

19th CPC NATIONAL CONGRESS | Comment

New thought for the new era

By HAN QINGXIANG

China has entered a new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and the Communist Party of China Central Committee with General Secretary Xi Jinping as the core has developed new ideas, new thinking, and new strategies for governance that meet the needs of the times.

Although China is still at the initial stage of socialism, most Chinese people are no longer struggling just to meet their basic needs. The main contradiction now is people's growing needs for a better life with the country's unbalanced and insufficient development, as Xi pointed out in his report at the opening ceremony of the 19th CPC National Congress on Wednesday.

Since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, the Party led by Xi has remained committed to realizing the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation, and it has taken upon itself the great historical responsibility of attaining its "Two Centenary Goals" of building a moderately prosperous society by 2020, one year before the Party's 100th anniversary in 2021, and developing China into a "great modern socialist nation" by the 100th anniversary

of the People's Republic of China in 2049.

To accomplish these goals, the Party will adhere to the "Four Comprehensives" of comprehensively building a moderately prosperous society, comprehensively deepening reform, comprehensively advancing the rule of law and comprehensively and strictly governing the Party, and it will advance the "Five Development Concepts" of innovation, coordination, green, openness and shared development.

Therefore, the Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era reflects the governance philosophy of the CPC Central Committee with Xi as the core, and it is a systematic theoretical framework for realizing socialist modernization and national rejuvenation.

It stresses fairness and justice, as it seeks to narrow the wealth gap and enable more people to share the fruits of the country's development, and the Party has been improving its governance, and deepening people-oriented reform.

Building a moderately well-off society offers the strategic foundation for China's modernization and national rejuvenation. Comprehensively deepening reform

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offers strong impetus. The rule of law offers legal guarantee for good, modern governance. And comprehensively and strictly governing the Party ensures it can provide strong leadership.

As an emerging major power, China will influence the world order and may face opposition from established powers despite playing a vital role in improving global governance. China is approaching center stage in global affairs as it transforms from a major country to a major power. And Xi's diplomatic philosophy has made it clear how China will deal with other countries in order to create a peaceful environment, which is crucial for realizing the dream of national rejuvenation.

Although China seeks to maintain peace and adopts a defensive policy, it needs a strong army to defend itself in the face of complicated challenges. That is why a strong military is a necessary part of the Chinese Dream.

The Chinese Dream is the dream of rejuvenation for all Chinese people including the people in the mainland, as well as compatriots in Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan. And the insistence on the "one country, two systems" and the 1992 Consensus are the guarantee for realizing

the dream of all Chinese people.

Therefore, the Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era has clear goals, and it is the means to realize the two centenary goals and the great dream of national rejuvenation. As for the means, the strategic layout of the "Four Comprehensives" reflects the profound thinking and top-level design of the Party's central leadership toward socialist modernization and national rejuvenation.

Along with the legal guarantees and strong Party leadership, it constitutes a complete, effective people-oriented system for achieving China's modernization and national rejuvenation that conforms to socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Therefore, the thought is people-oriented, highlighted by the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation, and conforms to socialism with Chinese characteristics. The report raises the questions of "what kind of modernization and national rejuvenation China should have", and explores ways to achieve the goals of modernization and national rejuvenation.

The author is a professor at the Party School of the CPC Central Committee.

On track to achieve goal of eradicating poverty

By WU GUOBAO

In his report delivered at the opening ceremony of the 19th National Congress of Communist Party of China on Wednesday, General Secretary Xi Jinping summarized China's achievements over the past five years. And one of the biggest achievements is more than 60 million people have been lifted out of poverty.

Although facing severe challenges such as slower economic growth since 2012 due to economic transition, China has implemented policies and measures to reduce the number of poor people in the country, which have yielded remarkable results. Poverty alleviation is vital to achieve the goal of building a moderately well-off society in an all-round way.

Infrastructure construction has remarkably improved transportation, safe drinking water and power supply, and communica-

tions in impoverished rural areas. The housing of millions of poor households have been rebuilt. Basic public services, such as education and medical care, provided for impoverished rural residents, as well as industrial development and employment in poverty-stricken areas have also improved.

The Chinese leadership with Xi Jinping as the core has exhibited wisdom and courage in pushing forward the great cause of poverty alleviation with precision strategy.

China stepped into the economic new normal five years ago, which signaled the shift in its reliance from imports, exports and investments to domestic consumption, innovation and reform for economic growth. As a result, its growth rate has slowed a bit.

China's average annual GDP per capita growth from 2012 to last year was 6.1 percent, 3 percentage points lower than the average from 2008 to 2011. This economic slowdown has reduced the pull effect of

economic growth on poverty alleviation. The slowing of the employment growth rate and the adjustment to the employment structure have also had negative influence on poverty alleviation work.

China's non-agricultural employment growth rate, especially that of migrant workers, has been declining since 2012.

Last year, the number of migrant workers working outside their hometown for more than six months grew only 0.3 percent, and the proportion of migrant workers in the construction and manufacturing industries (the most migrant worker-intensive industries) declined 2.5 percentage and 0.9 percentage points compared with 2013.

Besides, the declining prices of primary agricultural products in recent years have made it difficult for impoverished rural households, which depend heavily on the production of primary agricultural goods, to increase their incomes.

And since 2012 the growth rate of China's national fiscal revenue declined from 12.8 percent in 2012 to 4.5 percent in 2016, the lowest since 1987, making poverty alleviation work more difficult.

Facing the heavy burden and severe challenge of economic transition, the government has adopted a precision poverty alleviation strategy and taken a series of effective measures to lift the remaining impoverished population of China out of poverty by 2020. The strategy is aimed at using the limited poverty alleviation resources with precision to get the desired effect. Which means China has established a comprehensive organizational and institutional system of precision poverty alleviation.

The Party committees and governments at all levels have been given the responsibility of eradicating poverty in their areas. And a series of policies to increase the incomes of impoverished rural households, and a poverty allevia-

tion assessment system including auditing, inspection and third-party evaluation has been put in place.

The government, on its part, has not only allocated more special poverty alleviation funds, but is also increasing poverty alleviation resources through integrating other special agricultural and rural development related funds at county level.

Recent years have also seen China promoting supply-side structural reform to improve efficiency and quality, which has boosted poverty alleviation works.

Poverty alleviation is vital to good governance. And the implementation of the precision poverty alleviation strategy will help China win the battle against poverty and build a moderately well-off society in an all-round way.

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