

## ABSTRACT

of the thesis «The process of building the «xiaokang» society in the context of China's modernization» submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the specialty «8D02209 – Oriental studies»  
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**The relevance of the research topic.** The relevance of the topic of the dissertation research is related to the phenomenon of «developing China». The Chinese model of modernisation, implemented at the national level, is of great research interest in academic circles. The modernisation policy implemented on the basis of the theory of socialism with Chinese specificity since 1978 has officially been called «socialist modernisation» and has fundamentally changed the image of Chinese society. The modernisation of the economy and socio-political system has created a modern model of Chinese society that has managed to effectively combine Confucian tradition and innovation. In accordance with the basic principle of this model, one of the most important goals of Chinese state policy has been the realisation of the Confucian ideal of «xiaokang». The Confucian «Xiaokang» ideal laid the foundation for strategic plans for the economic, social and cultural modernisation of Chinese society.

The concept of «Xiaokang society» is a concept in Chinese political and social discourse aimed at creating a moderately prosperous and harmonious society. This traditional concept, first used by Deng Xiaoping in the context of socialist modernisation, has been regarded as the main goal of China's domestic socio-economic development strategy since the 1980s. The study of the features and theoretical foundations of this model of Chinese society is of great interest to the academic community. Firstly, as an effective model of socio-economic development realised in practice. Secondly, as a unique experience of the transition of China's centralised economy to the system of socialist market economy. On this basis, the scientific study of the concept of «xiaokang society», the analysis of its main features and historical status, the contradictory problems that emerged in Chinese society during its implementation, constitute the relevance of the study. The study of the concept of «Xiaokang society» is of scientific significance for several reasons:

Firstly, although the concept of «xiaokang» did not originate in academic circles, understanding it only as a purely political slogan is a big mistake. It is quite possible to use it as a tool for analysis in understanding China.

Secondly, Deng Xiaoping's views on «xiaokang society» and the development of this concept by subsequent leaders of the PRC have not been studied in domestic historiography.

Thirdly, Kazakhstan and China as neighbouring states build close economic, political and cultural relations. A deep understanding of China's social and cultural context will help strengthen mutual understanding and cooperation between the two countries.

Another issue that makes the research topic relevant is the complex, non-consecutive passage of modernisation processes within the Republic of Kazakhstan itself. It is very important for the republic to find a balance between economic

achievements and the provision of public goods, to raise the standard of living of the population. The social situation of our society puts before the government the question of choosing a model of building a social state and determining the means of achieving the set goal - raising the level and quality of life of the population. One of the urgent problems for our country is to study the practices of other countries and build a national model of "welfare society" on the basis of the world theoretical and practical experience. China's experience in this area is very valuable for Kazakhstan's science and social experience.

**The purpose of the dissertation research** is to identify the role and place of the concept of «Xiaokang society» in the socio-economic reforms and to analyse the achieved results in historical retrospect by conducting a systematic and comprehensive analysis of the process of building «Xiaokang society» in the context of China's modernisation.

Within the framework of this goal, the author set the corresponding **tasks**, mainly related to the relevance of this dissertation work:

- On the basis of the study of cultural and ideological aspects of the construction of the «xiaokang society» to identify the theoretical and practical connection of the concept with the process of China's modernisation;

- Examine the historical evolution of the concept of «xiaokang» and analyse its modern interpretation within the framework of the official ideology of the CPC;

- By revealing the nature and specifics of the process of building the «xiaokang society» reveal its socio-economic aspects;

- Analyse the role and influence of the CCP in the formation and implementation of the «Xiaokang Society» programme;

- To assess the level of creation of «Xiaokang society» and analyse the main results;

- To consider the possibility of applying the experience of China in building «Xiaokang society» in the conditions of Kazakhstan.

**Theoretical and methodological base of the research** stems from the interdisciplinary nature of the topic in question and is based on the scientific works of foreign and domestic researchers in various fields related to modernization of the PRC, such as history, oriental studies, cultural studies, economics, political science, sociology.

Taking into account the complex nature of the thesis topic, the theoretical basis of the work is the theory of modernisation and the theory of socialism with Chinese specificity. The formation of Chinese-style modernisation was considered in the dissertation research within the framework of the civilisation approach. Based on this viewpoint, the focus was on the specifics of Chinese culture and traditions.

When selecting research methods, the main criteria were research questions, availability of data, and the purpose and objectives of the study. The combination of different research methods provided ample opportunity for a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the process of creating «Xiaokang society» as part of PRC modernisation. As a methodological basis of the research work, along with general scientific methods, such as *analysis, comparison, synthesis, induction and deduction*,

*abstraction*, special methods were used: *statistical analysis, event analysis, content analysis*. The research was based on the principles of scholarship and historicism.

When considering the actual textual and historical material, methods of *analysis and synthesis, comparative analysis, content analysis* were applied. These methods made it possible to compare the original meaning and interpretation of the concept of «xiaokang» in the modern period. And during the study of the process and stages of the establishment of «Xiaokang society» in China, a retrospective analysis was carried out using methods of *comparative-historical, chronological, system-structural and statistical analysis*.

**The scientific novelty.** The scientific novelty of the thesis research is due to the fact that for the first time in the domestic Chinese studies practice attempts have been made to conduct a comprehensive and systematic historical analysis of the process of «Xiaokang society» creation in China. The dissertation research presents the following scientific results that determine the novelty of the work:

- It is proved that the concept of «xiaokang society» forms the ideological and theoretical basis of PRC modernisation;

- The historical evolution of the concept of «xiaokang» is systematically given and the role of the concept in ensuring the dynamics of PRC modernisation is substantiated;

- The system of indicators of «Xiaokang society» is considered and the socio-economic factors influencing its implementation are analysed;

- The link between the process of creating the «Xiaokang society» and the political legitimacy of the CPC is revealed;

- Examined the poverty alleviation policy of the construction of «Xiaokang society» and analysed the results and consequences of the main methods of poverty alleviation;

- Based on SWOT analysis, the main results of the process of building the «Xiaokang society» were evaluated and the future development strategy of Chinese society was examined;

- Identified lessons that can be useful for Kazakhstan from the experience of China in building «Xiaokang society».

### **Provisions proposed for defense.**

1. The concept of «Xiaokang society» is a local model of modernisation based on national interest and containing civilisational uniqueness. The concept is an important strategy for China's socio-economic development, which can be considered from scientific-theoretical, political-programme and practical points of view.

2. The concept of «xiaokang» has historically undergone evolution from «xiaokang family», «xiaokang society» to «comprehensive xiaokang society», and the new content of the concept has been changed according to the degree of China's modernisation. Closely related to the true political goals of the state, the concept has directly influenced the political, economic and social changes in China. The content of the process of building the «xiaokang society» was determined on the basis of the CPC leadership's approach to socialist modernisation and includes doubling GDP, eradicating poverty and improving people's welfare.

3. In the concept of «Xiaokang society», development was understood primarily in terms of economic growth, and quantitative indicators of economic growth were put in the foreground. With the development and implementation of the «Xiaokang Society» strategy, the content of the concept expanded, and quantitative development shifted to qualitative development, which brought spiritual development, harmony between man and society, between man and nature, and within man himself to the forefront. The Chinese leadership has turned its attention not only to economic development, but also to political, cultural, social and environmental issues. That is, the standards and indicators of the «xiaokang» level itself grew in parallel with the growth of development dynamics.

4. The legitimacy of CCP power is directly related to socio-economic development, and the idea of establishing the «xiaokang society», in addition to emphasising the social aspects of development, was also aimed at keeping power in the hands of the Party elite. In the process of establishing the «xiaokang society» underlying political motive, the CCP as a party-state played a systemic role, its operation became more complex and its efficiency improved

5. Poverty eradication is an important part of the process of building a «xiaokang society». The Chinese approach to poverty alleviation has been conducted on two bases: economic reforms aimed at raising income levels, and an institutional model developed on the basis of close links between government, market and society. While the PRC has made great strides in eradicating poverty, it has only eliminated the absolute form of rural poverty. Relative poverty continues to be a pressing social issue. After the completion of the construction of the «xiaokang society», the pattern of struggle is transformed from struggle to consolidation of results, from the struggle against absolute poverty to the struggle against relative poverty, from intensive struggle to qualitative struggle.

6. Analysing the results of the «Xiaokang society» construction process showed that although the quantitative parameters of the targets have been met, the qualitative parameters have not been met. Although great progress has been made in economic development and poverty alleviation, the problems of balanced development, income disparity and ecology have not been fully resolved. «Xiaokang society» is not a static concept, but rather a concept of historical transition, which is a continuous development process. Even after its construction is completed, China will continue reform and development. Achieving a balanced distribution of income and resources on a permanent basis will be a key issue on the future agenda. This is reflected in the 14th Five-Year Plan and the goal of «common prosperity» (gongtong fuyu) announced by Xi Jinping.

7. Consideration of the experience of the process of creating the «Xiaokang society» in China has shown that the development of this country is based on the synthesis of historical, cultural and civilisational factors and socio-economic situation. One of the key factors in the successful implementation of the «Xiaokang society» is the unity of Chinese society, the existence of a common understanding of the ultimate goals of state development between the people and the government. From this point of view, in drafting the development strategy, Kazakhstan needs to comprehensively consider and take into account the philosophical foundations and peculiarities of the

national culture, as well as the needs of society, which will provide a solid foundation for public consensus on the main directions and goals of reforms. Wide propaganda of Kazakh cultural origins, filled with modern content, will guarantee sustainable social development.

*Compliance of the thesis topic with the priority directions of science development and/or state programmes, which are implemented in the Republic of Kazakhstan.* The theme of the thesis corresponds to the main provisions of the strategy "M.El - Scientific basis of "Mangilik El" (education of the XXI century, fundamental and applied research in the humanities)". Researches in the field of practice of modernisation of the states with transition economy contribute to the theory and practice of social and economic development of our country.

**Doctoral student's contribution to each publication:** The main materials of the thesis work were published in scientific periodicals and collections in the form of 7 scientific articles. While preparing the publications, the doctoral student carried out independent data collection and analysis, preparation and revision of the text, computer processing