

Poverty Alleviation: China's Experience And Contribution (I)

人类减贫的中国实践(上)

State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China

中华人民共和国国务院新闻办公室

April 2021

2021年4月

Preface

Poverty is a chronic affliction of human society and a common challenge faced by the whole world. Poverty and its associated problems, including hunger, diseases, and social conflicts, are serious impediments to people's pursuit of a better life, so the eradication of poverty has always been a wish to be fulfilled. The history of humankind is the history of relentless struggle against poverty.

China is the world's largest developing country, with a population of 1.4 billion. In addition to its weak foundations and uneven development, the nation had long been plagued by poverty at a scale and a level of severity that has rarely been seen anywhere else in the world. As a result, the challenge of poverty alleviation in China almost defies imagination.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China (CPC). Over the past century, the Party has united and led the Chinese people in the battle against poverty with unwavering faith and will. Since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, the Party Central Committee, with General Secretary Xi Jinping at the core, has fought a decisive battle against poverty that is unprecedented in scale and intensity, and has benefited the largest number of people in human history. At a grand gathering held on February 25, 2021, to mark China's achievements in poverty alleviation and to honor its model fighters against poverty, General Secretary Xi solemnly declared: Victory in the battle against poverty is complete, and China completed the arduous task of eliminating extreme poverty.

China is home to nearly one fifth of the world's population. Its complete eradication of extreme poverty—the first target of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development—10 years ahead of schedule, is a milestone in the history of the Chinese nation and the history of humankind, making an important contribution to the cause of global poverty alleviation.

Poverty is not predestined, nor is it unconquerable. China's experience in poverty alleviation indicates that courage, vision, sense of responsibility, and the eagerness to take on challenges are the most essential. With strong will and determination, as well as practical action, one can make steady progress towards overcoming poverty and realizing common prosperity.

This white paper is being issued to record the course of the

前言

贫困是人类社会的顽疾，是全世界面临的共同挑战。贫困及其伴生的饥饿、疾病、社会冲突等一系列难题，严重阻碍人类对美好生活的追求。消除贫困是人类梦寐以求的理想，人类发展史就是与贫困不懈斗争的历史。

中国是拥有14亿人口、世界上最大的发展中国家，基础差、底子薄，发展不平衡，长期饱受贫困问题困扰。中国的贫困规模之大、贫困分布之广、贫困程度之深世所罕见，贫困治理难度超乎想象。

今年是中国共产党成立100周年。100年来，中国共产党团结带领人民，以坚定不移、顽强不屈的信念和意志与贫困作斗争。中共十八大以来，在以习近平同志为核心的党中央领导下，中国组织实施了人类历史上规模空前、力度最大、惠及人口最多的脱贫攻坚战。2021年2月25日，习近平总书记在全国脱贫攻坚总结表彰大会上庄严宣告，脱贫攻坚战取得了全面胜利，中国完成了消除绝对贫困的艰巨任务。

占世界人口近五分之一的中国全面消除绝对贫困，提前10年实现《联合国2030年可持续发展议程》减贫目标，不仅是中华民族发展史上具有里程碑意义的大事件，也是人类减贫史乃至人类发展史上的大事件，为全球减贫事业发展和人类

Chinese people's great fight in eliminating extreme poverty, introduce China's approach, and share its experience and actions in poverty alleviation.

I. The Solemn Commitment of the CPC

The Chinese nation has a long history, diligent and intelligent people and splendid civilization. Over the history of thousands of years, eliminating poverty has been the persistent goal of the Chinese people, who suffered hardships and difficulties frequently. From the middle of the 19th century, foreign aggression and the decadence of the imperial dynasty reduced China to a semi-colonial, semi-feudal society, and hundreds of millions of its people were plunged into poverty or even extreme poverty. But the Chinese people have fought with fortitude to realize their dream—achieving economic prosperity, national rejuvenation, and a happy and better life.

1. The CPC Led the People to Win Victory in the Revolution, Build the People's Republic of China (PRC), Opening a New Journey Towards Prosperity

The founding of the CPC in July 1921 was an epochal event in China's history. The CPC has taken the happiness of the people and rejuvenation of the nation as its aspiration since its founding, and united and led the people to fight for a better life over the decades. The Party's first generation of central collective leadership under Mao Zedong regarded the liberation of peasants as the fundamental issue of the revolution, led the people to launch the Agrarian Revolution to realize the goal of "the land to the tiller", overthrew the rule of imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucrat-capitalism, and won victory in the New Democratic Revolution and established the PRC, bringing an end to sustained oppression, exploitation of the people, frequent wars, and partitioning of the country, and realizing the goals of national independence and people's liberation. This helped to remove the obstacles to China's progress, and created the political conditions it needed to eradicate poverty, regain national strength, and realize prosperity for everyone.

The founding of the PRC on October 1, 1949, allowed the Chinese people to stand upright and become the true masters of the country. To change the backward situation starting from scratch, the CPC united and led the people to rely on themselves and strived to build their homeland with strong determination and concerted effort. Land reform was rolled out across the country, abolishing the feudal land system that had endured for over 2,000 years. This removed the major institutional obstacle to eliminating poverty. Socialist transformation was carried out in agriculture, individual craft industries, and capitalist industry and commerce. The establishment of the socialist system provided a basic institutional guarantee for addressing the root causes of poverty. Socialist development was carried out on all fronts, creating an independent and rather complete industrial system and economic system. Efforts were made to develop the collective economy, improve farmland irrigation and water conservation, and develop rural education and cooperative medical services. A preliminary social security system took shape, with the collective economy at the base, and the "five guarantees" [The National Agricultural Development Program (1956-1967) specified that agricultural cooperatives should give proper care to commune members who could not work and had no

发展进步作出了重大贡献。

贫穷不是命中注定，贫困并非不可战胜。中国减贫的实践表明，与贫困作斗争，最重要的是勇气、远见、责任和担当。只要有坚定意志和决心并付诸实际行动，就能够向着摆脱贫困、实现共同富裕的美好前景不断迈进。

为记录中国消除绝对贫困的伟大历程，介绍人类减贫的中国探索和实践，分享中国扶贫脱贫的经验做法，特发布本白皮书。

一、中国共产党的庄严承诺

中华民族是历史悠久、勤劳智慧的民族，创造了辉煌灿烂的中华文明。中华民族又是饱经苦难的民族，广大劳动人民长期处于贫困状态。几千年来，中国人民始终为摆脱贫困艰难求索。近代以后，在封建腐朽统治和西方列强侵略下，中国沦为半殖民地半封建社会，亿万民众处于贫困甚至赤贫状态。中国人民始终不屈不挠，奋力抗争，始终梦想实现国家富强、民族复兴，始终梦想过上幸福美好的生活。

（一）中国共产党领导人民夺取革命胜利，建立新中国，开启了实现国家富强、人民富裕的崭新征程

1921年7月，中国共产党诞生。中国产生了共产党，这是开天辟地的大事变。从诞生之日起，中国共产党就把为中国人民谋幸福、为中华民族谋复兴作为初心使命，团结带领人民为创造自己的美好生活进行了长期艰辛奋斗。以毛泽东同志为核心的第一代中央领导集体，把农民翻身解放作为革命的基本问题，领导人民进行土地革命、实行“耕者有其田”，推翻了帝国主义、封建主义和官僚资本主义的反动统治，取得新民主主义革命胜利，建立了新中国，结束了中国人民长期以来遭受压迫与剥削的历史，结束了国家战乱频仍、四分五裂的局面，实现了民族独立和人民解放，为中国摆脱贫穷落后、实现繁荣富强扫清了障碍、创造了根本政治条件。

family to support them, by providing them with proper food, clothing, fuel, and education (for children and teenagers), and by paying their burial expenses.] and relief for people in extreme poverty as the core. The Chinese people—including the farmers—who made up nearly one quarter of the world's population, saw their basic living needs met. Their living standards and educational level improved. Socialist building during this period pressed ahead amidst successes and setbacks.

2. Reform and Opening Up Accelerated Development and Poverty Alleviation in China

Held in December 1978, the Third Plenary Session of the 11th CPC Central Committee ushered in a new chapter of reform and opening up and socialist modernization in China. Reform and opening up has been another great revolution in the history of the Chinese people and Chinese nation, injecting momentum and innovation. The rapid socioeconomic development that ensued gave a vigorous boost to poverty alleviation, and resulted in a sharp decline in the impoverished population.

In the initial period of reform and opening up, confronted by the grim challenge of a large rural impoverished population base and a high incidence of poverty, the second generation of the central collective leadership headed by Deng Xiaoping issued a declaration that “Poverty is not socialism; socialism means eliminating poverty”. It set the goal of ensuring the people a moderately prosperous life by the end of the 20th century, formulated a three-step strategic plan [The 13th CPC National Congress proposed that a three-step strategic plan for China's economic development would be laid out after the Third Plenary Session of the 11th CPC Central Committee: doubling the 1980 GNP by the end of the 1980s and ensuring that the people would have adequate food and clothing as the first step; doubling the 1990 GNP by the end of the 20th century and ensuring the people a moderately prosperous life as the second step; and 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 as the third step.], and articulated the vision of “Two Development Strategies” [In 1988, Deng Xiaoping proposed that “The coastal areas, which comprise a vast region with a population of 200 million, should accelerate their opening to the outside world, and we should help them develop rapidly first; afterwards they can promote the development of the interior. The development of the coastal areas is of overriding importance, and the interior provinces should subordinate themselves to it. When the coastal areas have developed to a certain extent, they will be required to give more help to the interior. Then, the development of the interior provinces will be of overriding importance, and the coastal areas will in turn have to subordinate themselves to it”. (Source: The Central Leadership Must Have Authority, *Selected Works of Deng Xiaoping*, Vol III.). A swathe of major reforms involving agriculture and rural areas were launched, providing for a massive, planned, well-organized poverty alleviation effort at the national level. The two-tier management system adopted in the rural areas, integrating cooperative management with household contract management, clarified the most basic production relations and inspired the farmers' enthusiasm, bringing an end to a

1949年10月1日，中华人民共和国成立，中国人民从此站立起来、当家做主，真正成为新国家新社会的主人。面对一穷二白、百业凋敝的困难局面，中国共产党团结带领人民自力更生、艰苦奋斗，发奋图强、重整山河。在全国开展轰轰烈烈的土地改革，延续2000多年的封建土地制度被废除，消除了造成农民贫困的主要制度因素。对农业、手工业和资本主义工商业进行社会主义改造，建立起社会主义基本制度，为从根本上解决贫困问题提供了最基本制度保证。开展大规模社会主义建设，建立独立的、比较完整的工业体系和国民经济体系，大力发展集体经济，大兴农田水利。大办农村教育和合作医疗，探索建立以集体经济为基础，以“五保”制度^①和特困群体救济为主体的农村初级社会保障体系。社会主义建设在曲折中向前推进，人民物质生活和文化水平逐步提高，占世界近四分之一人口的中国人民特别是农民的基本生活需求得到初步满足。

(二) 改革开放极大促进了中国发展，中国减贫进程加快推进

1978年12月，中共中央召开十一届三中全会，开启了中国改革开放和社会主义现代化建设新时期。改革开放是中国人民和中华民族发展史上的又一次伟大革命，为中国注入了创新和发展的强大动力。中国经济社会快速发展，中国减贫进程加快推进，贫困人口大幅度减少。

改革开放初期，面对中国农村贫困人口基数大、贫困发生率高的严峻形势，以邓小平同志为核心的第二代中央领导集体，作出“贫穷不是社会主义，社会主义要消灭贫穷”的重要论断，提出到20世纪末人民生活达到小康水平的目标，制定“三步走”发展战略^②，提出“两个大局”的战略构想^③，实施一系列农业农村重大改革，从国家层面开展大规模、有计划、有组织的扶贫开发。在农村实施以家庭联产承包为主的生产责任制和统分结合的双层经营体制，理顺了农村最基本的生产关系，调动了农民生产积极性，使农业生产迅