ISSN (Online): 2455-3662
EPRA International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (IJMR) - Peer Reviewed Journal
Volume: 10| Issue: 12| December 2024|| Journal DOI: 10.36713/epra2013 || SJIF Impact Factor 2024: 8.402 || ISI Value: 1.188

RESEARCH ON THE ROLE OF THE PEOPLE'S CONGRESS SYSTEM IN ADVANCING THE MODERNIZATION OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNANCE SYSTEM AND GOVERNANCE CAPACITY

Liu Qiong
School of Marxism, Zhaoqing University, Guangdong, China

Article DOI: https://doi.org/10.36713/epra19441
DOI No: 10.36713/epra19441

ABSTRACT

The Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China made comprehensive arrangements for adhering to, improving, and developing the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, as well as advancing the modernization of the national social governance system and the modernization of national governance capacity. These arrangements are based on the strategic overall and long-term requirements related to the sustained and healthy development of the Party and the country's socialist cause. As the core of the socialist political system, the People's Congress system embodies the unique advantages of achieving the organic unity of Party leadership, the people's democratic rule, and the rule of law. This paper delves into the role of the People's Congress system in the modern national governance system, analyzes how its institutional advantages can be transformed into governance effectiveness, and explores specific pathways for further improving and developing this system.

KEYWORDS: *National Governance System, People's Congress, System, Advantages*

1. INTRODUCTION

The "Decision" passed at the Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China grasps the opportunities and trends of the information age and proposes many new development ideas and reform measures. It can be said that effectively leveraging the advantages of the People's Congress system is a crucial part and strong support for the modernization of the national governance system and governance capacity, which is fundamental for advancing social modernization. We must treat its development as an important task and ensure it is handled with urgency and attention. We should deeply study and implement the spirit of the Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee, particularly the important speech of General Secretary Xi Jinping, and actively take responsibility and engage in the process of establishing and advancing the modernization of the national governance system, fully utilizing and continuously improving the advantages of the People's Congress system in this process.

2. UTILIZING THE ADVANTAGES OF THE PEOPLE'S CONGRESS SYSTEM IN ITS CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT

The system of the National People's Congress (NPC) was not established overnight, but is an inevitable product of the Chinese people, under the correct leadership of the Communist Party of China, effectively combining the basic principles of Marxism with the specific realities of China. This system not only efficiently guarantees the basic rights of the people, but also ensures the broad and genuine exercise of these rights, providing fundamental political institutional safeguards for ensuring the people's right to rule. The system of the National People's Congress has a 70-year history since its establishment and has developed and perfected through continuous practice in China, demonstrating its vitality. Contemporary Chinese theory and practice have fully demonstrated that "the system of the People's Congress is a good system that fits China's national conditions and realities, reflects the nature of a socialist state, and ensures that the people are the masters of the country. It is a system that can effectively unite the people and drive Chinese-style modernization, with strong vitality and remarkable superiority" (Xi, 2024). Currently, we are in a new era, the critical period of two centenary goals. The development of the People's Congress system, as the fundamental socialist political system in contemporary China, can only continuously consolidate and exert its fundamental political advantages if the unique political advantages of the People's Congress system are effectively transformed and developed into governance efficacy.

The "Decision" passed at the Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee profoundly answers the major historical-political question of "what to uphold and consolidate, and what to perfect and develop", and once again emphasizes that "we must uphold and improve the system of the people being the masters of the country, and develop socialist democratic politics". This has groundbreaking and milestone significance for consolidating and improving the institutional framework of the People's Congress

ISSN (Online): 2455-3662
EPRA International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (IJMR) - Peer Reviewed Journal
Volume: 10| Issue: 12| December 2024|| Journal DOI: 10.36713/epra2013 || SJIF Impact Factor 2024: 8.402 || ISI Value: 1.188

system. China remains a socialist country, and all power comes from and belongs to the people. Therefore, it is only right for the people to be the masters of the country, and through elections, to elect their representatives at all levels. The system of People's Congress, with representatives elected by the people at various levels, represents the fundamental way and form through which the people exercise state power and manage state and social affairs. Because of the crucial political position and value of the People's Congress system, it directly determines that in the process of building the governance and modernization system of the socialist state, our country must continue to adhere to and improve the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics. In the construction and modernization of the governance and governance capacity of the socialist state, we must continue to uphold and improve the People's Congress system at all levels, as this is a fundamental political system.

3. FULLY LEVERAGING THE ADVANTAGES OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS ELECTION SYSTEM IN FURTHER UPHOLDING AND STRENGTHENING THE LEADERSHIP OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY

The concept of "upholding and strengthening the Party's overall leadership" is the overarching requirement proposed by the Communist Party of China (CPC) for its Party building in the new historical era. This principle was established based on a profound summary of the long-term historical experience and lessons of the CPC in power. It scientifically reveals the law of governance development of the contemporary CPC and the development path of socialism with Chinese characteristics. It is crucial for ensuring that the CPC continues to lead at the forefront of history and the times, navigating the profound and complex changes in the global situation and overcoming both domestic and international challenges. This principle is key in ensuring the Party's role as a strong political backbone for leading all the people of China through these turbulent historical processes, ultimately contributing to the construction and development of socialism with Chinese characteristics in a steadfast manner.

The Party's leadership system is the "anchor" for overcoming all difficulties and major risks. Only by consistently upholding and strengthening the Party's leadership can we maintain the correct direction for building a socialist modernization and ensure the unity of the socialist state, safeguarding national and ethnic unity. Moreover, it creates a stable socio-economic environment conducive to the development of socialist modernization. It also enables the mobilization of all positive social factors to advance the construction of socialism with Chinese characteristics. General Secretary Xi Jinping has emphasized that strengthening Party leadership at the grassroots level requires unwavering confidence, and we must never retreat or evade from this requirement. The core demand is to adhere to and strengthen Party leadership, which is the highest guiding principle for contemporary socialist China.

The leadership system of the Party is the greatest influence and lifeblood of the Party and the nation. It is directly tied to the fundamental interests and well-being of the Chinese people, and it determines the fate and future of the Chinese nation. It is the essential guarantee for the realization of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and for achieving victory in the new era and the socialist modernization of China.

The strengthening of the Party's leadership system is comprehensive and includes the Party's leadership over the People's Congress system. The "Decision" of the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee once again emphasized the Party's role in "overall leadership and coordination", which also underscores the role of the Party in formulating national policies and strategic decisions. It highlights the importance of the Party's leadership and aligns with the CPC's support for ensuring that the NPC performs its duties according to law, thereby playing its crucial role as the "highest organ of state power". This further reaffirms that national power, as the most fundamental form of political power, is a crucial political element in the political structure of our country. The system of the National People's Congress itself is a matter of our fundamental socialist political system, which directly determines its vital political role and value in the governance and system of the socialist state.

To uphold and improve the leadership of the Party in the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and to advance the modernization of state governance, we must prioritize the continuous improvement and strengthening of the Party's leadership over the National People's Congress system. It is essential to ensure that the NPC election system, as the core political system, is effectively leveraged to enhance the governance capacity of our country's socialist system.

The effectiveness of socialist governance and institutional advantages is the fundamental foundation for the transformation of the governance system and its operational efficacy. "In modern states, the mission of the political structure is to create a stable political order from diverse political forces. The mission of the governance system is to integrate multiple governance actors into an effective governance structure" (Lin, 2016). Thus, only by establishing a political system that aligns with the national context, integrating diverse governance actors into the fundamental political system, can a stable political order be formed and effective national governance achieved. Without a sound institutional guarantee, basic political order would be unattainable, and the realization of effective governance would be extremely difficult.

The establishment of the People's Congress system was the result of the hard work of the Chinese people, and it has provided a reliable guarantee for the order of national power and the realization of the people's fundamental rights to be the masters of the country. Over the years, this system has created a remarkable political, economic, and social development model, contributing

ISSN (Online): 2455-3662
EPRA International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (IJMR) - Peer Reviewed Journal
Volume: 10| Issue: 12| December 2024|| Journal DOI: 10.36713/epra2013 || SJIF Impact Factor 2024: 8.402 || ISI Value: 1.188

to social stability and economic growth since the reform and opening-up period (Yan, 2017). Historical practices demonstrate that under the leadership of the CPC, the establishment of the NPC system integrated diverse governance actors into an effective governance structure, ensuring the operation of the political system and facilitating socio-economic development.

After 75 years of reform and opening-up, with 46 years of deepened reforms and external opening, the election system of the National People's Congress has continuously innovated and developed, providing institutional guarantees for societal transformation. We are now in a critical historical period for advancing comprehensive reforms, and the People's Congress system will continuously evolve to reflect and address the interests and demands of society and the people. In today's rapidly developing market economy, the diversification of social interest groups requires adjustments in the People's Congress system to keep pace with these changes.

4. CHINA'S UTILIZATION OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS SYSTEM'S ADVANTAGES IN ACHIEVING A UNIFIED SYSTEM ADVANTAGE AND GOVERNANCE EFFECTIVENESS

The Fourth Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee made significant economic and strategic decisions regarding the comprehensive and deepening promotion of the rule of law. It emphasized the foundational concept of "rule of law" as the basic political ideology and governance approach of the Communist Party of China (CPC). Through relevant legislative bodies, numerous laws and regulations were enacted, which not only advanced institutional innovation but also provided new momentum for continuous improvement. As a result, the People's Congress system has evolved under the guidance of these laws and regulations, forming a developmental framework that organically unites "Party leadership", "people's democracy", and "rule of law", demonstrating the system's superiority and achieving a harmonious alignment between institutional advantages and governance effectiveness (Qi, 2018). The Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee proposed further deepening reforms with the overarching goal of "improving and developing the socialist system with Chinese characteristics and advancing the modernization of the national governance system and governance capacity" (Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, 2024). Therefore, while continuing to leverage the advantages of the People's Congress system, greater emphasis must be placed on transforming these advantages into actual governance effectiveness.

The improvement of the People's Congress governance system and the adjustment of its organizational structure provide a solid foundation for enhancing governance effectiveness, while the practical demands for improving governance effectiveness further promote institutional reform. As Professor Wang Puqiu aptly stated, "Achieving long-term, balanced development in national governance requires establishing and supporting a good structural balance between the political and administrative governance structures and mechanisms, which continuously stimulates national vitality and governance efficiency while advancing institutionalization" (Wang & Tang, 2019). The effectiveness of the People's Congress system aligns with this practical logic—effective governance requires ongoing strengthening of institutional construction, and only through innovation in specific work mechanisms can the vitality of institutional reforms be unleashed, thus enhancing the governance effectiveness of the People's Congress system.

Consequently, the development of the People's Congress system has consistently adhered to the basic goal of realizing the people as masters of the country. Through structural and functional adjustments, the system has responded to the changing economic, social, political, and cultural demands, restoring the People's Congress system to its central democratic position in the national political structure and advancing the modernization of the national governance system and its capacity (Yang, 2015). Since China's reform and opening-up, the People's Congress system has continuously innovated in its operational mechanisms, establishing close ties between the NPC Standing Committee and its members, as well as between NPC representatives and other people's organizations. This has strengthened the representativeness and responsiveness of the People's Congress at all levels. Simultaneously, the legislative, supervisory, decision-making, and appointment powers of the People's Congress have been effectively guaranteed and exercised, clarifying the responsibilities and systems of the People's Congress at all levels.

5. ENHANCING THE SUPERIORITY OF THE PEOPLE'S CONGRESS SYSTEM THROUGH EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION

The transformation of institutional advantages into governance effectiveness largely depends on the ability to execute these institutions. Key factors influencing execution include the degree of recognition and commitment by those who implement the system, particularly their understanding of the system's value. The legislative system of the NPC Standing Committee, at its core, aims to ensure that the people can lawfully and constitutionally exercise their democratic rights in a rule-of-law state. However, research shows that some regional leaders are uncertain about whether China should pursue or is capable of developing democracy, with views such as "democracy cannot be avoided, but its real implementation is problematic" (Xi & Li, 2013). To address these concerns, it is crucial to build their trust in the system, enhance institutional recognition, and fully execute its provisions to optimize its scope.

The transition to a professional system of NPC representatives requires a comprehensive and realistic approach. As Zhou Ping and Wang (2019) suggest, the reform of professionalizing NPC

ISSN (Online): 2455-3662
EPRA International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (IJMR) - Peer Reviewed Journal
Volume: 10| Issue: 12| December 2024|| Journal DOI: 10.36713/epra2013 || SJIF Impact Factor 2024: 8.402 || ISI Value: 1.188

representatives should be gradual, well-planned, and accompanied by necessary supportive measures and legal frameworks. Given the large number of NPC representatives (over two million), full professionalization presents challenges, but a hybrid model combining full-time and part-time roles could be a more viable solution (Liu, 2020).

Furthermore, the continuous improvement of the NPC's operational mechanisms is essential. This includes reforming the election system to enhance the quality and representativeness of NPC representatives, as well as increasing the influence of elections (Zou & Liu, 2019). Some scholars advocate reducing indirect election layers to improve direct representation, which could optimize the structure of the NPC. Similarly, reforming the meeting system is vital to enhance the quality of decision-making processes. As Professor Cai Dingjian notes, "The effectiveness of the People's Congress is primarily in how it conducts meetings" (Jing, Chen, & Xiao, 2016). This means improving the efficiency of legislative sessions, reducing unnecessary numbers of representatives to encourage meaningful democratic deliberation, and extending meeting durations to ensure thorough consideration of reports and proposals. Training NPC representatives, especially when many serve part-time, can also improve their ability to perform their duties effectively (Xi, 2022).

Lastly, strengthening the link between the Standing Committee and the NPC in the legislative process ensures that the people's concerns are better reflected in national policy. By fostering two-way communication, the system can ensure that legislative decisions align more closely with societal needs and that public opinion is properly integrated into governance. This two-way interaction reinforces the legitimacy and responsiveness of the NPC, making it not only a legislative body but a key component in the broader governance of the state, reflecting the people's will and enhancing governance outcomes.

FUNDING PROJECT

Research Project of Ideological and Political Theory Course in Colleges and Universities (2024) from the Regional Collaborative Innovation Center for Ideological and Political Courses in Guangdong Higher Education Institutions: "Research on the Integration Path of the Party's Innovative Theory into Ideological and Political Courses in Colleges and Universities" (Project Number: ZFJ202456).

Teaching Quality and Teaching Reform Project for Undergraduate Institutions in Guangdong Province (2024) (Higher Education Teaching Reform Project): "Research on the Integration Path of the Spirit of the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee into Ideological and Political Courses in Colleges and Universities" (Project Number: 1083).

Quality Engineering and Teaching Reform Project of Zhaoqing University (2024) (Higher Education Teaching Reform Project): "Research on the Integration Path of the Spirit of the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee into Ideological and Political Courses in Colleges and Universities" (Project Number: zlgc2024032).

REFERENCES

1. *Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. (2024).* Decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on further comprehensively deepening reforms and advancing Chinese-style modernization. *People's Publishing House.*
2. *Jing, Y., Chen, M., & Xiao, B. (2016).* Contemporary Chinese government and politics. *China Renmin University Press.*
3. *Lin, S. (2016).* On people's democracy. *Shanghai People's Publishing House.*
4. *Qi, W. (2018). Research on the high unity of institutional advantages and governance effectiveness: The essential characteristics of the Chinese national governance system in the new era.* People's Forum: Academic Frontier, *2018(6), 6-15.*
5. *Sun, Y. (2013). On the adjustment and optimization of the structural ratio of NPC deputies: An analysis framework based on elitism and pluralism.* Journal of Sun Yat-sen University (Social Sciences Edition), *2013(4), 163-173.*
6. *Wang, P., & Tang, B. (2019). Analysis of the party-government structure and functional mechanisms in contemporary Chinese governance.* Chinese Social Sciences, *2019(9), 19.*
7. *Xi, Jinping. (2022). Upholding the great banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics and uniting to build a socialist modernized country: Report at the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. People's Publishing House.*
8. *Xi, Jinping. (2024). Speech at the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the National People's Congress.* People's Politics, *2024(09), 4-7.*
9. *Xi, W., & Li, Z. (2013). The practice and reflections on the establishment of special committee members in the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress.* New Horizons, *2013(3), 30-34.*
10. *Yan, X. (2017).* Why is China stable: Observations and reflections from the field. *China Social Sciences Press.*
11. *Yang, X. (2015). System performance, governance modernization, and the People's Congress system.* Teaching and Research, *2015(6), 5-14.*
12. *Zheng, H. (2015, July 9). The People's Congress system is the fundamental institutional arrangement of the organic unity of the three.* Liberation Daily.
13. *Zhou, C., & Wang, W. (2019). The historical evolution of the specialized committees of the National People's Congress over the past 70 years.* Research on the National People's Congress, *2019(6), 7-8.*
14. *Zou, P., & Liu, H. (2019). On the normative connotation and institutional improvement of the NPC's decision-making power on major issues.* Journal of Sichuan Normal University (Social Sciences Edition), *2019(2), 3-4.*