

Economic Development and Future Prospects Brought to Minority Areas by Western Development

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Abstract

The Fourth Plenary Session of the 15th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China in 1999 clearly put forward that the country should implement the strategy of developing the western region and implement the development strategy in the western region of our country, which provides a new development opportunity for the economic development of the western region. It has been more than 20 years since the implementation of the Western Development Strategy. The governments of local ethnic areas actively cooperate with the instructions issued by the central government, make full use of policies related to the Western Development, and actively take relevant measures that are conducive to the development of ethnic areas. The ability to enhance their own economic development and increase the level of local per capita income and achieved remarkable achievements. However, the development of the ethnic minority areas in the west still cannot keep up with the development speed of the whole country. This paper first affirms the effect of the western development strategy for the western region, and finds out the existing problems, so as to put forward some suggestions for the better development of the western ethnic region. Sexual advice.

Keywords

Western Development Strategy; Ethnic Areas; Economic Development.

1. Introduction

Since the implementation of the western development strategy, the economic structure and industrial structure of ethnic areas have been scientifically adjusted and optimized, so that their economy has always maintained a steady growth rate, and the living standards of local urban and rural residents have also been improved. Happiness has also improved. Although the western development has improved the economy and life of the western ethnic areas, it still lags behind the economic level of the ethnic areas in the developed eastern regions of China and the national average economic development level, and the gap between the rich and the poor is still relatively large. From all perspectives, the task of promoting the economic development of the western minority areas is still very arduous.

Of view, China's current and future tasks are to adhere to the strategy of promoting the development of the western region and comprehensively deepen the strategic development on this basis. Combined with the policies of the new era, with the reform and opening up and sustainable development as the driving force, accelerate the development of the western

minority areas. economic development and continuous changes can adapt to the new situation of economic development. While promoting economic development, we must also take into account the protection of the ecological environment in the west, handle the relationship between ecological environment construction and economic construction, and realize the coordinated development of the two. In addition, attention should be paid to achieving full employment and creating other development opportunities, with special emphasis on equal development opportunities , so that the western ethnic areas can achieve harmonious and shared development.

2. Development Status

2.1. The Total Economic Volume of Ethnic Areas Grows Rapidly

As early as 2,000 years ago, the famous philosopher Aristotle put forward his view that growth and development are different, and the concept of development is broader and more profound than growth. This concept is also true in the economy. Not only economic growth promotes economic development, but economic development stimulates economic growth, and the two are complementary to each other. Therefore, if we want to seek economic development, we cannot ignore economic growth. Tan Chongtai pointed out that "developing countries must seek comprehensive and coordinated economic development on the basis of sustained and stable economic growth" [1] . The stage goal of the western development is divided into two stages. The goal of the first stage (2000-2010) is that the growth of the total economic volume is close to the average level of national economic growth, and the goal of the second stage (2010-2030) is that the total economic growth The overall development speed of quantitative growth has accelerated [2].

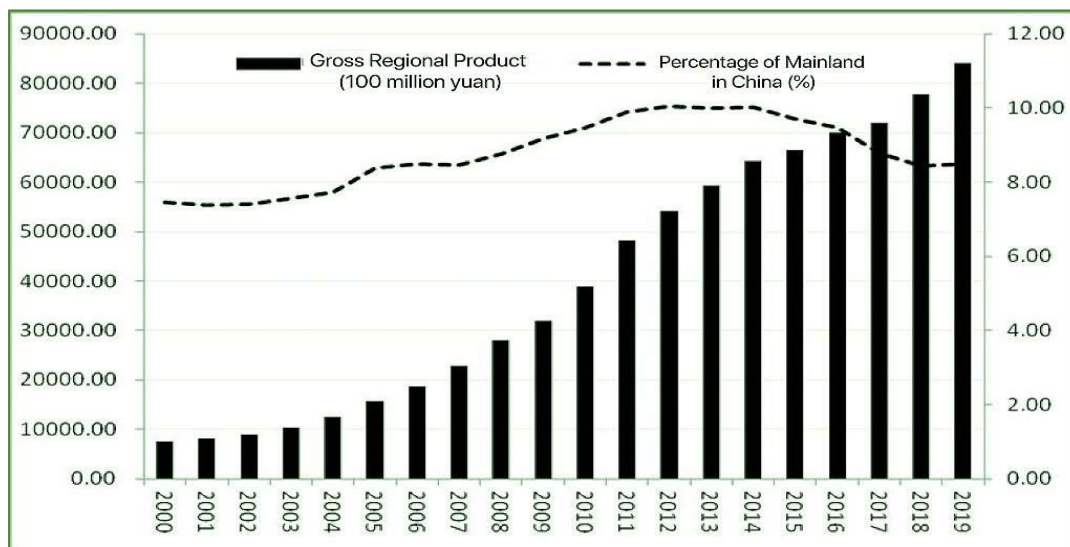


Figure 1. The total economic volume of ethnic autonomous areas since the western development and changes in the national share

The statistics in the figure are the changes in the total economic volume of ethnic autonomous areas and their proportion in the whole country since the western development from 2000 to 2019 . It can be seen from the figure that since the development of the western region, the GDP of the ethnic regions has shown a trend of rapid development, and the growth rate of its ratio to the country's gross domestic product has been relatively stable. In 2000, the total GDP of ethnic areas was 748.6 billion yuan, accounting for 7.47% of the national total ; until 2019 , the total GDP of ethnic areas has risen sharply to 8,402.7 billion yuan, accounting for 7.47 % of the

national total. 8.48% of the amount . In just a few decades, the GDP of the western ethnic regions has achieved rapid growth and its proportion in the country has gradually increased . average growth.

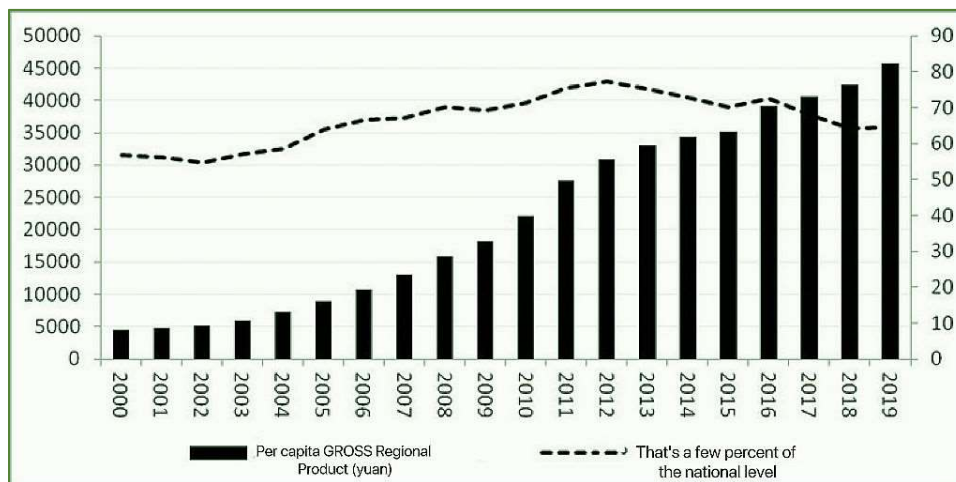


Figure 2. Per capita area of ethnic autonomous areas since the Great Western Development GDP and comparison with the whole country

The per capita GDP in the figure also shows a rising trend, from 4,451 yuan in 2000 to 45,733 yuan in 2019 , which is equivalent to an increase of the national average from 5.665 % to 6.451 % , which is the same as the national average. Compared with a few decades ago, it has increased by almost 8 percentage points. It can be seen that the western development strategy has a greater impact on ethnic regions, and the gap between the per capita regional growth value of the region and the national average level has been continuously narrowed.

From the perspective of economic growth, since the implementation of the strategy, the economic aggregates of the eight ethnic provinces “Mongolia, Guangxi, Guizhou, Yunnan, Tibet, Qinghai, Ningxia and Xinjiang” have maintained continuous growth, and the average annual economic growth rate is mostly higher than national average. Not only has the total economic output of the eight provinces increased, but the GDP of each region in the eight ethnic provinces is also growing rapidly, and the average annual growth rate is even faster in one region than the other. From the perspective of the average annual growth rate of regional GDP, the average annual growth rate of GDP in Ningxia and Guizhou is more than 15%. above the level.

To sum up, the western development strategy has largely driven the rapid growth of the total economic volume of the ethnic regions, and the eight ethnic provinces and regions have achieved great development as a whole. national average. In particular, the economic development of Inner Mongolia and Guizhou is relatively good, which is worth learning from each region.

2.2. The Industrial Structure of Ethnic Areas is Contin

While the ethnic areas are realizing economic development, the industrial structure of their areas is also constantly evolving and optimizing. Economic development is not only reflected in the increase of output but also in the change of economic structure, and the basic change of economic structure is rooted in the evolution of industrial structure and employment structure. With the gradual implementation of the western development in the western region, the policies and guidance proposed by the central government have been gradually put in place, and the industrial structure and employment structure of the ethnic areas have been adjusted and there have been obvious changes.

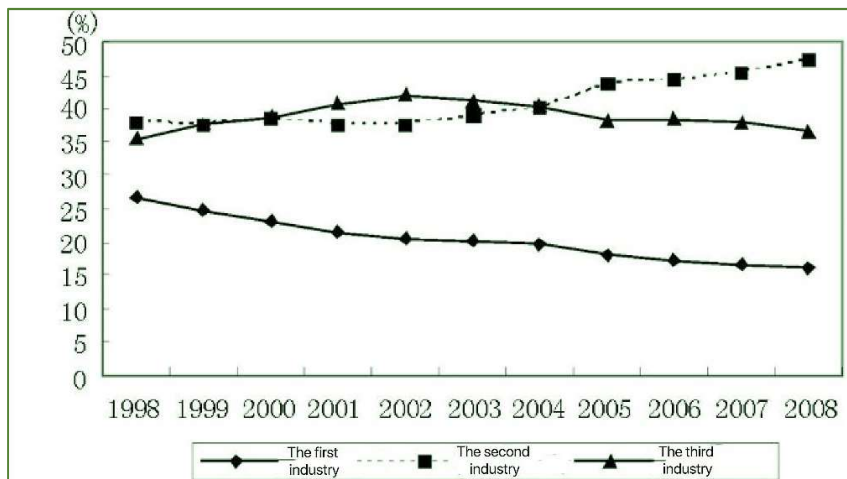


Figure 3. Changes in the output value structure of ethnic regions from 1998 to 2008

The figure shows the changes in the output value structure of ethnic regions before and after the western development from 1998 to 2008. It can be seen from the figure that since the western development, the proportion of the output value of the primary industry has been declining and the speed is relatively fast, and the proportion of the output value of the secondary industry has been declining. Showed a state of continuous growth, while the proportion of the output value of the tertiary industry remained stable. Since 2008, the proportion of the output value of the primary industry in the ethnic areas has been lower than that of the secondary and tertiary industries. So far, the secondary and tertiary industries are still growing rapidly, especially the tertiary industry. In the nearly 20 years after entering the 21st century, the industrial structure of ethnic areas is undergoing large-scale changes [3].

When the production structure changes continuously, it stimulates the development of modern industries and makes the proportion of traditional industries continue to decline, which will lead to the reallocation of labor force among various industries, thus changing the employment structure in ethnic areas. With the changes in the industrial structure, the status of the agricultural sector has been declining, and the labor force has gradually flowed from agriculture to non-agriculture. The main employment direction of the labor force is the secondary and tertiary industries. It can be seen from Figure 3 that the proportion of the primary industry in the ethnic regions has decreased, while the proportion of the secondary and tertiary industries has increased, which is fully in line with the above-mentioned trend of labor transfer. According to the survey, the proportion of the population in the secondary and tertiary industries of the ethnic regions has exceeded the national average level.

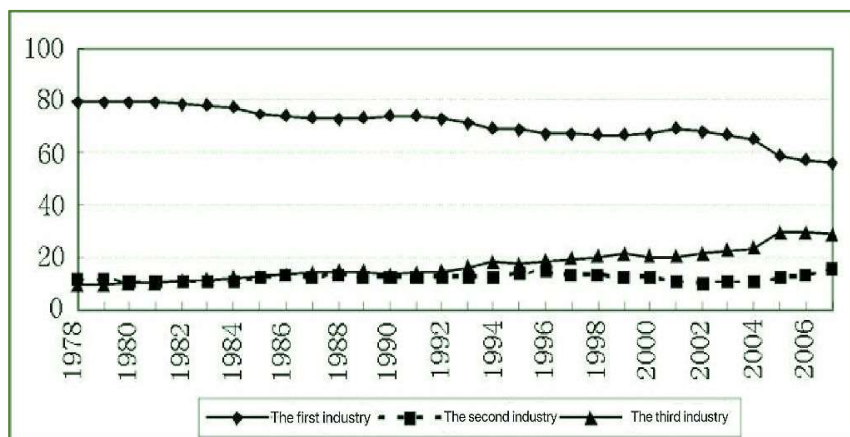


Figure 4. Evolution of the employment structure in ethnic areas

Although the strategy of developing the west has shifted the labor force in ethnic areas, today's agricultural sector has 50 % of the labor force, and the proportion of agricultural labor force is still very large, which is much higher than that of the agricultural labor force in developed areas in China. Much higher than the proportion of labor force in the secondary and tertiary industries.

2.3. The Living Standards of the People in the Ethnic Areas have been Continuously Improved

With the implementation of the reform and development policy, the country's society, economy and people's life have undergone drastic changes, and ethnic areas have also achieved great development, and the income levels of urban and rural residents in most areas have been greatly improved. Today, ethnic areas are also supported by the strategy of developing the western region. The living standards of the local people are close to the average living standards of the people in the whole country, and poverty-stricken areas have also been lifted out of poverty.

years	2000	2018
Inner Mongolia	5129.05	38304.70
Guangxi	5834.43	32436.10
Guizhou	5122.21	31591.90
Yunnan	6324.64	33487.90
Ningxia	4912.40	31895.20
Qinghai	5169.96	31514.50
Tibet	7426.32	33797.40
Xinjiang	5644.86	32763.50

Figure 5. Per capita disposable income of urban residents

From the figure, from 2000 to 2018 , the per capita disposable income of urban residents in ethnic minority areas has increased significantly. The increase in people's disposable income has promoted the improvement of people's living standards and helped China achieve an all-round well-off and all-round poverty alleviation. made a huge contribution.

Due to the different geographical conditions in different regions, the corresponding economic development conditions are also different, and the per capita disposable income of the eight provinces and autonomous regions in ethnic areas is different. As shown in Figure 5 , in 2000 , the highest urban per capita disposable income was in Tibet, reaching 7,426.32 yuan, and the lowest in Ningxia , 4,912.40 yuan, a difference of nearly 2,000 yuan compared with Tibet . In 2000, the disparity in per capita disposable income of different regions was relatively large, indicating that the economic development among ethnic regions was unbalanced at that time. The implementation of the Western Development Strategy has narrowed the economic development gap between regions. In 2018 , the gap between the disposable income of residents in the eight ethnic provinces and regions has gradually narrowed and fluctuated slightly between 30,000.

Engel's coefficient is an index to measure the wealth and poverty of a country or region. The Engel's coefficient value of more than 60 % is poor, the value between 50 % and 60 % is food

and clothing, the well-off is 40 % to 50 %, and the rich is 40% to 50 %. It is 30 % to 40 %, and those below 30 % are the richest[4] . In analyzing the Engel index of urban and rural residents in ethnic areas, it is found that in 2000, the Engel index of urban and rural residents in ethnic areas was basically around 40 %-50% , and the Engel index of urban and rural residents in some areas was still lower than the national average. With the efforts of the central government and local governments to implement relevant policies accurately, the Engel index of urban and rural residents in ethnic minority areas has been greatly reduced in 2018. The Engel index of most areas has a gap of 5 % with the national average level . It can be seen that the gap between the Engel index between ethnic regions and the national average has narrowed significantly and is close to the national average.

3. Existing Problem

The survey found that under the promotion of the strategy of developing the western region, the economic situation of the ethnic minority areas in the west has indeed developed. After nearly 20 years of hard work, the economic development of ethnic areas has not exceeded the national average level, and only a few areas have exceeded the national average level for one or two years. The economic development of ethnic areas is still lagging behind.

3.1. Rapid Population Growth in Ethnic Areas

First, the per capita GDP level of the eight ethnic provinces and regions is still mostly lower than the national average level. The main reason is that the population growth rate of the eight ethnic provinces and regions is relatively fast, which offset part of the results of economic development[5] . Since ancient times, there has been a saying in our country that "the more sons, the more blessings". China is a country with a large population. Before the 21st century, our people liked having children very much, especially in rural areas. The older generation believes that by having more children, you can live a good life by relying on the efforts of your children . However, with the continuous development of the economy, the concept that contemporary people have more births is a blessing has changed, and now developed areas in my country are only willing to have one child at most. However, the economic development of the ethnic minority areas in the west is still relatively backward, and the local people are still keen to rely on future generations to change their fate, so that the population in the ethnic minority areas grows rapidly. When the population of a region is larger, the per capita distribution income of the region is smaller, and even if the economy is developed, it cannot meet the needs of the huge population.

3.2. Industry in Ethnic Areas is Overly Dependent on External

Second, although the western development strategy has further developed and optimized the industries in ethnic areas, the reasons for its development and optimization are mostly the entry of foreign industries or integration with local industries, showing the characteristics of "embedded" development, and It is not the result of the endogenous development of local industries. When the externally embedded industry is not fully integrated with the local industry and the correlation is not strong, its driving effect on the local industry is not obvious, or the advantages of the local industry cannot be fully exerted and displayed, which is not conducive to the endogenous development of ethnic areas. development, making it easy for the development of ethnic areas to rely on external "embedding".

3.3. Unequal Distribution of Labor Force in Ethnic Regions

Third, as mentioned above, the western development strategy has transferred the labor force in ethnic areas , but only a small part of the labor force has been transferred to the secondary and tertiary industries. The proportion of the labor force in the primary industry agriculture is

still as high as 50 % . Even accounted for 60 % or more. It can be seen that the labor transfer in ethnic areas is not complete, the labor distribution among various industries is unbalanced, and the secondary and tertiary industries have not been fully developed.

3.4. The Development of Ethnic Areas has not Yet Reached the National Standard

Fourth, since 2000, it can be clearly seen that the per capita income level of urban and rural residents in ethnic minority areas has greatly improved, but there is still a slight gap compared with the national average. The Engel index of ethnic regions has been significantly reduced through the continuous efforts of the state and the local area and has gradually approached the national average level, but the Engel index of some regions is still lower than the national average level. The above shows that although the living standards of people in ethnic areas have been improved, they are still far from the national level, and the development of ethnic areas has not yet reached the standard of our country.

4. Solution Path

In response to the problems found above, the following solutions will be carried out from three aspects: the state, society and enterprises.

4.1. National

At the national level, it is mainly necessary to pay more attention to the western development strategy, formulate relevant policies in line with the current trend according to the changes in the current economic situation, and establish a sound policy support mechanism. Increase the central government's financial support for the large-scale development of ethnic minority areas in the west, and continue to provide the most favorable financial policies and the greatest convenience to the ethnic minority areas in the west that need to be developed. Constantly increase the state's share of investment in the development of the western region, guide domestic and foreign enterprises to invest in ethnic enterprises in the western region, and help them grow and develop. Pay attention to the infrastructure construction in the western region , rectify the competitive market of enterprises, provide a favorable development environment and market for the development of the western region, and prevent vicious competition from inhibiting economic development. It is necessary to give priority to the development of education, and cultivate batch after batch of talents for the development of the western region . Finally, we should pay attention to the protection of the ecological environment in the western region, insist on sustainable development, and not develop the economy at the expense of the environment.

4.2. Social

At the social level, people should actively cooperate with the guidance of the state and local governments, actively participate in the construction of the western development, and contribute to the economic development of ethnic areas. In addition, the traditional social concept of "more children, more happiness" should not be exaggerated, and scientific values should be promoted. More life is not necessarily a blessing. Happiness is obtained by one's own efforts, not blindly relying on children. Raised children should be people who contribute to their hometown, society and the country. The rapid population growth will cause the region to produce a shortage of fruits in demand. Therefore, the society should actively promote the concept of "properly having children and raising children scientifically". The children born in each family should be within the scope of their own ability to raise them well, and the children should be instilled with correct values. construction output.

4.3. Enterprise

At the enterprise level, local enterprises should focus on their own internal development, instead of relying on the embedding of external enterprises under the banner of Western Development. An industry in a region can only gain a foothold in the era of economic diversification if it has the unique characteristics of the region and the company has an excellent corporate culture. While ensuring its own corporate characteristics, it should also focus on corporate innovation. Its innovation should focus on internal innovation and development, emphasizing the integration and cooperation of local enterprises and externally embedded companies, so as to avoid losing oneself or even being annexed in the process of cooperating with externally embedded companies. It is necessary to actively cooperate with the relevant policies issued by the state, follow the guidance of the local government, and promote the further development and prosperity of the economy in ethnic areas while the enterprise develops healthily.

5. Conclusion

20 years since the implementation of the Western Development Strategy, the economic development of ethnic areas has achieved great results, the economic situation has been prosperous, the living standards of the people have been improved, and the local industrial structure has been optimized. Although the relative gap in economic development has been alleviated, the absolute gap is still widening. Due to the shortcomings of regional development, although the development speed of ethnic areas is higher than the national development speed, the development level has not yet reached the national standard.

Therefore, now that our country has entered a new era, and the national economy is also moving towards a new stage of high-quality development, in order to narrow the gap between the rich and the poor in our country and achieve a well-off society in an all-round way, we should ensure the simultaneous development of the western ethnic regions and other regions of the country, and eliminate the imbalance of domestic development. factors and insufficient conditions, to meet the good wishes of all ethnic groups in our country and ensure the quality of life. We must insist on attaching importance to and speed up the development of the ethnic minority areas in the west, so as to realize the comprehensive and balanced economic development of the whole country.

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