The Contemporary Value of the Democratic Governance of the Communist Party of China

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Abstract. Democratic governance which is the inevitable requirement of strengthening the party's ruling ability construction and embodies the unity of democratic values and instrumentality, is a rational choice according to the new world conditions made by Communist Party of China. Democratic governance has the multiple characteristics of "Democracy", "People Sharing" and "Humanistic", which also requires both ruling for the people, relying on the people in power, and has a unique value in advancing the critical period of the "four comprehensives" strategic layout.

1. Introduction

Democratic governance is the key link to strengthen the ruling ability construction of Communist Party of China in the new period. The core of promoting democratic governance of the CPC is to rule all for the people, all relying on the people, in order to achieve the goal, that is, "governing for the people, governing by the people, supporting and ensuring that the people in power, uphold and improve the people's democratic dictatorship, adhere to and improve democratic centralism, to develop inner-party democracy, strengthen the patriotic united front"[1]. After years of exploration of the building of the party's ability to govern, the CPC has made some achievements in strengthening the construction of its ability to govern, and summed up a major experience, that is, it is necessary to unify the three principles of democratic governance, scientific governance and administration according to law together. Since the 18th CPC National Congress, in order to further improve the CPC's ability to govern, the Party Central Committee put forward the overall requirements of the party's strict rule of law, with strict discipline to administer the party, and demanded the work of party members and cadres to strengthen the construction of the work style.

2. The necessity of promoting the construction of democratic governance by the Communist Party of China

2.1 Promoting democratic governance is the inherent requirement of socialist democratic politics

The construction of socialist democratic politics needs to combine the leadership of the party, the people as masters of the state and the rule of law together. The essence of the socialist democratic politics is that the people are the masters of the country. The constitution of People's Republic of China stipulates the state system and political system. The state system clarified the people's democratic dictatorship, which means the nature of the state is that the proletariat controls state power and the people's democratic regime is ruling for the people. The political system clarified the People's Congress System which can implement all the powers of the state belong to the people. Therefore, the promotion of democratic governance means that the CPC's route, principles and policies must be recognized and supported by the people. The CPC should also further expand the people's right to vote, truly do everything to rely on the people as well as do everything all for the
people, take the initiative to active for the people's happy life so as to make the ruling position become more solid.

2.2 Promoting of democratic governance is an effective measure in response to the western democratic trend of thought

With the development of the reforms and opening-up of China, the universal values in the West such as freedom, equality and democracy have become hot topics, Huntington and other scholars believe that with the tide of democratization in the world, the eastern countries will inevitably establish the same democratic system as the west. But we should realize that neither the parliamentary democracy, the multi-party ruling system, the proportional representation system nor the three power separation system both are not suitable for China. The CPC as a ruling party and other democratic parties as the participating parties are the historical choice as well as the people’s choice, which cannot be questioned and cannot be changed. Through promoting democratic governance, expanding people's democracy, building the legal system of China, developing inner-party democracy, improving the supervision and control mechanism, so as to construct a set of democratic governance model of the CPC, which is the best answer to the question of whether the ruling position of the CPC is legal and whether it is democratic or not.

2.3 Promoting democratic governance is the practical need of enriching the Communist party of China's governing theory and specific practice

The Communist Party of China as a ruling party in the current comprehensive deepening reform period will inevitably encounter new problems, new challenges. Thus, the ruling theory of CPC which needs to be improved continuously is a process of accumulating and enriching with the experience of ruling. The democratic governance is a new subject put forward by the CPC in the new period and needs to be perfected and developed in the concrete practice. In the course of the ruling process, the CPC can gradually discover and change its own shortcomings, and now the two major historical issues faced by the CPC in the new period have required the party to continuously improve the level of leadership and the level of governance. The CPC should always take the constitution as the center, carry out the basic state policy of managing state affairs according to law, learn from the scientific and modern governance means and models so as to constantly strengthen democratic consciousness and democratic supervision, develop the functions of the Chinese people's Political Consultative Conference at all levels and the functions of the democratic parties in participating in government and political affairs, to achieve the democratization of governance.

3. The connotation essence and main characteristics of the Communist party of China's democratic governance

3.1 The connotation essence of the Communist Party of China's democratic governance

The key to democratic governance is "democracy", Professor Yu Keping has long said that democracy is a good thing, democracy can achieve today's universal consensus in the world because democracy is a relatively good political system. Democracy is not something unique to Western countries, which is also a banner of the CPC, means that the starting point and destination of the CPC's activity are for Chinese people’s benefits. In addition, democracy as a political system has diversified mechanisms. Each modern country can have and can establish a different democratic system, because there is no unified pattern of democracy since ancient Greece. As an effective system to resolve the political problems of the country, democracy is necessary to strengthen the building of the CPC's ability to govern. in a word, only by constantly promoting democratic governance can ensure and safeguard the CPC's ruling status.

There is a popular vocabulary in political theory called the legitimacy of political power. Marx Weber called the foundation of modern state legitimacy known as the rule of law, in other words, state power must be legal and consistent with public opinion, and a non-compulsory national
identity needs to be constructed. The effective means of maintaining the legitimacy of political power is the ruling party needs to implement democratic governance, because the continued increase in the economy cannot continue to provide the legitimacy basis of the ruling party, once the economy is slowing down or stagnation will decrease people's political recognition. Therefore, when entering the 21st century, the CPC faced with national and worldwide new situations such as modernization and globalization challenges, the CPC has rationally chosen to change its ruling style and put forward a new concept of scientific governance, democratic governance and administration according to law.

Democratic governance means that the ruling party should carry out political activities according to the ideas, methods, procedures and principles of democracy. The basic connotation of CPC’s democratic ruling can be summed up as "in the process of administering the country, the CPC should not only be ruling for the people and relying on the people in power, but also should improve the ability to develop socialist democratic politics through the inner-party democracy system to achieve the socialist democratic politics. The purpose of the CPC’s democratic governance is the institutionalization, standardization and proceduralization."[2]. Democratic governance means carrying out profound changes in the party's ruling concepts, methods and models, which is no longer just ruling for the people in power and considered the fundamental interests of the broad masses of people as the starting point and foothold of the party and the country to work together. Instead, the CPC should rely on the people's power, mobilize the masses to conduct orderly political participation, and play the leading role of the people in accordance with the right to vote, decision-making, supervision and management are more important.

### 3.2 The main characteristics of the Communist Party of China's democratic governance

The democratic governance of the Communist Party of China has multiple characteristics of "Democracy", "People Sharing" and "Humanistic". Firstly, "democracy" means the sovereignty of the people. The CPC is representing the fundamental interests of the overwhelming majority of the people in China, whose power is given by the people and its ruling position is also the choice by the people. Therefore, we must improve the democratic system and give full play to the rights of the people as masters of the country. Secondly, "people sharing" means the nation’s development needs to rely on the people, and let the people share in development outcomes. It is important to "develop people's democracy system, maintain social fairness and justice, protect people's equal participation and equal development rights" [3]. Thirdly, "Humanistic" means that people-oriented or people-centered, the party's democratic governance not only needs to solve the people's most concerned problems and to satisfy the most realistic interests, but also needs to avoid the greatest danger that’s divorced from the masses.

In a word, democratic governance, scientific governance and administration according to law is an indivisible unity. The implementation of democratic governance cannot be separated from the guarantee of the legal and political systems, and the political activities of the CPC must be limited by the Constitution and the law that cannot be surpassed. At the same time, scientific governance is the basic premise, namely, democratic governance and administration according to law is the proper meaning of scientific governance, which means the PCP need to improve the consciousness of ruling for the people and relying on the people, improve the scientific level of governance that reflects the scientific, reasonable and efficient features of modern political system.

4. The way to realize the construction of democratic governance by the Communist Party of China in the present

4.1 To further promote the political system reform as the goal of institutional innovation and mechanism reform

In order to achieve democratic governance, it is necessary to improve the political system as the goal of improving the CPC's leadership system and working mechanism. Firstly, the CPC must
steadily push forward the reform of the political system, implement the basic strategy of the rule of law comprehensively so as to solve the duplication of functions and responsibilities between the CPC and government organs; Secondly, it is necessary to optimize the cadres selection and appointment mechanism, moral and talent must be both considered in the process, and the moral factors are more important, as well as select the best cadres who can act initiative and work hard; Thirdly, the CPC must improve the leadership and working mechanism, and further improve the overall quality of party cadres and members whose work style should be changed; Lastly, it is important to improve the supervision mechanism of the masses and public opinion, then build up the Socialist ideals and beliefs, improve the consciousness for the people, and the crisis awareness of all the members and cadres of CPC.

4.2 To further promote the construction of inner-party democracy as the center with the strict management and measures

Inner-party democracy is the life of the Communist Party of China which is the necessary and sufficient conditions for the CPC's democratic governance. Democracy within the party directly determines whether the party's political life is healthy, so the realization of democratic governance can not be separated from the continuous improvement of democracy within the party. Inner-party democracy can not only demonstrate, lead, enhance the people's democratic, but also can improve the CPC's democratic consciousness, so as to improve the inner-party democracy system and strengthen the party's ability to act according to democratic principles. The CPC should pay attention to improve and develop the system of democracy, especially respect the principal position of its party members and safeguard their democratic rights, so as to form a excellent environment that can "unblocked and enrich the ways for party members in the discussion of party affairs, broaden the channels for party members to express their opinions, and create a political atmosphere for the discussion of inner-party democracy"[4]. All in all, the CPC must promote and play a good role of Party congresses and Party committees at all levels, reform the inner-party electoral system and supervision mechanism, improve the quality of inner-party democracy.

4.3 To further expand the new pattern of the United Front under the leadership of the Communist Party of China

The Communist Party of China must give full play to the functions of leadership, identification, consultation and cooperation of the United Front. Therefore, the leadership of the CPC needs to be clear, the CPC is the ruling party and democratic parties are participating parties, the relationship is to maintain cooperative and consultative political relations on the basis of democracy. On the one hand, to maintain the ruling position of the CPC is above all, its ruling position is the result of history and people's choice, which cannot be questioned and replaced. On the other hand, the CPC should give full play to the functions of the various democratic parties in participating in politics. Democratic governance requires listening to different voices, drawing different opinions, and improving the style of governance, so as to help the CPC make scientific, correct and democratic decisions. It also needs to improve the political consultation system so as to strengthen the functions of participating in government affairs and democratic supervision in political consultation. In a word, "the United Front is a magic weapon of the CPC which has a unique function, and gives full play to its role can make the United Front an important political strategy to consolidate the leadership of the party, promote national construction and build a harmonious society"[5].

4.4 To further expand democracy at the grassroots level and establish a social foundation for Democratic Governance

Democracy at the grassroots level is a unique institution of political practice in China, which has close ties with the CPC's democratic governance. Through this mode, the people can directly exercise their democratic rights and carry out self-management, service and development in accordance with the law. Democracy at the grassroots level can provide the necessary political identification for the CPC’s democratic governance, and thus play a role in consolidating the CPC’s
ruling position. The groups with different interests such as non-party people, different ethnic groups, different social strata can widely be linked up by this way, so that they can fully express their own demands, and reflect their rights as the country’s masters through varying degree of political participation. This political activity can serve the supervision of the CPC ’s governing activities and promote the democratization, scientific, and transparent of the CPC ’s governing activities. In addition, grassroots democracy can promote party members and cadres to change their work style, improve their sense of service, democratic consciousness, and promote party members and cadres to be strict with themselves in terms of "good cadres".

5. Summary

The implementation of democratic governance is a complex and systematic project, a difficult and arduous task, the CPC should use various means to explore a variety of ways, in the spirit of seeking truth and being pragmatic, pioneering and innovative spirit of actively promoting democracy. The CPC must deal with all kinds of relations in democratic governance correctly, such as deal with the relationship between scientific governance, democratic governance and administration according to law, to deal with the relationship between inner-party democracy and social democracy correctly, to deal with the relationship between the construction of democratic governance and supervision mechanism correctly. Furthermore, the CPC must constantly improve the democratic organization and activities, and adhere to the correct leadership of the central committee of the CPC, not to engage in extreme democracy, protect orderly participation of citizens and party members. It's the right way to promote the party harmony, as well as social harmony, stability and prosperity. Only in this way can we realize the fundamental transformation of the CPC's ruling mode, promote the CPC's advanced construction and governance capability, consolidate the class basis and social foundation of the CPC's ruling, and consolidate the ruling position of the CPC. Ultimately, the Chinese people have reason to believe that the CPC is leading the people of all ethnic groups in accordance with the requirements of political civilization to achieve the goal of completing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

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References


