citizens, and advances the rule of law in all aspects of national work, establishing a sound legal order. China upholds the principle of governing the country and exercising state power according to the Constitution, and firmly protects the authority and dignity of the Constitution while leveraging its critical role in governance. Legislation in key, emerging, and foreign-related areas has been strengthened, leading to the continuous improvement of the socialist legal system with Chinese characteristics. On May 28, 2020, the Civil Code of the People's Republic of China—the first Chinese law carrying the word "code" in its title in the country's history—was passed. Comprising seven books and 1,260 articles, the Civil Code serves as the fundamental law of the market economy and an "encyclopedia of social life", providing comprehensive protection for citizens' civil rights. Currently, China has over 300 laws in force.

China steadily advances law-based government administration according to the law in an effort to build a law-based government in an all-round way. The Outline for Building a Law-Based Government (2021 - 2025), issued in August 2021, outlines a clear roadmap and blueprint for comprehensively advancing the construction of a law-based government during the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025). China is committed to rigorous and impartial justice in a bid to safeguard social fairness and justice. It enhances law enforcement and judicial supervision to ensure that the power entrusted by the people is exercised correctly in accordance with the law and that the legitimate rights and interests of the people are protected. China is stepping up efforts to establish the rule of law throughout society and has developed a public legal service system that is convenient, efficient, equitable, and inclusive, serving both urban and rural areas. As of early September 2024, there were 754,000 legal service institutions and 3.997 million professional legal service personnel nationwide; 590,000 public legal service entities were established across the country, with over 600,000 villages (communities) equipped with legal advisors. In China, the promotion of legal awareness and compliance among all citizens is regarded as a long-term foundational task for law-based governance. To achieve this, China strives to strengthen public education on the rule of law, particularly by incorporating legal education into the national education system, thereby fostering a growing awareness of the rule of law throughout society.

2.3 Cultural–Ethical Enrichment

2.3.1 Marxism as Theoretical Guidance

A great cause calls for a sound theoretical guidance. Marxism has profoundly transformed not only the world but also China, serving as a powerful tool in guiding China's revolution, reconstruction, and reform. Over the past 100 years and more, the CPC has

adhered to adapting the basic tenets of Marxism to China's specific realities and its fine traditional culture. Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory, the Theory of Three Represents, the Scientific Outlook on Development, and Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era are the crystallizations of this endeavor. These theories have guided the cause of Chinese modernization to break new ground, and the Chinese nation has achieved the great transformation from standing up and growing prosperous to becoming strong. Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era is the Marxism of contemporary China and in the 21st century. It embodies the essence of the times of Chinese culture and Chinese spirit, marking new advances in adapting Marxism to the Chinese context and the needs of the times, thus providing fundamental guidance for Chinese modernization. Since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, the Party has made new breakthroughs in theoretical innovation, deepening its understanding of the connotations and essence of Chinese modernization. It has summarized the distinctive features, essential requirements, and major principles of Chinese modernization. As a result, a preliminary theoretical framework has been established, which offers clearer goals, better-conceived ways of thinking, and more tangible and feasible steps for Chinese modernization.

2.3.2 Civility Throughout Society

A hallmark that distinguishes a modern country is civility. It is an important aspect of building a strong socialist culture in China and a fundamental requirement for advancing Chinese modernization by raising the intellectual and moral standards of the people. China is dedicated to developing a sound and people-oriented socialist culture that embraces modernization, the world, and the future. Guided by core socialist values, China strives to develop advanced socialist culture, promote revolutionary culture, and carry forward fine traditional Chinese culture. In doing so, it will be well-placed to meet people's ever-growing intellectual and cultural needs, consolidate a common intellectual foundation for the whole Party and all Chinese people to strive in unity, and continuously grow China's cultural soft power and the appeal of Chinese culture. Since the beginning of the new era, China has implemented extensive initiatives to foster and practice core socialist values, strengthen the intellectual and moral standards of its citizens, and enrich people's intellectual and cultural lives, leading to a significant enhancement of civility throughout society.

Core values serve as the spiritual bond that sustains a nation. China actively fosters and practices core socialist values, with "prosperity, democracy, civilization, harmony, freedom, equality, justice, rule of law, patriotism, dedication, integrity, and friendship" as their basic content. These values help cultivate a sense of propriety and the concepts of honor and disgrace among all citizens. China is committed to strengthening the intellectual and moral standards of its citizens. It has launched a civic morality campaign to raise public ethical standards while enhancing work ethics, family virtues, and personal integrity. Additionally, it is dedicated to enhancing the intellectual and moral develop-

ment of minors, guiding them to distinguish right from wrong, good from evil, moral from immoral, public from private, and shared interest from self-interest.

China carries out intensive activities to promote cultural and ethical advancement, primarily through encouraging civility cities, civility towns or villages, civility units, civility families, and civility campuses. With various exemplary models of cultural and ethical advancement, it has created a dynamic atmosphere where all localities and government departments compete to advance cultural and ethical progress. The people are inspired to emulate role models and improve their moral standards, and the whole society respects virtues and good deeds to raise the level of civility. Currently, 307 cities, 6,690 towns and villages, and 11,582 units have been awarded the titles of "National Civility City," "National Civility Town or Village," and "National Civility Unit" respectively.

2.3.3 Flourishing Culture and Related Industries

To meet the growing material and cultural needs of the people and to promote their well-rounded development, a vibrant culture and thriving related industries are essential. China attaches great importance to the development of cultural programs, steadily enriching the intellectual and cultural life of the people. Since the beginning of the new era, it has accelerated the construction of public cultural facilities and cultural projects for the public, vigorously promoted the creation of high-quality literary and artistic works, and worked actively to ensure the full integration of culture and tourism. As a result, cultural programs and industries have experienced vigorous development, igniting the cultural creativity of the entire nation. As of 2023, there were 3,246 public libraries and 6,833 museums nationwide, 59 times and 325 times the numbers in 1949 respectively; Throughout the year, a total of 11.9 billion copies of books were published. Currently, all public libraries, cultural centers, art galleries, comprehensive cultural stations, and over 90 percent of museums are open to the public free of charge. In terms of cultural heritage protection, China has 1,557 items included in the Representative List of National Intangible Cultural Heritage, with 43 items inscribed on the Intangible Cultural Heritage List of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), ranking first in the world.

Significant breakthroughs have also been made in the cultural industries. In 2004, the added value of the national cultural and related industries amounted to RMB344 billion, which surged to RMB5,378.2 billion in 2022, marking a 14.6-fold increase; the contribution of the added value of these industries to GDP rose from 2.13 percent in 2004 to 4.46 percent in 2022. Additionally, the total import and export volume of cultural products grew from USD88.8 billion in 2012 to USD162.2 billion in 2023. In 2023, the total output value of China's media industry reached RMB3,151.823 billion, exceeding RMB3 trillion for the first time, with a year-on-year increase of 8.38 percent; the overall economic scale of the national performance market also reached a record high of RMB73.994 billion; the total production of Chinese films was 971, and the box office revenue of the national film market totaled RMB54.915 billion,

with 1.299 billion tickets for urban cinemas; moreover, enterprises above designated size in the cultural and related industries nationwide achieved an operating revenue of nearly RMB13 trillion, marking an 8.2 percent year-on-year increase; and the total import and export volume of China's cultural products amounted to USD166.363 billion.

2.4 Social Stability

2.4.1 All-round Improvement in People's Lives

Chinese modernization places a strong emphasis on the well-being of its people. The CPC takes the people's aspirations for a better life as its goal to ensure that the gains of modernization benefit all the people fairly. Since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, significant measures have been implemented in such areas as income distribution, employment, education, social security, healthcare, and housing, leading to profound changes in people's lives and a continuous increase in their sense of gain, happiness, and security. As employment is the most basic component of the people's well-being, China makes concerted efforts to address the unemployment problem. The employment-first strategy has been integrated into all aspects of economic development, expanding employment opportunities and maintaining stable employment conditions. As a result, a relatively high level of employment has been achieved in this large country with over 1.4 billion people.^① Education is vital to the interests of every household and essential for the healthy growth of every child. China continuously improves the inclusiveness, accessibility, and convenience of its educational public services, establishing the largest education system in the world and vigorously promoting the construction of a strong educational system. In 2023, China's gross enrolment ratio for preschool education reached 91.1 percent, and higher education became more universal with a gross enrolment ratio of 60.2 percent. China has established the world's largest social security system, which includes basic old-age insurance, basic medical insurance, work-related injury insurance, unemployment insurance, maternity insurance, social assistance, and housing security. By 2023, basic old-age insurance, basic medical insurance, work-related injury insurance, and unemployment insurance had covered 1.07 billion, 1.33 billion, 300 million, and 240 million people respectively.^② Additionally, the average life expectancy in China has increased significantly, rising from 35 in the early 1950s to 78.6 in 2023.

2.4.2 Long-term Stability in Society

Throughout the process of global modernization, a country's transition from a traditional society to a modern one often involves profound changes in social structure, rela-

^①"China's Efforts to Improve People's Wellbeing"—A Review of Achievements over the Past 75 Years Since the Founding of the People's Republic of China", Xinhua.net, Chinese edition.

^②"Bringing More Sense of Gain to the People Through Reform—Stories of Reform in the Field of People's Livelihood in the New Era," Xinhuanet, Chinese edition.

tions and psychology. It is a globally universal challenge to balance vitality and order while promoting social development and maintaining stability. For a country like China, which has a vast territory and a large population, it has been particularly arduous and challenging to complete the industrialization process that developed countries have gone through in hundreds of years within just a few decades. During this process, China has faced the growing pains of transformation, navigated intricate relationships across various sectors, and maintained long-term social stability amidst rapid development. Over the past few decades, China has achieved political stability, effectively addressed social contradictions, rapidly improved public security, and ensured the safety of its people.

Since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, the Party has prioritized building a safe China within the context of Chinese modernization, focusing on long-term national stability and prosperity, as well as the well-being of its people. Efforts have been made to ensure people's employment, security, well-being, and ease of mind, maintaining a long-term stable and orderly social environment. China is committed to enhancing its national theories and policies centered on the equality, unity, regional autonomy, and common prosperity of all ethnic groups. This has led to the establishment of a new type of socialist ethnic relationship characterized by equality, unity, mutual assistance, and harmony. Currently, ethnic relations in China are harmonious and stable, with the 56 ethnic groups united as one family, and a strong sense of community among the Chinese nation has thus been fostered. The Chinese people of all ethnic groups remain closely united like the seeds of a pomegranate that stick together. China boasts sound public security, ranking among the countries with the lowest homicide rates, lowest crime rates, and fewest incidents involving firearms and explosives. In 2023, the homicide rate was just 0.46 per 100,000 people. Today, China is widely recognized by the international community as one of the safest countries in the world, and safety has become a prominent feature of its national image.

2.4.3 Continued Betterment of Social Governance

With the progress of society and the evolving demands of the times, people's expectations for democracy, the rule of law, fairness, justice, security, and the environment have grown increasingly. This shift has led to new expectations for maintaining justice, protecting rights, ensuring security, and providing services, as well as new and higher requirements for the capacity and level of social governance. Since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, the Party has strengthened its leadership in social governance, promoting the establishment and enhancement of a robust organizational leadership system, a comprehensive system of regulations, and an integrated and coordinated working mechanism. This has contributed to a social governance system characterized by the leadership of the Party committee, governmental responsibility, support from mass organizations, social coordination, and public participation. It embodies a governance model of collaboration, participation, and benefit sharing. China upholds the principle that everyone has responsibilities, fulfills their duties, and shares the benefits. It has improved its

urban and rural grassroots governance system, which combines self-governance, the rule of law, and the rule of virtue. Concerted efforts have been made to shift the focus of social governance to the grassroots level. China has enhanced its capacity to prevent and resolve social conflicts and disputes, upholding and developing "the Fengqiao model" in the new era. This approach prioritizes prevention, mediation, adherence to the rule of law, and grassroots engagement to ensure that "minor problems are settled in the villages, and major ones in the towns, with no submission to the higher authorities". Furthermore, China has strengthened the construction of grassroots organizations. As of January 2023, political and legal commissioners had been appointed in basically all townships and sub-districts, and more than 583,000 comprehensive governance centers have been established at various levels, with a total of 4.5 million grid workers, achieving a near-complete coverage of grid service management.^① China has also improved its system for handling public complaints, promoting law-based handling procedures, and implementing the Regulations on Handling Public Complaints to ensure that every concern of the people is attended to and addressed in accordance with the law.

2.5 Pleasant Ecology

2.5.1 A Green Development Path

Chinese modernization prioritizes harmonious coexistence between humanity and nature. Through sustained efforts, China has achieved remarkable results in green development. Since the 18th CPC National Congress, China has maintained an average annual economic growth rate exceeding 6 percent, supported by a modest 3 percent increase in energy consumption per year. The energy consumption per unit of GDP has declined by 26.8 percent, positioning China as one of the countries with the fastest reductions in energy intensity. The share of coal in China's energy consumption has dropped to 55.3 percent, while the share of non-fossil energy consumption has increased to 17.7 percent. The installed capacity of renewable energy now accounts for approximately 52.9 percent of the country's total installed power generation capacity, surpassing that of thermal power. China also leads the world in installed capacities for hydro power, wind power, solar power, and biomass power generation. It has established a zoning system for environmental management, outlining more than 40,000 control units within this framework. The country has built the world's largest clean coal power supply and clean steel production system, reducing the number of coal-fired boilers and industrial furnaces from nearly 500,000 to less than 100,000. Approximately 1.03 billion kilowatts of coal-fired power units and 420 million metric tons of crude steel production capacity have been retrofitted to achieve ultra-low emissions. As the largest carbon market around the globe, China has successfully concluded its second compliance cycle of

^① Chen Yixin: "Improving the Social Governance System," *People's Daily*, Chinese edition, January 11, 2023.

the National Carbon Emission Trading System (ETS), achieving a compliance rate of over 99 percent. This system includes a total of 2,257 key emitting entities within the power generation industry, covering over 5 billion metric tons of annual carbon dioxide emissions. The Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the CPC held in July 2024 reiterated the significance of "accelerating the comprehensive green transformation of economic and social development" and outlined a blueprint for promoting the mechanism for green and low-carbon development. In October 2024, with a focus on creating a green, low-carbon, and circular economic system, China established the China Resources Recycling Group Co., Ltd., aiming to build a functional platform for resource recycling and reuse across the nation. By so doing, the quality of the national economic circulation can be continuously enhanced.

2.5.2 A Beautiful Environment

Adhering to the idea that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets, China protects the environment as one protects his eyes and cherishes it as one cherishes his own life to ensure stronger ecological conservation and environmental protection across the board, in all regions, and at all times. Significant strides have been made in building a Beautiful China with notable improvement in environment. In 2023, the proportion of surface water with fairly good quality reached 89.4 percent, with black and odorous water bodies in cities at prefecture-level and above basically eliminated; the average concentration of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) in these cities stood at 30 micrograms per cubic meter, rendering blue skies and white clouds a regular occurrence, and this marked China as the nation with the swiftest improvement in air quality worldwide. By 2021, China had undertaken sand prevention and control measures across a total of 18.53 million hectares of lands and enhanced 40 million hectares of grasslands, achieving the world's first "zero growth" in land degradation and a "dual reduction" in both desertified lands and sandy land areas. For over 70 years, Youyu County in North China's Shanxi province, situated on the fringe of the Maowusu Desert, has continuously engaged in afforestation, elevating its forest coverage rate from a scant 0.3 percent to a remarkable 57 percent, and the once barren land has transformed into a verdant oasis along the northern border. In China, natural protected areas now account for 18 percent of the country's total land area, while red line zones designated for terrestrial ecological conservation constitute 30 percent. By 2023, China had completed afforestation over an area of 68 million hectares, increasing its forest coverage rate to 24.02 percent, and this made China the country with the largest and fastest increase in afforestation areas and the most extensive artificial forests. China also makes substantial progress in biodiversity conservation, evidenced by a stable increase in the population of over 300 endangered or rare wildlife species.

2.5.3 An Integrated Environmental Governance System

China has incorporated the concept of ecological civilization into the Constitution

of the Communist Party of China and the Constitution of the People's Republic of China, and formulated and amended the Environmental Protection Law of the People's Republic of China and over 30 other laws and regulations related to ecological environment. China's Environmental Protection Law, which introduces such measures as consecutive daily fines, sealing-up and distraining, production restriction or suspension, administrative detention, and public interest litigation, has garnered widespread acclaim as the most stringent environmental protection law in history. The legal framework for environmental conservation has expanded to cover pollution prevention and control in air, water, soil, and noise, as well as vital ecosystems and components such as the Yangtze River, wetlands, and black soil. This has led to a more integrated environmental legal system. To expedite the reform of the ecological civilization system, China has implemented dozens of specific reform plans, and set up basic systems such as a system of property rights for natural resource assets, a system for the development and protection of territorial space, a spatial planning system, a system for regulating total consumption and comprehensive conservation of resources, a system for payment-based resource consumption and compensating conservation and protection efforts, the environmental governance system, the market system for environmental governance and ecological preservation, and the system for evaluating officials' ecological conservation performance and for holding those responsible for ecological damage to account. China has reinforced its efforts in clarifying the accountability for ecological civilization construction, which include conducting target assessment and performance evaluation for ecological civilization construction, evaluating the effectiveness of pollution prevention and control campaigns, auditing outgoing officials' management of natural resource assets, implementing the river and lake chief system and the forest chief scheme, ensuring lifelong accountability for eco-environmental damage, and building a system of compensation for eco-environmental damage. China has established and implemented a central inspection system for eco-environmental protection, achieving full coverage of inspection across 31 provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities, as well as the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps. As of the first half of 2022, two rounds of inspections had been completed, with 287,000 public complaints and petitions related to eco-environmental issues received and transferred for handling. With such endeavors, numerous prominent eco-environmental problems have been addressed successfully.

2.6 Peaceful Development

2.6.1 Crucial Builder of World Peace

China has always been committed to its foreign policy goal of safeguarding world peace and promoting common development. It advocates for a multi-polar world, strives for greater democracy in international relations, and unequivocally opposes hegemony and power politics, thereby playing a crucial role in fostering international peace.

China also takes a leading role in international arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation efforts. China has emerged as the second-largest contributor to the United Nations' regular budget, the second-largest donor to the UN peacekeeping budget, and the largest provider of troops among the permanent members of the UN Security Council. It is the only country in the world that enshrines the "commitment to the path of peaceful development" in its Constitution, and the only country that has undertaken "not to be the first to use nuclear weapons at any time and under any circumstances", contributing greatly to maintaining global strategic stability. 70 years ago, China initiated the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence—mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence. These principles have subsequently been incorporated into a series of important international documents, gaining widespread recognition and adherence from the international community, an indelible historical contribution to the cause of human progress. Since the 18th CPC National Congress, China has proposed and implemented the Global Security Initiative (GSI), providing a Chinese solution for safeguarding world peace. In March 2023, Iran and Saudi Arabia agreed to restore ties after China-brokered talks. In July 2024, the closing ceremony for the intra-Palestinian reconciliation dialogue was held in Beijing, where 14 Palestinian factions jointly signed the Beijing Declaration on Ending Division and Strengthening Palestinian National Unity.

2.6.2 Foremost Contributor to Global Development

China, as the key driver for global economic growth, contributes approximately 30 percent to the annual expansion of the world economy, and serves as a significant trade partner for over 140 countries and regions. Research by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) indicates that every 1 percent increase in China's economic growth leads to an average increase of 0.3 percent in the economic output of other economies. Through opening up and internal and external linkages, China has offered opportunities for nations worldwide, particularly the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the BRICS nations, and other nations along the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), thereby contributing to a more balanced global economic landscape. China has implemented the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in an exemplary manner, achieving the poverty reduction targets 10 years ahead of schedule and contributing over 70 percent to global poverty reduction. Deeply engaged in global governance and South-South cooperation, China has initiated the China-UN Peace and Development Fund and the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund, thereby providing development assistance to more than 160 countries in need. China also stands out as the G20 member that has offered the greatest amount of debt relief to developing nations. At the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, President Xi Jinping solemnly proposed the Global Development Initiative (GDI), calling on the international community to foster a global development partnership. China can-

not develop in isolation from the world, and the world also needs China for its development. Instead of a challenge to the globe, China's development serves as a generator of greater positive effects on the world.

2.6.3 Staunch Defender of World Order

China has remained steadfast in safeguarding the global framework with the United Nations at its core, the international order anchored in international law, and the basic norms governing international relations in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. It opposes unilateralism in all its forms and stands against the formation of exclusive blocs and coteries targeting specific nations. China is an advocate for an equal and orderly multi-polar world and a committed participant in multilateral affairs on all fronts. It has joined nearly all universal intergovernmental global organizations and over 600 international conventions, and concluded more than 27,000 bilateral treaties with other countries, conscientiously fulfilling its international obligations. Proactive efforts have also been made to shape global security norms and enhance international security cooperation. China has endeavored to advance the democratization of international relations, uphold genuine multilateralism, and steer global governance towards a more equitable and rational direction. Furthermore, China has promoted the effective functioning of multilateral mechanisms such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) to better fulfill their roles, and expanded the influence of cooperative mechanisms like BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). As part of the developing world, China always sides with developing countries, speaks up for them, offers assistance when needed, safeguards their legitimate rights and interests, and boosts their influence in international affairs.

2.6.4 Proactive Provider of Public Goods

China has provided numerous public goods embodying Chinese wisdom and strength in terms of thoughts, concepts, and actions through the implementation of such cooperation frameworks as the BRI, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), and the China International Import Expo (CIIE). China has bolstered high-quality joint construction of the BRI, and by the end of June 2024, 154 countries and 32 international organizations had signed cooperation documents for joint construction, creating the world's broadest and largest international cooperation platform. Moreover, China has been a dedicated participant in global health governance, providing global health public goods at an elevated level. China was among the first to commit to making COVID-19 vaccines a global public good, and to support waiving intellectual property rights on the vaccines. In terms of global data security, China has launched the Global Data Security Initiative, providing a reference for formulating global digital security norms. When it comes to global climate change, China has been solidly set on a green and low-carbon development path, announcing its "dual-carbon" goals

and promoting the implementation of the Paris Agreement. In response to global food security challenges, China has put forth a cooperation initiative on global food security. The public goods China has proposed also include: The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) provides tangible benefits to participating countries by "constructing roads and bridges", the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) assists a profusion of developing countries, including those in Africa, with their participation in the global value chain... With China's rapid development, increasing international influence, and deep engagement in global affairs, the country will continue to introduce more quality public goods welcomed by the entire world.

Chapter 3

Where Is Humanity Headed: Chinese Insights into the New Model for Human Advancement

Chinese modernization is deeply rooted in the fine traditional Chinese culture, mirrors the advantages of scientific socialism, draws inspiration from all of human civilization's outstanding achievements, represents the direction of the progress of human civilization, and demonstrates a new vision that's different from Western modernization. It is a new model for human advancement.^①

——Xi Jinping

Humanity's aspiration for an improved civilization and a better world embodies the inherent necessity and inevitable trend in the evolution of civilization. Following this necessity and trend, the CPC has led the people in blazing a Chinese path to modernization, adhering to a developmental concept that prioritizes the people over capital, pursues common prosperity over polarization, emphasizes people's free and well-rounded development over materialism, and advocates the equality and common progress of all nations over hegemony. By combining the distinctiveness of Chinese civilization with the shared values of humanity, China has created a new model for human advancement. Such a new model presents a new landscape distinct from Western models of modernization. It achieves significant innovations in the theory and practice of global modernization, and offers a brand-new option for developing countries to pursue independent development. Moreover, it contributes Chinese insights into addressing the dilemmas of human civilization, provides Chinese solutions for humanity's exploration of better social systems, and lights the path ahead towards a more thriving landscape for global development.

^①"Xi Jinping Delivers a Keynote Speech at the Opening Ceremony of the Seminar on Studying and Implementing the Spirit of the 20th National Congress of the CPC, Stressing the Correct Understanding and Vigorous Promotion of Chinese-style Modernization," People's Daily, Chinese edition, February 8, 2023.

3.1 Major Innovations in the Theory and Practice of Global Modernization

3.1.1 Bearing Unique Theoretical Implications

Modernization found its root in Western countries in the 18th century, and today's industrialized developed countries are primarily those in Europe and North America, as well as capitalist countries steeped in Western civilization. Some individuals contend that the Western "modern industrial society" serves as a model for the entire non-Western world, that Western capitalist civilization symbolizes the zenith of human civilization, and that the West dominates modern civilization. However, to this day, Western-style modernization has never adequately tackled numerous human development challenges, and has instead exacerbated crises in some developing countries. The unique worldviews, values, and views on history, civilization, democracy, and ecology, and their remarkable application in Chinese modernization, have made vital innovative contributions to the theory and practice of global modernization. They also demonstrate to the world that the path to modernization is not unique to any one country, and human civilization still moves on and history's final chapter remains unwritten.

The new model for human advancement deriving from Chinese modernization reflects a disparate worldview that emphasizes the pursuit of common prosperity for all rather than zero-sum games. China holds the conviction that the development of all nations is closely intertwined, and humanity is a global community of shared future where all people rise and fall together. Only through concerted efforts, solidarity, and cooperation among all nations can humanity secure a brighter future. China has always viewed its future as closely bound up with the future of people from all countries, aligning itself with the broader trend of human development and the overall pattern of global advancement. It has steadfastly adhered to the path of peaceful development for humankind and deeply engaged in mutual exchanges with other countries, fostering shared progress with the world. China's pursuit of modernization not only brings benefits to its own people but contributes to the common development of the globe. As it strives for greater national strength and the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, China is dedicated to fostering common progress of humanity and creating an ever-prosperous world.

The new model for human advancement originating from Chinese modernization showcases distinctive values that prioritize the well-being of people over the accumulation of capital. In terms of value orientation, Chinese modernization, which conforms to the people-centered principle, is fundamentally different from Western-style modernization, which, on the contrary, worships capital. Chinese modernization insists on development for the people, by the people and to the benefit of the people. It considers the people's aspiration for a better life as the starting point and final goal of modernization, and takes whether development results benefit all people as a criterion. Such a model focuses on promoting common prosperity for all and preventing polarization,

aiming to achieve the ultimate goal of full and free development of every individual.

The new model for human advancement resulting from Chinese modernization embodies a unique historical perspective highlighting a broad view of history rather than the shallow-minded narrative of the "end of history". China argues that the progression of human society is driven by fundamental social contradictions, and it is the universal laws governing the movement of these contradictions that shape the basic trajectory of humanity's historical development. In pursuing modernization, China emphasizes the importance of summarizing historical experiences, understanding historical laws, and initiating historical progress. By analyzing evolutionary mechanisms and exploring major historical patterns through the lens of historical context, current trends, and global dynamics, and proposing corresponding strategies, China has constantly sustained the vigor and vitality of Marxism, and showcased the profound historical depth of its civilization traversing over five millennia.

The new model for human advancement emanating from Chinese modernization offers a different perspective on civilization that stresses exchanges and mutual learning rather than conflict and estrangement. China holds that all civilizations created by human society are invaluable treasures, which have laid a solid groundwork for national modernization across the globe. Chinese modernization embraces a civilization outlook characterized by equality, mutual learning, dialogue, and inclusiveness, advocating respect for the diversity of world civilizations and promoting harmonious coexistence among different civilizations. Instead of being the root of global conflicts, differences among civilizations should function as the driving force for the progression of humanity. That is to say, we must seek unity amid diversity and strive for universal harmony while honoring differences. China has remained committed to demolishing barriers in cultural exchanges with an inclusive mind, drawing nourishment from various sources with an eclectic attitude, and promoting common development in modernization through exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations.

The new model for human advancement stemming from Chinese modernization underlines whole-process people's democracy which stands out as a distinct concept compared to mere formal democracy. China claims that democracy is a treasure shared by all humankind rather than a patent of a few countries; whether a country is democratic or not is determined solely by its citizens; democracy is not an ornament or a façade, and the criterion for evaluating democracy should not solely center on its form, but rather on whether it truly allows its people to govern their own affairs and whether it can be employed to address people's concerns. People are entitled to the right to elect and vote, and moreover, to extensive participation; they can express their will freely and see it effectively fulfilled; better still, they can also do their part in promoting national development and share in its gains. Whole-process people's democracy embodies the will and voices of the people in every facet of national political and social life, transcending the formal democratic model of the West solely obsessed with "votes" and showcasing the edges of socialist democracy in governance efficiency.

The new model for human advancement forged by Chinese modernization encompasses a distinct ecological outlook that advocates for creating a community of all life on Earth. Chinese modernization draws on the wisdom of traditional Chinese culture, which remains well-preserved in proverbs like "The laws of Nature govern all things", "Man must seek harmony with Nature", and "What we take from nature should be well-measured, and how we use these things should be restrained". It highlights the significance of building a community of all life on Earth, while drawing lessons from the experience gained from Western-style modernization. This perspective transcends the anthropocentric paradigm of Western-style modernization which elevates humankind above nature. China adheres to the principle of harmonious coexistence between humanity and nature, respecting nature, adapting to its laws, and safeguarding its well-being. It endeavors to strike a dialectical balance between economic development and ecological conservation, secure sustainable development, and achieve historic milestone in ecological civilization construction along its path to Chinese modernization.

3.1.2 Revolutionizing the World Map of Modernization

Western countries were the first to tread the path of modernization. They drove world history, reshaped the global order, and ultimately formed a modern world system dominated by capitalism. In the past few hundreds of years, while developed countries in Europe and North America have already achieved early-stage modernization, most developing countries, especially economies with substantial populations, have yet to cross the threshold into modernization. Only a very few of them have achieved developed status. Confronted with the gigantic developmental disparities left by history, modernization has become a must-answer question for China and numerous other developing countries. Chinese modernization allows China, a latecomer to modernization, to catch up and achieve great success that is recognized by the world, and it is therefore proven to be an effective solution to such a historic challenge.

China has successfully forged a path towards modernization and innovated a new model for human advancement, enabling over 1.4 billion people to embrace modernization. Since the inception of modernization in the 18th century, only around 30 countries worldwide have achieved industrialization, with a combined population less than 1 billion. China is working to achieve modernization for over 1.4 billion people, a number larger than the combined population of all developed countries in the world today. This will more than double the current global population enjoying modernization, an unprecedented milestone in human history that will fundamentally transform the global landscape of modernization.

3.1.3 Expanding Pathways to Modernization for Developing Countries

Only those who have trodden a particular path can truly assess its suitability for

them. In a nation's pursuit of modernization, it is essential to foster a unique path of its own in line with its national realities while following the general principles of modernization. The CPC, by uniting and leading the people of all ethnic groups in China, has found the Chinese path to modernization through prolonged and arduous exploration. This path features a committed pursuit of common prosperity for all, concordance between material and cultural-ethical advancement, harmony between humanity and nature, and peaceful development for a huge population. Chinese modernization proves viable and stable, representing the only correct path for building a great country and advancing national rejuvenation. The splendid accomplishments of Chinese modernization demonstrate that modernization can be achieved through multiple pathways, and each country is well equipped to forge a path of its own.

China does not follow the old path of some countries in achieving modernization through war, colonization and plunder. On the contrary, it holds high the banner of peace, development, cooperation, and mutual benefit, seeking its own progress while resolutely safeguarding world peace and development. China's successful advancement towards modernization can be attributed to its adherence to the overall leadership of the CPC in propelling Chinese modernization, its commitment to people-centered development philosophy, its perseverance in pursuing an independent path, its effective employment of reform and opening-up, its insistence on innovation-driven development, and its systematic approach to support progress. These remarkable experiences and practices have set a good example for the vast array of developing countries to pursue modernization on their own, offered fresh options for nations who want to accelerate development while preserving their independence, and provided Chinese solutions for humankind's exploration of a better social system.

Keith Bennett, a British analyst of international relations who has long followed China's development, called Chinese modernization "a fundamentally different paradigm for modernization."^① From his perspective, it is a kind of modernization that focuses on all humankind, and plays an effective role in assisting more countries in blazing and promoting their own pathways towards modernization. Donald Rushambwa, a research fellow at the Zimbabwe-based China-Africa Economic and Culture Exchange Research Center, noted that "in just over 40 years, China has realized economic take-off and completed comprehensive modernization in science and technology, infrastructure and other fields without exploiting any other countries. This is an example for developing countries to follow."^② Brice Nguema, the interim president of Gabon, also expressed his admiration for Chinese modernization, "The achievements of Chinese modernization are impressive, and the Chinese model of development will serve as an inspirational source for African countries exploring their own development paths."^③

① *World Expectations for Chinese Modernization*, Xinhuanet, Chinese edition.

② "African Experts: Chinese-style Modernization "Fascinates Africa", *Reference News*, Chinese edition, March 17, 2022

③ *China is a True Friend with Gabon Who has Shared Weal and Woe -Interview with Gabon's Transitional President Nguema*, Xinhuanet, Chinese edition.

3.2 Chinese Solutions to Building Global Consensus

"We should not give up on our dreams because the reality around us is too complicated; we should not stop pursuing our ideals because they seem out of our reach. No country can address alone the many challenges facing humanity; no country can afford to retreat into self-isolation."^① In the face of increasingly severe and complex common challenges to humanity, China always works hand in hand with the international community and contributes China's vision to address global challenges so as to create an even brighter future for all.

3.2.1 GDI for World Economic Prosperity

In response to the serious challenges in global economic and social development, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the Global Development Initiative (GDI) in Beijing on September 21, 2021 during an important speech via video at the General Debate of the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. The GDI advocates for staying committed to development as a priority, a people-centered approach, benefits for all, innovation-driven development, harmony between man and nature, and results-oriented actions. It calls upon the international community to tackle challenges together and pushes for international efforts to consolidate and expand consensus on development.

China has taken active steps to transform the GDI from a proposal into an international consensus and from a cooperative vision into collective action, and injected Chinese strength into the implementation of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Since the GDI's introduction, China has established over 30 cooperative platforms and initiated more than 1,100 projects in eight key areas including poverty alleviation, food security, COVID-19 response and vaccines, development financing, climate change and green development, industrialization, digital economy, and digital-age connectivity, which cover all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the Agenda. So far, China has invested and mobilized a range of development funds totaling nearly USD 20 billion and launched more than 600 projects from the GDI project database. From technological cooperation to capacity building, from poverty alleviation education to digital economy, and from high-yield rice cultivation to Juncao technology, China's pragmatic actions have yielded substantial results, helping accelerate the Global South's development and injecting into the stagnant global growth positive energy.

The GDI has received a positive response from over 100 countries and international organizations, particularly the global South countries, exerting a significant and far-reaching international influence. As a "recommitment" to the Agenda, the GDI calls on the international community to accelerate the Agenda's implementation, pursue more

^① Xi Jinping: *Xi Jinping: The Governance of China*, Vol. III, Eng. ed., Foreign Languages Press, Beijing, 2020, p. 62.

robust, greener, and more balanced global development, and build a global community of development of shared future. In doing so, it outlines a blueprint for the development of all countries and for international development cooperation, and provides a clear direction for advancing global development. Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), believed that China-proposed GDI is conducive to achieving the SDGs, particularly in such areas as green development, food security, and infrastructure.^① The GDI originates in China, but its opportunities and outcomes are intended for the whole world.

3.2.2 GSI for World Peace and Stability

Confronted with emerging challenges and difficulties, the world seeks new solutions, and the global security calls for new international public goods. Chinese President Xi Jinping put forward the Global Security Initiative (GSI) when delivering a keynote address via video at the opening ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference on April 21, 2022. The GSI is underpinned by "six commitments", specifically, staying committed to the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security; staying committed to respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries; staying committed to abiding by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations; staying committed to taking the legitimate security concerns of all countries seriously; staying committed to peacefully resolving differences and disputes between countries through dialogue and consultation; and staying committed to maintaining security in both traditional and non-traditional domains, with a view to jointly promoting a global community of security for all. It addresses such questions of the times as what security concept the world needs and how countries can achieve common security.

China has forged ahead through crises and challenges and translated the GSI into concrete actions, demonstrating its commitment to maintain world peace and its firm resolve to safeguard global security. The Global Security Initiative Concept Paper released by China outlines 20 priorities, showing what the way forward will be for countries to engage in security cooperation under the GSI framework. Guided by the GSI's principles, China has issued position papers on the Ukraine crisis, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and the Afghan Issue, and spared no efforts to promote talks for peace, rekindling hope for political settlement of hot-spot issues; China has deepened cooperation with various countries in such areas as international peacekeeping, counterterrorism, climate change, disaster prevention and reduction, and combating transnational crime, thus strengthening collaborative international security governance; China has continuously established platforms for exchanges and dialogue on international security such as the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference and the Beijing Xiangshan Forum and actively led and participated in security-related exchanges and cooperation under the frameworks

^① <https://english.news.cn/20240612/73c31a5ac2374929bf87cacd7d8f268a/c.html>

of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, and the East Asian Cooperation Mechanism, thereby creating a robust foundation for promoting international security collaboration.

In a world marked by upheaval, China has steadily advanced global security cooperation, achieving continuous progress and fostering global consensus on international and regional security challenges, thereby injecting greater stability into an unsettled world. Currently, the GSI has won support and applause from over 100 countries and international organizations as it represents China's solution to address global peace deficit and security challenges, offers an action plan for cooperation in global security governance, infuses momentum into transforming international security concepts, and delineates a clear path towards lasting peace and universal security for humanity.

3.2.3 GCI for Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilizations

Equal exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations will provide crucial momentum and a fundamental basis for humanity in addressing the pressing challenges of our time and achieving common development. On March 15, 2023, Chinese President Xi Jinping introduced the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI) during his keynote speech at the CPC in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-Level Meeting. The GCI presents "four joint advocacies" of respecting the diversity of civilizations and upholding the principles of equality, mutual learning, dialogue, and inclusiveness among civilizations; of humanity's shared values of peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy, and freedom; of attaching importance to the inheritance and innovation of civilizations and fully harnessing the relevance of histories and cultures to the present times; and of enhancing international people-to-people exchanges and cooperation and exploring the building of a global network for inter-civilization dialogue and cooperation. The GCI seeks to foster exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations, enhance mutual understanding and friendship among people of all countries, build international consensus for cooperation, and advance human civilization. It has marshaled the forces of civilizations to open up a new prospect of enhanced exchanges and understanding among different peoples and better interactions and integration of diversified cultures and to promote the modernization of human society.

Following its introduction, the GCI has gradually gained broad understanding and recognition from the international community. On June 7, 2024, the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted a China-proposed resolution to designate June 10 as the International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations and to invite all member states and UN agencies to commemorate the day. The UN's resolution on establishing this International Day, which centers around the GCI's core tenets of "four advocacies", states that all civilizational achievements are the collective heritage of humankind, advocates respecting the diversity of civilizations, emphasizes the crucial role of dialogue among civilizations in maintaining world peace, promoting common devel-

opment, enhancing human well-being, and achieving collective progress, and calls for equal dialogue and mutual respect among different civilizations.

Following the trend of the times, the GCI has guided the development and progress of human society with a new vision of civilization and outlined a fresh blueprint for the advancement of human civilization, injecting momentum into cultural growth and offering a Chinese approach to fostering harmonious relations among diverse civilizations. Sourabh Gupta, a senior fellow at the Washington-based Institute for China-America Studies, stated that the GCI aspires to reestablish the foundation for dialogue among societies and civilizations to cultivate tolerance and mutual respect. Mustapha Machrafi, Vice Dean of the Faculty of Law, Economics, and Social Sciences at Mohammed V University in Morocco, said that the GCI's advocacy for respecting the diversity of world civilizations, upholding humanity's common values, attaching importance to the inheritance and innovation of civilizations, and enhancing international people-to-people exchanges and cooperation helps establish a common consensus on values across different cultures and will undoubtedly contribute powerful momentum to the promotion of China-Arab cultural exchange and the building of a more equitable, just, diverse, and inclusive world.^①

3.3 An Enriched Vision of Human Civilization

"A single flower does not make spring while one hundred flowers in full blossom bring spring to the garden." Human civilization features diversity and its essence lies in its richness and multifaceted nature. The new model for human advancement forged by Chinese modernization takes its root in China's fine traditional culture, draws inspiration from all of human civilization's outstanding achievements, and will thereby nurture the garden of world civilization and create a new prospect for its development.

3.3.1 Carrying forward China's Fine Traditional Culture

In parallel with the other three recognized oldest civilizations in history—Ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, and the Indus Valley, Chinese civilization stands out as the only one to have endured uninterrupted for over 5,000 years, continuing to thrive to this day and featuring brilliant material, and cultural-ethical progress. The British philosopher Bertrand Russell pointed out, "Since the days of Confucius, the Egyptian, Babylonian, Persian, Macedonian, and Roman empires have perished; but China has persisted through a continuous evolution." The British historian Arnold J. Toynbee once put the hope of the future in the East and predicted that China would lead the world with its distinctive civilization.

"If there were no 5,000-year Chinese civilization, how could we build anything with

^①"The Global Civilization Initiative Helps Build a More Diverse and Inclusive World", *People's Daily*, Chinese edition, April 11, 2024.

what we describe today as Chinese characteristics"?^① The ceaselessly self-generated, extensive, and profound fine traditional Chinese culture is "a great strength of the Chinese nation"^② and "the origin and soul of the Chinese nation"^③, reflecting the spiritual endeavors, rational thought, and cultural achievements developed through a long history of struggle and embodying the aspiration of the Chinese people. The values at the core of China's fine traditional culture—self-cultivation, family regulation, state governance, and bringing peace to all under heaven; respecting the times and upholding one's position; mastering both permanence and change; understanding things and succeeding in one's endeavors; and achieving success and establishing lasting contributions—have evolved into the essential cultural DNA of the Chinese nation, serving as guiding philosophies of governance and ways of life for the Chinese people, both individually and nationally, and forming a unique cultural identity that distinguishes the Chinese from other nations. China's fine traditional culture espouses many important principles and concepts with indigenous features, including pursuing common good for all, regarding the people as the foundation of the state, governing by virtue, discarding the outdated in favor of the new, acting in good faith and being friendly to others, and fostering neighborliness. These maxims reflect the Chinese people's way of viewing the universe, the world, and morality, which have nurtured a profound historical foundation for a new model for human advancement and provided valuable insights for the international community as it navigates changes in the world, the times, and the history.

3.3.2 Drawing Inspiration from Human Civilization Achievements

The richness and depth of Chinese culture stem from its openness and inclusiveness. Formed by diverse cultures coming together, Chinese civilization has thrived on the land of China through continuous exchanges and mutual learning with other civilizations. Chinese culture advocates for resolving conflicts and building consensus, resulting in its diverse yet unified and continuous nature. Throughout the long course of history, Chinese civilization has maintained an open-minded approach and absorbed the essence of foreign cultures, thereby creating a distinctive cultural identity for the Chinese nation. The 5,000-year history of Chinese civilization stands as the best testament to the enduring nature of culture through exchanges and mutual learning.

The CPC, in its pursuit of national independence, people's liberation, national prosperity and strength, people's well-being, world peace, and international cooperation, has always drawn inspiration from all of human civilizations' outstanding achievements. Today, Chinese communists, with a global vision and an inclusive spirit, gather wisdom and strength from China's fine traditional culture while breaking down cultural barriers to absorb valuable elements from other civilizations, and with confidence and openness,

① Xi Jinping: *Xi Jinping: The Governance of China*, Vol. IV, Eng. ed., Foreign Languages Press, Beijing, 2022, p. 364.

② Xi Jinping: *Xi Jinping: The Governance of China*, Vol. I, Eng. ed., Foreign Languages Press, Beijing, 2014, p. 174.

③ Xi Jinping: *Xi Jinping: The Governance of China*, Vol. III, Eng. ed., Foreign Languages Press, Beijing, 2020, p. 440-441.

they seek to share Chinese culture globally and add new luster to Chinese culture.

3.3.3 Nurturing the Garden of World Civilization

Anything which is successful in one country is of significance to the world. It must show the way to the people in modern times. With a history stretching back more than 5,000 years, the Chinese nation has fostered a splendid civilization and made indelible contributions to human advancement. Since its introduction to China, Marxism has resonated and integrated with China's fine traditional culture, and scientific socialism has then gone on to take root on the land of China and delivered impressive results. Chinese communists have committed to integrating the basic tenets of Marxism with China's specific realities and fine traditional culture. By aligning with the new conditions of the era and the new requirements of practice, they have deepened their understanding of the historical trends of the world and the laws that underlie the development of human society and promoted the creative transformation and development of China's fine traditional culture. In this way, they have disseminated the most fundamental Chinese culture in a popular way to attract more people to participate in it, matching modern culture and society. Through the exploration of Chinese modernization, a new model for human advancement has been created.

Just as delicious soup is made by combining different ingredients, the beauty of harmony lies in the embrace of diversity. Diversity is the defining feature of human society and a crucial driving force for the advancement of civilization; diversity of human civilization drives progress of humankind and serves as a basic requirement for global cultural prosperity. Different histories, national conditions, ethnic groups, and customs give birth to diverse civilizations and make the world a colorful one. The interplay, mutual learning, diversity, and harmony among civilizations have created the greatest synergy for building a better world, supporting the development of world civilization towards balance, progress, and goodness, and making the garden of world civilizations more vibrant. Chinese modernization has given rise to a new model for human advancement that exemplifies preserving national characteristics while developing culture, significantly influencing the evolution of world civilization. "We should popularize our cultural spirit across countries as well as across time and space, with contemporary values and the eternal charm of Chinese culture. We should tell the rest of the world about the new achievements of modern Chinese culture, which feature both excellent tradition and modern spirit, both national and international."^① The intellectual and cultural essence of the new model for human advancement is brilliant, which adds dazzling colors to the diverse civilizations of our time. The great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation will surely lead to a revival of Chinese civilization which will thereby transform the landscape of global civilization.

3.4 Building a Global Community of Shared Future

"To a crazy ship, all winds are contrary." In the vast ocean of human advancement,

^① Xi Jinping: *Xi Jinping: The Governance of China*, Vol. I, Eng. ed., Foreign Languages Press, Beijing, 2014, p. 179.

where is humanity's ship headed? Towards peace or war, development or decline, openness or closure, cooperation or confrontation? As we navigate this long journey, the "compass" of human advancement has already pointed clearly to the direction of a global community of shared future.

3.4.1 Creating an Even Better World

In response to the pressing question at the call of the times— "Where is humanity headed?"— Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the concept of building a global community of shared future and the Belt and Road Initiative in 2013, and since then, he has elaborated the right direction of building a global community of shared future in various international occasions, systematically explaining the scientific essence of this concept. Directly addressing the most significant issues facing the world today, the concept of building a global community of shared future has put forth clear positions on international relations, global governance, and cultural exchanges, responding to the universal aspirations of people for peace, development, and cooperation, while demonstrating powerful influence, vitality, and appeal.

Riding the tide of history, we are pursuing the right way forward to an even brighter future. In January 2017, President Xi Jinping answered the question—What has happened to the world and how should we respond? —raised by the world and by the times during a speech at the United Nations Office at Geneva. He emphasized, "Pass on the torch of peace from generation to generation, sustain development and make civilization flourish: this is what people of all countries long for; it is also the responsibility statesmen of our generation ought to shoulder. And China's proposition is: build a global community of shared future and achieve shared and win-win development."

Over the past decade since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, the Party has transformed the concept of building a global community of shared future into concrete achievements through practical cooperation across various fields with numerous countries and regions. President Xi Jinping proposed significant initiatives within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) to establish "a community of health for us all", "a community of security for us all", "a community of development for us all", and "a community of cultural exchanges for us all". Additionally, within the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) framework, he called for building an "Asia-Pacific community of shared future" featuring openness, inclusiveness, innovation-driven growth, greater connectivity, and mutually beneficial cooperation. He also put forth important initiatives for "a community of shared future in cyberspace", "a community of shared future on nuclear security", "a maritime community of shared future", and "a global community of health for all" on various occasions. By focusing on international and regional interactions, initiatives like "a China-Africa community of shared future", "a China-Latin America community of shared future", "a China-Vietnam community of shared future", "a China-Laos community of shared future", and "a China-Pakistan community of shared future" have further clarified the meaning and

specifics of building a global community of shared future. The commitment to building a community of shared future, a vital strategy for upholding and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, has become a prominent banner for China to lead the direction of human advancement.

As the beacon of the new model for human advancement shines ever brighter in the ocean of civilization, it is essential to promote the building of a global community of shared future that advocates for the peaceful coexistence and harmonious symbiosis of civilizations, and a world of lasting peace; to encourage the joint development and win-win cooperation among civilizations for a world of universal security; to establish a solid material foundation for civilization continuity and common prosperity; to enrich and advance political progress for an open and inclusive world; and to participate in, contribute to, and lead global ecological civilization efforts for a clean and beautiful world. Only by doing so can we ensure the correct path forward.

3.4.2 Upholding Common Values of Humanity

Humanity's shared values of peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy, and freedom have become a powerful source of inner strength that drives human advancement in the right direction. "A mere property career is not the final destiny of mankind, if progress is to be the law of the future as it has been of the past... Democracy in government, brotherhood in society, equality in rights and privileges, and universal education, foreshadow the next higher plane of society to which experience, intelligence and knowledge are steadily tending. It will be a revival, in a higher form, of the liberty, equality and fraternity of the ancient gentes."^①

The world is undergoing change on a scale unseen in a century. To solve outstanding contradictions and problems facing the humankind, it is necessary to rely on material means to overcome difficulties and on the strength of the spirit to rectify mind through thinking with sincerity. Chinese President Xi Jinping put forward for the first time humanity's shared values when he attended and addressed the General Debate of the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2015. After that, he has elaborated on the implications of humanity's shared values on different occasions both within China and abroad. China sincerely calls upon all countries to hold dear humanity's shared values of peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy, and freedom; to promote mutual understanding and forge closer bonds with other peoples; to respect the diversity of civilizations; to allow cultural exchanges to transcend estrangement, mutual learning to transcend clashes, and coexistence to transcend feelings of superiority; and to join forces to meet all types of global challenges. Martin Jacques, a British scholar, stated that humanity's shared values transcend the limitations of confrontational thinking, thus demonstrating an unprecedented appeal, and that only by upholding these shared values, fostering harmonious coexistence, and engaging in dialogue and consultation,

^① <https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1884/origin-family/ch09.htm>

can we overcome various global challenges and create an even better future for humanity.^① Peace and development are the common cause, fairness and justice, the common aspiration, and democracy and freedom, the common pursuit for all countries. The new model for human advancement actively champions humanity's shared values, transcending differences in ideology, social systems, and levels of development. It establishes the broadest common ground of values embraced by people across the globe and extends the unique value aspirations of the Chinese nation into a worldwide context.

3.4.3 Realizing Full and Free Development of Every Individual

"A society in which the full and free development of every individual forms the ruling principle"^② is undoubtedly a beautiful and aspirational vision. Since modern times, the dominant model for human advancement has been Western civilization, which adheres to the logic that "a rising power will inevitably seek hegemony". Such a model is based on the hegemonic power of a single country or the "balance of terror" among multiple nations, and its value system is exclusive, singular, and monopolistic, which limits the development of most developing countries and turns the full and free development of every individual into an illusion. Former Guyanese President Donald Ramotar pointed out that "the imperialist countries' main objective in the developing countries is to keep them dependent and poor. In this way their resources can be easily exploited. The whole intention is to keep those countries as a source of raw materials and cheap labor. In other words, the imperialist states keep the countries in the Global South poor and powerless and easy to exploit in order to enrich themselves."^③

The transition of human civilization to a higher level involves developing from a lower form of "personal independence founded on objective dependence"^④ to a higher form of "full and free development of every individual". The new model for human advancement created through Chinese modernization allows putting people first to transcend supremacy of capital, common prosperity to transcend polarization, the full and free development of every individual to transcend materialistic expansion, and equality and mutual progress among all countries to transcend hegemonism. This vision outlines a bright future and provides a practical path for achieving humanity's aspiration for a better life and the full and free development of every individual. As Ramotar pointed out through comparison, China has adopted a totally different approach to its relations with the developing world. "China wants to allow the developing countries to move to a higher stage of value-added production where they can become prosperous. This idea is based on the conviction that when the countries of the Global South become more productive and increase their wealth, trade relations will become more robust, and all countries would become much better off," he said.^⑤

① "The Ever-Increasing Appeal of Humanity's Shared Values", *People's Daily Overseas Edition*, Chinese edition.

② <https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1867-c1/ch24.htm>

③ <https://epaper.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202408/26/WS66cbb69ba31077824e85ba7c.html>

④ <https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/subject/quotes/>

⑤ <https://epaper.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202408/26/WS66cbb69ba31077824e85ba7c.html>

The laws governing human civilization teach us that the new model for human advancement, established through Chinese modernization, follows the general trend of human progress. Not only does it effectively capture the common aspirations of the people but provides a profound understanding of the principles of economic and social development. Standing firmly on the right side of history, this model represents a significant achievement that adheres to the laws of human advancement and keeps with the trend of the times, thus being the real right way towards a brighter future for all humankind.

Conclusion

On the vast journey of human advancement, each nation's path to modernization has been fraught with challenges and difficulties. Diverse histories, social systems, and values and views across civilizations have helped shape varied yet vibrant models for modernization.

In the West, the Renaissance inspired a critical reexamination of religion and ignited a yearning for freedom and progress, laying the intellectual foundation for the rise of capitalism; the Industrial Revolution then ushered in the "age of the steam engine" and transformed the society from agrarian to industrial. However, with capitalism's expansion came its drawbacks — supremacy of capital, survival of the fittest, polarization, and hegemony — which fell short of the envisioned ideals associated with the viewpoint of "the end of history". Many have since turned their gaze to new possibilities in an attempt to seek a greater model for human advancement.

In the East, meanwhile, China has persevered through thousands of years and emerged with renewed vitality. The Communist Party of China (CPC) has, since its establishment, embraced the historical mission of achieving national independence, people's liberation, national prosperity and strength, and people's well-being, leading the nation forward in the spirit of unwavering determination. The founding of the New China in 1949 liberated its people to become the masters of their nation while reform and opening-up since 1978 has brought unprecedented robustness to the nation. In the new era, the Chinese people are contributing their wisdom and strength to the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and to global peace and development. Both history and reality have shown that "the lion of China has awoken, but what the world sees now is a peaceful, amiable, and civilized lion". Standing on the right side of history and human progress, Chinese modernization has pioneered a new model for human advancement.

Chinese modernization is rooted in Chinese conditions and also draws on the experience of other countries. It carries the imprint of history and traditional culture and also contains modern elements. It delivers happiness and well-being to the Chinese people and also actively advances common prosperity of the world. Chinese modernization opens a new chapter in the history of human civilization and offers a sure path for us to build a stronger nation and realize the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and to seek progress for humanity and harmony for the entire world, quietly yet profoundly redirecting the course of world history.

At the crossroads of the modernization of human society, people of all countries confront diverse choices, and they must learn from history and exercise sound judgment in choosing the right path forward. Chinese modernization broadens the pathways for developing countries to achieve their own modernization goals and presents Chinese in-

sights to human progress. China's experience has demonstrated that there is no one-size-fits-all model for modernization that is universally applicable, let alone a superior one. There are many paths to modernization, and any country can achieve it by finding the correct direction and staying on its own path.

Chinese modernization, as a new model for human advancement, belongs to China, and to the world as well.