

# Deng Xiaoping's Risk Consciousness and Enlightenment to Building Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era

Commemorating the 40th Anniversary of Reform and Opening Up

Yuxia Zhang  
Quanzhou Normal University  
Fujian, China

Xiaofang Wang\*  
Liming Vocational University archives  
Quanzhou, China  
weng28911985@163.com

**Abstract**—Risk consciousness is an important content of Deng Xiaoping's theory of developing socialism with Chinese characteristics. In the face of difficulties and risks, Deng Xiaoping always takes "dare" as the first word, and with the courage of the revolutionist, it is the essence of Deng Xiaoping's risk awareness to face risks and take risks to prevent risks, which reflects Deng Xiaoping's theoretical spirit and revolutionary personality style. On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of reform and opening up, it is still of great practical significance and enlightenment to revisit Deng Xiaoping's risk consciousness.

**Keywords**—Risk awareness; New era; Socialism with Chinese characteristics

## I. INTRODUCTION

As the chief designer of China's reform and opening up, Deng Xiaoping plays an irreplaceable role in China's reform and opening up. Deng Xiaoping has formed a unique risk consciousness from correctly understanding the risk, to daring to take the risk and to solve the risk, which reflects Deng Xiaoping's theoretical spirit and personality style. On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of reform and opening up, we deeply realize that the risk consciousness of Deng Xiaoping is still of great practical significance in reviewing the relevant works of Deng Xiaoping.

## II. THE UNIQUE RISK CONSCIOUSNESS IS AN IMPORTANT CONTENT OF DENG XIAOPING'S THEORY OF DEVELOPING SOCIALISM WITH CHINESE CHARACTERISTICS

### A. To Understand Deng Xiaoping's Risk Consciousness from the Dialectical Relationship Between Risk and Development

From the beginning of reform and opening up until the southern talks, Deng Xiaoping repeatedly reminded us of the risks on the road ahead. This issue was first raised at a symposium on the implementation of the policy of economic work adjustment held by the central committee in October 1979. Deng Xiaoping focused on economic issues for the general opinion that put forward: "we are so big a country, we have such a large ambition, what how make comparison, better able to withstand risks, is able to overcome difficulties,

overcome obstacles, obtained fast development, can only rely on everyone's collective wisdom to solve this problem." Since then, whenever it comes to deepening reform and opening up, when it comes to the introduction of new major policies, he has to pay attention to risks. Until the conversation in the south, he had repeatedly raised the question of risk, believing that everything should be done with "a little risk" and that no one could guarantee "a safe bet". [1]

It is inevitable that there will be some risks or twists and turns in China's reform and opening up and socialist modernization. There will be twists and turns in progress, and there will be risks in development. When Deng Xiaoping was talking about development, he always mentioned risks and always associated risks with hopes. "Our reforms are very risky, but very promising," he said. According to Deng Xiaoping, from the perspective of China's modernization development trend, reform and opening up have both hope and risk, and both hope and risk may exist simultaneously.

Deng Xiaoping's hope is the hope of development. "Reform and opening up will revitalize the domestic economy, reform the economic system and develop more quickly than we expected," he said. "that is to say, there is great hope." [2] here, Deng Xiaoping called development hope because there is no hope without development. "To keep to the direction of socialist development, we must affirm that the fundamental task of socialism is to develop the productive forces, gradually get rid of poverty, make the country rich and strong, and make the people live a good life," he said. The concept of risk in Deng Xiaoping's development theory is a broad concept of risk, including problems, difficulties, errors, turmoil and failure. The risk mentioned here belongs to the negative effect of social practice, which refers to the cost of risk.

### B. Discuss the Causes of Risks from the Perspective of Negative Effects of Practical Activities

With the deepening development of reform and opening up and modernization construction practice, Deng Xiaoping made a thorough analysis on the causes of risks from the perspective of negative effects of practical activities.

The normal effect of social practice, namely social progress and economic development, is rooted in the

Foundation Project:

1. 2018 Fujian Province Young and Middle-aged Teacher Education Research Project "I Offer Good Strategies for Building New Fujian" (United Front Work Project) (Key Funding Project) (JZ180019).

2. Fujian Provincial Education Science "Thirteenth Five-Year Plan" 2017 Cross-Strait Vocational Education Special Research Project (FJKHX17-077)

3. Quanzhou Normal University Student Innovation and Entrepreneurship Training Program Project Funding (201810399120)

unification of social practice with both regularity and purpose. But in China's reform and opening up and modernization practice, the two are difficult to unite. On the one hand, it is possible to violate the objective ship law of the external world while giving attention to the purpose of human beings. In the case of violation of objective laws, social practice may take risks and pay costs, presenting a negative effect. Social practice should not only act according to objective laws, but also according to their own purposes. When people's activities do not meet the requirements of the overall purpose of human beings, social practice will also produce negative effects and pay a price for risks. That is to say, we have both objective and subjective reasons for taking risks and paying costs in the practice of reform, opening up and modernization.

There are many objective reasons for the risk cost of reform and opening up. First of all, it is closely related to China's basic national conditions. "When we look at China, we must understand the complexity of China's problems," Deng said. With more than a billion people and dozens of ethnic groups in China, and more than three decades of tortuous history since the founding of the People's Republic, it is not surprising that something like this has happened. A basic feature of China's national conditions is the coexistence of feudalism, capitalism and socialism. Several doctrines have emerged in China as an intricate contradiction. Socialism is the mainstream of contemporary China, and the four modernizations of socialism are the goal for which the Chinese people strive. But the other two are different. Feudalism is an outdated and decayed thing, which is to be thoroughly criticized and cleared of the slops and detoxification. Capitalism is both attractive and worrying in ways China has never experienced before. To develop the market economy in China, we should not only allow capitalism to survive, but also prevent and overcome its inherent contradictions and disadvantages. An important reason for the risks of reform and opening up is that it brings in something capitalist. Deng xiao ping said that opening up policy is risky and will bring something capitalist. When it comes to risk, it's the biggest risk. [3] when a minority advocates western democracy in China, it is the result of being influenced by the democratic system and bourgeois cultural thoughts of western countries. Second, the risk also lies in China's weak foundation and backward productivity. As the starting point of building socialist modernization, the productivity is limited and low, and it is impossible to meet the development of the whole society and the needs of all people. This will inevitably lead to uneven development, uneven distribution, widening gap between the rich and the poor, and even new polarization in coastal and inland areas, urban and rural areas. Third, the inherent reason for the risks of reform and opening up lies in the weakness and negative effects of the market economy. For example, in political life, the principle of equivalent exchange is used as a political principle, and everything is said to be equivalent exchange. Therefore, the exchange of power and money has resulted in the transaction of power and money, which has led to the repeated prohibition of bribery and corruption. In market competition, money as a general equivalent is the means of Commodity Exchange, which induces some people to develop the worship of money, extreme individualism and so on.

### III. SECOND, RAISE AWARENESS OF RISK PREVENTION AND PROMOTE THE HEALTHY AND COORDINATED DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIALIST CIVILIZATION WITH CHINESE CHARACTERISTICS IN THE NEW ERA

Improving risk awareness in the new era is a judgment based on various structural risk problems in China's social development in the new era. In the party's nineteenth report, xi further stressed the extreme importance of raising risk awareness. He stressed that "it is an important principle for our party to govern the country in a balanced way, with development and security in mind, with a view to enhancing the awareness of potential dangers and ensuring that we live in peace and think in danger". Deepening reform in an all-round way has entered a period of crisis and deep water. We will face the test of many difficulties and risks intertwined. Understanding Deng Xiaoping's thought of risk prevention has important implications for promoting the healthy and coordinated development of the socialist civilization with Chinese characteristics in the new era.

#### A. *The New Era Still Needs to Develop the Spirit of Taking Risks*

Deng Xiaoping's spirit of daring to take risks is twofold. First, he is not afraid of taking risks. "it takes courage to overcome a word of fear." Overcome the psychological barriers of fear and build confidence. Deng Xiaoping said: "I always told my comrades not to be afraid of taking risks. Because, "it's impossible for us to deal with a problem without any risk at all. [4] "don't take any chances. You can be sure of everything you do. At first I thought I was right, I thought it was 100 percent right. Deng Xiaoping is not an empty talker. He believes in facts and truth. The older generation of revolutionaries are not afraid of sacrifice or risk in revolution. The so-called fear of risk is not afraid of difficulties, political winds and waves, not afraid of making mistakes, not afraid of failure. Why are some people afraid of reform and opening up? As Deng Xiaoping pointed out, some of our old comrades, "after a lifetime of socialism and communism, suddenly developed capitalism, which we cannot bear or fear." "The reform and opening up will not go forward with a pace and dare not go forward. To speak of it, it means that we are afraid of capitalism and have taken the road of capitalism. The key is the question of surname "capital" or surname "society". Fear is a matter of recognition, but also of practical interest. There is nothing to fear in carrying out reform and opening up, bringing in foreign investment, establishing special zones and carrying out "three capital" enterprises. Second, we should establish the spirit of "chuang". No man who has made great achievements in history has not made them. Just as Deng Xiaoping said: "without a bit of the spirit of chuang chuang, without a bit of the spirit of 'courage,' without a breath of life, no energy, no good road, no new road, no new career." [5] in addition to overcoming fear, we should emancipate our minds and put down the burden of fear of failure. Deng Xiaoping said, "try first and you will be ready to fail. Failure is not a big deal." People learn from failure to succeed and develop. If Deng Xiaoping had not learned from the failure of the "cultural revolution", it would have been difficult for him to propose the path of reform, opening up and building socialism

with Chinese characteristics. To take a new road, pioneering and enterprising, we must have a pioneering spirit.

*B. The New Era Requires a Scientific and Rigorous Attitude Towards Risks and Risk Mitigation*

First, stay alert and guard against risk. Deng Xiaoping often reminded people of risks, "as long as we are sober, we are not afraid." To reform and opening up, "we must keep a clear mind, resolutely resist the erosion of foreign corrupt ideas, and never allow the bourgeois lifestyle to flourish in our country." Our party anticipates that opening up will bring some negative things of western capitalism, which will affect the construction of the four modernizations. In the treatment of risk hazards and long-term issues of struggle, is also sober. He believes that opposing class liberalization, corruption and combating economic crimes are long-term and frequent tasks of struggle. Our party will continue to fight this struggle for 20 years, even on the day of the realization of the four modernizations.

Second, we need to be prepared and invincible. Deng Xiaoping believed that we are not baseless in overcoming risks. "We need to focus on the bigger risks and be prepared to respond," he said. Carry forward the glorious tradition of the party and refrain from waging uncertain and unprepared wars. Since the day of reform and opening up, our party has been anticipating risks. We have laid the basic point of our work on risks or major risks. We have a superior social system and Chinese communism

The strong leadership of the party, especially since the reform and opening up, has led to the development of China's productive forces, increased people's livelihood and overall national strength, and enhanced the ability to take risks. As Deng Xiaoping said: "fundamentally, we have more on hand, and we take the initiative in dealing with all kinds of contradictions and problems." Only with the support of the people and enhanced economic strength can we truly stand undefeated.

Third, take measures to overcome risks. To overcome risks, we need to have the right policies. To overcome risks, we must first "adhere to the line, principles and policies of the party since the third plenary session of the eleventh central committee. The key is to stick to 'one center, two basics'. ..... The basic line must be followed for a hundred years without wavering. Only by adhering to this line will the people believe in you and support you. To overcome risks, we must believe in

the people and win their support. This is fundamental. While emphasizing this basic line, Deng Xiaoping also put forward a targeted policy of overcoming risks. "Our policy is to be bold, to walk steadily, to walk step by step, to watch step by step," he said. Constantly summing up experience, "stick to what is right, correct what is wrong, and solve new problems as soon as possible." By adhering to such a policy, risks and risks can be reduced.

*C. In the New Era, We Must Hold High the Banner of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics and Prevent Them from Going Astray*

Since the 19th congress, under the leadership of the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core, the Party has held high the banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era and adopted the policy of "four comprehensiveness" and "five in one" policy, more comprehensive and in-depth reform and opening-up, the historic change of Chinese society, the unprecedented changes have taken place in the face of the Chinese nation, the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era, China to high quality, high standard, high-tech modern direction, fully open new victory, and achieved fruitful results in 40 years of reform and opening-up make us understand and adhere to the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics, Only adhere to the comprehensive reform and opening up, is the way to realize the great dream, led the people across the country into a new era, the party's 19 set foot on a new journey, we are under the leadership of the party central committee with comrade xi as the core, in the new era of Chinese characteristic socialism as the instruction, along to build a well-off society in an all-round way, achieve modernization of the new road, united, united struggle, in order to achieve the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation the Chinese dream. [6]

REFERENCE

- [1] Deng Xiaoping's anthology, vol. 3, pp. 372, pp. 99.
- [2] Deng Xiaoping's anthology, vol. 3, pp. 372, pp. 99.
- [3] Deng Xiaoping's anthology, vol. 3, pp. 156.
- [4] Deng Xiaoping's anthology, vol. 3, pp. 363-364.
- [5] Deng Xiaoping's anthology, vol. 3, pp. 372-373.
- [6] B.X. Lin, "The risk thought of Deng Xiaoping and its enlightenment to the social governance of our countrl," Journal of Hefei Municipal Party School, vol. 2015(01), pp. 32-33.