Research on the Connotation and Contemporary Value of Xi Jinping's Eco-economic Thought

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Abstract. Based on the current environmental reality of China's economic development and the practice of reform and opening up, Xi Jinping has formed the eco-economic thoughts. Xi Jinping's thought of eco-economy is rich in content. This eco-economic thought profoundly demonstrates the eco-problems of China's economic development from the aspects of production, consumption and performance evaluation, and reflects the thinking of the Communist Party of China on deepening reform in the new period. Xi Jinping's eco-economic thought is the inheritance and development of Marxist eco-economic thought and socialist eco-economic thought with Chinese characteristics. This eco-economic thought embodies the theoretical innovation of the Communist Party of China. Xi's eco-economic thought has important theoretical and practical significance for deepening China's economic reform and realizing the "Chinese dream" of national great rejuvenation.

1. Introduction

Xi Jinping pointed out: "we should correctly handle the relationship between economic development and ecological environment protection, firmly establish the protection of the ecological environment is to protect productivity, improve the ecological environment is the development of the concept of productivity, more consciously promote green development, development cycle, low carbon development, and never at the expense of the environment in exchange for temporary economic growth".[1]In order to realize people's yearning for a better life, we must protect the environment in the development of the economy. We must establish a correct outlook on production, consumption and achievements.

Xi Jinping's eco-economic thought is the latest exposition of the relationship between economic development and environmental protection in China under the background of the new normal economy. Studying and researching Xi Jinping's eco-economic thought is of great theoretical and practical significance for realizing the sustainable development of China's economy and the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

2. The background of Xi Jinping's eco-economic thought

2.1 The "green barrier" in developed countries is becoming more and more restrictive to China's international economic and trade.

In modern times, with the rapid development of the world economy, the level of productivity has been improved in an unprecedented way in history. As the communist manifesto states: "The bourgeoisie, in its less than one hundred years of class rule, has created more productive forces than all the previous generations have created.[2]

With the sustained development of the world economy, the destruction of the natural environment and the plundering of natural energy are becoming more and more serious. Global warming, species extinction, land barrenness, energy shortage, chemical pollution seriously threaten human life. As a developing country, China's import and export trade is
increasingly restricted by the "green barriers" of developed countries. Therefore, Xi Jinping put forward the concept of eco-economy as the core collective leadership of the CPC Central Committee.

2.2 China's economic development is threatened by ecological deterioration

China's reform and opening up and economic construction have made remarkable achievements, and at the same time, it has brought serious ecological problems such as energy consumption, environmental pollution and so on. This has brought tremendous impact on the long-term development of China's economy. China's consumption of energy resources is very large, and its waste is relatively serious.

"Huge resource consumption and waste emissions have caused serious environmental pollution and ecological destruction, which have brought great challenges to the sustainable development of China."[3] Faced with such a severe domestic development situation, the party central committee with comrade Xi Jinping as the core started the road of ecological economy.

3. The main content of Xi Jinping's eco-economic thought

Xi Jinping's eco-economic thought is rich in content and profound in meaning, which systematically answers the question of how to solve the relationship between human and nature in China's economic development. Xi Jinping's eco-economic thought conforms to the development of the times and is also an accurate grasp of the rapid development of China and the world economy.

3.1 Production is the key link of ecological economy.

3.1.1 The development of productivity must be based on the protection of the ecological environment

Marx pointed out that "All productive forces are attributed to nature"[4] A suitable ecological environment is the material source and basic guarantee for the sustainable and healthy development of social productivity. According to Marx's thoughts, Xi clearly stated that "We should correctly handle the relationship between economic development and ecological and environmental protection, and firmly establish the concept that protecting the ecological environment means protecting the productive forces and improving the ecological environment means developing the productive forces". [5] Based on the current situation of China's ecological environment, Xi Jinping clearly put forward the idea that the ecological environment is the productive forces, which has enriched Marxism.

3.1.2 Promoting the development mode of low-carbon production

Marx put forward the idea of building an ideal society with harmonious coexistence of man and nature…… By consuming the least natural resources possible, people can achieve the goal of harmony between man and nature. [6] We must unswervingly follow the path of green and low-carbon development, and guide the formation of green production and lifestyle, Xi said. [7] Xi's thought is the most authoritative guideline for eco-economic development.

3.1.3 Developing production by recycling technology

Using recycling technology to develop recycling economy is an important carrier for China's economic transformation and new industrialization. Using recycling technology to develop recycling economy is also the main direction for all industries facing transformation and adjustment.

We should actively advocate clean production, form an ecological industrial chain and guide the public to participate in building a circular society, xi said. While realizing the high quality development of economy, the maintenance of ecological environment, the promotion of recycling technology and the effect of enterprise transformation are closely linked. For one
thing, we should vigorously promote our own technology; For another thing, we should learn advanced technology from other countries.

3.2 Consumption is the ultimate embodiment of eco-economy

At present, the driving effect of consumption on economic growth is further enhanced in the process of China's economic development. On the one hand, the driving effect of investment and export has weakened; On the other hand, the change of consumption structure has brought about the improvement of consumption capacity. The effect of consumption links on the development of ecological economy cannot be ignored.

3.2.1 Changes in consumer attitudes

The change of consumption concept is often permeated with the change of production and operation mode, which reflects the realistic and future trend of economic development. In the face of ecological crisis, consumption concept is bound to change. Xi Jinping pointed out that building a resource-saving society is a social revolution related to the harmonious coexistence of man and nature. The pursuit of human development and the limited supply of earth resources is an eternal contradiction. In Xi Jinping's view, changing modern people's consumption concept, saving energy, green consumption, and moderate consumption concept should be vigorously promoted and advocated.

3.2.2 The change of consumption behaviour

Xi Jinping pointed out that in the field of consumption, we should vigorously advocate the concept of rational consumption and moderate consumption and consumption behavior. Energy saving, water saving, material saving, grain saving, garbage sorting and recycling should be the conscious action of the whole society. People should gradually form a civilized and economical consumption pattern.

Our consumption behavior must change from luxury consumption to suitable consumption, from disposable consumption to circular consumption, from self-consumption to green consumption. With the rapid development of economy, we must correctly handle the relationship between man and nature. We should care for nature, cherish the ecological environment and actively advocate green consumption.

3.3 The concept of green performance reflects the value orientation of ecological economy

At present, China has become the world's second largest entity of economy. Economic development has neglected ecological protection, resulting in a shortage of resources, environmental pollution, ecosystem degradation, reduction of urban green space, and has increased people living pressure. "Development must be scientific development that follows economic laws and sustainable development that follows natural laws," Xi said. [8] To keep our ecological red line, the government is very important, especially the transformation of the achievements view.

3.3.1 To develop the economy, we should not focus only on GDP

Rapid GDP growth is political achievement, as is ecological conservation and construction. Economic and social development is political performance, and laying the foundation is political performance. Solving problems in economic development is political achievement, and solving problems in people's livelihood is political achievement. We should conduct a scientific, orderly and sustainable evaluation of our performance.

We should pay attention to the current economic development and take into account the ecological environment and people's livelihood in the future. We should not only focus on economic construction, pay close attention to economic transformation, but also have a high
sense of responsibility. We should put people first and pay attention to the practical requirements of people on their living environment.

3.3.2 GDP China needs green GDP instead of GDP with pollution.
China's current economic development and social progress are not simply to solve the problem of food and clothing and poverty, but to pursue a better life. "The kind of development that demands money and lives, the kind that pollutes first and then treats, destroys first and then restores, can no longer go on."[9] " Moving towards a new era of ecological civilization, building a beautiful China, we will more consciously promote green development, circular development and low-carbon development."[10]

In the process of economic development, China should not only pursue the speed of economic development, but also realize the unity of the speed, quality and efficiency of economic development; It should not only consider one-sided economic development, pollute the environment and leave a heavy burden on future generations, and should coordinate the harmony between man and nature to achieve sustainable development.

3.3.3 To evaluate one's performance depends on both economic development and environmental protection

The concept of achievement is closely related to the concept of development. What kind of achievement view will have the same view of development.[11]Xi Jinping pointed out: "We can not strengthen the construction of ecological civilization, strengthen the protection of the ecological environment, advocate a green low-carbon lifestyle as a mere economic issue. These are politics too. "[12] We should not pursue economic development at the expense of the ecological environment. We should not ignore sustainable economic development in the name of GDP.

4. The significance of Xi's eco-economic thought

4.1 Xi Jinping's eco-economic thought is the theoretical innovation of development

4.1.1 Xi Jinping's thought on eco-economy develops the theory of economic construction

Xi's eco-economic thought is a theoretical innovation based on inheriting the party's scientific outlook on development, new industrialization, science and technology being the primary productive force and foreign ecology. Xi Jinping's eco-economic thought is divided into two organic parts: Ecological Economization and Economic Ecologicalization.

"Ecological Economization” expounds the direction, strategy, industrial system, motive force of green development, and "Economic Ecologicalization” expounds the development of local conditions and the effective transformation of ecological resources into economic wealth.

4.1.2 Xi Jinping's thought on ecological economy has successfully solved the theoretical problems of economic development and environmental protection

Xi Jinping's thought on eco-economy pursues win-win between economic construction and ecological construction. This idea is the negation of single pursuit of economic growth or single pursuit of environmental protection. Xi's eco-economic thought has improved the Marxist eco-economic theory, which is an important innovation in economic development theory.

4.2 Xi Jinping's eco-economic thought is a guide to deepening economic reform

To realize the win-win goal of economic development and environmental protection, China must carefully follow Xi Jinping's eco-economic thought in practical work. Xi Jinping's eco-economic thought has strong pertinence and operability. At present, China's economic development is in a critical period, maintaining the appropriate economic development speed, vigorously eliminating backward production capacity, promoting industrial transformation are
our great pressure. More importantly, we should be guided by Xi Jinping's eco-economic thought.

4.2.1 Xi Jinping's eco-economic thought has pointed out the way for the sustainable development of the environment.

Xi's eco-economic thought emphasizes green, circular and low-carbon economy. This idea takes transforming the economic development mode and promoting economic restructuring as the basic strategy, takes building an ecological industrial system as the strategic layout, and takes science and technology as the fundamental power, and forms a relatively complete ecological economic thought. This idea points the way for China's sustainable development of the environment.

4.2.2 Xi Jinping's eco-economic thought has greatly changed the ecological concept of the people

Xi Jinping proposed to create material wealth by improving the ecological environment, promoted the transformation from "green water and green mountains" to "mountain and Silver Mountains", and found an excellent path to protect and improve the environment for economic development.

Practice has proved that people see the reality that the natural environment can be continuously transformed into economic wealth, which also strengthens the motive force of protecting the environment and improving the ecological environment. People’s concept changed from passive protection of ecology to active protection of ecology in many places nowadays. Xi Jinping's eco-economic thought has broadened people's understanding of ecological economy.

5. Conclusion

"The environment is the livelihood of the people... We should not harm the ecological environment as the bottom line of development"

[13] Xi Jinping’s Report at the 19th National Congress of CPC pointed out, “We must adhere to the basic state policy of saving resources and protecting environment.” [14] Xi pointed out: “More consciously, we will promote green development, circular development and low-carbon development, and we will not trade the environment for temporary economic growth at the expense of the environment.” [15] Xi Jinping's eco-economic thought inherits and develops Marx's ecological thought. Xi Jinping's eco-economic thought requires us to establish correct views of development, consumption and political achievements in the process of deepening economic reform. We must change the mode of economic development, develop green, low carbon and circular economy, at the same time, correctly handle the relationship between economic development and ecological protection. Xi's eco-economic thought demands the goal of realizing the people's aspiration for a better life. Only by adhering to Xi Jinping's eco-economic thought can China solve its ecological and environmental problems, thus ensuring the smooth realization of the goal of "building a beautiful China".

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