
Consultative Democracy In Scientific Development

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Abstract

Developing socialist democratic politics and building socialist political civilization is an important goals of China's political development. The development of consultative democracy is an important direction for the development of contemporary Chinese political civilization. It is of great strategic significance to clarify the basic logic of the development of consultative democracy in theory and find the way to realize the construction of socialist democracy with Chinese characteristics.

Keywords

Science, Political party system, Electoral democracy, Consultative democracy Institutionalization.

1. Introduction

The report of the 18th CPC National Congress confirmed for the first time the concept of "consultative democracy" and established the concept of "socialist consultative democratic system" on this basis, and then planned and deployed the "improvement of the socialist consultative democratic system". It embodies the practical innovation, theoretical innovation and institutional innovation of the CPC in socialist democratic politics, and embodies the road confidence, theoretical confidence and system confidence of Chinese communists in the choice of Chinese democratic system..

2. The Basic Content of Consultative Democracy

From the point of view of political science, combined with the unique political structure of our country, The so-called consultative democracy in China refers to a fundamental form of democratic politics based on the basic political structure of China's "two-meeting system"(ie, the people's Congress system and the political consultation system) and closely linked with the multi-party cooperation and political consultation system led by the Communist Party of China(ie, China's political party system).

The system of people's Congresses is the form of political power organization in China, and its basic features are that deputies elected by the voters form representative organs for the exercise of state power, state administrative organs and other state organs at various levels are elected by the people's representative organs at the same level and are responsible for their supervision. People's representative organs occupy a central position in the entire system of state organs, and there is no separation of powers and checks and balances with other state organs.China's unique political party system(ie, the multi-party cooperation political consultation system under the leadership of the Communist Party of China) has been completely different from the other countries 'political party system since its inception. The relationship between political parties in China is not a competitive relationship but a cooperative one; The two sides of the cooperation, one is the Communist Party of China as the ruling party and the other is the Democratic parties as the the participating parties; On the basis of the existing political parties, China also has a "United front", that is, the political alliance under

the leadership of the Communist Party of China, which mainly includes two alliances: the workers 'and peasants' alliance formed by the laborers, and now also includes intellectuals; And the union of workers and "all the other Patriots". The organization form of China's "United front" is the Political Consultative Conference; China's people's Congress system and political party system are the basic political framework for the realization of China's consultative democracy.

Political consultation is the main form of consultative democracy in our country. The so-called political consultation refers to the consultation between the CPPCC National Committee and the ruling party on major national and local policies and major issues of economic, political, cultural, and social life before or during the decision-making process; Political consultation is an important part of the multi-party cooperation and political consultation system under the leadership of the CPC. Since the founding of New China, two basic types have been formed in practice: one is the consultation between the Communist Party of China and the Democratic parties; One is the consultation between the CPC and the Democratic parties and representatives from all walks of life in the people's government. The political consultation between the CPC and the Democratic parties is mainly reflected in the consultation between political parties. The consultation took three forms: First, the CPC Central Committee invited leaders of Democratic parties and personages without party affiliation to hold Democratic consultation meetings and hold consultations on the major policies that the CPC Central Committee will propose; Second, the main leaders of the CPC Central Committee, according to the needs of the situation, periodically invite leaders of Democratic parties and personages without party affiliation to hold high-level and small-scale talks, communicate ideas, and exchange opinions. Third, the CPC Central Committee shall convene a forum for representatives of Democratic parties and non-partisan personages to inform or exchange important information, convey important documents, listen to policy suggestions, or discuss certain topics. The Central Committee of the Democratic parties may make written proposals to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, except for consultation at the conference. Political consultation is the main form of the practice of consultative democracy in China.

The specific forms of democracy in various countries in the world today are diverse, but there are two forms that represent the current situation and trend of democratic development in the world today, namely "election democracy + consultative democracy"; The system of people's Congress is the realization form of electoral democracy, and the unique political consultation system of our country has achieved consultative democracy to a certain extent. The CPC and the Chinese people created and chose a form of democracy with Chinese characteristics in the past 50 or 60 years, which is in line with China's National conditions and in line with the progressive trend of democratic development in the world today. In a sense, the practice of Chinese democratic politics is a useful exploration of the development of world democracy. Under the background of China's increasing rise as a world power, this has the flavor of leading the world's democratic development trend.

3. The Historical Development Logic of Consultative Democracy in China

To examine the history of the formation and development of consultative democracy in China, it can be roughly divided into four stages:

The first stage, from the old CPPCC before 1949 to the new CPPCC after 1949, was the formative period of China's consultative democracy. After the victory of the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, according to the "Double Ten Agreement" signed by the Chinese Communist Party and the Kuomintang during the negotiations in Chongqing, the Kuomintang authorities recognized the "basic principles of peaceful nation-building" and agreed to hold a political consultation meeting attended by all parties; In January 1946, the CPPCC meeting was held in Chongqing. There were five aspects: the Kuomintang, the Communist Party, the Democratic League, the Al-Shabaab, and the social elites. According to research, the "political consultation" was proposed by Wang Shijie, the foreign minister of the Nationalist Government at that time. The source was related to the emphasis on

international affairs after World War II. The agreement reached by the CPPCC was not realized because Chiang Kai-shek insisted on dictatorship and launched a civil war. In April 1948, when the Chinese Communist Party was about to win the war of liberation, it promulgated the "May 1st Labor Day slogan" and proposed: "All Democratic parties, people's organizations, and social elites quickly convened a political consultation meeting; In September 1949, the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference was held in Peiping. The new CPPCC marks the establishment of the initial establishment of multi-party cooperation and political consultation system under the leadership of the Communist Party of China. It also marks the beginning of the formation and practice of the new Communist Party's consultative Democratic ideology.

The United front is a political alliance formed by different social and political forces on the basis of common interests in order to achieve common goals; Political consultation is a political representative representing the interests of different social strata, reaching consensus through discussions and discussions on major issues; The establishment of the New CPPCC in 1949 was the result of the Communist Party of China actively pursuing people's democracy through the establishment and development of a revolutionary United front. As we all know, the United front is a magic weapon for the Communist Party of China to win the revolution, and the CPPCC, as a United front organization, will surely shoulder a new historical mission after the founding of new China.

The second stage, from 1949 to 1954, was the period during which the CPPCC carried out the functions and powers of the People's Congress and was an important period for laying down the basic ideas of consultative democracy. At this stage, the CPPCC carried out the functions and powers of the National People's Congress, decided on the state structure and government of New China, elected the Central People's Government and its leaders, and fulfilled its historic mission of founding New China. At this stage, the first generation leaders of New China proposed and established a series of basic ideas on consultative democracy. The "Common Program of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference" drafted and adopted by Zhou Enlai with the nature of an interim constitution clearly stipulates: "After the convening of the National People's Congress by universal suffrage, the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference may put forward proposals to the National People's Congress or the Central People's Government on the fundamental plans and other important measures related to the country's construction." This provision points out the direction for the practice and development of our country's political consultation in the future. At this stage, the CPPCC made a major historical contribution to the establishment of a new China and to the maintenance and development of the unity and cooperation between the Communist Party of China and the Democratic parties after the founding of the People's Republic of China.

In the third stage, from 1954 to 1978, the ideas and practices of consultative democracy were further developed in China. However, from 1957 to 1978, due to the erroneous influence of "Left", China's consultative democracy suffered a major setback.

After the first National People's Congress was held in 1954, the People's Political Consultative Conference no longer performed its duties; At that time, some people questioned whether the People's Political Consultative Conference still existed. Mao Zedong wrote the "Outline of the Nature and Tasks of the CPPCC and proposed that the people's Congress is an organ of power, and the existence of a people's Congress does not prevent us from establishing the CPPCC for political consultation; It is very important for the leaders of all parties, nationalities and organizations to come together to discuss the major issues of the people's Republic of China. During this period, Zhou Enlai also repeatedly elaborated similar ideas; The first generation of leaders with great foresight began to explore China's own socialist road, and made it clear that after the establishment of the socialist system, China will continue to maintain the political pattern of multi-party cooperation for a long time. It is precisely because of the above thought that the CPPCC has continued to play an important role in the political life of the country, not only as a United front organization but also as a unique form of democracy in China, after concluding the exercise of the people's Congress. After 1957, with the expansion of class

struggle, the United front and the People's Political Consultative Conference began to bear the brunt of the impact. By 1966, the outbreak of the "Cultural Revolution" was forced to stop work. It was not until the Third Plenary Session of the Eleventh Central Committee in 1978 that it was able to resume and develop, into a new historical stage.

The fourth stage, from 1978 to the present, is an important stage in the development of multi-party cooperation and political consultation into the basic political system of our country and is enshrined in the Constitution, which has enabled the establishment of consultative democracy.

After the Third Plenary Session of the Eleventh Central Committee, Deng Xiaoping summed up historical experiences and lessons, and came to the conclusion that "there is no socialism without democracy, and there is no socialist modernization." The Communist Party of China began to attach importance to promoting socialist Democratic political construction from an institutional point of view. Deng Xiaoping established the "16-character principle" of cooperation between the Communist Party of China and the Democratic parties(that is, long-term coexistence, mutual supervision, mutual courage, honor and disgrace), and further proposed that "under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, multi-party cooperation should be implemented. This is determined by the specific historical conditions and actual conditions of our country, and it is also a feature and advantage of our country's political system. "In October 1987, the system of multi-party cooperation and political consultation under the leadership of the Communist Party of China was included in the 13th National Congress of the Communist Party of China; In December 1989, the CPC Central Committee formulated and promulgated the Opinions on Adherence to and Improvement of the System of Multi-Party Cooperation and Political Consultation under the leadership of the CPC, an important document that for the first time clarified the relationship between the political parties and the state power in China. That is, the CPC is the ruling party and the Democratic parties are participating parties. At the same time, it further established that the multi-party cooperation and political consultation system led by the CPC is a basic political system in China. Subsequently, in the 1993 constitutional amendment, the "multi-party cooperation and political consultation system led by the Communist Party of China will have long-term existence and development" was included in the Constitution.

The 18th National Congress report confirmed for the first time the concept of "consultative democracy" and established the concept of "socialist consultative democratic system" on this basis, and then planned and deployed the "perfect socialist consultative democratic system"; We will adhere to and improve the system of multi-party cooperation and political consultation under the leadership of the CPC, give full play to the role of the CPPCC as an important channel for consultative democracy, and promote the building of a system of political consultation, democratic supervision, and participation in and discussion of government under the two major themes of unity and democracy. We will strengthen political consultation with Democratic parties, incorporate political consultation into the decision-making process, adhere to the principle of consultation before and during decision-making, and enhance the timeliness of Democratic consultation.

Taking stock of the past and looking to the future, and summarizing the above four stages of the emergence and development of consultative democracy in China, we realize that the cooperative relationship between the ruling party and the participating party in China's political party system is determined by the unique historical conditions in China. In the course of the long history of revolution and socialist construction, the CPC has formed a solid United front with the Democratic parties. A basic historical fact is that when such cooperation is truly fruitful, it is also the historical stage when China's revolution and construction are flourishing and winning. Any attempt to undermine and weaken the United front and political consultation will certainly bring about a major setback to the socialist revolution and construction. It was before, it is now, and it will be so in the future. A United front will require political consultation. Secondly, the Communist Party of China's thoughts and practices on consultative democracy are not only in the same vein but also in keeping with the times. The development and practice of consultative democracy in China today is an inevitable requirement

for socialist China to carry out reform and opening up to advance toward modernization, and it is also the only way to build socialist democracy with Chinese characteristics. As the conclusion reached in the Opinions of the CPC Central Committee on Adherence to and Improvement of the System of Multi-Party Cooperation and Political Consultation under the leadership of the CPC, promulgated by the CPC Central Committee in December 1989, The CPPCC is a great creation of the Chinese Communist Party that combines Marxist-Leninist United front theory, party theory and Democratic political theory with China's specific practice. This conclusion is both a theoretical summary and a historical summary.

4. The Theoretical Logic of Consultative Democracy

"Consultative democracy" is a theoretical trend of thought that emerged in the West in the 1980s. Consultative democracy includes two aspects: "democracy" and "consultation"; Democracy means that public decision-making (including legislative, administrative and political decisions) is made by all stakeholders or their representatives with equal participation and voting, and decisions are made by a minority in a majority manner; Consultation means that all participants make decisions after free and open reasoning in accordance with the principles of rationality and no bias. Its purpose is to enable all citizens affected by decision-making to participate equally and freely in decision-making and to reach consensus through careful discussion. As a master of the theory of consultative democracy, Habermas, a representative scholar of the Frankfurt School of Germany, critically integrated the liberal concept of democracy on the basis of his theory of negotiation. A new model of democracy has been created that integrates the fundamental principles of human rights for the protection of citizens' rights with the right to political freedom. It is a consultative democracy model centered on the Constitution. Its connotation can be summarized as follows:

- (1) The rationalization of democracy puts forward normative requirements for democracy in both procedural and substantive aspects; Rationality demands that the process of realizing democracy is justified, and the legitimacy of the process ultimately guarantees the legitimacy of the results; It is precisely because this requirement has been met that the essence of consultative democracy has been reflected. The theory of consultative democracy holds that democracy requires the legitimacy of political power and public decision-making, which is based on genuine consultation, that is, free and fair public discourse between stakeholders with equal status, rather than simple voting.
- (2) The consultation people mainly use a set of jurisdictional structures as the premise, requiring the subject of consultation to have equal and free participation rights; In the political community, the participants in the consultation process are equal, free, rational, and the interests of no special member have priority over the interests of other members. It is necessary to confirm the equal status of the participants in the consultation process in a constitutional manner. The consultation rights of political organizations in consultative democracy are generally clearly enumerated in the Constitution, and when conditions are not yet available, they can also be guaranteed in the form of constitutional conventions. Political parties or governments, social groups, interest groups and citizen representatives are the basic subjects of consultative democracy. Citizens influence the political process by participating in the discussion and consultation of public affairs by participating in political parties and social groups.
- (3) This is guaranteed by the procedure laid down in the Constitution. Consultative democracy is a process of communication, debate, consultation and coordination. It is a process of providing information, exchanging opinions, and forming consensus. Its legitimacy is based on the constitutional guarantee of the ability and equal opportunity of those negotiating subjects that are subject to collective decision-making to participate in effective consultation.

5. Reflections on the Unity of the History and Logic of Consultative Democracy

The historical development of consultative democracy in China tells us that the realization of United front, political consultation and consultative democracy is an inevitable requirement for building socialist democratic politics with Chinese characteristics, and that it is within the existing political framework of China. The United front and political consultation are the formal elements of the existence of consultative democracy, and the gradual realization of consultative democracy is a difficult process that we are still actively exploring. In the 1993 constitutional amendment, we enshrined in the Constitution "the system of multi-party cooperation and political consultation under the leadership of the Communist Party of China will exist and develop for a long time", thus providing a constitutional basis for the United front and political consultation in form. The concrete practice of consultative democracy still depends on political practice, which has its own rationality, but this situation does not conform to the theoretical logic of consultative democracy, and thus reduces the level of institutionalization of consultative democracy in China's political structure. Institutionalization is a development process in which the CPPCC organizes and consults democratic processes to obtain values and stability, and it is also an important indicator to measure the degree of civilization of the system.

Drawing on the above basic theories of consultative democracy in the West and combining with the basic laws revealed by the historical development of consultative democracy in China; We believe that the main body of political consultation, the specific content of political consultation and the specific form of political consultation should be further clarified on the basis of the basic contents of the current consultative democracy of our Constitution. The transformation of a political practice into a clear constitutional provision has given our consultative democracy a stable territorial structure. This is the basic direction of China's "multi-party cooperation and political consultation system under the leadership of the Communist Party of China will exist and develop for a long time." The basic framework of this jurisdictional structure is as follows:

5.1 Consultative Democratic Subjects

The consultative people are mainly premised on a set of jurisdictional structures. The nature of these jurisdictional rights can be understood as a kind of "first in human rights", and its main is the right to participate in equality and freedom. As the subject of consultative democracy, we must have certain conditions: first, the subject of consultative democracy should have external independence, and the subject, as the agent of rights, must be independent in the process of understanding and grasping the object, that is, not attached to other subjects. This independence requires the subject to have full freedom of will and to act according to his own will within the field of the Constitution. Secondly, the subject of consultative democracy should be able to independently enjoy rights and obligations in its own name, that is, have independent legal personality. According to the above conditions, China can now become the subject of consultative democracy:

(1) The Communist Party of China and related state organs; A prominent feature of the modern state under the rule of law is that while the subject enjoys political power, he must also bear corresponding political obligations; The state organs under the control of the Communist Party of China must become the main body of consultative democracy, and they must be able to fulfill their corresponding obligations at the same time as they have political power. The ruling party(state organ) that does not bear any responsibilities and obligations is not the subject but the "master."

(2) Democratic parties and non-partisan organizations; It should be clearly stipulated in the Constitution that Democratic parties and non-partisan organizations are the subjects of political consultation and be given the necessary legal status to become subjects of consultative democracy. The realization of the above content depends on the substantive protection of the freedom of association granted to citizens in the Constitution of China.

(3) Citizens representing a particular interest; Citizens represented by specific interests are the most active and active main factors in the internal structure and external forms of consultative Democratic relations. The dialectical historical materialism of Marxism tells us that in the process of realizing modernization, a large number of new interests have been created by society, and these new interests should be responded to and accommodated by the political system. When the existing institutional structure can not accommodate these reasonable interests, They are bound to break through the existing institutional framework and thus have a dramatic impact on the existing political structure; At the same time, citizens representing different interest groups can also provide broad space for political consultation between the ruling party and other Democratic parties.

5.2 The Object of Consultative Democracy

It refers to the specific content that is stipulated by the corresponding norms and directed by the behavior of the negotiated Democratic subject to exercise its rights and can meet the needs of the subject's interests to a certain extent. At present, in the practice of consultative democracy in our country, the Democratic parties participate in the consultation of the major policies and leaders of the state, and participate in the formulation and implementation of state policies, laws and regulations. The Democratic parties hold leading positions in government or judicial organs at all levels. Clearly defining the object of consultative democracy in a constitutional or legal manner is an essential element for the establishment of a consultative Democratic jurisdictional structure. We believe that what can be a deliberative democracy guest should mainly include the following matters:

(1) Participate in the formulation and discussion of major national policies; The general policy of the state refers specifically to the formulation of "specific plans for national economic and social development." In China, the Communist Party of China is the ruling party and exercises leadership over state affairs. The CPC Central Committee shall make proposals to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress or the State Council for major decisions concerning state affairs, and the NPC Standing Committee or the State Council shall submit proposals to the NPC in accordance with law, or the State Council shall submit proposals to the NPC Standing Committee in accordance with law, and the NPC or the NPC shall, on the basis of full deliberation, pass a vote. It is decided in accordance with the principle that the minority is subordinate to the majority. In this way, the Party's opinions have been transformed into the will of the state through legal procedures, the unity of the Party's opinions and the will of the people has been realized, and the implementation of the major policies and principles of the state has also been facilitated. As the subject of consultative democracy, it should be involved in all aspects of the above process.

(2) The formulation of important laws and regulations at the national and local levels; The enactment of laws and regulations is a major adjustment to the existing pattern of interests, and the interests and opinions of relevant subjects must be respected. This is an inevitable requirement for democracy and the rule of law. The process of formulating important laws and regulations should be incorporated into the normative process of consultative democracy.

(3) The key leaders of the state and local governments are determined through consultation; In China's vertical power structure, the main leaders of state organs at the central and local levels should have procedural norms for consultation and democracy. In particular, the selection of leadership positions in the government should gradually increase the degree of democratization. In the horizontal power structure, it is necessary to gradually change the situation in which the main leaders of the current government agencies are decided by the higher party committees, and avoid the breeding of corruption such as power seeking.

(4) Financial supervision; The main body of consultative democracy should have the power to exercise supervision over government finances, which are directly related to the income and specific expenditures of the state and local governments, and directly to the immediate interests of the people, which is not just an economic issue. It is also a political issue related to how to distribute national wealth more equitably; At present, the lack of effective means to supervise the government's financial

expenditure directly affects the improvement of people's livelihood. The inclusion of the government's major project expenditure budget(especially the "three public funds") in the process of consultative democracy undoubtedly helps to improve the efficiency and transparency of the government and effectively reduce the tax burden on the people.

5.3 Content of Consultative Democracy

The content of consultative democracy refers to the rights and obligations established between the various subjects of consultative democracy for a specific object and in accordance with relevant legal norms. The core of the content is the rights and obligations between the subjects of consultative democracy formed according to the Constitution. The realization of the content of consultative democracy requires that the Constitution and other relevant laws and regulations clearly define the rights and specific obligations of the various subjects of consultative democracy. On the basis of the clear rights and obligations of the subject, the procedure for the realization of consultative democracy is gradually standardized, and it is finally confirmed through the form of constitution and law.

We believe that the correct exercise of state power and the effective guarantee of citizens' rights are the fundamental goals of socialist democracy and the rule of law. In the content of consultative democracy, the citizen's right to restrict state power is the basic spirit of consultative democracy; From the sources of State power, all public officials holding State power should be democratically elected and the necessary political consultation should be carried out; From the point of view of the operation of state power, the Constitution monitors and restricts the exercise of state power by citizens, so that the state power is always under the control and restriction of citizens' rights; In terms of the consequences of the exercise of State authority, the Constitution guarantees the legitimate functioning of State authority by providing for the legal and political responsibility of State organs and their agents.

To adhere to the path of socialist political development with Chinese characteristics, one important aspect is to vigorously develop socialist consultative democracy. The 18th National Congress report first proposed that "socialist consultative democracy is an important form of democracy for the Chinese people." The establishment of the above consultative Democratic jurisdiction structure is a direct response to the "improvement of the socialist consultative democratic system".

6. Conclusion

We should admit that China's existing state power system still follows the basic framework left by Deng Xiaoping. Its main characteristics are: the establishment of a leadership structure with the Politburo and the Secretariat as the core; This leadership structure is linked to the local power network, that is, the leadership body exists at all levels of local and government main branches; The Party's higher departments have issued various regulations on how the leading bodies carry out their work, and have continuously issued instructions to each level; The key means for the superior to control the lower level is to master the power to appoint and remove the members of the leading group; The contribution of the leading group to economic growth is the main basis for the assessment and promotion of officials; Local officials are granted considerable independence as long as their work enables rapid economic growth. The system that Deng Xiaoping has established so far is more focused on results than on rules. Therefore, there is a great deal of risk in this system, and a series of serious problems have arisen while China's economy has achieved the development achievements that have attracted worldwide attention. For example, the widening of income distribution gaps, serious corruption, environmental degradation, social stratification leading to the lack of social consensus, and so on.

In Deng Xiaoping's view, only rapid economic development can maintain popular support to avoid the fate of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. He emphasized that if China's economic growth is not fast enough, economic stagnation will become a political problem. Deng Xiaoping's special historical background in his later years is the key factor in the formation of the above system. The current level of our economic and social development has undergone great changes compared with 20

years ago. However, none of the rapidly developing economies and societies has matched it with a political structure that can make the development sustainable. As Huntington put it: "The first issue in politics is that the development of political institutions lags behind social and economic changes." We believe that the basic direction of scientific development of consultative democracy is to gradually raise the level of institutionalization, and the basic path to raise the level of institutionalization is to establish a stable consultative democracy's territorial structure, that is, to enshrine the specific content and procedures of consultative democracy in the Constitution. The approach of democratic rule of law has provided the original lack of moral basis for the current political system in our country (focusing only on results, ignoring the legitimacy of the process of producing results) and the basis of legitimacy (lack of legitimacy of state power).

Reform and development are the themes of the present era, and reform is our basic consensus. The institutionalization of consultative democracy is a necessary condition (not sufficient condition) for the reform of China's political system. The purpose of Democratic consultation is to reach a consensus. Only on the basis of consensus can all the forces that can be United be United to respond to the demands of the new era; We believe that the United front and the CPPCC will shoulder their new historical mission and play the strongest voice of the times for the Chinese dream.

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