

# *Observation of the Rationality of Social Forces' Participation in Rural Areas: Based on Historical Evolution*

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**Abstract:** After the first No. 1 central document focusing on the issues of agriculture, rural areas and farmers was issued in 2004, the strategy of "rural revitalization" was formally put forward, and the well-off society was built in an all-round way by 2020, the countryside was placed in the priority position in the work of the government, and rural revitalization has become a topic of the times. In existing domestic research, most scholars focus on various micro perspectives, such as economic development, the connection between science, education, culture, health, and physical education, and propose social forces involved in problem-solving and reference paradigms; Some scholars have delved into the historical development of rural areas in China, exploring the feasible reasons and coherence for transforming traditional gentry society into a political society with the participation of social forces under the leadership and organization of modern political parties. However, in a certain direction, there is also a lack of articles that interpret social reality from a historical perspective and a legal and institutionalized perspective. Therefore, the author will compare and observe the construction of social forces in rural revitalization based on existing historical literature.

## 1. Introduction

Since the issuance of the first Central No. 1 Document focusing on the issues of agriculture, rural areas, and farmers in 2004, the strategy of "rural revitalization" has been formally introduced. By 2020, with the comprehensive construction of a moderately prosperous society, rural development has been prioritized in government work, becoming a topic of the times. In this context, the rationality and effectiveness of social forces' participation in rural revitalization have become a common concern in both academic and practical fields.

## 2. Problem Posing and Dilemma

In the "Rural Revitalization Strategy Plan (2018-2022)", there is a sentence that reads: "Establish a sound mechanism for social forces to participate, guide and motivate all sectors of society to pay more attention to, support and participate in poverty alleviation." "Consolidate the strength of the whole society and promote rural revitalization in a solid and orderly manner." This shows that social forces are important participants in poverty alleviation and rural revitalization. Similarly, not only is the country's rural strategy facing transformation issues, but the participation of social forces also faces the same challenge of how to effectively connect and transform from participating in poverty alleviation to participating in rural revitalization. [1-2] From a practical perspective, for many social forces who are interested in or planning to participate in rural revitalization, their real dilemma lies in how to promote their own action transformation from poverty alleviation to rural revitalization in the context of national strategic transformation? Where should we start to promote rural revitalization? How should social forces be introduced under different conditions?

This article focuses on one point - the essential and logical role of social forces in rural revitalization, and seeks logic through the historical evolution of the following text.

However, at the grassroots level, especially in China, the situation is different and the events are trivial and complex, involving a wide range of social forces. Often, the cooperation between various subjects and the true theoretical framework cannot be fully satisfied. But they are all built on the special national conditions of rural grassroots in China, which can be traced back to the historical changes of rural grassroots in China.

## 3. Historical Evolution and Intervention of Social Forces

### 3.1. Changes in Rural Grassroots before the New China

#### 3.1.1. Formation of Grassroots Organizational Relationships between Productivity and Agricultural Development

When it comes to rural areas, the most essential aspect is agricultural production and cultivation. From ancient history, there are two types of productive forces. One is from a collective perspective, manifested as the joint cultivation of primitive communes. This prototype can also be seen as the origin of grassroots social organizations. Another perspective is from an individual perspective, manifested as individual farming in early tribal slave societies and later feudal societies where landlords exploited farmers. Later, with the advent of industrialization, the process of industrialization in China was delayed and showed a complex trend, especially in the late feudal society where passive industrialization and industrialization that sank into rural areas still had a time gap. Therefore, there was a long period of transformation from the family handicraft industry of men farming and women weaving to the period of community and township enterprise industry after the founding of the People's Republic of China. At this time, the grassroots organizational relationships were almost based on the agricultural culture derived from ancient Chinese history. [3] Due to the lack of external impact and opportunities for change, social customs and clan culture have been deeply rooted. However, since the Song and Ming dynasties, handicrafts and industry have flourished, and there have always been non-governmental organizations such as businesses and guilds. In a sense, they have been a bridge between relatively closed villages and the outside world, and this is also a form of social force intervention.

### 3.1.2. Human Society and Family Culture

In this situation, a village that was originally formed by one or two surnames, one or two families gradually dividing and forming a settlement, where everyone is familiar with each other, the care between each other is like a human society. If human relationships are not in the cage of the system, chaos will arise. In ancient times, due to the restrictions of traffic conditions and information circulation media, a place within a certain geographical condition became a village. The village mostly maintained the local customs of the countryside by blood. At the same time, how to judge "virtue and prestige" to become an authoritative person? At that time, unlike today, massive information can be obtained through Internet technology. At that time, the accumulation of people depended on age and experience, so for example, the village elders, Li Zheng and patriarchs would become the core of a village clan. It is worth noting that, especially in the mid-20th century, China was facing a transformation in its social nature. Due to the need to fight against feudalism, clans, as backward and reactionary things, were heavily criticized and attacked by a large number of revolutionaries. Clans were completely denied as the foundation of China's authoritarian society [4].

At this time, the elements in the countryside are very obvious, the binary division between the landlord class and the peasant class, and the grassroots society is united by families and clans. Those who work for commerce and capital will be despised by society. This can be seen from the social classes of "scholars, peasants, merchants, and merchants" in ancient times. Apart from the literati class being revered as the highest symbol of cultural pursuit and the upward channel of class circulation, the proportion of agriculture at that time was highly correlated with the proportion of economy. Moreover, due to the economy dominated by agriculture and the primary industry, its cycles and fluctuations are more predictable compared to commercial society, and its stability has been improving. Therefore, the feasibility and necessity of social forces to support rural areas have not yet emerged. It can be said that social forces have a shallow foundation in the rural society of ancient China's history.

### 3.2. Construction of Rural Grassroots Organizations in Modern and Early New China

Guided by social needs, enhancing the organizational capacity of rural grassroots organizations has always held an important position in the development history of our country. China adopts various strategies such as domination, adaptation, and reciprocity to root grassroots organizations in rural areas.

In the revolutionary war years, the CPC focused on adjusting the corresponding organizational integration strategy from the needs of the people to achieve political integration of the grass-roots society. In November 1931, the First Congress of the Soviet Area emphasized the establishment of branch work to truly connect branches with the masses.

In the early days of the founding of the People's Republic of China, in order to ensure the effective operation of the newly established people's political power, our country carried out many works such as land revolution and national economic construction from the perspective of social public interests and national interests. Among them, rural grassroots party organizations replaced the dominant clan system in the feudal era and played a very important role in coordinating and mobilizing the masses. In the process of the movement of "political parties going to the countryside", the CPC has achieved the strategic goal of completely sinking the organizational structure to the grass-roots level, replaced the traditional governance structure of squire autonomy, created a governance mechanism with branches as the core, and the people actively participated in the construction process of the organization. Chen Yun proposed, "The responsibility of the branch is to guide the masses step by step towards our surroundings, so we should raise their political consciousness in various struggles, so that they believe that all slogans and propositions are their

immediate demands [5].

At present, with the high-quality development of Chinese path to modernization, the continuous improvement of China's livelihood policies, the acceleration of agricultural supply side structural reform, and the improvement of rural grass-roots party organizations are important ways to achieve China's rural comprehensive revitalization strategy. The importance of grass-roots organizations taking root in rural areas is self-evident, both as a driving force and a carrier. Leaders of grassroots organizations, active participation of villagers, and adapting to local conditions to identify and solve difficulties. Injecting strong impetus into the comprehensive construction of a socialist modernized strong country and laying a solid foundation for China to step onto the world stage.

### 3.3. Regional Grassroots Organization Construction

In fact, there are also some special cases, such as the labor pains in ethnic areas. The guidance of party building in ethnic regions is particularly important. Compatriots of all ethnic groups should hold each other tightly like pomegranate seeds, and it is our consistent commitment to ensure that no ethnic group falls behind. However, many ethnic regions have beautiful mountains and rivers, but with the continuous promotion of urbanization and marketization, rural society will become hollowed out and depressed. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the reorganization of rural areas in ethnic regions, which means integrating and organizing various dispersed social forces and resources in rural society through grassroots organizations in ethnic regions, improving the degree of organization of agriculture, rural areas, and farmers, and thereby enhancing rural social governance capabilities [6].

However, at this time, the party and government leadership and grassroots organizations, such as rural grassroots organizations in ethnic areas of Guangxi, generally suffer from problems such as insufficient endogenous motivation, lack of independence, and difficulty in cooperation. Due to the particularity of ethnic regions, we cannot relax our ideological leadership and strict control, but there are also objective economic difficulties that we want to seek ways to break through.

Improving the organizational level of agriculture, rural areas, and farmers, and enhancing rural social governance capabilities, are important ways to achieve the strategy of rural revitalization. Encourage farmers to join or establish cooperatives through policy and financial support to achieve resource sharing, risk sharing, and benefit sharing. Cooperatives can become a platform for farmers to learn new technologies, obtain market information, and improve their bargaining power. Guide farmers to participate in various links of the entire agricultural industry chain, and promote the development of agricultural products towards branding and standardization by establishing a production and sales docking mechanism. This helps to enhance the market competitiveness and organizational level of farmers. Improve the rural governance structure and establish sound village self governance organizations, such as village committees and village groups. By ensuring the participation and discourse rights of farmers through laws and regulations, we aim to enhance their ability to manage rural affairs. Provide education and training related to agricultural production, rural economy, and social governance to enhance farmers' knowledge and skills, enabling them to better adapt to the needs of modern agricultural development. Improve the rural financial service system, provide more financial products and services suitable for farmers, and solve the problem of difficult financing for farmers. Good financial services can enhance the self-development ability and organizational level of farmers. Use modern information technology, such as the Internet and big data, to improve the level of rural informatization. Information technology can help farmers acquire broader knowledge and improve the transparency and efficiency of rural governance [7].

## **4. The Activation of Three Social Forces and the Practical Path of Rural Revitalization**

### **4.1. Strategies for Activating Social Forces**

Activating social forces is crucial for rural revitalization. Strategically, efforts need to be made to build a diverse and win-win participation framework to ensure that all parties can find their respective positions and values in rural development. Deepen policy support and incentive mechanisms, with laws and policies as the backing, encourage and guide private capital, non-profit organizations, volunteers and other social forces to actively participate in rural revitalization. This includes providing incentives such as tax reductions and fiscal subsidies, as well as innovating social investment and financing mechanisms to lower the threshold and risks of participating in rural revitalization. Strengthening the construction of platforms that involve social forces is also crucial. Establish a multi-level and wide-ranging cooperation platform to promote information exchange and resource sharing among the government, enterprises, social organizations, and villagers. Through these platforms, resources can be better integrated, actions can be coordinated, advantages can be complemented, and the efficiency and effectiveness of rural revitalization can be improved. Cultivating a new model of rural social governance is another important strategy to activate social forces. [8] Encourage the adoption of bottom-up community participatory governance to enhance the autonomy of villagers. Through education and training, we aim to enhance the legal awareness, management skills, and modern agricultural knowledge of villagers, enabling them to become the main force in rural revitalization. At the same time, leveraging the role of social organizations as bridges and links, building a communication platform between villagers, governments, and enterprises, ensuring that the voices and needs of villagers can be effectively conveyed and responded to. Finally, emphasizing cultural guidance and shaping values is an indispensable strategy for activating social forces. Promote rural culture, cultivate a sense of community, and implant the concepts of green and sustainable development through cultural activities, education, and training. At the same time, advocating for a sense of social responsibility and a public welfare mentality, and inspiring more social forces to participate actively and proactively in rural revitalization. Through these measures, a favorable atmosphere for the participation of social forces can be created, providing strong social support and a broad participation foundation for rural revitalization.

### **4.2. Practical Path of Rural Revitalization**

The practical path of rural revitalization needs to be closely integrated with the actual situation of current social and economic development, and promoted synchronously from multiple dimensions. Economic construction, as the foundation, focuses on improving agricultural production efficiency and product quality, developing characteristic agriculture and rural secondary and tertiary industries, which is an important way to achieve rural revitalization. Guiding agriculture towards intelligent and green transformation through technological innovation, enhancing the endogenous driving force and competitiveness of rural economy. At the same time, developing new formats such as rural e-commerce and rural tourism, expanding channels for farmers to increase income, and promoting diversified development of rural economy. In terms of social construction, strengthening rural infrastructure construction, improving rural living environment, and enhancing the quality of life of farmers are indispensable parts of rural revitalization. This includes improving infrastructure such as transportation, water conservancy, and electricity, as well as promoting the construction and improvement of public service facilities such as rural health, education, and culture. By improving rural public services, not only can the living standards of farmers be improved, but the attractiveness of rural areas and their ability to retain talent can also be enhanced. Cultural

inheritance and innovation have special significance for rural revitalization. Protecting and revitalizing traditional rural culture is not only the inheritance of ethnic culture, but also an important way to enhance the charm of rural areas. By exploring and utilizing the unique historical and cultural resources of rural areas, developing rural cultural tourism and handicraft industries can inject new vitality into rural economic development and promote the harmony and stability of rural society. Ecological civilization construction is an important part of rural revitalization. Implement the concept of green development, strengthen the protection and restoration of rural ecological environment, and promote the construction of rural ecological civilization. By implementing projects such as returning farmland to forests, soil and water conservation, and ecological agriculture, the quality of rural natural environment can be improved, laying a solid foundation for sustainable development in rural areas.

## 5. Conclusion

Firstly, looking back at the historical process of social forces participating in rural revitalization, in the history of our country, from the slave society to the present New China, social forces have their own roles. From the shallow foundation, to the land reform in the early days of the founding of the People's Republic of China, to the rural reform after the reform and opening up, and the construction of new rural areas in the early 21st century, and then to the rural revitalization strategy in recent years, social forces have gradually emerged from behind the scenes, but they still have a place in the stage, it's just a matter of proportion, so social forces always play an important role.

Reviewing history and sorting out the historical development context rooted in China's national conditions are all for the purpose of learning from history to the present. With the deepening implementation of the rural revitalization strategy and the participation of social forces in rural reform, some even oppose policy guidance and actively respond to the needs of social forces, jointly shaping the new face of rural development. But we also need to see that the concept of social power is very broad, and different regions have different difficulties. Faced with challenges such as uneven resource allocation and imperfect participation mechanisms, we still need to constantly explore and innovate, with a more open attitude and more effective mechanisms, to stimulate the vitality of social power. The government should play a guiding role, optimize resource allocation through policy tilt and financial support, especially in the areas of infrastructure construction and public services. Secondly, innovative practices of social forces should be encouraged and supported, such as incentivizing farmers' cooperatives and rural entrepreneurs to participate in rural governance and service supply through policy innovation. At the same time, it is necessary to strengthen the supervision and evaluation of social forces' participation, ensuring the transparency and efficiency of their participation in activities. In addition, attention should be paid to the construction and inheritance of rural culture. Rural culture is the soul of rural development and an important foundation for social forces to participate. By excavating and inheriting rural culture, the cohesion and attractiveness of rural areas can be enhanced, promoting the development of rural tourism and cultural industries. The participation of social forces is the key to the successful implementation of the rural revitalization strategy. Through continuous exploration and innovation, building a more open and effective participation mechanism can fully stimulate the vitality of social forces, promote comprehensive rural development, and achieve agricultural modernization. This is not only an effective way to solve the "three rural issues", but also an important measure to promote the construction of a new socialist countryside.

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