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## 'One country, two systems' is of far-reaching significance

The symposium commemorating the 20th anniversary of the implementation of the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China was held in Beijing recently. It was reaffirmed at the symposium that "one country, two systems" is an important principle for the realization of the peaceful reunification of China and a great practice adopted by socialism with Chinese characteristics.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Macao's return to China and the successful implementation of "one country, two systems" in Macao. Looking ahead, the principle will remain the fundamental institutional framework and administering policy for Macao to maintain prosperity and stability. It will play an important role in realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Deng Xiaoping, the former Chinese leader, pointed out that the concept of "one country, two systems" was conceived in the context of China's realistic situation. That is why it is uniquely Chinese. He also explicitly linked "one country, two systems" to the socialist system with Chinese characteristics, "Our socialist system is a system with Chinese characteristics. An important part of this distinctive feature is how we handle the issues of Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan."

The 19th National Congress of



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the Communist Party of China (CPC) Report made it clear that it is important to uphold the "one country, two systems" principle and to advance national reunification. It shows that the policy will be constantly improved as socialism with Chinese characteristics deepens.

Recently, a series of violent incidents in Hong Kong have posed serious challenges to the city's economic development and social stability. Some began to question the effectiveness of the principle of "one country, two systems." Such doubts are actually a misunderstanding of the principle. The contradictions in Hong Kong are the result of the intensification of various contradictions in social governance. Under the framework of "one country, two systems," the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government has received



A street in Macao that celebrates the 20th anniversary of the city's return to China Photo: Zhang Jinjia/XINHUA

firm support from the central Chinese government, which provides a strong guarantee to appease the violent situation and imparts the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government with more confidence to restore social order in accordance with the law. This is a demonstration of the advantages of "one country, two systems" principle. The interference of some external forces in the Hong Kong issue is a reflection of their desire to undermine the principle and their parochialism and rigidity in view of the social system. After hundreds of years, capitalism has displayed many problems and drawbacks, which is validated by the prevalent populism in some European and American countries

in recent years. As a new-born phenomenon, the socialist system with Chinese characteristics has not only lifted more than 1.4 billion Chinese people out of poverty, a considerable number of whom have realized a wealthy life, but also provided a new experience to be drawn for countries and nations in the world that wish to accelerate development while maintaining their independence.

The world is now facing great changes unseen in a century. Western countries, especially great powers like the United States, are not willing to lose their original status or be replaced. So in recent years, the foreign policy of the United States has to some degree exhibited its psychological imbalance and

anxiety. Different from the "America-first" unilateralist plan, China proposes to build a community of shared future for mankind which directs the way for the progress of human civilization. Western civilization is also part of human civilization and has made great contributions to human civilization. To successfully build a community of shared future for mankind, it must be ensured that each portion of the world and every country and nation is well developed.

Hong Kong and Macao, under the "one country, two systems" principle, share the dual characteristics of the Chinese civilization and the Western civilization, which differs from Chinese mainland. This is a difficult point in building a Chinese national community. If the two regions could maintain prosperity and stability under the framework of "one country, two systems" and keep in-depth cooperation with the mainland, this will certainly be conducive to building the Chinese national community, which would further offer useful experience for the building of a community of shared future for mankind.

*This article was edited and translated from Guangming Daily. Liu Jianfei is dean and professor of the School of International Strategy at the Party School of the Central Committee of the CPC.*

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## Internet becomes important variable influencing historiography

The importance of the internet is beyond doubt in today's era. People's learning, life and work are almost inseparable from the network. From the perspective of historiography, the internet has become one of the important variables influencing the outlook and trend of contemporary history. To some extent, it can even be said that the entanglement between the internet and human society will only deepen but not weaken, and the development of the internet will be far more than what we realize today. Therefore, the more history moves towards the future, or the more the future becomes the past, the role of the internet in historical study will become increasingly important.

The internet exerts its influences not only into the present and future but also into the past, thus promoting revolutionary and overall changes in historiography including that of the current historical narration. It is in this sense that "internet historiography" is

formed, which is worthwhile attention.

In terms of the influence of the development of the internet on historiography, the most direct and significant is that the subjects of historical narration have greatly expanded. To Marshall McLuhan, "media is the message" and "the media is the extension of people." Compared with ancient history, an important feature of modern history is that the latter possesses vast amount of historical materials, and one of the major factors for this is the development of mass media. Since modern times, the progress of publishing technology has made it possible for more thoughts and words to be preserved, which has and will become the basis for later generations to study history. Now that the internet platform is possessed by the public, an era in which "everyone has a microphone" has come. Personal experiences of the era, observations of the world, and even momentary inner feelings

can be recorded and displayed in the public space built online. The "silent majority" has now become the "not-silent majority."

Liang Qichao, a reform leader in modern Chinese history, advocated a "new historiography" at the beginning of the 20th century, criticizing the traditional Chinese historiography for just being a genealogy of emperors and generals of various dynasties, while ignoring ordinary people. Therefore, he put forward that "the purpose of history is for the general people, not for a certain class or a certain intellectual class." Ordinary people have had difficulty making their voices heard not just in ancient times; even in Liang Qichao's time and the years after, the voice of the ordinary people barely showed itself in history. Even today with the boom of the internet, the situation may not be fundamentally improved. But the group of ordinary people who are of value for historical study has been growing.

There is a greater possibility

that the "new historiography" pursued in the past by a multitude of historians like Liang Qichao will come true. It is thus necessary for historical researchers to place a high premium on the people's view of history and reflect on its significance.

On the other hand, the quantity and form of historical materials have remarkably changed. In the pre-internet era, people also produced a vast amount of information in production and social life, but most of them vanished as time went by due to the lack of expression and preservation means. Now they are preserved in a more durable way in the form of data.

In addition to the growth in the "volume" of historical materials, the forms of historical materials are also changing. After the era of oral communication, information exchanges among people were mostly delayed, and the historical materials about a certain historical event were often composed of multiple independent texts. It is

because of this that the skill of textual research and analysis became essential as a basic means of historical study. In the context of the internet, information exchange between people is more frequent and faster within a shorter "distance." Multiple materials about a historical event are most likely to be integrated into a single text, and in the future, many compound texts will replace single-unit texts and become the main form of "historical materials."

Today, the development of the internet is still accelerating and new technologies and phenomena keep emerging, exerting continual influences on human society and individuals. The most profound change the internet has brought to human society is the change to people. Living in this era, people's concepts and ideas, modes of behavior, and value orientations are quietly changing. The study of history should also be constantly developed and updated. This is also what makes the study fascinating, full of academic vitality.

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