

China Development Forum 2021

China on a New Journey of Modernisation

19:30-20:30, 20 March 2021

Parallel Session V - Venue IV

Centenary of the Communist Party of China and Its Quest for Modernisation

Moderator

Xu Shanna, Party Secretary, Xinhuanet

Speakers

Chen Li, Director (Vice Minister Level), Academic and Editorial Committee, Central Academy of Communist Party of China History and Documentation

Martin Jacques, Senior Fellow, Department of Politics and International Studies, Cambridge University

Peter Nolan, Professor, Cambridge University

Zheng Yongnian, Presidential Chair Professor, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen; Director, the Advanced Institute of Global and Contemporary China Studies

Synopsis

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China. With more than 90 million members, the CPC is the world's largest political party, leading a country of 1.4 billion people towards modernisation.

Over the past century, the CPC has unswervingly advanced modernisation under different historical conditions and circumstances in China. Experts at the session outlined five features of China's modernization drive. First, China's modernisation drive has occurred under the strong leadership of the CPC; second, it is based on the fundamental realities of the country; third, it adheres to a people-centric principle; fourth, it pursues comprehensive development; and fifth, China's modernisation drive aims to accelerate development while remaining independent. The CPC and China's modernisation practices under its leadership have contributed Chinese wisdom and solutions to addressing issues of concern to humanity.

In the course of leading China towards modernisation, the CPC has achieved three sustainable development goals. The first is sustainable economic growth. Over the past

40 years, China has grown from an impoverished country to a top trading partner of many other nations, with GDP per capita reaching USD11,000. The second is sustainable social development. The political system plays a vital role in addressing the complex issue of social stability and sustainable development. The third is sustainable political participation. The CPC has maintained its aspiration and mission and held an inclusive, open attitude towards all of society. It has excelled at learning and persistently conducted self-innovation, which is also a key factor for the Party to continuously cope with changes and achieve success.

The CPC has gone through many different historical stages since it was founded 100 years ago. The word "communism" has been endowed with different profound connotations in different historical periods. From 1921 to 1949, the CPC's struggle for national independence and liberation was a distinct feature. Since 1978, when China embarked on reform and opening up, the CPC has delved deeply into Western history and philosophy, as well as China's own political, philosophical and economic history. The word "communism" during this period represents market economy regulation to satisfy the common interests of all social classes.

The CPC is unlike any other political party in the world, driving researchers to re-examine the definition of a political party. Reform and opening up practices have demonstrated the CPC's extraordinary ability to reform itself. Such profound transformation can only be achieved by a political party with full confidence and solid social foundations. Additionally, China's economic rise over the past four decades, as well as its successful control of the pandemic, have proved the CPC's strong capabilities to govern the country.

2021 marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the CPC and the first year of the 14th Five-Year Plan. The world today is undergoing changes unseen in a century, and civilization is heading towards a crossroads. Based on the current situation, the CPC is leading China to achieve the second centenary goal. China is bound to embrace an even better future, and its modernisation process will continue to have a profound impact on the whole world.

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Acknowledgement: **Deloitte.**
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