

# Philosophical Implication and Practical Orientation of "Closely Rely on the People" Thinking under the Pandemic Prevention and Control

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## Abstract

**This paper believes that China's achievements in the battle against COVID-19 pandemic are fundamentally the summary of action logic and practical experience of the Communist Party of China for one hundred years, and the concentrated embodiment of closely relying on people's thinking. Behind the achievements of pandemic prevention and control are our party's Marxist philosophical practice and the realistic orientation of China's development closely relying on the people, and they are also the grasp for the nature of human development. Facing the normalized prevention and control of COVID-19 pandemic, this paper believes that it is necessary to apply our party's experience for one hundred years in it to, give full play to the role of the people, and build the systematic people's front, people's defense line, and people's learning line.**

## Keywords

**COVID-19 Pandemic; The Communist Party of China; People.**

## 1. Introduction

"In the 21st century, our world is nagged by the underlying problems"[1], the whole world is in a period of high risk, and knowable and unknown risks test human. "The outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic at the end of 2019 caused unprecedented spread, which is the most widespread and far-reaching social crisis in the history of the world, and this deeply affects the development of human society." [2] Facing the furious pandemic, General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out that "the voice of the people is the order of action, and the people should be the center and the advantages of the national governance system should be brought into full play. The practical action and measures are taken to make the people have security and accept the people's test." [3] The Party Central Committee with General Secretary Xi Jinping as its core adhered to the people-centered thinking and achieved a phase victory in the blocking war against the pandemic. History and practice has proven that the people are the decisive force in social development, and only by closely relying on the power of the people can we prevent and resolve major social risks, overcome difficulties in social development and create a new development situation.

## 2. Philosophical Implications of the "Closely Relying on the People" Thinking

The people are an important content of Marxist philosophy and the core line of practice of the Communist Party of China for one hundred years. Social existence determines social consciousness, social consciousness determines the choices of action, and the choices of action determine the achievement of goals. Fundamentally, the social existence that forms the basis of everything is the people, and from the level of theoretical interpretation, the people are the basis and fundamental force of the development of the whole society, and this is the

historical logic and practical orientation of action of the Communist Party of China for one hundred years.

### 2.1. Materialist Dialectics

"The question of the existence state of the world is the core issue of the materialist dialectics, Hegel believed that reality constitutes the whole empirical world, and Feuerbach gave the answer: matter is the basic existence state of the world, the two have a certain amount of advancement on the existence question of the world in comparison with idealism, but they still stay in theory answering theory, and theory explaining theory, there is no clear answer at the practical level. Marx analyzed the whole development history of human through his insight into the real world, proposed that people are the basic existence of the whole world, and gave a clear definition of the basic problems of materialistic dialectics from the theory, and also put forward a clear action direction at the practical level. "The people are the main body of social practice, the creator of material and spiritual wealth, and the decisive power of social change." [4] "The people are the creators and promoters of history, only by closely relying on the people can we win in the transformation of society" [5], only by relying on the people can we resolve the social structural crisis and achieve social development. German sociologist Baker believes that human has entered into the risk society, social problems are solved only by closely relying on society, and the social foundation lies in human factors, the society is stabilized only by closely relying on the people, thus resolving social crises, and it directly reflects that only the people are the fundamental power to resolve risks.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a major challenge in the history of human development and a test for the practical philosophy of each country. There are complex social structure and many migrants in China, but from the current situation, the difficulty in preventing and controlling the pandemic is greatest, and the author believes that the fundamental reason lies in the historical action under the practical experience system of Marxist philosophy. Since the birth of the Communist Party of China, it has faced a complex, variable and formidable environment, it is here under the guidance of Marxist philosophy, seeking truth from facts, summarizing development experience and obtaining the people-centered action logic, which makes the Communist Party of China develop and grow, lead the Chinese society to resolve risks and lead the Chinese people towards power. From the blocking war of prevention and control of pandemic situation, we can know that this is the concrete embodiment of the action philosophy of the Communist Party of China over the past century, and it is the real materialist dialectics.

### 2.2. Historical Materialism

"Just as Darwin discovered the development law of the organic world, Marx discovered the development law of human history, namely a simple fact which has traditionally been concealed by the complicated ideologies: people must first eat, drink, live, and clothe themselves before they can engage in politics, science, art, religion, and so on; therefore, direct production of material means of livelihood, and thus a nation or a certain economic development stage of an age, then constitutes the basis, people's state facilities, views of law, art, and even religious ideas are developed from this basis, instead of opposite practice as in the past. " [6] Engels commented on Marx's historical materialism in 1883. As an important part of Marxist philosophy, historical materialism is a theory on the general rule of human social development; it is a scientific view of social history and a scientific methodology for understanding and transforming society. Historical materialism provides people with the line of thought to correctly understand social phenomena and the socio-historical development law; it reveals that the movement of basic social contradictions is the fundamental power of social development, class struggle is the direct power of the development of class society, and the people are the creators of history.

The COVID-19 pandemic is not a static social risk, but a variable and moving social crisis; we must grasp the risk from the historical perspective, and seek ways to resolve it from historical experience. The century-old development of the Communist Party of China has twists and turns, and is progressive, and it is also the supporter of the spirit of historical materialism, facing the variable COVID-19 pandemic, the ways should be variable and the action should be static, namely, everything starts from the actual situation of the crisis, always adheres to the people-centered philosophical orientation in order to achieve the ultimate victory. Throughout the century-old practice of the Communist Party of China, the thinking of adhering to the people-centered has always been the fundamental adherence and the fundamental method to resolve crises, relying on the people to resolve one historical crisis after another. The phase victory of blocking war of the COVID-19 pandemic is the practical test of the century-old historical materialism of the Communist Party of China.

### **3. Realistic Value of the "Closely Relying on the People" Thinking**

Theoretically, the "relying closely on the people" thinking is the adherence and development of the Communist Party of China to the spirit essence of Marxism, as well as the practical summary of a century of actions, which is of great practical significance to the transformation the Communist Party of China to Chinese society. Theory originates from practice and guides practice; only the correct theoretical orientation can resolve major risks, build the good social operation mechanism and jump out of the historical logic trap.

#### **3.1. Closely Relying on the People is an Important Magic Weapon to Prevent and Resolve Major Risks**

The COVID-19 pandemic is raging around the world and has brought huge challenges to human development; it could be argued that the COVID-19 pandemic is the most important social risk faced last year and even now. Judging from the current situation, China is the country that has achieved the most significant results in pandemic prevention in the world, the reason lies in the establishment of the people's front and the exertion of people's power. From the sociological perspective, the stability of the whole society need rely on the social structure, should more rely on micro-units, human as the smallest unit of society, human beings are the smallest unit of society, only by giving full play to the role of people can we promote social stability and resolve major risks. Jean-Jacques Rousseau also believes in his social contract theory, people are the foundation of society and the fundamental power to resolve risks. The author believes that victory can only be achieved by closely relying on the people and giving full play to their power, this is the experience summary which the Communist Party of China explored for centuries.

The great mentor Mao Zedong highly summarized the role of the people in many years of struggle, "The military and the people are united as one person, let us see who can rival?" "The soldiers and the people are the foundation of victory," the millions of people who follow the party and support the revolution are "real bronze and iron walls", "the biggest roots of the war exist among the people." [7] This is the important experience our party has gained in the continuous struggle, and it is an important practice orientation that has been summarized in practical experience. Throughout the development history of the Communist Party of China, there is the shadow of the people behind every victory, "countless workers and peasants followed the party and actively participated in the Red Army," The Eighth Route Army and the New Fourth Army under the leadership of the Communist Party opened up extensive anti-Japanese base areas and their armed power in enemy-occupied areas, this is a great victory of the people view where people as the dominant position.

Although the times environment, contents of the COVID-19 pandemic are inconsistent with history, the essence of the COVID-19 pandemic is risk, this is essentially consistent with the

revolutionary situation in our history, therefore, only by relying on the people can we resolve major risks and win the final victory.

### **3.2. Closely Relying on the People is an Important Embodiment of China's System Advantages**

Different regimes reflect different political philosophies, which are also embodied in the differences in handling events, the advantages of regime or system are not in the handling of ordinary events, but in the handling of destructive and high-risk events. Pandemic prevention and control is a global risk event, and there are big differences in governance and effect among countries, which are caused by different systems. "The political philosophy of capitalist countries is capital-oriented, and the problems of governance risk are also unfolded around capital" [8], which has led to ignorance for non-capital risks and causes poor pandemic prevention and control effects. China's political philosophy is the broad masses of the people, and all governance purposes are based on people, therefore, it is obvious in resolving risks, which is the advantage of China's system.

In author's opinion, the political philosophy of capitalist countries does not recognize the essence of things, it is an alienated philosophy to a certain extent, the state system built on this political philosophy system is inevitably unstable, in particular, the cognition and resolution degree for risks is not enough, this is the Achilles heel of the capitalist state system and the instable factor of the capitalist state. "The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the shortcomings of the existing public health and governance structures in capitalist states"[9], in essence, it is the limitation of political philosophy; practice has proved that the capitalist state system has great limitations and backwardness. The establishment of China's political system is a logical system of people's actions under the leadership of the Communist Party of China; practice has proved to be the relationship between existence and reality, the advanced system with social roots and risk roots.

As Marx imagined, capitalism will inevitably be replaced by socialism, this is a system problem, and it is also caused by the orientation of political philosophy. The development of globalization, on the one hand, it brings huge development potential to human, but it also brings countries into more complex risks, the backwardness of the capitalist system is inadequate when facing risks, which will inevitably lead to the collapse of the entire national system. The socialist system closely relying on the people as the center is the century-old practice result of the Chinese Communist Party, it is the combination of history and practical experience, this system superiority forms a solid national system, its ability to resolve and prevent risks is bound to be the strongest.

### **3.3. Closely Relying on the People is the Only Way to Jump Out of the Human History Cycle**

The development of human history is a moving and developing process, a cycle rising process, a process of constant replacement[10]. Throughout the development of human history, it is not difficult to find that the end of an era is largely due to the negative effects brought by inadequate risk resolving. If we want to jump out of the historical cycle, we must find advanced natural laws of development, this is not only sought by the academic and political circles for thousands of years, but also by the entire human, from Plato to Aristotle to Hegel, Feuerbach and philosophers through the ages had carried out lifelong research, but did not find such a way. It wasn't until Marx that this law was really discovered in theory, and then it was proved in reality by the Communist Party of China through practice.

Looking at China's development process over thousands of years, it is not difficult to find that people are looking for such a law, whether it is the feudal system, the capitalist system, etc., they could not find such a law. The founding of the Communist Party of China in 1921 initially

explored the context of development, clarified the development direction in the first National Congress of the Communist Party of China, brought into play the power of the people and in a century of practice, overthrew the three big mountains, established the socialist system, and developed large-scale socialist construction, socialist reform and opening up, and modernization construction, achieved world-renowned achievements, and gradually found this law, namely the people. The fundamental reason for the history development lies in the people, the people are the creators and promoters of history, only by recognizing this fundamental can we jump out of the historical cycle, closely relying on the people is the starting point and logic of human development, only based on this can it develop and not become the old thing to be replaced.

General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out: "The people are the solid foundation of the Republic, and the people are our greatest confidence in power. Along the way, the Chinese people rely on their own efforts and work hard and perseveringly, create the Chinese miracle of world interest." [11] At the 2019 Spring Festival mass greetings, General Secretary Xi Jinping once again emphasized: "as long as we firmly rely on the people, there will be no difficulties and obstacles that cannot be overcome, and there will be no grand cause that cannot be achieved." [12] General Secretary Xi Jinping summarized the action logic of the development of the entire human society, only by relying on the people can we promote the development of our cause, resolve risks on the way forward, jump out of the historical cycle, and realize great struggles, great projects, great causes, and great dreams.

#### **4. Practice Orientation of "Closely Relying on the People" Thinking**

The COVID-19 pandemic is essentially a risk event, and is essentially the same as other challenges, but there are differences in manifestations. In author's opinion, the theoretical level of risk resolution must be consistent, and the practice level reflects differences. In theory, pandemic prevention and control must closely rely on the core thinking of the people, and always integrate the thinking of the people into practice. In practice, pandemic prevention and control must be specific and have difference due to its own characteristics, and universality and particularity should be unified.

##### **4.1. Extensively Rouse the Masses and Establish the People's Front**

The risks are resolved by launching people's war, "the deepest root of the mighty power of war lies in the people" [13], under the guidance of the people's war thinking, the Communist Party of China led the Chinese people to win the revolutionary struggle. It is also necessary to play the role of the people in the pandemic prevention and control, establish a broad people's front, and fight the pandemic together in order to achieve the ultimate victory. Practice has proved that in the pandemic prevention and control, our party has given full play to the power of the 1.4 billion Chinese people, united as one to resist the "pandemic", united as one, worked together in the same boat, and worked together to win, gather people's wisdom and succeed, make the network of joint prevention and control and mass prevention and mass governance closely woven into every corner and everyone, and obtain remarkable achievements.

The normalization of pandemic prevention and control requires closely relying on the people, insisting on doing everything for the people, everything relies on the people, coming from the people and going to the people, turning the Party Central Committee's correct proposal on pandemic prevention and control into the conscious action of the people, firmly grasp the overall prevention and control strategy of "prevent the coronavirus from re-entering the country to cause a new pandemic", continuously improve and perfect the prevention and control pattern of strict prevention and strict control of key population circulation channels, and group prevention and group governance of basic unit, take the community as a unit, grid governance, refined management and control, strengthen community prevention and control

management through the sinking of prevention and control forces, realize prevention and control measures into the network and grid, reach household and people, and implement the pandemic prevention and control management measures to the every family and resident. It is necessary to strengthen the protection of key parts, strictly implement joint control and joint defense, and resolutely manage the "first kilometer" and "last kilometer." Cut off the spread of the COVID-19 from the operational level. Eventually, achieve an "adaptive governance structure, build recovery and a learning and innovation period with "new normal social reality" [14].

#### **4.2. Extensively Publicize the People and Establish the People's Defense Line**

Historical experience tells us that every major risk event is an ideological education lesson for the people. Good guidance can improve the people's scientific cognitive level, cultivate the people's rational cognitive attitude, and form a strong joint force of the people. General Secretary Xi Jinping has repeatedly emphasized that the pandemic prevention and control should "strengthen the work of public opinion guidance" and "enhance the pertinence and effect of public opinion guidance". [15] It is necessary to widely publicize the knowledge of pandemic prevention and control, increase the awareness and vigilance of the people, build the people's defense line of pandemic prevention and control, and cut off the spread of the COVID-19 virus in the process.

To build the normalized propaganda mechanism, continuously provide the people with the latest news of the COVID-19 pandemic and the latest requirements for pandemic prevention and control, and increase the people's vigilance. To build the normalized education mechanism, continuously propagate prevention-related knowledge to the people, and enhance the people's awareness. To build a normalized incentive mechanism, set up relevant channels, communicate with the people, encourage the people to report behaviors that are not conducive to pandemic prevention and control, and enhance the people's participation and supervision awareness.

#### **4.3. Extensively Study the People and Establish the People's Learning Line**

In 2019, General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized at the opening ceremony of the training class for young and middle-aged cadres at the Central Party School (National Academy of Governance), "cadres must persist in building a party for the interests of the vast majority, governing for the people, learn from the people with an open mind, be truly responsible to the people, and be enthusiastic about serving them, sincerely accept the supervision of the people. Cadres must take the people as teachers, learn from the people, swallow pride and leaned down, down to earth, know conditions at the lower levels, conduct in-depth investigations and studies, dissect sparrows, discover typical examples, truly discover the problems faced by the people, reflect the opinions of the masses, and sum up the experience created by the people." [16] General Secretary Xi Jinping deeply grasps the importance of the people and the important position of the people in the development of socialism, this is a major risk for our pandemic prevention and control, if we want to obtain the final victory, we must give full play to the wisdom of the people, extensively learn from the people's advanced experience, establish learning ways from the people, look at the pandemic from various levels and perspectives, and achieve understanding the nature of the pandemic and the actual situation of prevention and control.

It is necessary to give full play to the grid function of community governance, build the channel for normal communication with the people, and listen to public opinions by setting up suggestion boxes. It is necessary to fully carry out research, go deeply to the people, learn from the people with an open mind, communicate with the people with the perspective of the people, and sum up the experience created by the people. It is necessary to build the risk-resolving consultation mechanism, when facing many social risks such as the COVID-19

pandemic, it is necessary to actively build the risk-resolving consultation mechanism, include people, jointly study and discuss solutions to improve the ability to resolve risks.

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