Wang Xiao Chun, O. P. Sanzhina. Development trends of Chinese economy

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### ТЕНДЕНЦИИ РАЗВИТИЯ ЭКОНОМИКИ КИТАЯ

В статье описывается период реформирования экономической системы Китайской Народной Республики, что привело к появлению «китайской модели» экономики. Авторами выделены и проанализированы периоды плановой экономики и рыночной экономики в Китае. Анализ периодов и этапов развития Китая позволяет утверждать, что «китайская модель» экономики является уникальной и представляет собой модель гибкости в управлении, которая сочетает в себе централизованное управление и рыночный механизм.

*Ключевые слова:* экономическая реформа, государственное регулирование, китайская экономическая модель.

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# DEVELOPMENT TRENDS OF CHINESE ECONOMY

The article describes the whole long period of reform of the economic system of the People's Republic of China, which has led to the emergence of the «Chinese model» of the economy. The periods of the planned economy and market economy in China were highlighted and analyzed by stages. The analysis of the periods and stages of China development makes it possible to state that the «Chinese model» of economy is unique and is a model of flexibility in governance, which combines centralized management and market mechanism.

Keywords: economic reform, government regulation, Chinese economic model.

Economic reform and the «policy of openness» held in China for the past 30 years has made it possible for China economy to achieve great progress. The question arises: what is the «Chinese model» of economy? What features of the economic reforms should be considered, what conclusions can be made on the basis of experience of the reforms for a sufficiently long period of time?

After the founding of the PRC, there have been several economic reforms in the country. The analysis shows that it is quite difficult to distinguish specific stages of development of the PRC economy, and the opinions often diverge in various studies, as it is difficult to adopt a common standard for a certain period. In general, the approach is applied where historical periods in the economy of the whole society are distinguished on the basis of the change in the mode of production, and the decisive factor in the allocation of a certain stage is often the transformation of the national economy. «In addition, the political event and a special «movement» is also often a turning point in the development of the economy» [3], for example, the Chinese Cultural Revolution.

The analysis shows that the «Chinese economic model» covers four main development trends that are interdependent. In the literature, these trends are presented as separate models [3], but if we take a look at the Chinese model of economy as a whole, it is better to treat these components as «development trends». The authors have attempted to critically analyze the existing trends.

In the study of the features of the theoretical concept of the PRC national economy, the authors proceed from the fact that the concept of reform was based on three points [14]:

- continued political foundations of society;

- consideration of national specificities;

– verification of the theory of reforming the economy through business practices.

The specifics of the Chinese theoretical platform is to combine modern market economic concepts with the current interpretation of the political economy legacy of Karl Marx and Vladimir Lenin. The focus of the theory of political economy in the PRC is on the analysis of the social aspects of development of the national economy.

The Chinese scholars and ideologists of economic reforms are Dan Honsyun, Xu Tszoshe, Tsai Zhentsyun, Xu Tszytse, Tsai Zhentsyun, Luyu Xuan, Liu Guoguang, Liu Tszunsyu, Peng Neytyan, Song Tao, Sun Ju, Wu Dakun, Wu Chzhenkuy, Chen Xiaoxing, Ho Chzhentsin, Cheng Syushen et al. Chinese scientists conducted a comparative study of the economies of several countries at the beginning of the process of reforming the economy. Therefore, China's reform is based on a comparative analysis of the evolution of the sectors of the economy of various countries to determine the parity of their development [14].

Simultaneously, in the framework of world economic relations, the Chinese scientists have carried out an analysis of the development of national economies, and their results were compared to highlight the positive factors that improve economic development rates and accelerate the country's movement to the level of advanced countries of the world [14].

Overall, the entire process of reform in the PRC, based on economic restructuring, changes in economic growth and a number of historical events, can be divided into two periods: from 1949 to 1978 and from 1978 to the present. 1978 was a landmark year of the third plenum of the CC of the CPC of 11th convocation, where the idea to reform the economic system of Chin and the concept of «openness to the outside world» emerged.

The period from 1949 to 1978 is usually called «the period of the planned economy» in the research. This sufficiently long period in the development of the country can be divided into the following stages:

- First stage: the stage of reconstruction and development (1949-1952) is characterized by the fact that after the formation of the PRC, a new economic system was created, which nationalized private property under the idea of socialism. In three years, the Chinese government has restored the national economy and moved to a massive economic construction.

– Second stage: the stage of «first five-year plan» (1952-1957). With the help of the Soviet Union, the construction of 156 objects was commenced, including 106 civil objects located in the north-eastern and central parts of China and 50 military objects located in the central and western parts of the country [8].

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- Third phase (1958-1966): this period is often called «a period of great economic development», «the Great Leap Forward» in the literature [9, 10]. At this point, there was an active search for the path of socialist economic construction, and this may explain the tragic moments that happened during this period. The absolute priority of the development of industry at the beginning of this stage led to the destruction of agriculture and eventually to mass starvation in the provinces of China. According to official statistics, over 30 million people died of starvation over those years. The government has done everything possible to change the situation as soon as possible, and the last years of this period are characterized by changes in development priorities. Thus, the proposed «great leap forward» in industrial production led to a shift in the industry, but in the presence of complex contradictions, the overall GDP for the period fell sharply.

- Fourth stage (1966-1976gg.): the cultural revolution. The Cultural Revolution as a political movement had a great influence on the development of the country. However, from an economic perspective, there are different opinions in the scientific literature about how well or badly the Cultural Revolution influenced the economic performance in comparison with other stages.

As a result of the deterioration of relations with the Soviet Union, complex internal situations such as a movement of «national communism», «cultural revolution», as well as other economic and political factors, China was closed from the world economy, which immediately reflected in the sharp decline of the country's economy.

After enduring a lot of failures of the planned economy, having difficulties and even tragedies as a consequence of the introduction of collective ownership, China began a new search for the path of economic development. On December 3, 1978 at the Congress of the CC of the CPC, in his speech, Deng Xiaoping proposed a new mechanism of state support. State support should be focused, firstly, on the development of certain regions, secondly, on the development of certain enterprises and, thirdly, on the development of entrepreneurs; each of these elements should develop and eventually become the locomotive in its own area. Later, at the suggestion of Deng Xiaoping on the basis of generalization of experience of the balanced development of regions, the government clarified the strategy for the development of the regional economy of the country, in which priority was given to the coastal provinces [7].

The period from 1978 to the present time in the literature is usually called the period of the market economy [6]. Let's consider the basic steps that can be identified, in our opinion, in this period:

- Fifth stage, best known as the initial period of the transition of the economic system of the PRC to a market economy (1979–1991).

Thanks to the introduction of the reform of establishment of a private property in the villages and priority policy of the state «to feed people», rural enterprises have acquired the status of priority enterprises of the national economy.

In 1984, the reform affected state-owned enterprises. It was mainly about the increase of taxes and change of the priority status of state enterprises.

The refusal of the PRC government on the state monopoly on foreign trade and the rejection of the policy of «closed» country should be noted as the most important point of this stage. As a result, special economic areas and open cities were created in the coastal regions.

In 1984, the sixth five-year national plan was fulfilled a year earlier and became the best-effective five-year plan after formation of China.

Despite the fact that after that, between 1986 and 1987, there was a slowdown of the economy, the PRC government pursued its policy. 1988 is characterized by prices being formed on the products, and the period from 1989 to 1991 related to the «cleaning of the illegal trading activities». The government sought to restore the country's image, which had by then emerged as a «country of counterfeit goods», resulting from mass illegal activities and sweeping the world with counterfeit products. China's economy just began to develop and gained a steady and fast pace.

- Sixth stage: the period of establishment of the market economic system (1992-2002). After modernization and creation of a socialist market economic system, the strategy of the priorities in the economic development was replaced with a strategy of even development, whose main task was to reduce interregional differences, and it was the beginning of equal development of regions.

In 1992, the results of economic development, transition to a reform and «openness to the world» were approved at the 14th congress of the CPC representatives, and the objective of the reform was stated as «to create a socialist market economic system» [11]. The main objectives of the reform were: regulation of activity of the population, reform of the pricing system, system of commodity circulation, financial system, as well as reform of state enterprises, etc. Thanks to a number of these reforms, the planned economic system was taken apart — gradually, brick by brick.

In 2002, the foundation of a socialist market economic system was already established in China: the level of government interference in the activities of enterprises and private businesses fell sharply, and the market has become the main way to allocate resources.

- Seventh stage: the period of improvement of the market economic system (2002 — present). At present, China pays attention to the development strategy of the country and is on the way of improving the socialist market economic system [2]. During this period (from 2002), the administration and management system of the country was reformed; agricultural and stock-raising taxes, taxes on special agricultural products, etc. were abolished. Legislation has been enacted to protect private property, create the conditions for fair competition and allow foreign exchange transactions in order to gradually increase the investment activity of enterprises. In 2008, China became the third largest in the world in terms of GDP, which amounted to 4,300 billion US dollars.

«The Chinese economic model» encompasses four main development trends that are interdependent [3]. Features of these trends lie in the fact that they take into account, firstly, the peculiarities of politics and public administration, and secondly, the peculiarities of the national mentality. In addition, in order to develop exports and increase trade surplus, many enterprises reduce the cost of production through cutting «internal costs» off schedule and using low technology. Thus, as a result, businesses get meager profits, and as a consequence, it is the main reason for the low wage of workers. Low wages and low living standards of workers lead to conflict between the enterprises and employees [12].

Reforms in China have led to changes in the distribution of business activity and industry. In the days of Mao Zedong's new iron and steel plants, facilities of the automotive industry and mechanical engineering were built mainly in the north and north-east of the country, in cities such as Anshan, Shenyang, Jilin, etc. The large industrial centers were inherited from the past, such as Shanghai.

China currently leads the world in coal, iron, manganese, lead, zinc, antimony and tungsten ores and timber production; it is the world's largest producer of coke, pig iron, steel and steel pipes, aluminum, zinc, tin, nickel, televisions, radios and mobile phones, washing and sewing machines, bicycles and motorcycles, watches and cameras, fertilizers, cotton and silk fabrics, cement, shoes, meat, wheat, rice, sorghum, potatoes, cotton, apples, tobacco, vegetables, silkworm cocoons; it has the world's largest population of poultry, pigs, sheep, goats, horses and yaks and also leads in the catch of fish. In addition, the PRC is the world's largest car maker. Oil, gas, rare earth metals are produced on the territory of China (molybdenum, vanadium, antimony, uranium [4].

Priority development of the industry, on the one hand, makes it possible to rapidly develop certain industries according to the plans and goals, but on the other hand, a rapid development of the industry is causing serious damage to the environment and is depleting resources. The issue of environmental pollution is the reverse side of the marginal product in the development of the industry. According to statistics, the annual damage due to environmental pollution is 10 % relative to the total GDP [1, 13]. The Chinese model of the economy in the long run is not a model of the market system, though the goal of the reform was formulated at the 14th congress of representatives of the CPC as the creation of a «socialist market economic system». The main objectives of the reform are regulation of activity of the population, reform of the pricing system, system of commodity circulation, financial system and reform of state enterprises, etc. Despite the presence of state regulation in the economy, the state sector in the industry still accounts for about 30 % of GDP [5]. China is characterized by the development of market relations and private property, a large percentage of foreign investment.

The new period presents new challenges, and at the moment the Chinese government realizes that the modernization of the country leads to the increasing pollution of the environment, and at the moment this issue is given prime importance. «The ecological model», «circulating model» and «the strengthening of cooperation between regions» are the main tasks that are set for the Chinese economy.

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