

Innovation and Development of Marxist Productive Forces Theory through New Quality Productive Forces

Shuwen Zhang*

School of Economics and Management, Yango University, Fuzhou, 350015, China

*zsw2027@163.com

Abstract

New-type productive forces are essentially a more sophisticated form of productive forces which are moved by the innovation of science and technology. They attain very efficient production based on scientific and technological accomplishments which outweigh the traditional productive forces on sophistication. The evolution of the new-type productive forces has driven the present-day innovation and growth of the Marxist productive forces theory. The research on the refinement and enrichment of new-type productive forces in the Marxist productive forces theory has tremendous modern importance and worth. This book initially logically describes the main elements of new-type productive forces. It then examines the representation of original value in new-type productive forces in the Marxist productive forces theory. Lastly, it clarifies the concrete channels of development of new-type productive forces in the Marxist productive forces theory dissecting their value supplemental to the new era theory and thus providing a strong theoretical framework to the development of productive forces under socialism of Chinese features in the new era.

Keywords

Marxist Theory of Productive Forces; New-quality Productive Forces; Innovative Development.

1. Introduction

Driven by the dual forces of contemporary technological revolution and industrial upgrading, comprehensively advancing the enhancement of new-quality productive forces has become a vital engine for China's high-quality economic development. Since July 2023, General Secretary Xi Jinping has conducted field inspections in multiple provinces including Sichuan, Heilongjiang, Zhejiang, and Guangxi, where he comprehensively elaborated the key concept of "new-type productive forces" for the first time. Through his in-depth analysis of this concept at a series of important meetings, the scientific connotations of Xi Jinping Thought have gradually matured, further advancing this frontier theory. Scientific grasp of technological and industrial transformation in the new era, effective enhancement of productive forces, and coordinated advancement of multidimensional progress in building modernization with Chinese characteristics-guiding theoretical development through practice-have become the core orientation for General Secretary Xi Jinping to scientifically comprehend technological and industrial changes in the new era.

Through examining the growth and rejuvenation of the Marxist theory of productivity through the new-quality productivity, this work focuses on the fundamental idea of new-quality productive forces the General Secretary Xi Jinping has used to present his core belief of the new-quality productivity-theory. Through understanding the innovative dimensions of such a theory and the theoretical definitions and its evolutionary line, not only does it promote the strategy of China to national rejuvenation and make it a global power, but also forms a new

model of progress of the world. This offers new theoretical background and new theoretical premise on how China developed the new-quality productive forces.

2. Core Elements of New Quality Productivity

2.1. Definition of New Quality Productivity

Systematically expounded by General Secretary Xi Jinping, new-quality productive forces take innovation as their core driving force, transcending the limitations of past growth logic and development trajectories to become advanced productive forces aligned with new development concepts. This phenomenon arises from the upgrading of human resources, innovation in production tools, expansion of functional objects, and significant improvements in resource allocation efficiency. Its essence revolves around human resource enhancement, production tool innovation, functional object expansion, and functional innovation.

2.2. The Practical Necessity and Value of Cultivating and Developing New Quality Productivity

2.2.1. Cultivating New Productivity is Key to Addressing the Primary Social Contradiction

With socialism with Chinese characteristics entering a new phase, the hopes of the people to have a better life have become exceptionally high. Nevertheless, the lack of unity and sufficient development is turned out to be the most critical factor limiting the experience of these dreams, giving rise to the central dilemma in modern society. The change of the leading contradiction means that the expectations of people to the quality of life constantly increase. The fact of material satisfying is only the first step, and people that make society constantly require the cultural enrichment. It is only through further modernization of productive forces and high-quality economic development that the dreams of the people can be met about a better life. General Secretary, Xi Jinping is of the opinion that the people and the nation cannot be separated, and to capture and protect the nation will be dependent on mobilizing will of the people.

2.2.2. Cultivating New Productive Forces to Advance the Building of a Modernized Powerhouse

As Marx elucidated in Capital, productive forces remain the core driving force of historical progress. Their breakthrough advancements often herald social transformation, with societal development and reform mutually reinforcing each other. Reform alleviates contradictions and propels progress across multiple civilizational domains General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized that national prosperity relies on science and technology, and national progress cannot be separated from innovation[1]. Building a modernized powerhouse requires establishing a new pattern of productive forces and maintaining sound development to achieve both material and spiritual prosperity. Modern productive forces play a crucial role in achieving the coordinated integration of technology, industry, and institutions, anchoring direction, uniting strength, and overcoming obstacles to move forward.

2.2.3. Cultivating New Productive Forces to Elevate China's International Standing

General Secretary Xi Jinping noted: China now stands at a golden period in its modern development, while the world has entered a pivotal century-long transition. These dual processes are intertwined and mutually reinforcing, presenting both significant opportunities and challenges for China's development. They exert tangible impacts on the global system, profoundly driving the evolution of China's strategic layout. Enhancing international standing fundamentally involves optimizing national image and soft power. From a technological perspective, China possesses immense potential in next-generation communications and

intelligent technologies. Regarding global engagement, China occupies a central position within the global governance system, actively promoting mechanisms for shared global governance and showcasing Chinese wisdom. In terms of economic scale, China's GDP ranks second globally, making it a vital force driving worldwide economic development.

3. Theoretical Innovations of New Quality Productivity to Marxist Productivity Theory

3.1. New Quality Productivity Expands Marxist Theory on the Evolution of Productive Forces

This theoretical framework explores the phased developmental patterns of productive forces over time, driving societal advancement[2]. Its research focuses on the intrinsic components of productive forces, emphasizing the dialectical conflict between productive forces and production relations. Marxist theory posits that productive forces essentially represent humanity's capacity to transform nature for acquiring developmental resources. The traditional mode of productive forces born during the agricultural civilization stage marked the first revolutionary transformation in human production history. As humanity transitioned from nomadic gathering to settled agriculture, material civilization underwent successive stages of stone, bronze, and iron tools. This marked the first qualitative leap in productive forces. During this period, productive forces developed slowly, and humanity remained heavily dependent on the natural environment, which constrained resource acquisition. Throughout this process, humans actively cultivated mutually beneficial models with nature, continuously optimizing methods to intervene in natural processes, thereby driving green upgrades in production methods. New-type productive forces broke humanity's historical bondage to nature, resolving the contradictory relationship between humans and nature that characterized the industrial era.

3.2. New-Quality Productivity Updates Marxist Productive Forces Structure Theory

Through in-depth analysis of the upgrading trends in productive forces, we gain a clearer understanding of the central role of workers within the productive forces. Under this upgraded model of productive force development, practitioners must master new labor competencies, proficiently operate new forms of labor tools, and effectively advance new labor objects. The primary prerequisite is a solid theoretical foundation to maintain efficient and stable labor processes, coupled with a high level of innovative capability. Leveraging professional expertise and practical skills, advanced workers conduct multi-level observations and in-depth analyses of processing procedures to promptly identify deficiencies. They resolve challenges through innovation-driven approaches while adhering to natural laws, prioritizing the preservation of nature's pristine state. This fosters harmonious interaction between humanity and the environment, cultivating an ecosystem for green productive forces to thrive. Such forces become the cornerstone of sustainable human development, propelling the construction of a community with a shared future for mankind.

3.3. New Quality Productivity Empowers Marxist Productive Forces Dynamics Theory

The human needs are the key driving force of the constant progress of productivity and its inherent patterns of operation, and therefore, the primary factor of sustainable development. Marx considered the productivity as the key to the social development. Nowadays, when the boom period of AI-based technological paradigm shifts and industrial reorganization are happening, the significant innovations in key disciplines have become widespread, which, in

turn, allowed achieving a qualitative shift in productivity rates. The General Secretary Xi Jinping has underlined the foremost value of scientific and technological innovation and tagged it as the major driving force of the new-quality productive forces appearance. This highlights the strategic focus of science and technology, where a significant advancement in original innovation and revolutionary technologies is strongly demanded. High-tech innovations, being the pioneers in technology, might have a tremendous impact on the development of society. New-type productive forces are developed as a higher model of productivity with the focus on technological innovation and the technological background of the new-type productive forces. They need the support of the new scientific breakthroughs, reaching the close relations between industry, academy, and research establishments, and developing the basis of investment in the basic research. This altogether forms the structural network of new type productive forces.

4. The Development of Marxist Productive Forces Theory in the New Era from the Perspective of New-Quality Productive Forces

4.1. Intensifying Scientific and Technological Innovation to Empower High-Quality Development

The 2023 Central Economic Work Conference had its arrangements made quite clearly, and it is evident that the industrial upgrading should be empowered with scientific and technological innovation as the central driving force. It advocated priority areas and key sectors especially through the aggressive development of breakthroughs in disruptive technological innovation, quickening the iterative evolution and extensive usage of disruptive technologies, and enabling the change of industrial systems to high-end, intelligent and green development. This will contribute to the development of new industries, new shapes, and engines of growth, which will rapidly stimulate the process of development of new-quality productive forces[3]. Documented with a steady increase in implementing measures to revitalize the nation with the support of science and education, enhancing the nation with talent and pressuring development with a breakthrough will assist the Chinese scientific and technological strength to the frontiers in the world. This will bring a high level of self-sufficiency and power in the sphere of the technological world, direct the tenor of industrial innovation, fine-tune an industrial structure, open the possibilities of production and bring about new energy of innovativeness. It will provide new conditions of high-quality economic growth, a new productive force through independent scientific and technological breakthroughs and will establish a vicious circle of core technological breakthrough and deep industrial upgrade forming a mutually reinforcing relationship.

4.2. Drive the Iterative Upgrading of the Modern Industrial System through Scientific and Technological Innovation

During the Third Session of the 14th National People's Congress, the Jiangsu delegation stated in its 2025 deliberations that jointly advancing technological breakthroughs and industrial upgrading is a key measure to foster the development of new productive forces. With the establishment of a modern industrial system as a prerequisite, we must implement scientific and technological innovation initiatives while strengthening educational foundations, technological breakthroughs, and talent support. We must strive to achieve large-scale breakthroughs in high-level scientific research outcomes and ensure these achievements are genuinely transformed into core productive forces driving industrial development[4]. Industrial innovation efforts should treat the real economy as a key pillar. While advancing technological upgrades in traditional industries, we must also actively seize advantageous positions in emerging strategic industries and future strategic industries. Consensus was

reached among participants that developing new-quality productive forces fundamentally relies on core technological innovation and deep industrial innovation. This requires us to gradually expand the overall scale of emerging industries, appropriately plan the future industrial development landscape, and progressively enhance the quality of building a modern industrial system.

4.3. Guided by the New Development Philosophy, Steadily Deepen the Practice of Development Model Innovation

The 2025 Government Work Report introduced a dual-priority approach for the first time, focusing on "green and low-carbon economic development" and "cultivating emerging industries." It calls for accelerating the establishment of green and low-carbon supply chains, advancing the implementation of the Beautiful China Model Project, and concentrating efforts on creating new benchmarks for green and low-carbon economies[5]. The 2022 report of the 20th CPC National Congress explicitly stated "pursuing a path of green development to achieve mutual benefit between humanity and nature," clearly outlining core tasks such as "vigorously promoting green innovation in development models" and "achieving carbon peak and carbon neutrality goals in stages[6]." This deployment serves as a key demonstration case of the integration between new-quality productive forces and green productive forces, systematically charting the course for cultivating China's green productive forces. Building new-quality productive forces hinges on developing green productive forces. Achieving high-quality development requires steadfastly pursuing green development, deeply embedding the "Two Mountains" philosophy into thought and action, resolutely advancing green development, continuously strengthening green technology breakthroughs, comprehensively implementing efficient green technology solutions, and upgrading green and low-carbon industrial and supply chains to lay a solid foundation for their coordinated development.

4.4. Solidly Advance Institutional and Mechanism Reform and Innovation

The Decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Further Deepening Reform to Promote the Development of Chinese Modernization underlines the necessity to address the issue of creating a high-level market economy system, align core issues in the relations between the government and the market, and plan the major elements and major ways of economic systems reform comprehensively[7]. The basic reasoning of historical evolution states that productive forces require relations of production. Relations of production have to be related to the amount of productive forces. Widespread extension of reforms is an important auxiliary role in the building of new productive forces, which in essence is the creation of new relations of production modified to development. It is not only a matter of market-driven adaptive adjustments and corporate-level innovations practices but also of systematic government-centered planning and implementation of policies that are critical in the creation of the new productive forces. That guarantees the compatibility between the government-level design on the top level and vitality of the market on the micro-level and provides a structure of an institutional framework of high-quality development. It advances national markets integration, streamlines the economic infrastructure set up, develops new growth and core competitiveness drivers, and, as the pillar of the entire reform, triggers the social development dynamism and innovation zeal.

5. Conclusion

According to the experience of the socialism with the Chinese characteristics, Marxist theory of productive forces is the only theoretical methodology that would present the novelty of productive forces in the progress but the Marxist theory of productive forces is offered fresh theoretical visions by the new-quality productive forces. In order to contribute Chinese wisdom

and strategies to the development of the world civilizations, we have no choice but to keep on adding more content to the Marxist productivity theory. The historical process of development and transformation of new-quality productive forces requires a long period of time. The implementation process will be constantly faced with challenges and tests. We should uniformly remain along the Marxist path, continually dig into the essence of the novel-quality productive forces, and lay a firm foundation to achieve the great revival of the Chinese nation, and the overall progress of humanity.

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