

Research on the Basic Concepts, Core Connotations and Theoretical Contributions of Xi Jinping's Important Discourses on China's Sports Work in the New Era

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Abstract

General Secretary Xi Jinping's important discourses on China's sports work have important guiding significance and practical value for promoting the high-quality development of China's sports industry and accelerating the construction of a leading sporting nation. Therefore, this study systematically sorted out and summarized General Secretary Xi Jinping's basic ideas on the development of China's sports work through the method of literature and logical analysis. These ideas always revolve around the two basic principles of "upholding the party's overall leadership over sports" and "adhering to the people-centered approach." The core connotation of Xi Jinping's thought on sports can be summarized as follows. Firstly, speed up building China into a leading sporting nation. Secondly, deepening reform and innovation in sports will drive the high-quality development of China's sports industry. Thirdly, implement China's strategic goal of national fitness campaigns. Lastly, promote the upgrading of international sports and cultural exchanges and cooperation. The research results show that General Secretary Xi Jinping's important expositions on sports work not only pointed out the development direction and provided fundamental guidance for the development of China sports industry, but also clearly emphasized the important position of sports in the national development strategy, and adhered to the people-centered development concept to promote the implementation of the national strategy of national fitness, injecting new vitality and connotation into China's construction of a sports power and the modernization and high-quality development of the sports industry. It is of great significance for building China into a leading sporting nation, and giving sports a new strategic orientation and development direction in the new historical conditions.



Full Text Article



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Introduction

Published by the General Administration of Sport of China in 2022, "In-depth Study of Xi Jinping's Important Expositions on Sports" systematically sorts out General Secretary Xi Jinping's strategic thinking on sports. From the perspective of national strategy and the overall situation, General Secretary Xi Jinping put forward important expositions on sports power, national fitness, sports industry development, youth sports training and international sports exchanges, which pointed out the development direction for China's sports industry ^[1]. The General Secretary emphasized that sports are an important part of the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, and promoting national fitness is the core content of the Healthy China strategy. The sports industry is an important economic component to stimulate domestic demand and promote consumption, and youth sports are related to the future of the country. In addition, he also proposed to demonstrate the country's soft power through participation in international sports exchanges and promote China's emergence on the world sports stage. This book not only clarifies the strategic vision of realizing a sports power, but also outlines a clear path for achieving national health, industrial revitalization and international cooperation ^[2].

In addition, Xi Jinping believes that sports are not only a way to enhance health and entertain the body and mind, but also an important manifestation of national prosperity, national rejuvenation and people's happiness ^{[3][4]}. These important discussions not only point out the development direction of China's sports industry, but also provide important guarantees for the comprehensive construction of a modern socialist country. Therefore, it is highly necessary to systematically study and implement these important statements on sports to better understand and grasp the direction and path of sports development in the new era and ensure that the sports industry always moves forward on the right track ^{[5][6]}. At the same time, it profoundly reveals the nature and basic laws of China's development in the field of sports. These discussions are not only full of profound strategic thinking, but also contain rich ideas and guiding principles, providing the most fundamental guidelines and action guides for our sports reform and development in the new era.

Therefore, this study comprehensively and systematically sorted out Xi Jinping's basic ideas and core connotations on sports, and revealed its spiritual essence and practical requirements with the hope of providing strong theoretical support and basis for promoting the realization of the goal of building China into a leading sporting nation in the new era.

The Basic Concepts of Xi Jinping's Important Discourses on China's Sports Work in the New Era

1 Adhere to the Party's Overall Leadership Over Sports

One of the core concepts of Xi Jinping's important discourses on sports is to uphold the Party's overall leadership over sports. This concept embodies the Party's strategic guidance and policy support in sports work, and aims to promote the comprehensive development of sports, promote national health, and enhance the country's overall national strength ^[7]. Always adhering to the Party's overall leadership is not only about establishing an organizational management system, but also an important guarantee and driving force for integrating sports into the overall national development and serving the people. Upholding the Party's overall leadership over sports also lays a

solid foundation for the healthy and prosperous development of China's sports industry, and is a fundamental guarantee for promoting the healthy development of sports in the new era.

In the development of China's sports industry, adhering to the leadership of the Party is a fundamental principle that provides robust political and organizational guarantees for the advancement of sports. This leadership ensures that sports initiatives are not only aligned with the overall national development strategy but also deeply rooted in the interests and aspirations of the people [8]. By integrating sports into broader national priorities, the Party's leadership establishes a framework where the goals of the sports industry complement economic growth, cultural enrichment, social cohesion, and public health improvement. Adherence to Party leadership is pivotal in steering the sports industry in the right direction, laying the foundation for the remarkable achievements China has attained in recent years. The Party's leadership fosters unity and synergy across various sectors, allowing the effective coordination of resources, policy-making, and implementation at all levels of society. This holistic approach enables the integration of governmental, corporate, and community resources, leveraging their combined strength to propel the sports industry forward. Moreover, Party leadership actively mobilizes societal support and participation in sports development. Through its influence, the Party nurtures a culture that values sports as a vital component of national progress, inspiring a collective effort from individuals, organizations, and institutions to contribute to the industry's growth. This alignment of resources and societal engagement ensures the sustainability and continuous innovation of China's sports industry, solidifying its role as a cornerstone of the country's comprehensive development strategy.

Therefore, in the practice of sports work, we must always adhere to the party's overall leadership unswervingly and constantly strengthen and improve the party's leadership style and methods. We ought to further improve the leadership system and working mechanism of sports work, clarify the responsibilities and tasks of Party committees and governments at all levels, and ensure that sports is given more attention and receives better development. At the same time, in the process of promoting the development of sports, we should also attach great importance to and give full play to the role of the party organization, and stimulate the enthusiasm and creativity of the majority of sports culture workers to gather a strong joint force. In addition, adhering to the party's overall leadership over the sports undertakings and giving full play to the institutional advantages of concentrating resources to accomplish major events can better coordinate and promote major sports events and activities, and showcase the national image and national spirit. In addition, in the process of developing China's sports industry, we must pay attention to deepening international exchanges and cooperation. Through mutual learning, we can better broaden our horizons and draw on the wisdom and strength of global sports development, which can help to enhance the international influence of China's sports.

In the process of promoting the healthy development of sports in the new era, China must always adhere to the core concept of the Party's overall leadership over sports. Only in this way can we better grasp the development direction and goals of sports and continuously promote new and greater achievements in sports, which will not only help improve the overall health level of the people, but also promote the high-quality development of China's sports.

2 Adhere to the People-Centered Development Philosophy

Adhering to the people-centered development philosophy is the fundamental principle for the development of China's sports industry. The development of China sports in the new era is no longer limited to the glory of competitive sports, but pays more attention to meeting people's demands for a better life and promoting their all-round development ^{[9][10]}. First, putting the people at the center means that sports undertakings should always prioritize the interests of the people. This means that when formulating sports policies and planning sports development, the actual needs and expectations of the people should be fully taken into account. For example, the promotion of the national fitness strategy is based on the pursuit of a healthy life for the people, providing a variety of fitness methods and ways to enable more people to participate in physical exercises ^[11]. Secondly, putting the people at the center also requires to attach great significance to the subjective status of the people in sports undertakings. People are the main participants of sports, serving as an important driving force for the development of sports. Therefore, in sports work, we must respect the wisdom of the people, listen to their opinions and suggestions extensively, encourage them to play a greater role in the development of sports, and form a new situation of sports development with the participation of the whole society. Finally, Xi Jinping's people-centered development philosophy profoundly points out that the ultimate goal of development is to achieve the happiness of the people and the prosperity of the country ^[12]. Under the guidance of this philosophy, the development of sports has also been given a new mission and connotation. Sports are not only competitive sports for honors, but also an important means to enhance the personal development of the nation.

General Secretary Xi Jinping, standing at the strategic height of national development, reviewed the brilliant achievements of sports made in New China over the past decades and profoundly expounded the important concept of "When national sports thrive, China thrives". He clearly pointed out that there is a close logical relationship between sports development and national prosperity, national rejuvenation and people's happiness. Sports not only plays an important role in economic prosperity, but also plays significant parts in inspiring national spirit, enhancing people's physical fitness as well as enriching people's lives ^[13].

Therefore, in future work, we will firmly adhere to the idea of putting people at the center, take it as the goal to guide the development of sports, and continuously deepen our understanding and practice of this concept ^[14]. This not only clarifies that sports should be people-oriented and put people's health first, but also fully reflects the party's determination to always stand on the side of the people, bravely shoulder political responsibilities, and uphold the fundamental purpose of serving the people wholeheartedly. In the process of developing sports, the party not only pays attention to improving the physical fitness of the people, but also strives to improve the people's sense of happiness and quality of life, ensuring that sports are truly used by the people and serve the society. Through this people-oriented policy, the party has demonstrated its high attention and unremitting pursuit of the welfare of the people, and also demonstrated its firm commitment to always serving the people.

The Core Connotations of Xi Jinping's Important Discourses on China's Sports Work in the New Era

1 Accelerate the Process of Building China Into a Leading Sporting Nation

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In the report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, Xi Jinping unveiled the grand goal of building China into a leading sporting nation. This goal was proposed based on the inheritance and development of the sports thoughts of previous party and state leaders ^[15], combining with the characteristics of the times. This thought not only deepened the understanding of the close connection between sports and national governance and social development, but also further endowed the concept of "a leading sporting nation" with deeper connotations ^[16]. The reform and development in realizing the goal of "building China into a strong sporting nation" has become China's top priority, and it is also an important window and platform for realizing national rejuvenation and demonstrating the country's comprehensive strength and cultural soft power. This strategic move is not only related to the prosperity of sports, but is also an important part of China's overall national sports development strategy. Under this grand goal, China must deeply understand and implement the connotation of Xi Jinping's sports discourse to better promote the vigorous development of China's sports industry.

In the process of guiding the development of China's sports industry, Xi Jinping's discourses on sports work focus on solving the imbalances and other problems faced by China's sports undertakings. Attaching great importance to the central role of the people in sports and taking the people's desire for a better life through sports as an unswerving goal also points out the direction for the development of China's sports industry ^[17]. In addition, in the report of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, General Secretary Xi Jinping clearly proposed to promote the transformation of our country from a "sports power" to a "sports powerhouse" and move faster to build China into a country strong in sports. At the same time, we should continue to enhance the overall strength of China's competitive sports, as they can help display our sports strength and level, inspire national pride and consolidate national spirit ^[18]. Therefore, it is necessary to focus the strength of talent policies on reserve talents in competitive sports, optimize training methods and means, and improve the coaching level and professional quality of coaches. At the same time, we must actively participate in international sports events and exchange activities, showcase the style and spirit of Chinese athletes, and enhance China's influence and status in the international sports arena.

Finally, it must be emphasized that accelerating the construction of a leading sporting nation is a long-term and arduous task. The realization of this goal requires active participation and unremitting efforts of every part including the government, society, schools and other aspects. Only in this way can we realize the dream of building China into a leading sporting nation and contribute to the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

2 Deepening Reform and Innovation Will Drive the High-Quality Development of China's Sports Industry

Promoting sports reform, innovation and development occupies a pivotal position in Xi Jinping's discourse on sports. It is not only a core component of the ideological system, but also the key to achieving the grand goal of building a strong sports country. Xi Jinping stressed that "we should accelerate the pace of sports reform and innovation, update sports concepts, and draw on useful foreign experience." ^[19]. At the new starting point of developing China's sports industry, we must deeply understand and resolutely implement the concept of "sports innovation and reform". Only in

this way can China's sports development take reform and innovation as its driving force and grasp the pulse of the times.

Sports reform and innovation is a powerful driving force for the development of China's sports industry. Xi Jinping pointed out that “We must deepen sports reform, update sports concepts, and promote the coordinated development of mass sports, competitive sports, and the sports industry.”^[20] When concepts are renewed, the pace of emancipation should follow closely. Accordingly, deepening sports reform should always be carried out steadily by adhering to the principle and method of seeking truth from facts^[21]. In the new era, China's sports development needs to constantly innovate sports development concepts, methods and approaches to adapt to social development and changes in the needs of the people. This requires us to abandon traditional backward concepts and practices, and have the courage to explore and practice a new path for sports development that suits China.

Consequently, in the process of promoting sports reform and innovation, we must first focus on giving play to the role of government, market and society. The government should strengthen macro-guidance and policy support for sports, providing a good policy environment and institutional guarantee for sports reform and development. While promoting sports reform, we are supposed to give full play to the decisive power of the market in resource allocation, further stimulate the vitality and creativity of the sports market, thus effectively promoting the high-quality development of the sports industry. Secondly, we should strengthen the enthusiasm of social organizations and individuals to participate in sports affairs, and create a good atmosphere for the whole society to emphasize on and support the development of sports. In addition, sports reform and innovation must pay attention to its mass and popularization. Therefore, sports reform and innovation should be carried out closely around the needs of the people, popularize mass sports activities and national fitness, and improve the people's sports quality and health level. Finally, promoting sports reform and innovation also requires strengthening exchanges and cooperation at home and abroad, actively expanding channels for foreign sports exchanges and cooperation, showing China's sports style and cultural charm, and promoting the internationalization of China's sports cause by learning and drawing on international advanced training methods and technical means.

In addition, in the process of promoting reform and innovation in Chinese sports, strengthening sports publicity and education is a vital link. Only by enhancing the understanding and support of sports in the whole society can we form a good sports culture atmosphere and lay a solid social foundation for reform. Sports reform and innovation are not only an inevitable requirement for the development of Chinese sports in the new era, but also an important measure to meet the challenges of the new era and meet the diverse sports needs of the people. We should fully implement General Secretary Xi Jinping's important expositions on sports, firmly promote the confidence of sports reform and innovation, continue to forge ahead, and accelerate the deep innovation in the field of sports through solid and effective reform measures. Only in this way can we continue to provide strong support for the goal of becoming a sports power and make greater contributions to the sports cause of the country and the people.

3 Implement China's Strategic Goal of National Fitness Campaigns

The implementation of the national fitness campaigns is an important component of Xi Jinping's discourse on sports undertakings. This strategy is deeply rooted in the people, and its core concept is to improve their physical fitness and health level. It is not only a positive action of the Chinese government in response to the people's yearning for a healthy life, but also a concrete manifestation of its deep concern for the health of all people. Xi Jinping urged stronger efforts to “strengthen national fitness campaigns, popularize extensive fitness-for-all activities, and promote the Healthy China Initiatives” [22]. It can be said that the implementation of the national fitness strategy is a vivid demonstration of the Chinese government’s strong protection of the people’s health rights and interests. It not only helps to enhance the overall physical fitness of the people, but also plays a positive role in promoting social harmony and progress.

Under the guidance of General Secretary Xi Jinping in implementing the strategic goal of national fitness campaigns, government departments have actively responded and issued important documents such as the "13th Five-Year Plan for Sports Development" and the "Healthy China 2030" Plan. In order to achieve the goal of national fitness, the government has taken a series of powerful measures and formulated policies and guidelines to further deepen and enrich national fitness and national health. The strengthening of the national fitness campaigns is not only related to the people's happy life and the future of the nation, but is also a basic task for the development of sports [23]. National fitness campaigns has become an important livelihood project, laying a solid foundation for completing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

Xi Jinping emphasized that “national fitness is the basis and guarantee for all people to strengthen their physical fitness and live a healthy life, and people's physical health is an important connotation of building a moderately prosperous society in all aspects.” [24]. With the promotion of the national fitness strategy, the fitness awareness of the general public has been continuously enhanced, and the enthusiasm for participating in physical exercises has been significantly improved [25]. This not only helps to improve personal physical fitness and health level, but also injects new vitality into promoting economic and social development. By comprehensively strengthening national fitness campaigns, the Chinese government is committed to creating better fitness conditions and environment for the people, improving the physical fitness and quality of life of the whole people, and contributing to the realization of the Chinese dream of national rejuvenation. In the meantime, this also provides valuable experience and inspiration for countries around the world, making positive contributions to promoting the development and progress of global sports.

4 Promote the Upgrading of International Sports and Cultural Exchanges and Cooperation

Strengthening cultural exchanges in sports between China and foreign countries is also an important component of Xi Jinping's discourses on sports, which reflects China's attitude towards opening up to the outside world and the active pursuit of international sports cooperation. The "Belt and Road" initiative proposed by General Secretary Xi Jinping profoundly demonstrates China's responsibility and commitment as a major country, and provides innovative ideas for building a new type of international relations. In this grand blueprint, the "Belt and Road" initiative has greatly promoted connectivity among countries around the world, in which sports plays an indispensable role. In the current era of sports globalization, China has actively carried out sports exchanges, supported countries along the Belt and Road to host major international sports events, promoted the

development and progress of world sports, and assisted neighboring countries in building sports facilities, all of which reflect the deepening of exchanging ideas with foreign countries [26]. Strengthening sports and cultural exchanges between China and foreign countries is of great significance in promoting world peace and development, enhancing China's international image and promoting Chinese sports culture. Therefore, we should actively respond to Xi Jinping's call on sports undertakings, continuously strengthen sports and cultural exchanges between China and foreign countries, and contribute to promoting the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

In the new era, the Party Central Committee, with Xi Jinping at its core, has made sports an even more important avenue of national diplomacy, as strengthening humanistic exchanges in sports between China and foreign countries can help promote world peace and development. It's worth noting that Xi Jinping's diplomatic philosophy in the new era is not only committed to promoting the development of the sports community, but also actively seizes the opportunities brought about by the development of the sports community, aiming to spread China's peaceful diplomatic philosophy through sports and cultural exchanges between China and foreign countries [27]. Sports, as a global language, has the ability to transcend national borders, races, religions, and other differences. Thereby, sports events, cultural exchanges, and other activities can help alleviate international tensions. First of all, sports and cultural exchanges can promote economic development and social progress, and bring more cooperation opportunities and development space to all countries. Secondly, strengthening sports and cultural exchanges between China and foreign countries will help enhance China's image and influence on the international stage. As the world's largest developing country, China is actively promoting the comprehensive development of sports. Finally, by participating in international sports events and hosting large-scale sports events, China has demonstrated its sports strength and level to the world, while also conveying its cultural concepts and values. This not only helps to enhance China's soft power, but also earns more international praise and support for China.

General Secretary Xi Jinping attaches great significance to sports exchanges between China and foreign countries. When listening to a report on the preparations for the Beijing Winter Olympics and Paralympics, he clearly pointed out that "We must take the initiative to deepen cooperation with international sports organizations and listen carefully to their valuable suggestions on venue construction, event organization, talent training, etc., so as to accumulate more rich experience in hosting games." [28]. Therefore, in the process of strengthening sports and cultural exchanges between China and foreign countries, China needs to adopt a variety of measures and means. On the one hand, the government should increase its investment and support for sports diplomacy, actively participate in international sports events and organize activities, strengthen sports exchanges and cooperation with various countries, and showcase the fruitful results of China's national fitness and the good image of China. On the other hand, the private sector should also actively carry out various forms of Chinese sports activities and Chinese cultural exchange activities to build a broader platform for sports and cultural exchanges between China and foreign countries. At the same time, we should attach great importance to cultivating high-level and high-quality sports talents with international vision and excellent cross-cultural communication capabilities. These measures are crucial to promoting sports and cultural exchanges between China and foreign countries.

The Theoretical Contributions of Xi Jinping's Important Discourses on China's Sports Work in the New Era

First of all, it provides a fundamental guideline for the development of China's sports in the new era. General Secretary Xi Jinping's important expositions on China's sports undertakings have pointed out the direction for the sustainable development of the sports industry. Specifically speaking, we are supposed to lay stress on the achievements and honors in competitive sports and the popularization and improvement of mass sports. We should also recognize the role of sports in improving the quality of the nation, which has promoted the comprehensive and coordinated development of China's sports industry.

Secondly, it strengthens the strategic position of sports in national development. Under the guidance of General Secretary Xi Jinping, China's national fitness campaigns has been elevated to a national strategy, and various forms of national fitness activities have received unprecedented attention and development. This not only reflects the state's support and guidance for sports, but also highlights the positive role of sports in promoting social harmony and enhancing national cohesion. Therefore, it can be said that Xi Jinping has successfully promoted the strategic position of sports in China's national development, laying a solid foundation for building China into a leading sporting nation and promoting comprehensive development.

Moreover, it remains committed to the people-centered philosophy of development. Xi Jinping's discourse on sports distinctly places people at the center of sports development, with the promotion and fulfillment of everyone's all-round development as the primary task and ultimate destination of sports undertakings. This is not only a strong practice of implementing the strategic goal of national fitness campaigns, but also provides solid support and an effective path to improve the quality of life and happiness of the Chinese people. At the same time, adhering to the party's overall leadership over sports ensures that China's sports industry moves in the right direction.

Finally, it has strengthened the national fitness campaigns in China and deepened China's international sports cooperation. Under the guidance of Xi Jinping's important discourses on sports, the extensive fitness-for-all activities has been promoted, and international sports cooperation has been further deepened. This concept is not only committed to improving the health literacy and quality of life of the people, but also injected new vitality and impetus into the modernization process of China's sports industry.

Conclusions

General Secretary Xi Jinping's exposition on China's sports work in the new era has constructed a comprehensive, systematic and scientific theoretical system, which provides a clear direction and strategic policy for China to build a sports power. Its core concept is to adhere to the overall leadership of the Party, emphasize the development concept centered on people's health, clearly set the goal of improving the health quality of the whole people, and promote the deep integration of national fitness and health to form a comprehensive health system. This theoretical system covers all aspects of China's sports work, not only laying a solid foundation for the vigorous development of China's sports industry, but also guiding the steady progress of China's construction of a sports

power in the new era. As a driving force, General Secretary Xi Jinping's theoretical system on China's sports work has continuously promoted China's sports industry to a new level, effectively realized the health of the whole people and comprehensive development, and thus led China's sports industry to achieve a higher level of progress in the new era. This series of efforts will effectively improve the health level of the Chinese people, promote social harmony, promote economic development, and ultimately achieve the great goal of building China into a leading sporting nation.

Conflicts of Interest

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