

For a Life of Contentment—The Rationale For China's Human Rights Development

为了人民幸福生活 —当代中国人权观的实践和理论探索

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Preamble

It is a great dream of the human society that every one can enjoy human rights in the full sense of the term.

Given the diversity of civilizations, each country is unique with its own history, culture and institutions, as well as its particular development level and path. But promoting and protecting human rights has been a common pursuit of the entire international community.

The emphasis on human dignity and values and the people-centered philosophy is deeply rooted in traditional Chinese virtues, and has been followed throughout China's human rights progress. According to Confucianism, the philosophy with the greatest influence on the Chinese people, "a benevolent person loves others," treats people sincerely and kindly, and upholds human dignity with compassion. When "the widowed, lonely, disabled and ill can all be cared for," and people deal with interpersonal and social relations harmoniously and genially, the society will embrace good fortune and people will be united for a common cause.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is the crystallization of such lofty aspirations of mankind. All human beings, so reads the first article, are "endowed with reason and conscience." The addition of "conscience" to this article is the embodiment of the concept of benevolence cherished by Chinese Confucianism. The phrase contains a strong "Chinese conscience," and is saturated with oriental wisdom between the lines.

In the practice of promoting human rights progress, China has followed a path of human rights development that conforms to the trend of the times and suits its national conditions, by combining the Marxist outlook on human rights with the country's actual conditions and the fine traditional

导言

人人充分享有人权，是人类社会的伟大梦想。

在人类文明的百花园中，各国历史、文化、制度、发展水平不尽相同，发展道路各异，但促进和保障人权已成为国际社会的普遍追求。

重视人的尊严和价值，坚持以人为本是中华民族的传统美德，也是中国人权事业发展一脉相承的理念。2000多年前，中国先哲就提出“人为万物之灵”“天地之间，莫贵于人”。对中国人影响最为深远的儒家思想，主张“仁者爱人”，以善良厚道之心为人处事，以“恻隐之心”维护人的尊严，让“鳏寡孤独废疾者皆有所养”，以和睦和谐和善处理人际关系和社会关系，实现“和气致祥”“和衷共济”。

凝聚人类美好期盼的联合国《世界人权宣言》，其第一条人人“赋有理性和良心”，源于中国儒家的仁爱思想，蕴含着浓厚的“中国良心”，字里行间浸透着东方智慧。

中国在推进人权事业发展的实践中，坚持把马克思主义人权观同中国具体实际相结合、同中华优秀传统文化相结合，借鉴人类优秀文明

Chinese culture, while drawing on outstanding achievements of other civilizations.

A staunch defender of human rights, the Communist Party of China (CPC) has since its founding united and led the Chinese people of all ethnic groups in making unremitting efforts to fight for, respect, protect and develop human rights. It is under the leadership of the Party that China's human rights cause has achieved all-round development, made historic achievements, and created a miracle of rapid economic development and long-term social stability that has rarely been seen in world history.

China's outlook on human rights has been continuously enriched and improved in practice, with its own cognitive perspective and ideological connotation based on the actual conditions of the country. China is committed to protecting and promoting human rights in development, and follows the "development-based approach to human rights." Hunger that once threatened the lives of hundreds of millions of people has made China keenly aware that poverty is the biggest obstacle to the realization of human rights, and that the rights to subsistence and development are the primary basic human rights. Colonial aggression against China following the Opium War has led the nation to fully understand that it is impossible to talk about human rights without sovereignty, and difficult to safeguard certain individuals' human rights without protecting collective rights.

Human rights have historical, specific and practical contexts, and there are no fixed standards or identical models for its development and protection. The path of human rights development in each country should be respected, and the human rights conditions of that country should be judged by its own people. Based on the human rights philosophy that centers on the people, China has proposed that "living a life of contentment is the ultimate human right."

As pointed out in the report to 20th CPC National Congress: This country is its people; the people are the country. As the Communist Party of China has led the people in fighting to establish and develop the People's Republic, it has really been fighting for their support. Bringing benefit to the people is the fundamental principle of governance. Working for the people's wellbeing is an essential part of the Party's commitment to serving the public good and exercising governance for the people. We must ensure and improve the people's wellbeing in the course of pursuing development and encourage everyone to work hard together to meet the people's aspirations for a better life.

We must strive to realize, safeguard, and advance the fundamental interests of all our people. To this end, we must

成果，走出了一条顺应时代潮流、适合本国国情的人权发展道路。

中国共产党是坚定的人权捍卫者，自成立之日起，就团结带领各族人民为争取人权、尊重人权、保障人权、发展人权而不懈奋斗。正是在中国共产党的领导下，中国人权事业实现了全方位发展，取得了历史性成就，创造了世所罕见的经济快速发展奇迹和社会长期稳定奇迹。

中国人权观是在持续实践中不断丰富完善的，有着基于本国实际的认识视角和思想内涵。中国坚持在发展中保护和促进人权，走“基于发展的人权路径”。曾经数亿人的饥饿威胁，使中国深切认识到贫穷是实现人权的最大障碍，生存权、发展权是首要的基本人权；近代殖民主义的侵略蹂躏，使中国深切感受到没有主权、遑论人权，没有集体人权就难以保障个人人权。人权是历史的、具体的、现实的，没有一成不变的标准，也没有完全一致的模式。要尊重各国人权发展道路，一国人权状况的好坏，应由本国人民来评判。中国基于以人民为中心的人权理念，提出“人民幸福生活是最大的人权”。

党的二十大报告指出，江山就是人民，人民就是江山。中国共产党领导人民打江山、守江山，守的是人民的心。治国有常，利民为本。为民造福是立党为公、执政为民的本质要求。必须坚持在发展中保障和改善民生，鼓励共同奋斗创造美好生活，不断实现人民对美好生活的向往。我们要实现好、维护好、发展好最广大人民根本利益，紧紧抓住人民最关心最直接最现实的利益问题，坚持尽力而为、量力而行，深入群众、深入基层，采取更多惠民

do everything within our capacity to resolve the most practical problems that are of the greatest and most direct concern to the people. We will stay engaged with our people and their communities, adopt more measures that deliver real benefits to the people and win their approval, and work hard to resolve the pressing difficulties and problems that concern them most. We will improve the basic public services system to raise public service standards and make public services more balanced and accessible, so as to achieve solid progress in promoting common prosperity.

The journey of China's human rights development is both rich and colorful, systematic and pragmatic. The country has formed a contemporary Chinese outlook on human rights with "people" as the center, "development" as the driving force and "a life of contentment" as the goal through continuous progress, and has enriched the global human rights cause.

1. The Basics: Rights to Subsistence, Development, Dignity and Happiness

The Communist Party of China and the Chinese government have included respecting and protecting human rights as a key part of national governance, and thanks to this, China's human rights cause has delivered historic achievement.

"In the past, many people lived their whole lives without a single good day." Chu Chengming, an elderly farmer living in the Dabie Mountains, said emotionally as he browsed through his family tree.

According to the genealogical records, his grandfather raised 10 children, of whom five died young. His father was born shortly after Aisin-Gioro Puyi, the last emperor of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), ascended the throne, and died in the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression in 1944 at the age of just 36. His mother died at 47.

The record of this ordinary family is the epitome of modern China's reality—people suffering from war, poverty and diseases, with no protection whatsoever for human rights. When the People's Republic of China was founded in 1949, the average life expectancy in the country was less than 35 years old.

In today's China, the lack of food, clothing and medical services is long gone. Since the beginning of the reform and opening up drive more than 40 years ago, the per capita disposable income in China has increased by more than 180 times. Some 770 million rural Chinese have been lifted out of poverty and live a moderately prosperous life. The average life expectancy has risen to 78.2 years [State Council Information Office: White paper titled "China's Epic Journey from Poverty to Prosperity," September 2021.].

生、暖民心举措，着力解决好人民群众急难愁盼问题，健全基本公共服务体系，提高公共服务水平，增强均衡性和可及性，扎实推进共同富裕。

中国人权事业发展的实践丰富而多彩、系统而务实，并在不断推进中形成了以“人民”为中心、以“发展”为动力、以“幸福”为目标的当代中国人权观，为世界人权事业发展注入新内涵。

第一章 讲生存 讲发展 有尊严 有幸福——当代中国人权 观的实践基础

年过八旬的大别山区农民储诚明打开族谱，感慨万千：“过去，许多人活了一辈子，没过上一天好日子。”

根据族谱记录，他爷爷养了10个孩子，5个早夭；他父亲在清朝末代皇帝溥仪登基不久后出生，于1944年抗日战争期间死于战乱，只活了36年；他母亲去世时年仅47岁。

这个普通家庭的真实记录，是近代中国的现实缩影：人们饱受战乱、贫困、疾病之苦，人权毫无保障。1949年新中国成立之初，人均预期寿命不足35岁。

今天的中国，缺衣少食、缺医少药早已成为历史。改革开放以来，人均可支配收入增长了180多倍，7.7亿农村人口摆脱贫困、全面进入小康，居民人均预期寿命提高到78.2岁。^①

在中国共产党领导下，无数人命运得以改变，中国人权故事也在社会翻天覆地巨变中改写，人权事业实现了全方位发展。

中国坚持把生存权、发展权作为首要的基本人权。中国共产党是人权事业的积极推动者和坚定捍卫者，始终将尊重和保障人权作为治国理政的一项重要工作，持续制定实施国家人权