

# China's Epic Journey From Poverty To Prosperity (I)

## 中国的全面小康(上)

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### Preface

Achieving moderate prosperity fulfills a long-cherished dream of the Chinese nation.

On July 1, 2021, at the ceremony marking the centenary of the Communist Party of China (CPC), Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee and president of China, declared that thanks to the continued efforts of the whole Party and the entire nation, China had realized the First Centenary Goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects. This means that it has put an end to absolute poverty, and is now marching in confident strides towards the Second Centenary Goal of building a great modern socialist country.

Over the past hundred years, led by the CPC, generations of the Chinese people have persevered, progressing step by step from a subsistence standard of living to piecemeal prosperity, then to moderate prosperity throughout the country.

The realization of moderate prosperity is a glorious achievement for the Chinese nation. Once subjected to oppression and humiliation, China now stands firm among the nations of the world. This represents one significant step closer to the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation, and testifies to China's historic transformation—from standing upright to becoming prosperous and growing in strength. This achievement reflects the Chinese people's aspiration for a better life, and their indomitable will to surmount all difficulties and challenges on their way forward. It has boosted their pride and confidence in the nation, and inspired further endeavors on the quest for national rejuvenation.

The realization of moderate prosperity is a remarkable achievement by the Chinese people. From difficult beginnings they have made both material and cultural progress, moving forward with full confidence along the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics. The creation of a moderately prosperous society epitomizes their ingenuity, diligence, commitment to progress, and determination to pursue their dream and effect change for the better. Their living standards have improved markedly, and they have stronger faith in the path, theory, system and culture of Chinese socialism. The Chinese people are industrious, courageous and honorable—a great and heroic people.

The realization of moderate prosperity is a commendable achievement for the CPC. Over the past hundred years, the CPC has grown from a small party with just over 50 members into the largest

### 前言

小康是中华民族的千年梦想和夙愿。

2021年7月1日，习近平总书记在庆祝中国共产党成立100周年大会上庄严宣告：“经过全党全国各族人民持续奋斗，我们实现了第一个百年奋斗目标，在中华大地上全面建成了小康社会，历史性地解决了绝对贫困问题，正在意气风发向着全面建成社会主义现代化强国的第二个百年奋斗目标迈进。”

100年来，中国共产党团结带领中国人民顽强拼搏，几代人一以贯之、接续奋斗，从“小康之家”到“小康社会”，从“总体小康”到“全面小康”，从“全面建设”到“全面建成”，小康目标不断实现，小康梦想成为现实。

全面建成小康社会，是中华民族的伟大光荣。从百年前饱受欺凌屈辱到实现全面小康，中华民族无比自豪地站立在世界民族之林。全面建成小康社会，中华民族孜孜以求的美好梦想成为现实，标志着实现中华民族伟大复兴向前迈出新的一大步，中华民族迎来了从站起来、富起来到强起来的伟大飞跃。全面建成小康社会，彰显了中华民族对美好生活的向往追求和历经磨难始终不屈不挠、敢于斗争、敢于胜利的精神品格，极大增强了民族自信心和自豪感，极大增强了中华民族实现伟大复兴的能力和力量。

全面建成小康社会，是中国人民的伟大光荣。从百年前受奴役受压迫到物质上富起来、精神上强起来，中国人民无比自豪地行进在中国特色社会主义道路上。幸福美好的小康生活，凝聚着中国人民的聪明才智，浸透着中国人民的辛勤汗水，淬炼了

and most influential governing party in the world, with more than 95 million members in a country of over 1.4 billion people. Throughout this process, it has always been at the forefront of the times. In bringing about moderate prosperity, it has fulfilled a solemn promise, and lived up to its original aspiration and founding mission to seek happiness for the people and rejuvenate the Chinese nation. Leading the people in overcoming obstacles and moving forward, the CPC has won their trust and support with real actions.

The realization of moderate prosperity is a major contribution China has made to the world. Over the past hundred years, China has emerged from poverty and the scourge of war, and become a dynamic and prosperous country, standing tall and proud in the East. In achieving moderate prosperity for the Chinese people, China has contributed to its own development and delivered benefits to the rest of the world. This has created positive momentum for world peace and common development, and contributed China's strength to building a global community of shared future and a better world.

China is a populous country with complex national conditions, which in the recent past was afflicted with weak economic foundations. To realize moderate prosperity has required great perseverance, and represents a notable achievement on the part of the CPC and the people. But there is still much to do to improve living standards—the challenge remains between unbalanced and inadequate development and the people's growing expectation for a better life. The CPC will lead the people to work harder for well-rounded human development and common prosperity.

To document China's journey to moderate prosperity and to share its unique experience in modernization with the rest of the world, the Chinese government is releasing this white paper.

## I. A Critical Step Towards National Rejuvenation

*Xiaokang*, meaning moderate prosperity, has been a consistent aspiration of the Chinese nation since ancient times. More than 2,000 years ago the term appeared in the *Book of Songs* to mean modest comfort:

The people are hard-pressed, they need some modest comfort.

Do well by the Central Plains, and your rule will spread beyond.

Centuries later the *Book of Rites* described the ideal state of society that *xiaokang* would bring about. Both gave expression to the ancient Chinese people's desire for a better life. But for millennia moderate prosperity remained a dream. After the Opium War (1840-1842), China was gradually reduced to a semi-colonial, semi-feudal society and was subjected to terrible oppression. It went through immense humiliation, its people endured untold suffering, and the ancient Chinese civilization lost its way. However, the indomitable Chinese people never lost heart—they continued to fight tenaciously for their dream of a happy life.

The founding of the CPC a hundred years ago was a pivotal event in Chinese history. From the outset, the CPC has made the wellbeing of the Chinese people and the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation its abiding goals. Committed to meeting the people's expectation for a better life, China's communist movement, with Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping, Jiang Zemin, Hu Jintao and Xi Jinping as its leading representatives, has united the Chinese people in a tireless struggle over generations, pressing ahead towards the goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

Led by the CPC, the Chinese people have achieved one success after another. They won victory in the New Democratic Revolution, and founded the People's Republic of China (PRC) in 1949. The

中国人民自强不息的奋斗精神，彰显了中国人民为实现梦想顽强拼搏、“敢教日月换新天”的意志品质。中国人民生活水平显著提升，道路自信、理论自信、制度自信、文化自信极大增强。中国人民是勤劳勇敢的人民，是伟大、光荣、英雄的人民。

全面建成小康社会，是中国共产党的伟大光荣。从百年前只有50多名党员到拥有9500多万名党员、领导着14亿多人口大国、具有重大全球影响力的世界第一大执政党，中国共产党无比自豪地走在时代前列。全面建成小康社会，兑现了党向人民、向历史作出的庄严承诺，彰显了党为中国人民谋幸福、为中华民族谋复兴的初心使命，彰显了中国共产党是中国人民攻坚克难、开拓前进的领导和主心骨。党用实际行动，赢得了人民的信赖和拥护。

全面建成小康社会，是中国对世界的伟大贡献。从百年前山河破碎、衰败凋零到今天蓬勃发展、欣欣向荣，中国无比自豪地屹立在世界东方。中国全面建成小康社会，既发展自己，也造福世界。不断富裕起来的中国人民，不断发展进步的中国，为维护世界和平、促进共同发展注入了正能量，彰显了构建人类命运共同体、建设美好世界的中国力量。

在一个底子薄、基础弱、国情复杂的大国，全面建成惠及十几亿人口的小康社会，极不平凡，极不容易，中国共产党和中国人民付出了长期艰辛努力。全面建成小康社会，中国人民过上了好日子，但还不富足，人民日益增长的美好生活需要和不平衡不充分的发展之间的矛盾仍然存在。中国共产党将团结带领人民，向着实现人的全面发展、全体人民共同富裕继续迈进。

为记录中国全面建成小康社会的伟大历程，介绍中国全面建成小康社会的探索实践，分享中国式现代化建设经验，特发布本白皮书。

## 一、迈向中华民族伟大复兴的关键一步

小康是中华民族自古以来不懈追求的梦想。早在两千多年前，《诗经》就有“民亦劳止，汔可小康。惠此中国，以绥四方”的诗句，《礼记·礼运》描绘了“小康”理想社会状态，反映了中国先人对美好生活的向往和追求。千百年来，中国人民一直梦想实现小康。近代以后，中国逐步成为半殖民地半

socialist revolution, the establishment of socialism as China's basic system, and the ensuing socialist construction brought about the most extensive and profound social changes in the history of the nation.

The transformation from a huge, poor and backward country in the East into a thriving socialist China created the fundamental political conditions and the institutional and material foundations for building a moderately prosperous society. It also provided an unfailing source of inspiration and secured the means required to complete this mission.

After the launch of reform and opening up in 1978, the CPC made continuous efforts to build a better-off society, raising the living standards in China from bare subsistence to a basic level of moderate prosperity, and then ultimately to moderate prosperity in all respects.

In the early years of reform and opening up, Deng Xiaoping for the first time used the term *xiaokang* to present his vision of China's modernization. He set the goal of delivering a *xiaokang* life for the Chinese people and building a *xiaokang* society by the end of the 20th century. "By *xiaokang*, we mean a per capita GNP of US\$800," he specified.

This long-cherished dream, grounded in traditional Chinese culture and bearing the distinctive hallmarks of the nation, has since become a significant milestone on China's journey towards modernization.

At its 12th National Congress in 1982, the CPC for the first time made achieving *xiaokang* the overall objective of China's economic development, and set the goal of delivering a life of moderate cultural and material prosperity for the people by the end of the 20th century.

At its 13th National Congress in 1987, the CPC formulated a three-step strategic plan for China's modernization [The first step involved doubling the 1980 GNP by the end of the 1980s and ensuring that the people would have adequate food and clothing. The second step involved doubling the 1990 GNP by the end of the 20th century and ensuring the people a moderately prosperous life. The third step involved increasing the per capita GNP level to that of moderately developed countries, ensuring the people a relatively affluent life, and realizing basic modernization by the middle of the 21st century.], and set the goal for the second step as elevating the people's living standards to the level of moderate prosperity by the end of the 20th century.

At its 14th National Congress in 1992, when the basic needs of the Chinese people had largely been met, the CPC envisioned that their living standards would further rise, from simply having the basic necessities to enjoying moderate prosperity by the end of the 20th century.

At its 15th National Congress in 1997, the CPC put forward a new three-step strategic plan for economic development [The first step involved doubling the 2000 GNP, giving the people greater prosperity, and putting in place a relatively complete socialist market economic system, all by the end of 2010. The second step involved working hard for another decade to further develop the economy by the centenary of the CPC, and to improve all relevant systems. The third step involved realizing basic modernization and developing China into a modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, and culturally advanced by the time China celebrates the centenary of the PRC in the middle of the 21st century.], setting the goal of creating a better-off life for the people by 2010.

Through perseverance and effort over these years, China achieved basic moderate prosperity at the end of the 20th century as scheduled.

封建社会，国家蒙辱、人民蒙难、文明蒙尘，中华民族遭受了前所未有的劫难。中国人民始终不屈不挠、奋力抗争，始终为过上幸福美好的生活不懈奋斗。

100年前，中国共产党成立，这是开天辟地的大事变。中国共产党一经诞生，就把为中国人民谋幸福、为中华民族谋复兴确立为自己的初心使命。以毛泽东、邓小平、江泽民、胡锦涛、习近平同志为主要代表的中国共产党人，把人民对美好生活的向往作为奋斗目标，团结带领人民接续奋斗、艰苦奋斗、不懈奋斗，不断向着全面建成小康社会迈进。

党团结带领人民，取得新民主主义革命胜利，建立中华人民共和国，完成社会主义革命，确立社会主义基本制度，推进社会主义建设，实现了中华民族有史以来最为广泛而深刻的社会变革，实现了一穷二白、人口众多的东方大国大步迈进社会主义社会的伟大飞跃，为小康社会建设奠定了根本政治前提和制度基础，积累了重要物质基础，提供了强大精神支撑和安全保证。

改革开放新时期，党团结带领人民持续推进小康社会建设，实现了人民生活从温饱不足到总体小康、奔向全面小康的历史性跨越。改革开放之初，邓小平同志首先用“小康”来诠释中国式现代化，提出“小康之家”，明确到20世纪末在中国建立一个小康社会的奋斗目标，并指出“所谓小康，从国民生产总值来说，就是人均达到800美元”。从“小康之家”到“小康社会”，“小康”这一饱含中华文化深厚底蕴、富有鲜明中国特色、千百年来深深埋藏在中国人民心中的美好愿景，由此成为中国现代化进程的醒目路标。1982年，党的十二大首次把“小康”作为经济建设总的奋斗目标，提出到20世纪末力争使人民的物质文化生活达到小康水平。1987年，党的十三大制定“三步走”现代化发展战略，把20世纪末人民生活达到小康水平作为第二步奋斗目标。1992年，在人民温饱问题基本得到解决的基础上，党的十四大提出到20世纪末人民生活由温饱进入小康。1997年，党的十五大提出新的“三步走”发展战略，明确到2010年使人民的小康生活更加宽裕。经过长期不懈努力，20世纪末，人民生活总体上达到小康水平的目标如期实现。2002年，党的十六大针对当时小康低水平、不全面、发展很不平衡的实际，提