

Exploring Practical Strategies for Deepening Reform with the Aid of Scientific Thinking

Shuai Xie, Junjie Chen

College of Marxism, Xinjiang University, Urumqi, 830046, China

Abstract

A thorough understanding of the inherent logic of deepening reform must tightly revolve around seven scientific modes of thinking. Therefore, we need to uphold strategic thinking, raise the flag and define the direction in the deepening reform; Adhering to historical thinking and seizing the initiative in the deepening reform; Maintain dialectical thinking, implement precise policies in deepening reform; Employ systematic thinking, coordinate the overall situation in deepening reform; Foster innovative thinking, stimulate motivation in deepening reform; Embrace rule of law thinking, progress steadily in deepening reform and adhere to bottom-line thinking to guard the red line in deepening reform. This is essential to solidify the theoretical foundation for exploring and deepening reform, clarify the direction of thinking, and identify the optimized path for reform practices.

Keywords

Scientific thinking; Deepening Reform; Historical materialism; Dialectical materialism; Practical Strategies.

1. Introduction

“Without revolutionary theory, there can be no revolutionary movement.”[1] (Lenin, 1902/1961, p. 369) Theory is the forerunner of action. In order to succeed in professional duties and to achieve career goals, it is imperative to employ a systematic and rigorous scientific approach. The scientific working methods are rooted in the scientific method of thought, enhancing scientific thinking and improving the practical ability to apply scientific thinking is an important step for answering the historical issue of modernization and development and deepening reform can provide important methodological guidelines for a deeper understanding of the internal laws of deepening reform.

2. Uphold Strategic Thinking, Raise the Flag and Define The Direction in The Deepening Reform

It is imperative to recognize that effective planning cannot be achieved without a comprehensive understanding of the global context. Without a thorough examination of the entire situation, it is challenging to formulate effective plans for any specific region. In order to comprehend the essence of strategic thinking, one must first grasp the overall situation of the development of things, the way forward, the fundamental, global, long-term and other major issues of strategic deployment and research, screening the current situation, planning and decision-making. This is not only the embodiment of the overall strategic view, but also scientific strategy to foresee the future, leading the future, which is about the success or failure of the cause of further deepening reform.

It is only by adopting a confident posture that one can achieve a comprehensive perspective, and it is only through the meticulous formulation of a comprehensive, scientific ‘overall strategic plan’ for reform that we can identify the primary direction of focus and accomplish

the established objectives. This requires that choices of reform are made from a holistic and strategic perspective, and strategize for reform with a grand perspective and balance its overall gains and losses. It is evident that the reform process is intricately linked to a broad spectrum of domains, including the future of the nation, the enhancement of the country's prospects, and the advancement of the modernization process. Therefore, in order to achieve the desired level of reform, it is imperative to employ a strategic approach to master the 'grand chessboard' and craft the 'grand narrative'.

3. Adhering to Historical Thinking and Seizing The Initiative in The Deepening Reform

On the one hand, it is important to remain on the side of the people in further deepening reform. According to the materialist conception of history, Marx and Engels emphasized in *The Holy Family* that "Historical activity is the activity of the masses." [2] (Marx & Engels, 1845/1956, p. 93) People are not only the creators of world history, but also the decisive factor in changing the development of society throughout history. Therefore, the ultimate criterion for judging the success of reform and development is whether or not the people are well-being, and whether they have benefited from reform and development. History and facts have also proved that when a reform initiative prioritizes the people, it aligns with justice and historical correctness. Therefore, the 'source of strength' can only be firmly guarded by mobilizing the enthusiasm of the masses and by accumulating the people's magnificent power. In this regard, only when deepening reform for the sake of the people, the reform will have 'real meaning', and this requires that reforms be carried out for the sake of the people, that reforms rely on the people and that the fruits of reforms be shared by the people.

On the other hand, the spirit of historical initiative must be perpetuated in order to facilitate the ongoing deepening of reform. The best way to inherit history by taking the initiative to assume the great responsibility of the times is to take the initiative to find out the laws of history and to create a new history. Upon examination of the historical progression of reform within the human realm, it is evident that the proactive adoption of contemporary missions, guided by a profound historical consciousness, serves as a formidable spiritual catalyst. This catalyst has propelled numerous nations and countries worldwide on a gradual trajectory towards modernization, thereby facilitating the advancement and evolution of human civilization. In this regard, it is only with great political courage, strong responsibility and firm historical patience that we can seize the moment of historical change and act in accordance with the trend, as well as clarify the regularity of social development and answer the new questions of the times in defence of world peace and development in the process of deepening reform.

4. Adhere to Dialectical Thinking and Precise Policy-making in The Deepening Reform

Dialectical thinking is defined by the following characteristics: the ability to understand and analyse problems by recognizing the inherent contradictions in processes or phenomena; the capacity to apply the dialectical relationship between the universality and particularity of contradictions; the ability to identify the major and minor contradictions of problems; and the ability to treat problems dialectically. In addition, it is important to note that dialectical thinking does not simplify problems into mere opposites, but rather allows for the recognition of the multifaceted, multilevel and multifactorial connections of problems. It is only through a scientific understanding of dialectical thinking that we can accurately identify the primary themes and lines, and the overarching essence of deep-seated reform. This understanding is essential for the development of a scientific and refined reform programme.

On the one hand, it is necessary to address the dialectical relationship between top-level design provides direction and 'trial-and-error approaches' in deepening reform. This phenomenon is indicative of the dialectical unity of understanding and practice, as well as the dialectical unity of regularity and purpose in social and historical development. It is important to note that the promotion of reform in depth can only be achieved by combining top-level designation with 'trial-and-error approaches' in deepening reform. It can be posited that the top-level designation provides direction for 'trial-and-error approaches' in deepening reform, so as to avoid taking a detour. Furthermore, guidance for 'trial-and-error approaches' in deepening reform provides a practical basis for the top-level designation, so as to make the top-level designation more in line with reality. Consequently, in the process of deepening reform, top-level designation and the 'trial-and-error approaches' in deepening reform are mutually transformative in practice, and represent a pair of dialectical relationships that must be identified.

On the other hand, it is imperative to address the dialectical relationship between pivotal breakthroughs and comprehensive promotion. In the method of contradiction analysis, the existence of major and minor contradictions, as well as the main aspects of each major contradiction, are all factors to be considered in the reform. Marx and Engels put forward in *The German Ideology* that "The totality of productive forces at the disposal of society determines the social state." [3] (Marx & Engels, 1845/1976, p. 53) This indicates that liberating and developing social productive forces is a major task running through the great practice of social reform and development in human history. Consequently, in order to advance the reform, it is imperative to identify the 'incision and breakthroughs of the reform that affects the whole body in one hair', and to prioritize the cornerstone of development. It is further recommended that the 'key reform' in the economic field be implemented. The primary focus should be on the fundamental principles of development, with the implementation of 'key reform' in the economic sector being of paramount importance. These reform are intended to facilitate 'overall advancement', which is to be driven by 'key breakthroughs'. A review of the extant literature on the subject, together with a consideration of the lessons learned over the years, suggests the following conclusion: in the absence of significant breakthroughs, the deepening reform will be unable to progress from the superficial to the profound, or from the exterior to the interior, and the overall advancement of the reform will be characterized by a lack of momentum and vitality. And leave the overall promotion, it is difficult to ensure the effectiveness of the reform, and the effectiveness of the reform will inevitably be 'twice the effort'. In this respect, can we seize the crucial issue of deepening reform, can we identify the key areas, key issues, key tasks, so that multi-faceted, multi-level, multi-factors to deal with the economy and society, the government and the market, efficiency and fairness, vitality and order, development and security and other major reform of the deep relationship, so that the reform initiatives in the policy orientation of each other, in the implementation of the process, the implementation of the reform in the policy orientation of each other. Various reform initiatives complement each other in terms of policy orientation and promote each other in the process of implementation, which is not only related to the effectiveness of the deepening of reform on the ground, but is also the hope of the people and the ultimate pursuit of politics.

5. Employ Systematic Thinking, Coordinate The Overall Situation in Deepening Reform

Systems thinking aims not only to stabilize the whole, but also to pay attention to local details, not only to see the advantages, but also to see the disadvantages, and to make up for systemic shortcomings in an all-round and comprehensive manner. "Only the category of totality allows us to concretely unveil the reality of the social process." [4] (Lukács, 1923/1971, p. 27) Systems

thinking is a conceptual framework that enables a more nuanced understanding of the trend and law of the overall development of further deepening reform. Consequently, it facilitates the formulation of more scientific and effective reform strategies.

On the one hand, in terms of the system's internal structural relevance, the deepening of reform should prevent the 'bursting of the boards', make up for the 'short boards', and strengthen the 'bottom boards'. Reform, conceived as a systematic project, is understood to have a significant impact on other aspects of reform. It is imperative that each sub-system reform is viewed as interdependent with other reform, in order to achieve synergies. When reform is confined to a specific aspect of a particular area, and implemented by a single individual, it is rendered incapable of achieving steady and far-reaching change. "The social structure is an overdetermined whole, determined in the last instance by the economy." [5] (Althusser, 1965/2005, p. 113) In this regard, reform to promote the coordinated development of all aspects of modernization and the implementation of organic synergies should be planned in an integrated manner, and all reform should be promoted in a coordinated manner, with an emphasis on grasping the relevance of reform in various fields and the coupling of reform initiatives, integrating the relationship between reform, development and stability, and integrating all aspects of reform, all levels, and all elements, so as to promote the mutual promotion of all reform, positive interactions, and synergistic cooperation.

On the other hand, with regard to the relevance of the system's external environment, it is imperative that deepening reform is founded upon the broader context of a century of change. Systems thinking, as a kind of modern governance thinking, not only emphasizes the relationship between the whole and its parts and the interaction within the system, but also stresses the interaction between the system and the external environment. In the contemporary era, the world is undergoing a period of accelerated transformation, characterized by the emergence of novel challenges and the deepening of existing dilemmas. The questions posed by the contemporary era are increasingly intricate and complex, and they demand resolution on the part of each nation as it embarks upon a process of profound and comprehensive reform. The contradictions and problems that must be addressed during this period are of an unprecedented level of intricacy. It is imperative to effectively address the prevailing circumstances both domestically and internationally. The prevailing paradigm must be replaced with a new paradigm that emphasizes the promotion of a community of human destiny and the creation of a new form of human civilization through the implementation of reform. The objective is to supplant the 'old form of capital civilization' with 'the creation of a new form of human civilization'. This will provide reform wisdom, development programme and forward-looking strength for solving the common problems faced by mankind in the twenty-first century, and to make new and greater contributions to the peace and development of mankind.

6. Foster Innovative Thinking, Stimulate Motivation in Deepening Reform

Innovation is the driving force of reform. To grasp innovation is to grasp development and the future. Marx pointed out in the preface to *A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy* that "At a certain stage of development, the material productive forces of society come into conflict with the existing relations of production within which they have operated hitherto." [6] (Marx, 1859/1970, p. 21) Innovative thinking must conform to the objective laws of productive forces development from a historical materialist perspective and innovative thinking does not adhere to or rely on any kind of old-fashioned, fixed thinking paradigm. Instead, it adheres to the principle of solving the 'deep-water' reform difficulties of the future by breaking free of the traditional way of thinking, looking for new and effective targeted strategies, and promoting reform. This involves having accurate knowledge of changes,

responding scientifically to changes, and taking the initiative to seek changes from a new starting point, thereby promoting theoretical and practical innovation in reform. This will enable us to accurately identify changes, respond to them scientifically and take the initiative in seeking changes, thereby promoting theoretical and practical innovation in reform from a new starting point.

On the one hand, the concept of development should constantly be renewed as reform deepens. The key to deepening reform lies in updating the concept of development and putting the ideological understanding in place in time. The concept of development is strategic, programme-related and leading, reflecting our understanding of the regularity of economic and social development. In this regard, the important task of constantly renewing the concept of development must be firmly grasped and centred on reforming institutional mechanisms that facilitate the implementation of the new concept of development. This involves stepping up reform at the new stage of historical development, constructing a new development pattern and striving for new breakthroughs in reform to enhance innovation and promote the sharing of new development.

On the other hand, the relationship between 'breaking down the old' and 'establishing the new' should be correctly viewed in deepening the practice of reform. The 'old' and 'new' are the dialectical unity and interdependence of 'Negation of Negation'[7] (Hegel, 1817/1980, p. 254) and 'Sublation'. The relationship between 'old' and 'new' is one of dialectical unity and interdependence. 'Establishment' is the ultimate goal of breaking, and 'breaking' is an important means of establishment. The road of development is winding, but the future is bright. New things replace old things always have to go through a process from 'imperfect' to 'perfect', from 'childish' to 'mature'. If in the reform only one-sided emphasis on the 'establishment', but ignore the 'broken', then the new things will be easy to be still in the strong old things held back. And only one-sided emphasis on 'broken', regardless of the actual disregard for the 'establishment', will make the reform into a disorderly state. In this regard, it is worth mentioning that, in the reform, only to hinder the development of productive forces of the blockage, stuck point 'broken' thoroughly, the reform can go further deep, go real. Therefore, the deepening of reform and innovation only in adhering to the principle of starting from the actual situation, from the basic conditions of each country, under the premise of constantly improving the reform of the institutional mechanism of the loopholes, in order to better provide a strong impetus for the modernization of the development of the system to ensure.

7. Embrace Rule of Law Thinking, Progress Steadily in Deepening Reform

The rule of law is an important indicator of the level of civilization in human society and also a crucial foundation for promoting the modernization of national governance systems and capabilities. Reform and the rule of law are inextricably linked, like the wings of a bird or the wheels of a car. We must promote reform within the framework of the rule of law and improve the rule of law alongside reform. As reform deepens, it is clear that the strength and construction of the rule of law is also gradually maturing.

On the one hand, the concept of the rule of law should be embedded in in-depth reform. The rule of law is the most scientific and effective form of national governance. Promoting reform under the rule of law and improving the rule of law in reform can demonstrate the effectiveness of deepening reform. In addition, the rule of law must be adhered to in the service of the overall situation of reform and for the benefit of the people, and every judicial case must be properly adjudicated in accordance with the law, so as to contribute to the continuous improvement of the institutions in various fields. We also need to implement the 'rule of ethics' of soft governance effectiveness. "The integration of rule of law and rule of virtue requires both the rigid constraints of legal norms and the flexible cultivation of moral edification." [8] (Su, 2005,

p. 217) Combining the rule of virtue with the rule of law and the moral code to achieve the rule of law and moral renewal. This will make people feel the warmth of humanity in their daily lives and protect and improve their livelihoods.

On the other hand, the rule of law should be reinforced during the process of reform. In this regard, the more complex the risks that need to be prevented and resolved on the road to modern development, the more complex it will be. We will therefore continue to improve the application of the rule of law by deepening reform thinking and ensuring that the deepening of the rule of law and reform are in the same direction and make synchronous progress.

8. Adhering to Bottom-line Thinking, and Guarding The Red Line in The Deepening Reform

Bottom-line thinking requires always keeping fundamental principles in mind when addressing problems and making decisions. It means never ignoring the bottom line and maintaining a good balance between bottom-line principles and policy flexibility.

On the one hand, we must deepen the reform of the red line in order to avoid losing direction, changing course or venturing into unfamiliar territory and making subversive mistakes. In this regard, we must consolidate the reform force and resolutely avoid the 'red line' and 'minefield' of various behaviour. Today, standing at a historical crossroads in the world, it is necessary to enhance awareness of the bottom line of reform and seek progress while maintaining stability in order to ensure the steady progress of the cause of reform.

On the other hand, in deepening reform, we must correctly address the interplay and co-progress of 'boldness' and 'stability'. Therefore, before embarking on any reform, we must first determine the bottom line of the reform, the level of risk and what can and cannot be done. Above all, 'wading through dangerous shoals' and 'overcoming dangerous hurdles' require boldness, not hesitation. There is no simple reform road, especially after reform deepens into the attack period, when thorns and bumps become increasingly complex and resistance to reform increases. In the face of disputes over interests, risks, difficulties and other obstacles, we must be bold and not lose sight of the big picture because of prominent contradictions, otherwise we will miss good development opportunities. Secondly, when reforming at a deep level, 'wading through dangerous shoals' and 'breaking through difficult barriers' cannot be done impatiently or recklessly; we must overcome difficulties and solve problems one by one, accumulating small victories to achieve big ones. In particular, when all the horses are galloping in one direction, the pace must be steady. It's not just about 'fast' at the front; 'steady' is important too.

9. Concluding Remarks

In a nutshell, every major reform promotes endeavour to achieve new historical leaps and bounds. It could be said that every era has its own set of problems and every generation has its own mission. To this end, we must adhere to scientific thinking and firmly shoulder the responsibility of deepening the reform to promote the development of the era, continuing to expand the breadth and depth of the reform in an orderly manner. Scientific thinking must be used as a powerful driving force to promote the deepening of reform, and to think about the reform of the era and the question of deepening reform.

This will also help to write a new chapter in the modernization and development of the era.

References

- [1] Lenin, V. I. (1961). What is to be done? Burning questions of our movement. In *Collected Works* (Vol. 5, pp. 347–530). Progress Publishers. (Original work published 1902)

- [2] Marx, K., & Engels, F. (1956). The Holy Family. In Marx & Engels Collected Works (Vol. 4, pp. 5–211). Progress Publishers. (Original work published 1845)
- [3] Marx, K., & Engels, F. (1976). The German Ideology. In Marx & Engels Collected Works (Vol. 5, pp. 19–539). Progress Publishers. (Original work published 1845)
- [4] Lukács, G. (1971). History and class consciousness: Studies in Marxist dialectics (R. Livingstone, Trans.). MIT Press. (Original work published 1923)
- [5] Althusser, L. (2005). For Marx (B. Brewster, Trans.). Verso Press. (Original work published 1965)
- [6] Marx, K. (1970). A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy. (S. W. Ryazanskaya, Trans.). Progress Publishers. (Original work published 1859)
- [7] Hegel, G. W. F. (1980). The science of logic (H. Lin, Trans.). The Commercial Press. (Original work published 1817)
- [8] Su, L. (2005). Rule of law and its local resources. Beijing University Press. (Original work published 1996)