

Study Guide: Tsinghua University Introduction to the Theoretical System of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics

0.1.1 Why read this study guide

0.1.1.1 What course does this study guide cover?

- Tsinghua University offers this course, "Introduction to the Theoretical System of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics | 中国特色社会主义理论体系概论," through the free online learning platform edX
- The course was originally offered in 2017 in both Chinese and English, which includes video and text transcript
- The course was recently offered from June 2021 to December 30, 2021 at <https://learning.edx.org/course/course-v1:TsinghuaX+ZG001x+1T2021/home>

0.1.1.2 What are some of the benefits of reading this study guide?

- Learn the history and political theory for how China became a moderately prosperous nation by carving its own socialist path
- Better grasp how Marxism-Leninism might be applied in your own country's conditions based on China's experience of developing Sinicized Marxism
- Gain a more realistic view and deeper understanding of Chinese governance today, especially in the context of increased anti-China sentiment in the Western world

0.1.1.3 What was the motivation for writing this study guide?

In these busy times, people want the "TLDR." Although the original Tsinghua course does a fine job of bringing the scientific perspective of Chinese governance to a global audience, it is time-consuming to view the entire course and sometimes difficult to access. This study guide lets students more quickly pinpoint what they do or don't know, and if they wish to seek further detail, they can still reference the original using the numbered topic headers. We hope this study guide can spread the wisdom entailed in the development of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics and be applied practically to support people in building systems that meet their needs.

Editors' note: The entire study guide is written in question form. This is done to encourage students to continue their own study and to verify what they read in practice.

0.1.2 The content covered by this study guide

0.1.2.1 Section 5 covers the theoretical basis for how Mao Zedong Thought evolved into Socialism with Chinese Characteristics, including questions like:

- How is it that the CPC derived the theory of the "Primary Stage of Socialism," based on what evidence?
- What is the principle contradiction in the Primary Stage of Socialism, especially in China before 2012?
- What is the Party's "basic line," the course of conduct to address the problem of the principle contradiction?
- What is the "minimum" and "maximum" program of the Party?

0.1.2.2 Section 6 covers the theory of the essence of Socialism and how it informs Socialism with Chinese Characteristics, including questions like:

- What is the essence of Socialism? What are its 5 aspects?
- There have been at least 25 schools of Socialism over the past 500 years of its development. How can we make sense of these divergent and converging approaches?
- Why doesn't the CPC equate socialism with public ownership planned economy? In what way is that too rigid a definition of Socialism?
- What does it mean to get rich in a socialist society? How is this different from getting rich in a capitalist society?
- Despite clear benefits to people's livelihoods, reform and opening up is criticized as not being the real Socialism based on 3 major claims. What are these claims, and how have they been debunked?

0.1.2.3 Section 7 covers the theory of Socialist Reform and Opening Up, including questions like:

- What were 5 reasons why China embarked on the path of reform and opening up?
- How did the problem of people's outflow to Hong Kong illustrate the weakness of the orientation that class struggle was a more important contradiction than economic and cultural development?
- Why is reform, not revolution, the correct approach to resolving contradictions in a Socialist society?
- How does reform resolve contradictions related to class struggle?
- In what way does the "reform" in "reform and opening up" mean much more than the repair of small details?
- What is the essence of reform, and why does that mean that individuals will differ in their perspective of how reform and opening up benefited them individually?

0.1.2.4 Section 8 covers the general plan for building Socialism with Chinese Characteristics and guidelines for developing socialist institutions, including questions like:

- How should the 5 priorities of the "Five in One" General Plan be balanced with economic development?
- Between 1978 and 2020, how much did the GDP per capita increase by?
- What are some of the currently existing foundations of socialist democracy in China?
- How does socialist law differ from capitalist law? Who specifically does Socialist Law in China serve?
- Is China still in the process of further developing its various socialist political institutions through theory and practice? What does this involve?
- What are 5 categories of culture in terms of how best to adapt foreign culture to Chinese culture?
- What are the 3 main measures that need to be developed to support the ecological civilization?

0.1.2.5 Section 9 covers the process of the reunification of China, including questions like:

- Is China completely unified? What are the 4 areas that still need to be unified?
- What do Hong Kong and Macao share in common, regarding their reunification with China?
- Was Taiwan returned to China according to international law? When?
- How does "One Country, Two systems" demonstrate an alternative to the historical antagonism between the socialist and capitalist camp in the 1960's and 1970's?
- How does reunification support China's 2 other historical tasks, to advance modernization and to promote world peace & common development?

0.1.2.6 Section 10 covers Socialist diplomacy with Chinese Characteristics and how to develop an international strategy, including questions like:

- Why Do We Say "Peace and Development are the Underlying Trends of Times" What should China do during this time?
- What is the difference between a multi-polar world, and one that is trending towards multi-polarization?
- What are the opportunities and risks of economic globalization for emerging economies?
- What are the 4 reasons that China strives for peaceful development?
- What are the 5 principles of Peaceful Coexistence?

0.1.2.7 Section 11 covers where the strength to build Socialism with Chinese Characteristics comes from, including questions like:

- What are the four people criteria for ensuring whether CPC policies are meeting the interests and needs of the people?
- On which 3 classes does the CPC rely on to build Socialism with Chinese Characteristics?
- Why are intellectuals thought to be part of the working class now in China, although this wasn't always considered to be true, especially during the Cultural Revolution?
- How did CPC's ideological orientation towards the role of non-public owned economy in China change since the beginning of reform and opening up?
- Which people who work in the non-public economy are considered constructors of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics?
- In terms of internal relationship, what are the two bodies of the patriotic united front and how does the basis of unity differ for these two bodies?

0.1.2.8 Section 12 covers the role of the Communist Party of China in building Socialism with Chinese Characteristics, including questions like:

- What does it mean for a Party to insist on its nature as the vanguards of the working class?
- The CPC serves as "two vanguards." What are the "two vanguards"?
- How does the nature of the CPC as the vanguard of the working class determine its purpose to serve the people whole-heartedly?
- Does "serve the people" mean that "people are served?" Why not? What is the Party's actual approach?
- How does the Party's approach to serving the people connect to the understanding that people propel the progress of history?
- What are 4 reasons that only the CPC (and not Western multi-party system) can accomplish the people's common prosperity and rejuvenation of the Chinese nation?
- What is the "Periodic Ratio of History"? What drives this tendency? And how does the Party pay attention to the "Periodic Ratio of History"?

Chapter 5: The General Basis for Building Socialism with Chinese Characteristics 建设中国特色社会主义总依据

5.1.1 Exploring the Theoretical Basis for the Stages of Socialist Development in China

5.1.1.1 Regarding Socialism with Chinese characteristics (SWCC), what is its basis, that is, its starting point?

Is it that SWCC's starting point is that the fundamental reality of China is the "primary stage of socialism?"

5.1.1.2 What were 3 wrong turns made by China before it had an understanding of the "primary stage of Socialism?"

Were they the Great Leap Forward, the movement to establish people's communes, and the "Cultural Revolution"?

5.1.1.3 What was the basic theoretical error that led to these 3 wrong turns?

Was it to urge a rapid transition to communism during the reality that China was still in a period of materially-underdeveloped Socialism?

5.1.1.4 By contrast, how does the theory of the "primary stage of Socialism" correct this theoretical error that led to those 3 wrong turns?

Is it that the correct task to tackle during China's period of underdeveloped Socialism is not to rapidly transition to Communism, but rather, to achieve socialist modernization and the renewal of the Chinese nation?

5.1.1.5 What is the general purpose of SWCC, that is, how can we tell if SWCC is doing well or not?

Is it whether SWCC promotes progress, that is, economic, political, cultural, social, and ecological progress?

5.1.1.6 What is the general task of SWCC, which, as long as SWCC achieves its general purpose, SWCC will achieve these objectives over the long term?

Is the general task of SWCC to achieve socialist modernization and the renewal of the Chinese nation, by promoting progress in many aspects?

5.1.1.7 What's the "theory" of the Primary stage of Socialism? What is the "reality" of the Primary stage of Socialism?

Is it that the theory refers to how best to develop an undeveloped Socialist society, whereas the reality refers to the conditions of an undeveloped Socialist society?

5.1.1.8 What is the connection between the theory and reality of the Primary Stage of Socialism?

Is it that as China identified the theory and put it into practice, that the reality of visible progress has confirmed and served as the basis to further develop the theory?

5.1.1.9 The 3 wrong turns were based on what 3 specific misunderstandings?

Was it not understanding that China was in the Primary stage of Socialism (therefore embarking on the incorrect task), not grasping the historical evolution of China's socialism (therefore having confidence that achieving the tasks of the current stage would lead to communism in the long-term), and not understanding the principle problems of the current stage (therefore prioritizing class struggle over socialist construction, development, and modernization)?

5.1.2 The Development of the Theory of the Primary Stage of Socialism

5.1.2.1 To understand problems of the revolution in China, do you need to understand China's realities? What are 4 keys to understanding this reality?

Is it to understand 1. the nature of society 2. the stage of development of society 3. its principle contradiction and 4. how it evolves?

5.1.2.2 When did the CPC correctly understand the 1st point, about the nature of China's society?

Was it 1978 when the CPC embarked on Reform and Opening Up, which was a great practical success because it addressed China's poor economic foundation and backward social and productive structures by undertaking the modernization of China?

5.1.2.3 Briefly speaking, why do some people think that Reform and Opening Up meant that the Party abandoned Marxism or that the Party no longer needs Socialism?

Is it because Reform and Opening Up was a great practical success, but not on the basis of people's previously accepted understanding of Socialist theory, which lacked the concept of the "Primary stage of Socialism," therefore people misinterpreted its success as not being a Socialist achievement?

5.1.2.4 In 1981 China officially recognized it was in "primary stage of socialism." Why did it emphasize "socialism" being its basic reality vs its basic reality being in the "primary stage"?

Is it because due to the failures of the Cultural Revolution many people doubted or denied that China was a socialist system?

5.1.2.5 What has been the "nature of society" in China, before 2012?

Was it that China was a backwards country badly in need of development?

5.1.2.6 What has been the "stage of development" of society in China since 1957?

Is it the "primary stage of Socialism?"

5.1.2.7 What has been China's "principle contradiction" before 2012?

Is it the contradiction between the ever-growing material and cultural needs of the people and the backwardness of social production?

5.1.2.8 Based on what general policy had the CPC led China to resolve its principle contradiction since 1978 and continue to "evolve?"

Is it the policy of Reform and Opening Up to work towards socialist modernization?

5.1.2.9 How do we know that China is still in the Primary Stage of Socialism and how much longer will it be in this stage for?

Do we know because carryover feudal and capitalist ideas still hold sway in China's political economy, which means that China's Socialism can still be greatly strengthened, and that it could take several generations or even tens of generations until this stage is completed?

5.1.2.10 What are two theoretical contributions by the theory of the primary stage of socialism?

Is it a contribution to understanding the stages of socialism (that is, identifying conditions of an undeveloped and a developed Socialism as two separate stages of Socialism)? Is it also the theoretical foundation of socialism with Chinese characteristics (that is, knowing the correct policies of how to further evolve the undeveloped socialist society of China in our current historical period)?

5.1.2.11 What's the difference between a "left" and "right" mistake in the context of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics (SWCC)?

Is a "left" mistake one that puts forward theory that is disconnected from society today, and a "right" mistake one that only considers society's current state and discards the theory and objectives of SWCC?

5.1.3 The Characteristics of the Successive Phases of the Primary Stage of Socialism

5.1.3.1 According to the 1987 National Congress, what are the 5 ways that the "stage of development evolves" in China, in context of "the nature of society," "the stage of development of society," and its "principle contradiction?"

Is it five evolutions/transformations: (1) ending poverty and backwardness (2) turning from an agricultural country to an industrial one (3) turning from a natural economy to a commodity economy (4) form new institutions: economic, political, and cultural that support China's development (5) rejuvenation of the Chinese nation?

5.1.3.2 After 10 years of experience, the CPC listed 9 instead of 5 aspects of transformation during the Primary stage of socialism. What are they?

Are they: (1) socialist modernization (2) industrialized (3) market-oriented economy (4) scientific people and culture (5) high standard of living (6) all-region development that's uneven at first (7) explore and develop socialist democracy and socialist market economy (8) socialist people (9) rejuvenation of the Chinese nation?

5.1.3.3 Although China has further developed since 1997, why is it still considered to be in the Primary stage of Socialism today?

Is it that while political institutions have made great strides, some economic systems do not yet operate by modern socialist principles?

5.1.3.4 What are challenges now being prioritized in China today that were less emphasized in the nineties?

Is it making economic development less unbalanced, handling novel psychosocial issues arising from modernization, and staying competitive internationally?

5.1.4 How Do We Know that China Remains in the Primary Stage of Socialism

5.1.4.1 China is the 2nd largest economy in the world today, but why is it not already a modern socialist country?

Is it because relative economic size isn't the only criteria for being a modern socialist country?

5.1.4.2 What are 3 issues with development in China today?

Is that aspects of development are still unbalanced, uncoordinated, and unsustainable?

5.1.4.3 Although China is on track to eliminate absolute poverty by 2020, what about general poverty, especially in the rural areas?

Is it that China's GDP per capita is relatively low and a lot must be improved so that China would not be in the Primary Stage of Socialism?

5.1.4.4 Are China's political and social institutions fully capable of developing science, technology, and socialist culture, or are there aspects of excessive bureaucracy and other flaws?

Is it that many systemic barriers slow down scientific development, which is necessary for China not to be in the Primary Stage of Socialism?

5.1.4.5 Foreign observers tend to treat China with "excessive criticism" or "immoderate praise" -- both of which assert China's ascendance as a global power. How should China respond to these perceptions?

Is that China is still in the Primary Stage of Socialism and should neither be conceited nor belittle themselves?

5.2.1 Thesis of the Principle Contradiction in the Primary Stage of Socialism

5.2.1.1 What is the principle contradiction in the Primary Stage of Socialism, especially in China before 2012?

Is it one between the ever-growing material and cultural needs of the people and the backward production?

5.2.1.2 In 1956 the CPC identified the principle contradiction as establishing an advanced socialist system amid the reality of backward production. How did the CPC change their evaluation in 1958?

Was it that they instead identified the principle contradiction as between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie, and also between socialism and capitalism?

5.2.1.3 In what year did the CPC return to its 1956 assessment of the principle contradiction in China?

Was it 1978 during the 3rd Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee when the Party gave a preliminary statement of the principle of reform and opening up?

5.2.1.4 How did China's experience in the 20 years between 1958-1978 validate the thesis of what the Principle Contradiction is in the Primary Stage of Socialism?

Was it that despite prioritizing the contradiction between the proletariat and bourgeoisie, that "Our productive capacity is very low and is far from meeting the needs of our people

and country," which demonstrated that work in those 20 years failed to significantly transform the fundamental material conditions of China?

5.2.2 How to comprehensively understand the principle contradiction

5.2.2.1 In what ways does the CPC resolve the principle contradiction: is it only through meeting people's economic needs, or is it also through many other types of needs? What are some of these other needs?

Do they include cultural needs, spiritual needs, and all psychosocial needs, like what Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs describes?

5.2.2.2 In resolving the principle contradiction, does the CPC tend to favor certain classes, for example either intellectuals, farmers, factory workers, managers, real state developers, or private enterprise owners?

Is it that they don't favor certain classes, whether it's a single class or a group of classes, and that they seek mutual benefit for multiple classes rather than having the needs of one class frustrate the needs of another?

5.2.2.3 In the principle contradiction between ever-growing material and cultural needs of the people and the backward production, are all of these ever-growing needs equally valid?

Is it that some needs are morbid, perverse, and surreal and are better addressed via education rather than meeting these needs?

5.2.2.4 In the principle contradiction between ever-growing material and cultural needs of the people and the backward production, what exactly is meant by production that is "backwards"?

Is it "comparative" backwardness, which is defined in two ways: in relation to people's expectations, and in relation to how China's socialist system compare to developed non-socialist countries?

5.2.2.5 What are the two different approaches to handling the principle contradiction between "inadequate production" and "ever-growing needs." Generally speaking, which approach does the CPC use?

Is it that one approach is to increase production, and the other approach is to decrease ever-growing needs? Is it that the CPC generally increases production?

5.2.2.6 Aside from the principle contradiction, give some examples of other contradictions.

Are they contradictions such as between the poor and the rich, the workers and the capitalists, the minorities and majorities, rural areas and urban areas, the public and the Party, and the public and the cadres?

5.2.2.7 As long as you focus on solving the principle contradiction, how should you treat the other contradictions?

Is it that they should not be disregarded and handled carefully one by one?

5.2.2.8 Does class struggle disappear during the Primary Stage of Socialism, or will it continue for a very long time?

Is it that although class struggle is no longer the principle contradiction during the Primary Stage of Socialism, it is an existing contradiction, and that resolving the Principle Contradiction of the Primary Stage will also help ease the contradiction of class struggle?

5.2.2.9 Since the Principle Contradiction will remain the same for a long time, does this mean that the CPC should approach resolving the principle contradiction in the same way for a long time?

Is it that because society constantly changes, the way to address issues also constantly changes?

5.3.1 To Fully Understand the Basic Line for the Primary Stage of Socialism

5.3.1.1 What is a "Party line"?

Is it the fundamental guiding principle for gaining overall control over a particular problem?

5.3.1.2 What is the "basic line" in the context of a Party?

Is it the guiding principle and course of conduct to address the problem of the principle contradiction, from the perspective of the Party?

5.3.1.3 What is the basic line of the CPC?

Is it to lead the people of all our nationalities in a united, self-reliant, hardworking effort, to turn China into a prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious and modern socialist country by making economic development our central task while adhering to the Four Cardinal Principles and persevering in reform and opening up policy?

5.3.1.3 What is the idea of "one central task, two basic points"?

Is the central task economic development, and the two basic points to carry out socialism and to reform and open up, with both points describing how it is that the central task should be carried out?

5.3.1.4 What kind of nation does the Basic Line aim to transform China into during the Primary stage of socialism?

Is it to build a modern, socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced and harmonious?

5.3.1.5 What is the Party's role and the role of Chinese people of all nationalities in the basic line?

Is it that the Party's role is to lead the people and unite them and that the role of Chinese people of all nationalities is to be the supporting power to build Socialism with Chinese Characteristics?

5.3.1.6 Why is it that you think that the Party's role is to lead the people?

Is it because the Party understands and defends people's interests through various mechanisms (like consultation, socialist democratic institutions and the mass line), and that through democratic centralism the Party is the political mechanism for implementing the program that meets people's needs while continue to build the theory and practice of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics?

5.3.1.7 Why is the central task during the primary stage of socialism not class struggle?

Is it because economic development is better suited to resolving the principle contradiction in a socialist country, more so than class struggle?

5.3.1.8 In addition to economic development, what are some other important tasks for the CPC?

Is it also tasks that create political, cultural, social, and ecological progress?

5.3.1.9 What are the 4 cardinal principles and what do they ensure?

Is it that they ensure the political guarantee for a socialist system: to keep to the socialist road, to uphold the dictatorship of the proletariat (now updated as the people's democratic dictatorship), to uphold the leadership of the Communist Party, and to uphold Marxism-Leninism with Mao Zedong Thought?

5.3.2 The basic program for the primary stage of socialism

5.3.2.1 How does the "basic program" relate to the "basic line"?

Is it that the basic program articulates the set of policies and objectives for the basic line to be put into motion?

5.3.2.2 What is some of the policy content of the basic program?

Does it involve building a strong Party with integrity, further developing Socialist Democracy, economic development, ecological development, and other strategic priorities for a developing socialist nation?

5.3.2.3 Where can you get an updated summary of the CPC's basic program, especially as conditions continue to change and Party learns more through its experience?

Can you take a look at the General Secretary's Report to Party Congress every 5 years, such as Xi Jinping's report to the 19th CPC National Congress (http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/19thcpcnationalcongress/2017-11/04/content_34115212.htm)?

5.3.2.4 Why is it that the basic program is considered the "minimum program" of the Party. What is the "maximum program" of the Party?

Is it that the maximum program of the Party is to build communism, but because that is a long historical process that requires meeting specific objectives in certain periods through phased efforts, the minimum program is what describes what specific objectives must be met in our current historical period and context-specific phased efforts?

5.3.2.5 Why is it important for communists to keep in mind both the minimum and maximum program, and their connection?

Is it so they can deepen their commitment and work hard to serve the people without wavering, recognizing that resolving the material contradictions of today lays the foundation of resolving greater social contradictions in the next generations?

Chapter 6: The Essence of Socialism and the General Task of Building Socialism with Chinese

Characteristics 社会主义本质和建设中国特色社会主义总任务

6.1.1 Five hundred years of socialism how did it come into being

6.1.1.1 Mr Xu Juezai identified how many schools of Socialism in his book, "A History of Schools of Socialism"?

Was it 25 schools, including Scientific Socialism?

6.1.1.2 Why should we consider the many different conceptions of Socialism over time?

Is it so that we can better understand what Socialism is and understand the "essence" of Socialism, so that we can better build it?

6.1.1.3 The statement "five-hundred-year socialism" can be traced back to 1516. What happened in 1516?

Was it that British Thomas Moore published a book called Utopia describing a society where private property was abolished?

6.1.1.4 Xi Jinping gave an analysis on the development of socialist ideology over the past 500 years, especially at it relates to Socialism with Chinese Characteristics, and divided its development into 6 periods. The first 4 periods occurred before the Chinese revolution. What were they?

Were they (1) the development of Utopian Socialism, (2) development of the theory of Scientific Socialism, (3) the first ongoing practice of Socialism by Lenin, and (4) the establishment of the Soviet Model?

6.1.1.4 The last 2 periods of 6 identified by Xi Jinping both relate to China's experience of Socialism. What are they?

Is it (5) establishing Socialism in the semi-colonial, semi-feudal state of China, and (6) embarking on reform and opening up to develop Socialism with Chinese Characteristics?

6.1.2 Deng Xiaoping's theory of socialist essence

6.1.2.1 What is the pre-condition for common prosperity?

Is the pre-condition the development of the productive forces and that you can't have common prosperity without first developing production?

6.1.2.2 Under what conditions will everyday people all around the world believe in the superiority of Socialism over Capitalism?

Is one condition that people's standard of life must improve under a nominally socialist system, because if it never improves, people think that Socialism is empty talk and won't believe it?

6.1.2.3 How would you judge whether a socialist economic policy is working?

Is one major criteria, the most important one, that the productive forces develop and common prosperity increases?

6.1.2.4 Is it possible for two countries with unique national conditions to practice the same kind of Socialism? Why not?

Is it because they have different national conditions, therefore their path to developing Socialism will be different?

6.1.2.5 What is the essence of Socialism? What are its 5 aspects?

Is it liberation and development of the productive forces, elimination of exploitation and polarization, and the ultimate achievement of prosperity for all?

6.1.2.6 What is the relationship between the theory of socialist essence and Socialism with Chinese Characteristics?

Is it that the theory of socialist essence clarifies what is Socialism, and therefore it clarifies the tasks to be accomplished by SWCC?

6.1.2.7 How has the essence of Socialism been clarified since it was first introduced by Deng in 1980?

Is it that both Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao have spoken to including all-round development, including cultural development and spiritual development?

6.1.2.8 Why doesn't the essence of socialism include something like continuing the prioritization of class struggle or remaining pure in abolishing forms of private ownership or abolishing all forms of exploitation of labor by owners usurping their surplus value?

Is it because the CPC stuck to those principles during the Cultural Revolution, and people's common prosperity in China did not improve for a long time?

6.1.2.9 Why doesn't the CPC equate socialism with public ownership planned economy? In what way is that too rigid a definition of Socialism?

Is it because through the CPC's practice, they found that pure public ownership planned economy did not deliver results on the 5 aspects of socialist essence; and in fact, that equating socialism as planned economy is a rigid definition based on specific means, whereas Socialism is better defined flexibly as a system that develops the productive forces and resolves social contradictions while trending towards attaining common prosperity?

6.1.2.10 What does it mean to get rich in a socialist society? How is this different from getting rich in a capitalist society?

Does it mean prosperity for the entire people? Is it that in capitalist society, getting rich means that a few people grow rich?

6.1.2.11 Consider this statement, "As long as we constantly change productive relations and expanded the proportion of public ownership, we would definitely promote the development of productive forces and better construct socialism." What does this mean, and do you agree or disagree?

Is it that "changing productive relations" means changing the relationship between classes, like proletariat and bourgeoisie, such that ownership belongs to the proletariat instead of the bourgeoisie, and once the transformation occurs, that then the productive forces would develop? Would you disagree because China followed this idea for a long time and suffered many significant setbacks?

6.1.2.1 Deng Xiaoping's socialist essence theory has what number of aspects? Generally-speaking, what do the aspects describe?

It is 5? Is it that 3 aspects describe fundamental goals of Socialism, and two aspects point to the tasks of Socialism?

6.1.2.13 What are the 3 fundamental goals of Socialism?

Is it to eliminate exploitation, to eliminate polarization, and to realize common prosperity?

6.1.2.14 What are the 2 tasks of Socialism?

Is it to liberate productive forces, and to develop the productive forces?

6.1.2.15 What's the difference between "to liberate" and "to develop" the productive forces?

Is it that to liberate means to remove any social or institutional barriers that block the development of the productive forces, and that developing the productive forces means to actually improve their capacity and technology?

6.1.2.16 As society continually changes, does what's needed to further liberate the productive forces also constantly change?

As productive forces develop, does what's needed to actually improve its capacity and technology also constantly change?

6.1.2.17 Both Capitalism and Socialism develop the productive forces. How is Socialism different than Capitalism, using the 5 aspects of Deng's socialist essence theory to make the distinction?

Is it that Capitalism does not aim to eliminate exploitation, to eliminate polarization, or to achieve common prosperity? Is it also that although Capitalism liberated the productive forces commonplace under Feudalism, it has created new vested interests that constrain the productive forces?

6.1.3 Is socialism with Chinese characters the real socialism?

6.1.3.1 Is there a not-insignificant ideological trend within China that claims that Socialism with Chinese Characteristics is not real socialism? Why is that?

Yes, is it partly because China adhered to a more rigid definition of Socialism in the past, but that has since been clarified through theory and practice, including the theories Primary Stage of Socialism and the Essence of Socialism, and the practice of reform and opening up?

6.1.3.2 Despite clear benefits to people's livelihoods, reform and opening up is criticized as not being the real Socialism based on 3 major claims. What are these claims?

Is it that the presence of markets under socialism violates socialism, that the presence of exploitation and corruption in China violates socialism, and that the increasing presence and power of capitalists in China violates socialism?

6.1.3.3 How could someone debunk the 1st claim that the presence of markets violates socialism, therefore Reform and Opening Up is not the real socialism?

Is it that markets are just another tool to steer the economy to improving people's livelihoods therefore just like how Capitalists who plan the economy doesn't make them

Socialist, that Socialists using markets doesn't make them Capitalist?

6.1.3.4 How could someone debunk the 2nd claim that the presence of presence of exploitation and corruption in China violates socialism, therefore Reform and Opening Up is not the real socialism?

Is it that that China's system, like any currently existing system, is imperfect, is still at the preliminary stage of Socialism; however, the character of Socialism isn't perfection and the existence of imperfections do not invalidate its Socialist character?

6.1.3.5 How could someone debunk the 3rd claim that the increasing presence and power of capitalists in China violates socialism, therefore Reform and Opening Up is not the real socialism?

Is it that although capitalists have gained more power relative to the recent past, that the CPC is still firmly steering the direction of China according to the basic program and basic line and that public power and national law control capital, not the other way around like under Capitalism?

6.1.3.6 Socialism with Chinese Characteristics is also criticized as not being real Socialism, also based on 3 major claims. What are these claims?

Is it that China has not achieved common prosperity, disqualifies it as Socialism; that Socialism with Chinese Characteristics differs from the Socialism described by classical authors like Marx and Engels, disqualifies it as Socialism; and that SWCC differs from Socialism in Mao Zedong's age, also disqualifies it as Socialism?

6.1.3.7 How could someone debunk the 1st claim that China has not achieved common prosperity, therefore Socialism with Chinese Characteristics is not real socialism?

Is it that achieving common prosperity will be the outcome of a long historical process, and that China has eliminated absolute poverty, so it is trending towards that ultimate goal?

6.1.3.8 How could someone debunk the 2nd claim that SWCC differs from the conception by Marx and Engels, therefore Socialism with Chinese Characteristics is not real socialism?

Is it that dismissing the realistic form of Socialism on the basis of "reality deviates from theory" is a form of "book worship" that should be avoided because no Socialist society has met the standards of the classic authors of Socialism? In fact, is it that because principles are valid only in so far as they conform to reality, that principles are actually the final-result of investigation, not a starting-point for invalidating Socialist societies today?

6.1.3.9 How could someone debunk the 3rd claim that SWCC differs from socialism in Mao Zedong's age, therefore Socialism with Chinese Characteristics is not real socialism?

Is it that there are many different kinds of Socialisms that exist in reality, including "classical socialism" as well as "reformed socialism?" So the existence of one should not negate the other, and if still one insists that the socialism of Mao's era is superior, it reflects a metaphysical, idealistic way of thinking that should be discarded because it does not take into account China's changing material conditions?

6.2.1 What is Three-Step Development Strategy

6.2.1.1 What does the three-step development strategy describe?

Is it the 3 development goals for China as it transitions from a backwards nation to a non-backwards nation?

6.2.1.2 Roughly speaking, what are these 3 goals of the three-step development strategy?

Is it "food and clothes," "comfortable life," and "modernization?"

6.2.1.3 By what year would these various goals be achieved?

Is it food and clothes by 1990, comfortable life by 2020, and modernization by 2049?

6.2.1.4 What are the 4 modernizations?

Are they catching up with advanced nations in industry, agriculture, science and technology, and national defense?

6.2.2 Origins and evolution of the "moderate prosperous society"

6.2.2.1 Discuss the relationship between troubled society, small tranquility, and great harmony as it relates to China during the Hundred Years of Humiliation, under Mao, and after Deng Xiaopeng. What did Mao primarily speak of and strive for? What did Deng primarily speak of and strive for? In regards to their long-term goal for China, what do Mao and Deng share in common?

Was it that Mao primarily strived for great harmony and Deng primarily strived for small tranquility? Did both share the lofty long-term goal of communism i.e. great harmony?

6.2.2.2 How can the aim of China's modernization efforts today be described?

Is it "small tranquility" i.e. an inclusive but still imperfect society?

6.2.2.3 How would compare the concept of "small tranquility" to the three-step development strategy?

Is it that the 3 goals all reflect different levels of achieving "small tranquility" because, while the quality of tranquility improves with each stage, contradictions and imperfections remain at each stage?

6.2.3 To realize the Chinese Dream of great national renewal

6.2.3.1 What are the three basic ideas of the Chinese Dream?

Are they to 1) make the country prosperous and strong, 2) for the nation to flourish, and 3) for the people to live happy lives?

6.2.3.2 What is the connection between being prosperous and strong, and for the people to live happy lives? How do we know this?

Is it that the former (being prosperous and strong) must be true to support the latter (people living happy lives)? Is it a lesson of history?

6.2.3.3 For the nation to flourish, there are 5 aspects. What are they?

Are they 1) national sovereignty 2) international recognition 3) international influence 4) international standing/appreciation and 5) Cultural Influence / Cultural soft power?

6.2.3.4 How can we understand what it means for the people to live happy lives?

Is it that their material and spiritual needs are satisfied, that negative social mentalities like pessimism and hatred become scarce, that people enjoy their environment, and that people feel positive on the whole?

6.2.3.5 What is the role of patriotism in achieving the Chinese dream?

Is it to unite people of all ethnic groups in a common struggle to achieve the Chinese Dream?

6.2.3.6 How many times did the per capita income double between 1977 and 2016.

Is it that it doubled 5 times: doubled from 1977 to 1992, doubled again from 1992-1998, doubled again from 1998-2005, doubled again from 2005-2009, and doubled again from 2009-2016?

6.2.3.7 By how many times was the per capita income raised between 1977 to 2019?

Is it over 50 times, from \$190 per capita to \$10.4k per capita?

6.2.3.8 Has China's path since 1977 changed China?

Is it that it helped China towards becoming prosperous and strong, towards the nation flourishing, and towards the people living happy lives?

6.3.1 Discussion: the essence of socialism requires us to eliminate exploitation and remove polarization, but in reality why there still exists exploitation and polarization?

6.3.1.1 Is the non-public sector encouraged or discouraged from contributing to the development of productive forces? Why is it encouraged from the perspective of being the primary stage of Socialism?

Is the tradeoff of more quickly developing productive forces that there is also exploitation and polarization?

6.3.1.2 Have many income gaps widened after reform and opening up? What are 4 types of income gaps?

Are they regional, urban-rural, industrial, and individual?

6.3.1.3 Are there gradations in the severity of income gaps? What are 6 gradations?

Are they reasonable, moderate, legal, immoderate, unreasonable, illegal?

6.3.1.4 Which of these income gap gradations should be upheld and maintained, and which discouraged and eliminated? Why?

Is it that we should uphold and maintain the first 3 gradations (reasonable, moderate, and legal) and curtail the last 3 gradations (immoderate, unreasonable, illegal) because China is still in the Primary Stage of Socialism, where developing the productive forces is prioritized as a prerequisite to common prosperity?

6.3.1.5 When we transcend the primary stage of socialism, will we still tolerate exploitation and polarization? Why not?

Will we no longer need to tolerate it because although non-public sector and exploitation is a necessary stage of historical development during the primary stage of socialism, their necessity will eventually cease because as productive forces develop, non-public economy will disappear along with exploitation?

Chapter 7: The Theory of Socialist Reform and Opening up 社会主义改革开放理论

7.1.1.1 (Part 1) Why China Decided to Adopt Reform and Opening-up Strategy

7.1.1.1 When did the CPC embark on the path of Reform and Opening up?

Was it in 1978 at the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee?

7.1.1.2 How did The Great Cultural Revolution drive consensus within the CPC to pursue a bold and new theory of Reform and Opening Up?

Was it the negative example of the Great Cultural Revolution that produced theoretical innovations and a shared desire to do something different?

7.1.1.3 Throughout the 1950s the CPC internally debated over which contradictions to emphasize and how to navigate them. The Great Cultural Revolution brought the “enlargement of class struggle,” and greatly damaged the Socialist cause in many ways. Can you speak to this high-level in terms of how it impacted the following: the economy, the rule of the government, the Party, the people, and China overall?

Was it that the economy grew only sluggishly, that the government's authority was challenged and paralyzed, that the Party was weakened and hurt with 2.3 million cadres investigated, that people were increasingly calculating and non-enthusiastic, and that China had fallen behind relative to other nations?

7.1.1.4 How had China lost ground economically in the international context by the end of The Great Cultural Revolution?

Was it that the economy grew at a slower rate than what was possible and China's global share of GNP dropped from 4.7% in 1955 to 2.5% in 1980, and China's global share of gross export value decreased from 1.95% in 1959 to 0.75% in 1980?

7.1.1.5 There was still many achievements during the Great Cultural Revolution, such as the hydrogen bomb, Indica hybrid rice, and steady food production growth and other modest economic achievements. Should these be understood as "happening because of" the Great Cultural Revolution or something else?

Is it that these achievements should be thought of as "happening in spite of" the Great Cultural Revolution? In other words, is that even though some achievements happened "during the time of" the Cultural Revolution, it didn't necessarily happen as a product of the Cultural Revolution?

7.1.1.6 What kind of mistake was the Cultural Revolution, a left-leaning or right-meaning mistake? Why would you describe it as left-leaning?

Is it because the cultural revolution tried to force reality into an ideal?

7.1.1.7 What were 5 reasons why China embarked on the path of reform and opening up?

Was it that opening up was the way to avoid isolation and backwardness, that opening up is the historical trend as globalization increasingly connects the world, that opening up can and should support Socialist Modernization, that opening up lets Socialism learn any and all lessons from Capitalism, and that opening up was more possible because the world had become increasingly peaceful since 1949?

7.1.1.8 How did the problem of people's outflow to Hong Kong illustrate the weakness of the orientation that class struggle was a more important contradiction than economic and cultural development? Why did people "vote with their feet" to stay in Mainland China after reform and opening up?

Did this outflow, which totaled 560,000 people over decades, continue or gradually come to a stop after reform and opening up? Did this outflow stop because people's economic and living conditions improved?

7.1.2 What's the Essence of Reform

7.1.2.1 Does class struggle and contradictions in general still exist under Socialism? Why?

Is it because the underlying nature of the world is that it is made of contradictions, and because different relationships to the productive forces still exist, that different classes with their different interests exist, and therefore class struggle still exists?

7.1.2.2 Why is reform, not revolution, the correct approach to resolving contradictions in a Socialist society?

Is it because under Socialism the reactionary classes are not sufficiently organized to prevent the resolving of contradictions via reform, therefore, both social development and product forces development can proceed through reform rather than confrontation?

7.1.2.3 What are 3 roles of reform in Socialist society?

Is it to improve the socialist system, act as the basic driving force to further develop socialist society, and to solve fundamental contradiction of socialist society by adapting backwards production relations to accommodate evolving productive forces?

7.1.2.4 How does reform resolve contradictions related to class struggle?

Is it that class struggle continues in socialist society, and that reform is a peaceful way to navigate class struggle so that productive forces are progressively unleashed and its development unfettered by increasingly outdated societal constraints?

7.1.2.5 What's the difference between the "subjects" of reform and the "objects" of reform? Can you give examples of subjects and objects?

Is it that subjects can take action and objects are the environment those subjects exist in? Are examples of subjects party government, enterprises, social organizations and ordinary people? Are examples of objects unreasonable factors in the economic foundation and the superstructure?

7.1.2.6 Why isn't the socialist system itself an object of reform?

Is it because the object of reform isn't trying to change the principles guiding the socialist system, but rather, to update its concrete operating mechanism to adhere to those same socialist principles as the productive forces evolve and require updates to the superstructure via reform? In other words, is it that the evolution of how socialism operates is a basic feature of socialism, so the object of reform is not the socialist system per se, but the details of its implementation to better fit changing conditions?

7.1.2.7 How did the "target" of reform change over time, starting in 1978?

Was it first to move away from the "Cultural Revolution", then to transform the formation of what had been the old body before the cultural revolution, and then to the establish a new line?

7.1.2.8 As contradictions are transformed through reform, can we eventually eliminate all contradictions?

Is it that we cannot because contradictions are the character of life itself, where resolved contradictions give way to new contradictions?

7.1.2.9 If the aim of revolution is to change the relations of production and the superstructure so as to unleash productive forces, how does the aim of reform and opening up for the era of socialism compare?

Is it that reform under socialism accomplishes the same objective as revolution under capitalism, which is to change the relations of production and the superstructure so as to unleash productive forces?

7.1.2.10 In what way does the "reform" in "reform and opening up" mean much more than the repair of small details?

Is it that reform is a profound mechanism for social change, which through the development of people and society, fosters a historical trend towards communism?

7.1.2.11 Give specific examples of what might be objects of reform?

Do they include economic system, political system, cultural system, social system, ecological system, productivity, the relations of production, economic base and superstructure, and ideology?

7.1.3 What are the Standards to Judge the Gains and Loss of Reform and Opening-up Policy

7.1.3.1 What did Deng advise in evaluating Reform and Opening Up?

Was it the "Three Favourables?"

7.1.3.2 Deng Xiaopeng defined the "Three Favourables" many times to describe how to evaluate the gains and losses of the Reform and Opening Up Policy. In terms of relating to the essence of Socialism, what are 3 criteria for evaluating reform and opening up?

Is it whether the productive forces grow in a Socialist society, whether the Socialist state's strength increases, and if people's living standard improves?

7.1.3.3 In terms of relating to achieving the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, how did Deng Xiaopeng define the "Three Favourables" to evaluate Reform and Opening Up?

Was it that China's productive forces catch up to that of capitalist nations, that political conditions become more democratic than capitalist nations, and that the people are more talented in greater number than in capitalist nations?

7.1.3.4 Do the "three favourables" criteria for evaluating reform and opening up include whether a policy is capitalist or socialist? Why not?

Is it because reform and opening up policies only concern the development of socialist society and that socialism is a pre-requisite for reform; therefore, the better standard to use is whether the Socialist state's strength increases along with the other "three favourables"?

7.1.3.5 Popular mythology for how Deng Xiaoping advised to evaluate Reform and Opening Up is "Black Cat or White Cat;" however, is this true? What did Deng actually say?

Was it that Deng only once in 1962 said, not in reference to evaluating reform and opening up, "yellow cat or a black cat" to recommend that to win a battle, being flexible in taking advantage of actual conditions was key vs. being inflexible with "one cat," especially in the context of adapting the relations of production to mobilize the masses?

7.1.3.6 How does the popular conception of "white cat or black cat" differ from Deng's "Three Favourables?" as a way to evaluate Reform and Opening Up?

Is it that "white cat or black cat" connotes that the policy is correct as long as it increases wealth; however, Deng's "Three Favourables" require that policy strengthen the socialist state and assume that no policy will ever be a capitalist one, and also that it's not solely about making more money, but increasing the productive forces and improving people's living standards?

7.1.3.7 What are the origins of this "white cat or black cat" misconception of Deng?

Is it that "white cat or black cat" was actually Mao's rephrasing of Deng in 1976 to criticize his de-emphasis of class struggle and carries the connotations of confounding right and wrong?

7.1.3.8 Are the "three favourables" strictly defined as understood today, or are they varied? What are some considerations for how they are understood today?

Is it that they varied definition, and also include considerations like whether reforms "consolidate the socialist system, leadership by the Party and the development of the productive forces under that system and that leadership" and "whether the country is politically stable; second, whether the system and policies help to strengthen unity among

the people and to raise their living standards; and third, whether the productive forces keep developing."

7.1.3.9 Why do you think there's so many different criteria to evaluate reform and opening up?

Is it because reform and opening up is multi-dimensional?

7.2.1 How to Treat the Dispute about Reform and Opening-up Policy

7.2.1.1 Historically, there have been 4 main disputes about Reform and Opening Up. What are they about, high-level?

Is it dispute about whether the "Two Whatever" or reform and opening up policies, about whether planned economy or market economy, about whether the private economy is stagnant water or running water, and about whether reform and opening up policies is wrong or right?

7.2.1.2 Three of these disputes have been settled, which ones?

Is it that the first 3 have been basically settled, in that reform and opening up was the chosen path forward over the Two Whatever, that market economy was chosen in addition to planned economy, and that private economy is running water?

7.2.1.3 What is still an open dispute about Reform and Opening Up? In what sense is this still an open dispute?

Is it about whether reform and opening up is right or wrong? Is it an open dispute in the sense that people continue to have different opinions about it?

7.2.1.4 What is the essence of reform, and why does that mean that individuals will differ in their perspective of how reform and opening up benefited them individually?

Is it that reform's essence is the adjustment of various relations of social interests, so there is always a cost of "taking away" so that another social interest can benefit?

7.2.1.5 What are some examples of how reform created gains and losses in the relations of social interests?

Is one example that one may gain more independence, but lose the existing insurance? One may gain more opportunities but lose the established stability? Is it also that some became "next generation of officials" or "next generation of the rich," while others became

"next generation of farmers" or "next generation of the poor" i.e. some became "winners", while others became "losers"?

7.2.1.6 Objectively speaking, reform and opening up has greatly strengthened the Chinese nation, improved its productive forces, and raised people's living standard and meets a greater variety and complexity of people's immaterial needs. Despite these many gains, some people continue to view reform unfavorably, typically in 3 ways, what are they?

Is it that they can emphasize the losses of reform, they can resist reform in anticipation of these losses with greater weight than the potential gains, and they can feel resentment over their relative loss compared with their social peers?

7.2.1.7 In the context of reform creating gains and losses, based on social science, what do people give greater weight, gains or losses? How does this impact people's evaluation of reform?

Is it that people generally weigh losses more than gains and also tend to weigh their gains relatively rather than absolutely? Is it that they tend to weigh losses with greater weight and look at gains relatively?

7.2.1.8 Many folks regard Reform and Opening Up as China taking the capitalist road. This intuition reflects two ideological trends: first, to question reform and opening up, and second, to question Socialism with Chinese Characteristics. What's the difference and connection between these two ideological trends?

Is it that to question reform and opening up is questioning whether the policies were beneficial to people, and questioning SWCC is questioning whether China's system is the real socialism?

7.2.2 How to Properly Treat the Social Conflicts and Social Problems in the Process of Reform and Opening up

7.2.2.1 What are some social problems in China that existed since 1978?

Are they party and people separation, corruption, income gap, and social trust, among many others?

7.2.2.2 Regarding these types of issues, do they all originate from Reform and Opening Up, or did they exist before? What does that say about

these kinds of problems?

Is it that they existed before as well because these issues are universal to all systems of governance and do not directly originate from Reform and Opening Up?

7.2.2.3 What's the best way to solve emerging issues during Reform and Opening Up, according to Xi Jinping?

Is it that we should face problems quickly, just when they start to become visible, so that we may solve problems when they are easy to solve and before they become unmanageable?

7.2.2.4 Issues and problems inevitably arise during Reform and Opening Up, and they tend to fall into one of two categories. What are these 2 categories?

Is it insufficient development and improper methods in the reform?

7.2.2.5 Generally speaking, how do you solve the problem of insufficient development?

Is it speed up the pace of development, improve the method of development, raise the quality of development, reduce the cost of development and optimize the consequences of the development?

7.2.2.6 Generally speaking, how do you solve the problem of improper methods in the reform?

Is it orient the reform, optimize the methods of reform, adjust the magnitude of reform, and monitor social endurance of the reform?

7.2.3 How to Push forward Reform through Scientific Ways

7.2.3.1 How does "cross the river by feeling the stones" apply to reform and opening up?

Is it to explore the correct methods of reform as it applies in different situations through the process of trial, error, and keeping slow and steady so as to make fewer detours?

7.2.3.2 Can China copy other socialist countries policies as it pursues Reform and Opening Up? Why not?

Is it because China's Reform and Opening Up is a new approach?

7.2.3.3 Because China can't copy other socialist countries, how does it tend to approach reform?

Does it reform slowly to aid learning through practice rather than going quickly but inviting the need to make detours?

7.2.3.3 Does crossing the river by feeling the stones mean that there is no top-level design in reform? Why not?

Is it that the top-level design is also informed and improved by empirical evidence and theorizing, which is also part of crossing the river by feeling the stones?

7.2.3.4 What does it mean, to "In the process of crossing the river by feeling the stones, we should prepare the 'bridge' and 'boat'?" Do you consider this a scientific process? Why?

Is it that the bridge and boat represent both identifying a correct method of reform as well as building the building the necessary systems to put that reform into practice? Is it scientific because the correct top-level design is formulated based on iterative practice and reflection?

7.2.3.5 Xi Jinping summarized 5 learnings based on China's experience of Reform and Opening Up, on how to reform better and open up more. What do these 5 proposals speak to?

Is it that reform under socialism is a profound revolution, that because there is no predecessor China must blaze its own path, that reform is a systematic project where top-level design and local-level implementations impacts all areas and require coordination, that stability is a pre-requisite for reform so therefore reform must be balanced against people's resilience, and that the success of reform and opening up relies on the creativity of hundreds of millions, which the Party must utilize and unleash?

7.3.1 Discussion

7.3.1.1 What is a nuanced approach to speaking to the problems and achievements of Reform and Opening up?

Is one approach to make a distinction between which problems are due to reform and opening up, which problems are common to all systems, and which problems are historically inherited? Are some problems already existing, and then initially exaggerated or intensified by applying reform and opening up, but that over time these problems can be gradually solved by developing and reforming?

Chapter 8: The General Plan of Building the Socialism with Chinese Characteristics 建设中国特色社会主义总布局

8.1.1 The Formation of "Five in One" General Plan

8.1.1.2 What is the "Five" and the "One" in the "Five in One" General Plan?

Are the "5" economic, political, cultural, social, and ecological progress -- and that all types of progress should be coordinated for "one" well-rounded development?

8.1.1.3 How should these 5 other priorities be balanced with economic development?

Is it that well-rounded development cannot occur if only economic progress is sought after, which is why the "Five in One" priorities should be coordinated and promoted?

8.1.1.5 What are the origins of the "Five in One" General Plan?

Was it that in 1978 when the CPC prioritized economic construction over "class struggle", that they had a need to clearly articulate the many needs of socialist development in the context of socialist economic construction?

8.1.1.6 What are the similarities between "Two Civilization" and "Three Civilization"?

Is it that they are both predecessors to the "Five in One" General Plan?

8.1.1.7 What are the differences between "Two Civilization" and "Three Civilization"?

Is it that former one emphasizes material and spiritual civilization, and the latter one emphasizes economic, political, and cultural civilization?

8.1.1.8 What's the difference in emphasis between political and cultural civilization?

Is it that one speaks to how to run the country according to law, and the other according to morality?

8.1.1.9 When did the CPC adopt the "4 in one" General Plan of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics? What did it add to the "Three Civilizations"?

Was it 2006? Was it social development?

8.1.1.10 Around when did ecological progress become a major high-level CPC priority?

Was it 2012?

8.1.2 Will "Five in One" General Plan Expand

8.1.2.1 What are two other areas that are critical for the foundation and development of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics?

Are they national defense to safeguard Chinese sovereignty and constructing the Party to strengthen the Party's capacity to lead?

8.1.2.2 If the "Five in One" and the additional two priorities were thought of as the organs of a human body, which priorities correspond to the flesh, nervous system, spirit, skeleton, respiratory system, immune system, and brain?

It is economic, political, cultural, social, ecological, defense, and Party?

8.1.2.3 In 2015 Xi Jinping put forward the "Four Completes" as the immediate strategic priorities, which was itself a more specific framing of the "Five in One" General Plan for the moment at that time. Where were the "Four Completes?"

Were they to completely establish a moderately prosperous society, deepening reform, governing according to the law completely, and regulating the party in a complete and strict way?

8.2.1 What Feats Has Socialist Market Economy Accomplished

8.2.1.1 Due to China's reform and opening up policy, how much money came from foreign investment to support China's socialist economic construction?

Was it \$1.2 trillion between 1979-2012?

8.2.1.2 Between 1978 and 2020, how much did the GDP per capita increase by?

Was it by 50x, from approximately \$200 to \$10,000?

8.2.1.3 How much did the total value of imports and exports exchanged by China increase by?

Was it from \$20 Billion in 1978 to \$3.8 Trillion in 2012, a 186x increase?

8.2.1.4 How much did the level of urbanization (which reflects an increasingly industrial mode of production) increase between 1978 and 2012?

Did it increase from 17.9% to 52.6%?

8.2.1.5 What percent of telephone penetration existed in 1978 compared with 2012?

Was it 0.38% compared with 103.1%?

8.2.1.6 By how much disposable income of urban residents increase from 1978 to 2012?

Was it 71 times, reaching 24,565 RMB in 2012?

8.2.1.7 By how many times did the number of college graduates increase by from 1978 to 2012?

Was it 36.9 times, reaching 625 million people in 2012?

8.2.1.8 China ranked what number in terms of total mileage of highways and high-speed rail by 2012?

Was it #2 in highway mileage and #1 high-speed rail mileage?

8.2.2 How to View the Phenomenon of “Pick up the bowl and eat meat, put down chopsticks to curse”

8.2.2.1 Generally speaking, how does "Pick up the bowl and eat meat" describe the material outcomes of reform and opening up?

Is it that now people can enjoy eating meat because of the greater material prosperity brought about by this policy?

8.2.2.2 Generally speaking, how does "put down chopsticks to curse" describe the political, cultural, and social change that also accompanied reform?

Is it that people can criticize the Party, including reform and opening up, so that there is a feedback loop for deeper reform and opening up and further development of socialist democracy?

8.3.1 Persisting with the Way of Development of the Socialist Politics with Chinese Characteristics

8.3.1.1 What 4 aspects consist of political construction under SWCC?

Is it to adhere to SWCC, develop socialist democracy, to rule according to law and to reform the political system?

8.3.1.2 What does it mean to reform the political system?

8.3.1.2 Who are the masters of the country? What is the relationship between the people and the Party? And how is the country governed?

Is it that the people are the masters? Is it that the Party leads the People? Is it governed according to the law?

8.3.1.3 If the people are the Body, and the party is the Brain, then what is the relationship between the people and the party?

Is it that the brain is a part of the body?

8.3.1.4 How can you tell if the People are the masters of the country?

Is it that the political system reflects the will of the people, that as people's desires shift, that the policies also change accordingly, and that policies aim towards the common goal of prosperity for all?

8.3.2 Developing Socialist Democracy

8.3.2.1 What are some of the currently existing foundations of socialist democracy in China?

Is it the people's congress, multi-party cooperation, grassroots democratic institutions as vehicles for developing and adhering to the mass line, consultation with the people around formation of and implementation of policies, and the basic political system of rural self-governance with elected committees to handle local affairs?

8.3.2.2 What's is the "dictatorship of the proletariat," and is it any different than "the people's dictatorship?"

Is it that dictatorship of the proletariat is the standard Marxist-Leninist phrase describing the necessity of the use of force during socialism to suppress capitalists who would seek to overthrow the system to seek unrestrained profits? That people's dictatorship is the same as the dictatorship of the proletariat?

8.3.2.3 What's the difference between "the people's dictatorship" and "the people's democratic dictatorship?"

Is it that people's democratic dictatorship accomplishes the same objective as the people's dictatorship to safeguard Socialism so that reform can be relied upon to resolve society's contradictions, but to do so with the safeguard of democratic institutions that keep the Party and the people (including workers and non-workers) in sync?

8.3.3 Overall Governing the Country According to Law

8.3.3.1 Is governing according to the law a basic requirement of socialist democracy?

Yes?

8.3.3.2 How does socialist law differ from capitalist law? Who specifically does Socialist Law in China serve?

Is it that while both serve the master of the country, socialist law serves the people while capitalist law serves the capitalists? Is it that when Socialist Law in China serves "the people," this includes people of all classes, both the working class and other sectors of society including owners and entrepreneurs?

8.3.3.3 How does socialist law in China interact with reform and modernization?

Is it that the law should support reforms and modernization; for instance, by changing the law to allow a reform that supports modernization?

8.3.3.4 On what basis do you imagine laws are passed when the rights of lower and higher class have different interests?

Is it that the law should support the essence of socialism to develop the productive forces so as to improve people's livelihoods over the long-term and build the foundation for a modern socialist country and eventually communism, and uses this standard to balance rights between classes?

8.3.4 Promoting Political System Reform

8.3.4.1 Does the party have deficiencies that are targets of reform? What type of reforms are needed?

Is it a number of reforms that high-level ensure that the Party remains close to the people, is not overly bureaucratic or inward looking, and completely adheres to the law, among many others?

8.3.4.2 Is China still in the process of further developing its various socialist political institutions through theory and practice? What does this involve?

Is it updating the people's congress to keep up with the times, further developing multiparty cooperation, political counsel, and application of the mass line, and also further developing mechanisms of self-government and accountability for officials?

8.4.1 Consolidating Cultural Construction is the Necessity of Improving

8.4.1.1 What is "national strength" and what role does "cultural strength" play within it?

Is it that while there's no unified definition, national strength is roughly the political, economic, military, and technological strength of a country, and cultural strength is a nation's unity, cohesion, capacity to grow and handle challenges in the material realm?

8.4.1.2 What's the difference between "hard power" and "soft power?"

Is it that "hard power" can involuntarily force other nations to do something, and "soft power" will voluntarily attract other nations to coordinate?

8.4.1.3 What is "cultural soft power" and how does it fit into "soft power" generally and other types of soft power?

Is it that soft power includes the ideological, systemic, diplomatic, and cultural? And that cultural soft power is the cultural element of soft power?

8.4.1.4 What does hard power ensure (i.e. why is it important), and how does that contrast with what soft power ensures?

Is it that hard power ensures we won't be knocked down by our enemies, and soft power ensures we won't be knocked down by ourselves?

8.4.2 Pairs of Relations Need to be Handled in Order to Consolidate Cultural Construction

8.4.2.1 What 2 aspects of culture does China need as it continues its path?

Is it both cultural confidence and cultural reflection?

8.4.2.2 How do the pair of cultural confidence and cultural reflection work together to ensure that China stays on the correct path of socialism with Chinese characteristics?

Is it that one gives the confidence to act with unity, and the other gives the level-headedness to always keep improving and to learn from and respect others?

8.4.2.3 What's the basic strategy for adapting Chinese culture to the modern era?

Is it to select the essence, discard the trivial & outdated, and adapt to the present so as to keep up with the times?

8.4.2.4 Why does the CPC pay attention to the development of Chinese culture, i.e. what impact does it have on the Chinese nation?

Is it that it strengthens national unity, supports reform, and influences China's position in the international context?

8.4.2.5 As cultural exchange occurs between China and other nations, what is a rough proxy for how to quantitatively measure the volume of inbound and outbound culture?

Is it that you can measure it by the number of translated books?

8.4.2.6 How does China compare with the US in terms of inflow and outflow of translated books?

Is it that in 2005, China imported 4000 translations and exported 24 translations?

8.4.2.7 Objectively, why is it that China is importing so many translations?

Is it that China is still in a rapid period of change during reform and opening up and objectively has a lot to learn from the rest of the world?

8.4.2.8 Subjectively, why is it that China is importing so many translations?

Is it that its cultural confidence is relatively low, and people may seek to copy the West without a careful eye towards quality and fit?

8.4.2.8 Is all culture equally suitable for adaption to socialism with Chinese characteristics?

Is it that some culture is more appropriate while others should be rejected?

8.4.2.9 What are 5 categories of culture in terms of how best to adapt foreign culture to Chinese culture?

Is there advanced, beneficial, backwards, decadent, and reactionary culture?

8.4.2.10 For each of the 5 categories of culture, how should they be treated when adapting to the Chinese context?

Is it that advanced should be seriously absorbed, beneficial actively learned, backwards carefully applied and actively transformed, decadent resolutely resisted and defended from with all rejections, and reactionary spared no effort in criticism and analysis?

8.5.1 The Ultimate Goal of Establishing the Harmonious Socialist Society is the Wellbeing of People

8.5.1.1 What is the goal of a harmonious socialist society?

Is it to enhance people's sense of happiness?

8.5.1.2 Does harmonious socialist society require democracy and rule of law? Why?

Is it because they are the tools that can protect people's happiness?

8.5.1.3 What are the 6 aspects of a harmonious socialist society?

Is it democracy & rule of law, justice & fairness, honesty & friendship, energy & creativity, orderliness & safety, and harmony between man & nature?

8.5.2 Public Power Must Run in a Formalized Way in Order to Establish the Harmonious Socialist Society

8.5.2.1 Must the execution of any power be held accountable? Why?

Is it because absolute power leads to injustice and harms the people?

8.5.2.2 What are formalized ways of ensuring power is held accountable?

Do they include separation of powers, defining and defending rights, resolutely implementing constitution, democracy, rule of law, and societal supervision of officials?

8.5.2.3 What is an important consideration for the Chinese context about constructing a system that can hold power accountable?

Is it that the system must be created to serve the Chinese context, Chinese traditions and China's path forward?

8.6.1 Basic Standpoints of Sustainable Development Concept

8.6.1.1 What is the sustainable development concept?

Is it building an ecological civilization that is sustainable with a cyclical economy?

8.6.2 Perfecting the Policy System of Ecological Civilization

8.6.2.1 Is the rule of law required to transition to an ecological civilization? Why?

Is it to navigate the great social upheaval of changing our production, way of life, and thinking?

8.6.2.2 What are the 3 main measures that need to be developed to support the ecological civilization?

Is it to integrate an ecological environment evaluation system that is integrated into existing processes of economic and social development and control, establishing an "ecological red line" accompanied by a system of lifelong accountability, and improving environmental legislation and enforcement?

8.6.2.3 What is the "ecological red line"?

Is it the set of policies that guarantee ecological safety for the Chinese nation i.e. a bottom line that cannot be crossed?

8.6.2.4 Should officials be held accountable to ecological performance standards and punished if they fail, and especially if they cross the ecological red line?

Yes?

8.6.2.5 How does reform and modernization intersect with ecological civilization?

Is it that we must urgently define standards of reform to meet ecological civilization and put them into practice?

Chapter 9: Theory of Achieving Complete Reunification of China 实现中国完全统一的理论

9.1.1 Historical origin of the Hong Kong issue

9.1.1.1 Is China completely unified? What are the 4 areas that still need to be unified, also known as the "the four districts of cross-straits"?

Are they Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan, and the Mainland?

9.1.2 Historical origin of the Macau issue

9.1.2.1 What do Hong Kong and Macao share in common, regarding their reunification with China?

Is it that they both became part of China during the Qin Dynasty around 200 BC, that both were colonized by Western European powers in the modern era, that both were sanctioned by imperialism-imposed unequal treaties, and that China aimed to resolve these historical issues of separation and reunification through peaceful negotiation, and that in fact both were formally returned to China via peaceful negotiation in the 20th Century?

9.1.3 Historical origin of the Taiwan issue

9.1.3.1 How many non-Chinese nations had occupied Taiwan since the 1600s? Which nation(s)?

Is it 3 nations? Was it the Spanish, the Dutch, and the Japanese?

9.1.3.2 Was Taiwan returned to China according to international law? When?

Was it Oct 25, 1945 after Japan's surrender during WWII?

9.2.1 Cultural tradition

9.2.1.1 What are 3 reasons to seek the reunification of China despite a relatively peaceful situation today?

Are they cultural sentiment, national emotion, and the CPC's historical task?

9.2.1.2 What is the historical origins of Chinese cultural sentiment for the reunification of China?

Is it that over 200 years of history, China was sometimes divided and that the people longed for, fought for, and internalized culture on the project of unifying China?

9.2.2 National emotion

9.2.2.1 How is national emotion a different concept than cultural sentiment?

Is it that cultural sentiment for reunification is a type of tradition whereas national emotion is the emotional longing for reunification?

9.2.3 Historic task

9.2.3.1 Is the reunification of China one of the CPC's historic tasks in the new era?

Yes?

9.2.3.2 How does reunification support China's 2 other historical tasks, to advance modernization and to promote world peace & common development?

Is it that reunification accelerates development and projects an international image of unity, progress, and prosperity?

9.3.1 The formation and development of the principle of peaceful reunification and one country, two systems

9.3.1.1 What is the key component of "One Country, Two systems" with how China navigates international relations?

Is it that there is only One China, and the People's Republic of China (PRC) is the entity that represents China?

9.3.1.2 What experience is "One Country, Two systems" based on?

Was it how Tibet's political system did not change when the Tibet question was first resolved?

9.3.1.3 What is the character of the relationship between "Two systems"?

Is it one of cooperation (not negotiation) to make contributions to the Chinese nation together?

9.3.1.4 Under "One Country, Two systems," what are the 2 systems?

Is 1 system Socialist while the other system is Capitalist?

9.3.1.5 To what extent does the non-mainland system have autonomy?

Is it allowed to have its own bureaucracy, and even its own army, as long as it does not threaten the mainland?

9.3.1.6 However, what must the non-mainland system not do?

Is it that it's supposed to not implement policies that harm the mainland and the Chinese nation?

9.3.1.7 Under "One Country, Two systems," does the capitalist have complete autonomy from the socialist system? Why not?

Is it because those rights must be balanced with the needs of the Chinese nation and therefore it is limited to some degree?

9.3.1.8 How did the PRC's policy transition from "liberate Taiwan" to "peaceful reunification" to "One Country, Two systems"?

Was it to "liberate Taiwan" in 1949, seek peaceful liberation in 1955, commit to guaranteeing high autonomy in 1978, and "One Country, Two systems" in 1982?

9.3.1.9 How did the international situation impact PRC's changing stance towards Taiwan, as changing events transformed contradictions?

Was it events like US troops in Taiwan after 1949, UN expelling Taiwan in 1971, the US recognizing One China in 1978, and Taiwan allowing citizens to visit mainland relatives in

1987 for the 1st time since 1949?

9.3.2 The basic contents and important meaning of the principle of peaceful reunification and one country, two systems

9.3.2.1 What is the relationship between the "One China principle" and "One Country, Two systems"?

Is it that the core concept of "One Country, Two systems" is "one-China," which safeguards Chinese sovereignty?

9.3.2.2 How does "One Country, Two systems" demonstrate an alternative to the historical antagonism between the socialist and capitalist camp in the 1960's and 1970's?

Is it that the 2 systems can peacefully coexist?

9.3.2.3 Regarding Taiwan, why does the PRC keep the option of using force on Taiwan, despite honoring Taiwan as fellow compatriots with whom they wish to peacefully coexist and also wish to honor their way of life?

Is it because of foreign interference?

9.3.2.4 In practice, how did the use of force impact cross-strait relations?

Is it that the US plotted to make "Two Chinas" by making Taiwan an independent state; however, that Chiang Kai Shek insisted on the "one-China principle" and chose to defend his occupation of Quemoy and Matsu (tiny islands along the coast of China) as an important commitment to that goal, so when the PRC bombed these areas, the long term impact was to deter foreign interference?

9.3.2.5 In the context of the CPC's central task of economic development, how does "One Country, Two systems" provide support?

Is it that by settling both domestic and international concerns in a long-term arrangement, it upholds a peaceful domestic and international environment that Socialist modernization requires?

9.3.3 The practice of the principle of one country, two systems

9.3.3.1 How did the threat of force in the 1982-1984 negotiations with the UK lead to the peaceful return of Hong Kong in 1997?

Is it that the UK initially firmly opposed the return of Hong Kong but eventually relented based on China's insistence that sovereignty is non-negotiable?

9.3.3.2 Why was PRC willing to use force despite the would-be reputational damage to China internationally?

Was it to prioritize and uphold the faith of the people in the CPC, which had long promised to maintain unity and cohesion based on that confidence in leadership, and to safeguard Chinese sovereignty?

9.3.3.3 When was Macao's return negotiated and when was it actually returned?

Was it 1987 and 1999?

9.3.4 Resolving the Taiwan issue and achieving complete reunification of China

9.3.4.1 What was a monumental milestone towards reunification in 1992?

Was it that both sides of the Taiwan Straits agreed to the "one-China principle"?

9.3.4.2 Have there been ups and downs since 1992 in relations between PRC and the Taiwan authority? What were some?

Is it Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) insisting on independence during its administration between 2000-2008, and also a period of seeking mutual interest and recognizing the "1992 consensus" and developing ties for a period after 2008?

Chapter 10: Socialist Diplomacy and International Strategy with Chinese Characteristics 中国特色社会主义外交和国际战略

10.1.1 Why Do We Say "Peace and Development are the Underlying Trends of Times"

10.1.1.1 What is the "main theme of the current age" and what is it not? Therefore what should China do during this time?

Is the main theme "peace and development" and not "war and revolution"? Is it to safeguard peace and seize the time to develop themselves?

10.1.1.2 In reality, regional wars regularly occur, such that in 1992 there were 30 wars, 1993 - 34 wars, 1994 - 38 wars, and 1995 - 45 wars. Because of this situation where the world is generally stable and partly unstable, and most of the world is peaceful and partly at war, then how does China balance its needs between military and development?

Is it that they remain vigilant in the peaceful time?

10.1.1.3 Generally speaking in human history, what is more likely, war or peace? What should we take away from this general trend in history?

Is it that over 5000 years there were over 14K wars and only 329 years without war? Is it that war is still likely to occur when we have not addressed the root causes of war?

10.1.1.4 How much economic loss occurred during WWII, a war that involved 80% of the world population? How many people died in the US, the Soviet Union, and China? What should we take away from the catastrophe that results from a world war?

Was it 4,000 trillion? Was it 380K, 20.6 million, and 200 million? Is it that we should promote peace and development and work with other nations to secure unity and peace?

10.1.2 How Do We Understand the World's Trends towards Multi-polarization and Economic Globalization

10.1.2.1 What are the 3 phases since WWII of general trends in international relationships between nations?

Is the first phase the bi-polar world after WWII between the capitalist camp led by the US and the socialist camp led by the USSR? In the 2nd phase beginning in the 1960s, was it competition between the US and the USSR (as opposed to competition between 2 camps) as the USSR trended towards policies that weakened the socialist camp? Was the 3rd phase marked by the collapse of the USSR and the ensuing trend towards multi-polarization?

10.1.2.2 What is the difference between a multi-polar world, and one that is trending towards multi-polarization?

Is it that a world that is trending towards multi-polarization is not actually multi-polar, but in the process of becoming multi-polar?

10.1.2.3 Why is the trend towards multi-polarization inevitable?

Is it because weakness in capitalist economies coupled with the strength of emerging economies in the trend of globalization is increasingly shifting towards greater balance of power distribution in the world?

10.1.2.4 What might be considered some "poles" within the emerging multi-polar world?

Are they the US, Russia, the EU, China, and possibly India?

10.1.2.5 What are the opportunities and risks of economic globalization for emerging economies?

Are the opportunities the chance to rapidly develop and modernize? Are the risks loss of national sovereignty and industries, "race to the bottom" for workers facing capitalist-favored international competition, and exposure to systemic risks like the 2008 financial crisis caused by the US subprime crisis?

10.1.2.6 Despite the process of globalization is still led by many unreasonable and unfair factors, what are the fundamental intentions of globalization?

Is it the revolution of science and technology and the ensuing development of productivity?

10.1.3 How Do We Seize and Make the Most of the Important Period of Strategic Opportunities

10.1.3.1 In the context of continued economic globalization, relative peace, and rapid growth for emerging economies, what should China do to make the most of this situation?

It is continue to modernize and supply-side structural reform and work on leading more industries while maintaining peaceful relations?

10.1.3.2 If China does not take advantage of a period of strategic opportunity, then how will that harm China?

Might it lose its chance, which will affect its options in the future?

10.2.1 What Are the Reasons and Meanings for China to Strive for Peaceful Development

10.2.1.1 What is the path of peaceful development?

Is it scientific development and self-development, opening development and peaceful development, and cooperative and common development; i.e. to modernize through mutual win-wins to cultivate and maintain peace?

10.2.1.2 What are the 4 reasons that China strives for peaceful development?

Is it because of its cultural legacy, historical takeaway from China's experience of wars, to uphold socialism, and to sync with today's development trends?

10.2.1.3 How will the world benefit if China makes achievements in its path of peaceful development?

Is it that it demonstrates how a country can become powerful without either establishing a colonial system or invading other nations, it brings opportunities to the world that benefit both Chinese and people around the world like the Belt and Road Initiatives, and that these economic contributions will tip the world pattern towards being more balanced?

10.2.2 Pursuing an Independent Foreign Policy of Peace

10.2.2.1 What are the 4 basic principles of China's independent foreign policy of peace?

Is it to handle world affairs independently, to adhere to the 5 Principles of Peaceful Coexistence in international relations, to strengthen unity and cooperation with developing countries, and to combine patriotism with carrying out international duties?

10.2.2.2 How did this independent foreign policy of peace develop from 1949 to the more recent period?

Was it initially based on 3 main diplomatic principles put forward by Mao shortly before the founding of the PRC, the development of the 5 principles of Peaceful Coexistence first put forward by Zhou Enlai in 1953, opposing hegemonic policies from both US and USSR while actively supporting National Liberation campaigns throughout the world in the 1960s, forming a strategic line of defense in the 1970s to combat the USSR and its attempted besieging of China in North, South and West directions, establishing a policy of "true nonalignment" in the 1980s, continuing to strive for peace and development in the 1990s and 2000s, and seeking peace, development cooperation, and win-win in the 2010s?

10.2.2.3 What were the 3 main diplomatic principles that Mao put forward shortly before the founding of the PRC? What was the content of these principles?

Was it "set up another stove", "invite guests after cleaning the house" and "one-sided policy?" Is it to not inherit the former diplomatic relations of the Kuomintang, to set up new diplomatic relations on a new basis, and to seek communication with the socialist camp even while capitalist countries opposed emerging people's government?

10.2.2.4 What does the independent foreign policy of peace fundamentally prioritize?

Is it China's independence, sovereignty, safety, and dignity?

10.2.2.5 Today based on what 5 principles does China deal with foreign relations?

Is it the 5 principles of Peaceful Coexistence?

10.2.2.6 What are the 5 principles of Peaceful Coexistence?

Is it mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence?

10.2.2.7 How does the independent foreign policy of peace handle relations with foreign countries based on difference or similarities of social systems and ideologies?

Is it to develop friendly relationship on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and to insist on not allying with any power or power group?

10.2.3 Striving to Establish a New Type of International Relations Centered with Mutually Beneficial Cooperation

10.2.3.1 As the trend of globalization continues, can there be a new type of international relations that is not based on zero-sum game but a positive sum-up game?

Is it the international relations based on mutually beneficial cooperation?

10.2.3.2 High-level, what are four steps to promoting international relations based on mutually beneficial cooperation?

Is it to embody the concept of mutually beneficial cooperation in the political, economic, security, and cultural fields, to pursue the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence with other nations, to safeguard the country's core interests, and to improve the legal system and foreign legal work?

Chapter 11 Theory on the Fundamental Goal and Relying strength of Building the Socialism with Chinese Characteristics 建设中国特色社会主义的根本目的和依靠力量理论

11.1.1 National Power and Prosperity

11.1.1.1 Firstly, why do we build Socialism with Chinese characteristics; in other words, what is the "intent" of the CPC in building Socialism with Chinese Characteristics?

Is it to achieve prosperity, national rejuvenation, social harmony, and people's well-being?

11.1.1.2 What is the relationship between intent and reality, in terms of how they inter-relate for a Party deciding on which reforms to undertake?

Is it that reality limits what is possible, and that because workers are the ones to implement reforms, any reform is also limited by people's values?

11.1.1.3 What are the 2 aspects of prosperity? Why is it important to be strong?

Is it be both rich and strong? Is it because a rich and weak country can suffer, like the Qing Dynasty before the First Opium War?

11.1.1.4 What are the 2 subjects of prosperity? Why is it important for the individual to be prosperous?

Is it both the nation and the individual? Is it because the wealth of the nation is based on wealth of the people?

11.1.1.6 What are the 2 types of power?

Is it hard power and soft power?

11.1.1.7 What are some metrics used to measure power?

Is it GDP per capita, Gini coefficient, Engels coefficient, Human Development Index coefficient, and other rankings and indexes?

11.1.2 Renewal of the Chinese Nation

11.1.2.1 What are the 4 aspects of renewal?

Is it national sovereignty, international status, international influence, and culturally valued?

11.1.2.2 What's the difference between international status and international influence?

Is it that status reflects a nation's reputation and influence reflects being able to impact world affairs?

11.1.2.3 Generally speaking, how is China's international image?

Is it in a place that needs a lot of improvement?

11.1.3 Social Harmony

11.1.3.1 Why does the CPC seek a social harmony that is relative, true, and dynamic, rather than absolute, false, or static?

Is it that relative harmony is what is appropriate in a reality that continues to have contradictions, that true harmony is based on meeting people's needs not using fear or violence, and that dynamic harmony is based on re-calibrating harmony in the context of continuous development towards greater prosperity despite needing to navigate new contradictions?

11.1.4 People's Well-being

11.1.4.1 Of the four fundamental aims of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics, which one is the most essential?

Is it people's happiness i.e. people's well-being?

11.1.4.2 What are the four people criteria for ensuring whether CPC policies are meeting the interests and needs of the people?

Is it whether people are supportive, whether people are favorable, whether people are happy, and whether people are agreeable?

11.1.4.3 What are 4 aspects of people's happiness?

Is it meeting people's basic needs spiritually and materially, the rarity of cynical and pessimistic people, people feeling satisfied with their environment, and people generally feeling positive?

11.2.1 Workers, Peasants and Intellectuals are the Fundamental Strength of Building the Socialism with Chinese Characteristics

11.2.1.1 On which 3 classes does the CPC rely on to build Socialism with Chinese Characteristics?

Is it the workers, peasants, and intellectuals?

11.2.1.2 Which class is the leading class of China?

Is it the working class?

11.2.1.3 Why must the CPC rely on the working class, and not science and technology? Does the working class have less relative importance with the advancement of science and technology?

Is it that the working class is the fundamental force for advancing economic and social development and preserving social stability and unity?

11.2.1.4 When did the working class become the leading class in China?

Was it 1949?

11.2.1.5 What are some ways that the CPC safeguards and supports the working class' role as the leading class?

Is it by protecting their economic rights and interests, celebrating model workers, relying on the working class, and building socialist democracy?

11.2.1.6 Are migrant workers part of the working class?

Is it that although their identity is peasant, their role in the economy is that of the worker?

11.2.1.7 What kind of people are intellectuals?

Is it the part of working class who master more knowledge in science and culture and are mainly engaged in mental labour, and who are the pioneers of the advanced productive forces and the backbone in the development of education, science, and culture?

11.2.1.8 Why are intellectuals thought to be part of the working class now in China, although this wasn't always considered to be true, especially during the Cultural Revolution?

It is because during modernization and development, science and technology are the primary productive forces, and intellectuals are the pioneers of the advanced productive forces?

11.2.1.9 In China which class was the first to acquire political consciousness?

Was it advanced intellectuals like those who attended the first congress of the CPC and most of whom were intellectuals?

11.2.1.10 Does the CPC rely on and support peasants as an important force for building Socialism with Chinese Characteristics? Which document reflects this reliance and support?

Is it the Central Committee's Document No. 1?

11.2.2 People in the New Social Strata are the Constructors of Building the Socialism with Chinese Characteristics

11.2.2.1 How did CPC's ideological orientation towards the role of non-public owned economy in China change since the beginning of reform and opening up?

Was it that non-public owned economy was at first considered an important supplement for public owned economy; then in 1992, it was considered an important component of socialist market economy; and in 2013, both the public owned economy and non-public owned economy are important components of the socialist market economy?

11.2.2.2 According to the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee in "Explanatory Notes to the "Decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Some Major Issues Concerning Comprehensively Continuing the Reform" (http://en.qstheory.cn/2020-10/12/c_607588.htm), based on what evidence did the CPC change update its theory of the market, from playing a "basic" role, to playing a

"decisive" role in allocating resources? If the market plays a "decisive" role, then what role does the government play?

Is it that over 20 years of reform, practice has shown that to use fewer resources to make more products and gain more benefits, that the market is the most effective means; however, as a socialist economy, public ownership continues to play a leading role, and the role of the government in the government-market relationship emphasizes scientific macro control, effective governance, and intervention when market failure occurs?

11.2.2.3 Based on what 3 practices of the CPC led it to gradually update its ideological orientation towards the role of non-public owned economy in China?

Was it freeing the mind, finding truth in practice, and developing the productive forces based on the essence of socialism?

11.2.2.4 What does it mean to "free the mind?"

Is it to not cling to leftist truisms but instead to seek truth through practice?

11.2.2.5 Which people who work in the non-public economy are considered constructors of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics?

Does they include entrepreneurs, technical personnel in private enterprises, management employed by the foreign-invested enterprises, technical personnel employed by the foreign-invested enterprises, self-employed businessmen, owners of privately-run enterprises, employees in the intermediary organizations, and freelancers?

11.2.2.6 What are the qualifications for being considered constructors of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics?

Is it that they positively contribute to the socialist market economy, of which both the public owned economy and the non-public owned economy are important components?

11.2.2.7 In what way are China's non-public economy constructors of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics different from those private industrialists and businessmen before the socialist transformation?

Is it that non-public constructors have always been under the guidance of Party principle and policy, and that their roles in society emerged as an outcome of reform and opening up, which is also led by the Party and that their roles reflect the change in economic structure towards greater complexity, which differs compared to private industrialists before the socialist transformation carving their own self-serving path?

11.2.2.8 What's the difference with respect to Socialism between people in the "new social strata" in China's non-public sector compared with

capitalists from capitalist countries?

Is it that those capitalists would only act in bad-faith towards Socialism whereas those from the new social strata act in the context and guidelines of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics?

11.2.3 To Consolidate and Develop the Great Unity of All Ethnic Groups in China

11.2.3.1 How many ethnic groups are in China?

It is 56?

11.2.3.2 What is the takeaway from history regarding the well-being of China when there is national unity vs. when there is breakup and ethnic turbulence?

Is it that when there is national unity there is harmony and prosperity, and that when there is ethnic turbulence, there is decline and suffering?

11.2.3.3 What do ethnic groups in China share in common?

Do all ethnic groups in China share a common fate, and while having local customs, work together towards a bright future?

11.2.3.4 What percent of China's landmass do China's minorities account for, and in what part of China do they reside? What is the significance of this reality to China's overall stability?

Is it 64% and concentrated in the Northwest and Southwest? Therefore is it that unity among all ethnic groups is very important for China's overall stability not only in terms of unity among the people, but also in terms of geography?

11.2.3.5 What is the role of economic development in ethnic minority areas in maintaining cohesion and realizing the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation?

Is it that it's an important goal for consolidating and developing the unity of all ethnic groups, which is the lifeline of the Chinese people?

11.2.3.6 Regarding "unity" among ethnic groups, a wrong interpretation would be that they're treated all the same or have no say in their future; then, what does "unity" among ethnic groups mean?

Is it that the differences between ethnic groups are bridged through understanding and unity in action and that these differences increase the strength and vibrancy of the Chinese nation?

11.2.4 To Consolidate and Develop the Patriotic United Front

11.2.4.1 What is the basic function of the united front?

Is it to make more friends and fewer enemies?

11.2.4.2 When did the "patriotic" united front come into being, and how does it differ from the United Front in the past?

Is it that patriotic united front is appropriate for the new era, and it differs in both class structure and internal relationship?

11.2.4.3 In terms of class structure, how does the patriotic united front differ from the United Front in the past?

Is it that in addition to socialist working people, it includes all constructors of Chinese characteristic socialism and all patriots who stand for the reunification of the motherland?

11.2.4.4 In terms of internal relationship, what are the two bodies of the patriotic united front and how does the basis of unity differ for these two bodies?

Is it that one body is within the mainland and the other body is outside the mainland? Is it also that the mainland is united on the basis of patriotism and socialism, whereas those outside the mainland are united on the basis of patriotism and reunification of the motherland?

11.2.4.5 How do the two bodies contribute to the development of socialism with Chinese characteristics, world peace, and common development; in other words, why are there two bodies united on different principles and not just one united based on patriotism and socialism?

Is it that the united front outside the mainland seeks to unite all who can be united, which isn't necessarily on the basis of the development of productive forces during the Primary Stage of Socialism, but to maintain the unity of China despite foreign interference such as in Hong Kong and Taiwan, and that this unity will promote both peace and common development?

11.2.4.6 What are some of the fundamental tasks of the united front?

Are they to hold high the banners of patriotism and socialism, to unite all forces that can be united, to mobilize all positive factors, and to turn those negative factors as far as possible into positive ones?

11.2.4.7 In the current era, the work of which group of people is the basic and strategic work of the United Front?

Is it non-party intellectuals?

11.2.4.8 In the current era, and in the context of PRC's multiparty system, what does it mean to handle the relationship between consistency and diversity, so as to consolidate the common ideological and political foundation?

Is it that there should be consistency on the basis of the united front, and that there should be diversity of thought in areas such as approaches to achieving the objectives of the united front?

11.2.4.9 What 3 political vehicles does the CPC use to build consensus for the united front?

Is it political consultation, multiparty cooperation, and democratic supervision?

11.2.4.10 Even if people work in the non-public sector, the CPC aims to unite, serve, guide, and educate them through the united front. What kind of values do they guide these people towards?

Is it to be patriotic, dedicated, innovative, law-abiding, honest, and helpful?

11.2.4.11 On what basis do non-party political leaders still consciously accept the leadership of the Communist Party of China?

Is it that even if they have different ideas, they understand there's enough room for cooperation to find common ground and work together to achieve common goals?

11.2.5 Modernization of National Defense and the Armed Forces

11.2.5.1 Which public institutions provide a strong guarantee for upholding China's security?

Is it National defense and the armed forces?

11.2.5.2 Although the world trend is of peace and cooperation, there is also a trend towards hegemony, power politics and new interventionism.

In case a war breaks out in the future, what must China do now to safeguard its national sovereignty and territorial integrity?

Is it the modernization of national defense and the armed forces?

11.3.1 Discussion Section

11.3.1.1 On whom does the CPC rely on in building socialism with Chinese characteristics?

Is it workers, peasants, intellectuals, the new social strata, people of all ethnic groups, the patriotic united front, the national defense, and the armed forces?

11.3.1.2 The masters of China and China's leading class are workers, however, some may doubt that this is no longer true under socialist market economy; that instead it is the new social strata in the non-public economy who are the leading class. How do we know the CPC continues to rely on the working class, that the workers are the major constructors of socialist modernization, and that their leading role is substantive, not nominal?

Is it because even during socialist modernization, workers are still the ones who are the major creators of value and fortune, and that they also best represent the trend of advancing productivity as reflected by the modernization of the productive forces, therefore both objectively and subjectively they are the leading class? Is it also that because the socialist market economy adheres to the essence of socialism and that in further developing the productive forces to meet people's increasing needs, that this is the will of the working class?

Chapter 12 Theory on the Leading Nucleus of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics 中国特色社会主义领导核心理论

12.1.1 The Nature and Purpose of the Communist Party of China

12.1.1.1 What is the central leading force of building Socialism with Chinese Characteristics?

Is it the Communist Party of China?

12.1.1.2 According to Su Shi's "Comments on Chaocuo," which Xi Jinping often quotes, what is the most difficult situation to resolve generally speaking when governing a nation? Why so?

Is it situations that seem peaceful but with unexpected lurking dangers? Is it because although rigid actions may be required to solve the problem now before it becomes unsolvable, either people who must enact the solution will be reluctant because they deem things "peaceful," or that if the necessary policies are put into place that the people will lose faith because they deem these policies unnecessarily rigid?

12.1.1.3 The CPC emerged from the integration of what two things?

Is it the integration of Marxism Leninism with Chinese workers' movement?

12.1.1.4 What are 3 sources from which to judge the nature of a Party? What are some specific examples?

Is it based on a Party's theories, principles and actions? For example, does this include using Marxism as its guiding theory, using scientific guidelines as its principles, and in action always putting the interests of the people first, serving the people, and relying on the people to propel the progress of history?

12.1.1.5 What does it mean for a Party to insist on its nature as the vanguards of the working class?

Is it that the Party ensures that its theories, principles, and actions represent the working class and its demands? Is it also that the Party effectively leads and relies on the working class in realizing these demands?

12.1.1.6 What is the CPC's highest ideal and ultimate goal?

Is it to realize communism?

12.1.1.7 The CPC serves as "two vanguards." What are the "two vanguards"?

Is it the vanguard of Chinese working class and at the same time also the vanguard of the Chinese people and the Chinese nation?

12.1.1.8 Can people who are not laborers, farmers, and intellectuals join the Party as members? Why is it that they don't change the nature of the

Party?

Is it yes, because in order to join the Party they must first be fighters for the working class, along with all the other standards for becoming a member?

12.1.1.9 What is the distinction between the Chinese working class, the Chinese people, and the Chinese nation?

Is it that the Chinese people includes people who are not working class, and that the Chinese nation is the society that the Chinese people create?

12.1.1.10 What is the connection between being the vanguard of the Chinese working class, and the vanguard of the Chinese people and the Chinese nation?

Is it that the two have shared interests, and that a requirement for being the vanguard of the Chinese working class is being able to lead the Chinese people and Chinese nation, as well as vice versa?

12.1.1.11 What is the purpose of the CPC?

Is it to serve the people whole-heartedly?

12.1.1.12 How does the nature of the CPC as the vanguard of the working class determine its purpose to serve the people whole-heartedly?

Is it that due to the historical materialist understanding that people propel the progress of history, that therefore for the CPC to support the people in making historical progress in socialism and communism, that the CPC then serves the people whole-heartedly so that the people achieve their historical goals, and that it is because of the working class' role as representative of advanced productive forces that society is transformed?

12.1.1.13 Does "serve the people" mean that "people are served?" Why not? What is the Party's actual approach?

Is it to let people serve themselves first, to take initiative when people have difficulty serving themselves, and then to create the opportunity so that people serve themselves in the long-term?

12.1.1.14 How does the Party's approach to serving the people connect to the understanding that people propel the progress of history?

Is it that the Party relies on the people, who are the movers of history, to propel history forward?

12.1.1.15 Has there been deficiencies in the party-masses relationship historically speaking in some places such that the Party abused their power and that in fact it was the people who served the Party?

Is it that this has been found to be true, and that the Party criticizes this behavior and as a Party strives to serve the people whole-heartedly?

12.1.2 The Ruling Status of the Communist Party of China Is the Choice by History and People

12.1.2.1 How was the ruling status of the Party gradually formed?

Was it long-term revolution and struggle that developed modern Chinese history?

12.1.2.2 Historically speaking, is the CPC the choice of the people? Why do the masses choose and support the Communist Party of China?

Is it because the Party serves the people and caters for people's needs?

12.1.2.3 According to Mao, how do people achieve liberation in the context of a capitalist world?

Is it that Mao Zedong once said, "People achieve liberation by entrusting the power to the ones who are qualified to represent them and to work for them faithfully. Those ones are we communists."

12.1.2.4 What demand did the CPC help the people achieve in old China?

Was it to overthrow the ruling and oppression of imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucratic capitalism and to achieve the independence of the nation and liberation of the people?

12.1.2.5 What demand does the CPC help the people achieve in new China?

Is it to liberate the productive forces and develop productivity, to realize the country's prosperity and people's common prosperity, and to accomplish the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation?

12.1.2.6 Can China achieve modernization through Capitalism and the Western multi-party system?

Is it that China must achieve modernization by insisting on the leadership of the Communist Party of China and walking on the socialist road with Chinese characteristics?

12.1.2.6 What are 4 reasons that only the CPC can accomplish the people's common prosperity and rejuvenation of the Chinese nation?

Is it because the CPC, unlike capitalists, can insist on the right direction of China's modernization construction, because the CPC can maintain the unity and stability of society, because the CPC can navigate the complexity of deepening reform in the current moment, and because the CPC can navigate the current complex international environment where some actors still seek to Westernize and split China?

12.2.1 What Is the “Periodic Ratio of History”

12.2.1.1 What is the “Periodic Ratio of History”? What drives this tendency?

Is it that throughout history, "The rise of something may be fast and its downfall is equally swift." Is what drives this tendency that even a good system of governance, over the long-term, ceases to function well for various reasons and eventually fails?

12.2.1.2 Can a capable person turnaround a society and government in downfall, according to the "periodic ratio of history?" What are 2 reasons why not?

Is one reason that as time passes a slack mood and complacency emerge, spread and become a social norm? Is another reason because a situation's complexity is beyond the control of an individual, and even a capable person eventually loses control?

12.2.1.3 What are the 3 most common reasons for a government's downfall?

Is it "having a ruler ignoring state affairs and eunuchs using the opportunity to seize the power," "having a good system of governance ceasing to function after the person who initiated died," and "having people who lust for glory but end up in humiliation?"

12.2.1.4 Why does political progress cease in the first common reason of eunuchs seizing power?

Is it because after a long time of governance eunuchs would often make no attempt to make progress and sit back while enjoying the fruits of others?

12.2.1.5 How is the capacity for political progress diminished in the second case of a governance system ceasing to function?

Is it that "cadres and talented people gradually become less and less" because as the cause is expanded the people who devote themselves to this cause become less, which prevents the cause from going further and this leads to several disadvantages like the

complication in the environment (due to lesser unity and talented people putting their efforts elsewhere) and a gradual loss in control?

12.2.1.6 What is the cause of political mistakes in the third case of people who lust for glory but fail?

Is it that people led by their ego underestimate the situation, overestimate themselves, and in seeking achievements make the situation worse?

12.2.1.7 Does the Party seek to "surmount the periodic ratio of history?" What does this mean for a Party?

Is it to break the cycle of degradation following prosperity, being consistent in good governance, and ruling with humility for a long period?

12.2.1.8 What did Mao suggest as solutions to the periodic ratio of history?

Was it to govern democratically so the people can hold government accountable, and for the people to govern themselves, not rely on a capable ruler?

12.2.2 The Party Leaders Have Attached Great Importance to the "Periodic Ratio of History" over Generations

12.2.2.1 How does the Party pay attention to the "Periodic Ratio of History"?

Is it to remain diligent and produce outstanding results?

12.2.3 "The Four Challenges" and the "The Four Dangers" that the Party Is Faced with in the New Era

12.2.3.1 What are the four challenges for the CPC in the new era?

Is it ruling position, reform and opening up, market economy, and external environment?

12.2.3.2 What is the content of these four challenges, briefly?

Is it to lead China properly, handle new problems from reform and opening up, overcome the drawbacks of the market mechanism, and to defend China's sovereignty in the face of long-term tests?

12.2.3.3 What are the four dangers for the CPC in the new era?

Is it slackening spirit, incapability, detachment from the people, and corruption?

12.2.3.4 What is the content of these four dangers, briefly?

Is it to lose the ambition to achieve high ideals due to lack of urgency during peace times, cadres lacking the capacity to solve today's problems, being and acting disconnected from the people, and party members abusing power?

12.2.3.5 What are the "four awareness," which can combat the four dangers?

Is it awareness of suffering, innovation, party's purpose, and party's mission?

12.2.3.6 What is the content of these four awarenesses, briefly?

Is it to be alert and conscientious due to suffering, enterprising and scientific due to innovation, listening to and serving the people due to purpose, and uniting with others to achieve due to mission?

12.2.3.7 In terms of where real problems arise that lead to a government's downfall, what area should be guarded against?

Is it not only in acknowledged problem areas, but also areas where we feel confident, therefore the Party should not engage in unfounded optimism?

12.2.4 How Does China Today Surmount the "Periodic Ratio of History"

12.2.4.1 What must the CPC fight to stay in power?

Is it corruption?

12.2.4.2 What is the character of the system that the CPC strives to create to fight corruption?

Is it a coordinated system under which officials don't dare to, are unable to and have no desire to commit acts of corruption?

12.2.4.3 What are four areas with the governance of China that are areas of continued reform?

Is it political legitimacy (identifying and sourcing public power as coming from the people), valid operation of public power (using public power for the right reasons at appropriate times), government accountability (supervising and restricting its operations), and

balancing public power and civil rights (how to navigate this tension between government actions and protected rights, such as according to the law)

12.2.4.4 When solving issues of governance, there are two general approaches, reform or revolution. What is appropriate for China today? Why?

Is it reform? Is it because vested interests that block the development of the productive forces can be overcome under a Socialist state?

12.2.4.5 What are the four tendencies for people seeking solutions in government, in the realm of reform and revolution?

Is it people who support reform to make revolution unnecessary, people who oppose reform thinking it would catalyze revolution, people who weaken reform so that people would revolt, and people who support reform to catalyze revolution?

12.2.4.6 Which tendency in the realm of reform and revolution does the CPC belong to and why is this important for surmounting the Periodic Ratio of History?

Is it the first tendency and is it important because only by constructively solving current problems and conflicts can it prevent degradation and the desire to "start from scratch?"