

# **Research Series on the Chinese Dream and China's Development Path**

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Drawing on a large body of empirical studies done over the last two decades, the *Research Series on the Chinese Dream and China's Development Path* seeks to provide its readers with in-depth analyses of the past and present, and forecasts for the future course of China's development. Thanks to the adoption of Socialism with Chinese characteristics, and the implementation of comprehensive reform and opening, China has made tremendous achievements in areas such as political reform, economic development, and social construction, and is making great strides towards the realization of the Chinese dream of national rejuvenation. In addition to presenting a detailed account of many of these achievements, the authors also discuss what lessons other countries can learn from China's experience. This series will be an invaluable companion to every researcher who is trying to gain a deeper understanding of the development model, path and experience unique to China.

More information about this series at <http://www.springer.com/series/13571>

Changsheng Zuo  
Editor

The Evolution of China's  
Poverty Alleviation  
and Development Policy  
(2001–2015)



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# Foreword

Since the beginning of the twenty-first century, China has witnessed steady and rapid economic growth and its comprehensive national strength has been constantly enhanced, but the gaps between regions and between urban and rural areas have been widening. To narrow these gaps, the Chinese government has put forward the goal of building a moderately prosperous society and strived to boost the development of agriculture and rural economy through promoting agricultural development by industry, promoting rural development by urban growth, and the construction of a socialist new countryside. In this process, the Chinese government always takes poverty alleviation as an important national development goal and task and adheres to the people-oriented development, striving to make all people benefit from the economic and social development. The government has incorporated poverty alleviation and development into the national economic and social development plan, and developed and implemented a series of policy measures to promote the development of rural impoverished areas. At the same time, the government begins to improve the social policy system in rural areas, especially social security policy, gives priority to the field of poverty reduction and the impoverished regions in the allocation of public financial funds, and has constantly increased support for poor areas and effectively strengthened the execution of pro-poor policies. The Chinese government has successively formulated and implemented the “China Rural Poverty Alleviation and Development Program (2001–2010),” “Outline for Development-oriented Poverty Reduction for China’s Rural Areas (2011–2020)” and other poverty reduction plans, making poverty reduction the consensus and action of the whole society. China’s rural poverty alleviation and development has promoted social harmony, stability and justice, and promoted the development and progress of human rights in China.

By the end of 2010, China’s rural poor population had been drastically reduced to 26.88 million according to the poverty line of 1196 yuan, but the incidence of poverty had dropped to 2.8%. In order to adapt to the economic and social development level and achieve the development goal of building a comprehensive well-off society, in 2011, the Chinese government raised the national poverty line to 2300 yuan. At this stage, the rural residents’ food and clothing problems had been

basically solved, and the poverty problem presented new characteristics. On the one hand, due to regional poverty, comprehensive and complex poverty, the problem of contiguous destitute areas becomes increasingly prominent. On the other hand, the poor are more scattered in contiguous destitute areas, poor counties and impoverished villages, poverty problem becomes more complex, the actual situation of the poor is not so clear and the conventional means of poverty reduction are not accurately targeted.<sup>1</sup>

Since the 18th National Congress of the CPC, Comrade Xi Jinping has attached great importance to poverty alleviation and development work, carried out in-depth research in poor areas for many times, clarified the major theories and practical problems of China's poverty alleviation and development in the new era, put forward that the hardest and most onerous task in the process of building a moderately well-off society is the work in rural areas, especially in impoverished regions, and determined the strategy for precise poverty reduction. On the one hand, the government identified 14 contiguous destitute areas and determined to promote poverty reduction through regional development. On the other hand, it begins to improve the mechanism for identifying the poor and carry out precise poverty reduction work, including making clear the actual situation of the poor, the causes of poverty and the needs for poverty reduction. In 2013, China launched the national survey on the poverty situation of specific villages and households, started to make records and create files for the poor, developed pro-poor measures for specific villages and households, focused on supporting the poor and implemented dynamic management so that those villages and households that had shaken off poverty steadily would timely withdraw from the poverty alleviation system. To further eliminate institutional obstacles, make innovations to poverty alleviation and development mode, effectively promote the anti-poverty work and support the real poor, in 2013, the General Office of the CPC Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council issued the "Opinions on Effectively Promoting Rural Poverty Alleviation and Development Work through Mechanism Innovation" and proposed to carry out six institutional reforms and complete ten major tasks to lay a foundation for creating a new situation of poverty alleviation and development, accelerating the poverty reduction among the masses and building a moderately prosperous society in impoverished regions.

In order to ensure that all the rural poor will shake off poverty by 2020, in 2015, the CPC Central Committee and the State Council issued the "Decision on Winning the Battle of Key-problem Tackling for Poverty Alleviation" and put forward: "By 2020, the rural poor will no longer worry for food and clothing and will enjoy compulsory education, basic medical care and housing security. The growth rate of rural per capita disposable income in impoverished regions is expected to be above the national average and the indicators of main basic public services are expected to be close to the national average. Make sure that under the existing poverty standard, we must lift all rural poor people and all poor counties out of poverty to address the

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<sup>1</sup> Xu liping, IPRCC.

regional poverty on the whole.” This “Decision” has become a programmatic document for China’s rural poverty alleviation and development work in the next five years and provides a solid institutional guarantee for further improving the system of anti-poverty policies, making innovations to the poverty alleviation mechanism and carrying out precise poverty reduction.

In the same period, in addition to the poverty reduction work in rural areas, China has also carried out employment-oriented urban poverty reduction work and gradually improved the urban system of pro-poor policies. In terms of international cooperation in poverty reduction: On the one hand, the Economic Cooperation Organization countries and some international organizations have begun to adjust their aid policies to China due to China’s rising national strength, and the adjustment in 2010 is the most obvious; on the other hand, as China has made remarkable achievements in the field of poverty reduction, many developing countries are eager to learn from China’s experience and practice in poverty reduction. The Chinese government and the United Nations agencies in China jointly set up the International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC) in 2005 to be responsible for China’s international exchange and cooperation in the field of poverty reduction and contribute to the cause of global poverty reduction. Since then, China’s international exchange and cooperation in poverty reduction has entered a new stage.

# Series Preface

Since China's reform and opening began in 1978, the country has come a long way on the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China. Over thirty years of reform efforts and sustained spectacular economic growth have turned China into the world's second largest economy, and wrought many profound changes in the Chinese society. These historically significant developments have been garnering increasing attention from scholars, governments and the general public alike around the world since the 1990s, when the newest wave of China studies began to gather steam. Some of the hottest topics have included the so-called China miracle, Chinese phenomenon, Chinese experience, Chinese path and the Chinese model. Homegrown researchers have soon followed suit. Already hugely productive, this vibrant field is putting out a large number of books each year, with Social Sciences Academic Press alone having published hundreds of titles on a wide range of subjects.

Because most of these books have been written and published in Chinese, however, readership has been limited outside China—even among many who study China—for whom English is still the lingua franca. This language barrier has been an impediment to efforts by academia, business communities and policy-makers in other countries to form a thorough understanding of contemporary China, of what is distinct about China's past and present may mean not only for her future but also for the future of the world. The need to remove such an impediment is both real and urgent, and the *Research Series on the Chinese Dream and China's Development Path* is my answer to the call.

This series features some of the most notable achievements from the last 20 years by scholars in China in a variety of research topics related to reform and opening. They include both theoretical explorations and empirical studies, and cover economy, society, politics, law, culture and ecology, the six areas in which reform and opening policies have had the deepest impact and farthest-reaching consequences for the country. Authors for the series have also tried to articulate their visions of the "Chinese Dream" and how the country can realize it in these fields and beyond.



All of the editors and authors for the *Research Series on the Chinese Dream and China's Development Path* are both longtime students of reform and opening and recognized authorities in their respective academic fields. Their credentials and expertise lend credibility to these books, each of which having been subject to a rigorous peer review process for inclusion in the series. As part of the Reform and Development Program under the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television of the People's Republic of China, the series is published by Springer, a Germany-based academic publisher of international repute, and distributed overseas. I am confident that it will help fill a lacuna in studies of China in the era of reform and opening.

Xie Shouguang

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