

# Analysis of Grassroots Governance from the Perspective of Strategic Thinking

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**Abstract:** The core thinking methods implied in the General Secretary's important expositions on grassroots governance are actually based on an in-depth analysis of the theoretical and practical issues of grassroots governance, providing crucial methodological support for this field. Amid the new wave of global scientific, technological, and industrial transformations, the General Secretary has discerned the significance of grassroots governance, clarified its strategic position, core values, and goal orientation within the national governance system, and expanded a broad vision for constructing the overall framework of grassroots governance with strategic thinking. At the level of strategic positioning, grassroots governance serves as a vital driving force for realizing the modernization of national governance; at the level of strategic core, grassroots governance takes meeting the people's needs for a better life as its fundamental value orientation; at the level of strategic goals, grassroots governance is the winning approach to fulfilling the people's aspirations for a better life. A profound understanding and grasp of strategic thinking methods are of great significance for grasping the contemporary characteristics and future trends of grassroots governance, as well as promoting the deepening of grassroots governance theories and the innovation of practices.

**Keywords:** Grassroots Governance; Strategic Thinking; Methodological Analysis

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## Introduction

Engels once clearly stated that if a nation wishes to reach the pinnacle of science, it must always maintain theoretical thinking. At the Commemoration Ceremony of the 200th Anniversary of Marx's Birth in 2018, the General Secretary quoted this classic view once again and endowed it with new connotations of the times. It was emphasized that in the journey towards the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, theoretical thinking cannot be absent for even a moment. It provides crucial support and guidance for national rejuvenation, helping to overcome difficulties and move forward steadily. The 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China has particularly pointed out the crucial role of strengthening the accomplishment and ability of theoretical thinking, aiming to lay a solid foundation of scientific thinking for the development of all undertakings of the Party and the country.

The General Secretary's important expositions on grassroots governance contain abundant scientific thinking methods such as strategic thinking, dialectical thinking, and innovative thinking. These expositions are logically rigorous, have distinct characteristics, and are highly targeted. They are the creative application and vivid manifestation of Marxist methodology in the new era. Among them, strategic thinking occupies a central position in the thinking method system. Strategic thinking is a scientific thinking method based on the macroscopic, far-reaching, and overall situation, and its core lies in grasping the overall development trends and laws of things. The General Secretary pointed out: "Strategic issues are fundamental issues for a political party and a country. As long as we make accurate judgments, scientific plans, and take the initiative strategically, the cause of the Party and the people will have great prospects." It can be seen that the General Secretary is proficient in using strategic thinking to grasp the overall direction of governance from the macroscopic "form" and the long-term "trend". In the strategic considerations of promoting grassroots governance, we should not only base ourselves on the process of modernizing national governance and the people's needs for a better life, but also extend our vision to global competitive advantages. This not only provides a new perspective for constructing the overall pattern of grassroots governance, but also clarifies the strategic positioning of the great significance of developing grassroots governance.

## 1. Strategic Positioning: Grassroots Governance Is the Core Driving Force for Promoting the Modernization of National Governance

The modernization of national governance is a crucial strategy formulated by the Party to achieve the goal of building a powerful nation. It constitutes the core element and key factor in further promoting the reform process and facilitating social development and progress in the

new era. However, in the process of advancement, we are confronted with multiple challenges.

On the one hand, with the development of the economy and society, the demands of the people regarding public services and social governance have shifted from being single-faceted to diversified and personalized. This requires the national governance system to be more refined and the governance capacity to be more efficient. On the other hand, changes in the domestic and international environment, such as the frequent occurrence of global governance crises and the intensification of international competition, have brought new challenges to national governance. Moreover, some leading cadres have deficiencies in legal awareness, work capabilities, and institutional execution, which have become obstacles to the development of the modernization of national governance.

Faced with these thorny issues, our President has expounded on the great significance of promoting the modernization of national governance through grassroots governance, pointing out the way forward. On the one hand, grassroots governance is the core hub for enhancing the efficiency of national governance. The President has emphasized that grassroots work is of great importance, for as the saying goes, "if the foundation is not solid, the earth will shake."<sup>[1]</sup> In the framework of the national administrative management system, the grassroots level is like the nerve endings, that is, the "last mile" of policy implementation. Only when the grassroots governance system is sound and its governance capacity is strong can the effective implementation of national policies be ensured and the goals of national governance be achieved. Through a series of measures such as consolidating the foundation of grassroots political power, optimizing the grassroots public service system, and activating the social governance model, the efficiency of grassroots management can be effectively enhanced, thus laying a solid foundation for the modernization of national governance.

On the other hand, grassroots governance is regarded as a powerful means to solve the difficult problems of national governance. Confronted with the dilemmas and problems in the process of modernizing national governance, grassroots governance can take advantage of its "down-to-earth" nature. By taking the rights and interests issues that the public cares most about, are most intuitive, and most real as the starting point, it actively explores governance models that suit the local reality and highlight local characteristics. As the President said, "The effectiveness of implementation is ultimately reflected in the people's sense of gain, happiness, and security."<sup>[2]</sup> Through the practical innovation of grassroots management, valuable experience and useful references can be provided for the modernization of national governance, helping the national governance system to continuously improve and the governance capacity to steadily increase, and steadily move towards higher-level goals. Therefore, grassroots governance plays a vital role in the process of realizing the modernization of national governance. Only by continuously strengthening the modernization of the grassroots governance system and governance capacity can we effectively respond to the profound changes in the domestic and international environment, meet the people's aspirations for a better life, and promote the sustainable and healthy development of the country.

## **2. Strategic Core: Grassroots governance is an inevitable requirement for meeting the people's needs for a better life**

Meeting the people's needs is the core mission and the direction of struggle for the Communist Party of China in the new historical stage. In the strategic planning of grassroots governance, General Secretary takes meeting the people's aspiration for a better life as the pursuit of grassroots governance, which exactly echoes the people's expectations and spurs us to turn it into reality. As an important bridge connecting the government and the people and promoting social harmony and stability, grassroots governance plays an indispensable role in meeting the people's needs for a better life. However, against the backdrop of rapid urbanization and social diversification, grassroots governance is confronted with challenges such as uneven distribution of resources, lagging governance capabilities, and insufficient public participation. To address these challenges, it is essential to continuously innovate in grassroots governance and improve its efficiency to adapt to the needs of the times and ensure that the people can enjoy more balanced and higher-quality social services. On the one hand, grassroots governance plays a crucial role in the fair distribution of resources. Through scientific planning and management, it optimizes resource allocation and narrows the development gap, enabling the people to feel social fairness and justice while enjoying basic living security. In addition, grassroots governance plays a key role in resolving social conflicts and enhancing neighborhood harmony. It has become the "first line of defense" for maintaining social stability and promoting harmonious interpersonal relationships. On the other hand, grassroots governance is not only top-down management but also bottom-up democratic practice. By constructing and improving the framework of the residents' self-governance system, it encourages the public to participate in community affairs decision-making, activates social vitality, and strengthens the public's sense of belonging and responsibility. This participatory governance model improves the scientific and targeted nature of policy-making and promotes the awakening of civic awareness and the improvement of civic quality. Throughout the participation process, the public not only realizes the rights to know, to express, to participate, and to supervise, but also contributes wisdom and strength to community development, working together to create a beautiful living home. In short, grassroots governance has irreplaceable key value in the process of meeting the

people's needs for a better life. By innovating governance methods and improving governance efficiency, it not only meets the people's material needs but also their spiritual, cultural, and social participation needs. It is also the key path to enhancing the people's sense of happiness, satisfaction, and security.

### **3. Strategic goal: Grassroots governance is the key to gaining a competitive edge in global competition**

Today, global competition has become the core focus of national development strategies. It encompasses an all-round contest in multiple aspects such as the economy, science and technology, and culture, profoundly influencing a country's status and right to speak on the world stage. General Secretary emphasized that "A strong grassroots level makes a strong nation; a stable grassroots level ensures national stability. We must do a good job in the fundamental task of modernizing grassroots governance". Evidently, grassroots governance is the cornerstone upon which national governance relies, and its close connection with the global competitive edge cannot be ignored. Grassroots governance is closely linked to the global competitive advantage. As the foundation of the nation, the governance effectiveness at the grassroots level, like the cornerstone of a building, directly or indirectly affects a country's performance in global competition. In the global competitive environment, social stability and cohesion face multiple and complex challenges. The accelerated pace of globalization has quickened the flow of labor, capital, and information. Diverse cultures and values have started to collide, and social contradictions have become increasingly complex and diverse. Therefore, many countries are striving to explore how to build a stable, harmonious, and cohesive social environment against the backdrop of the convergence and conflict of multiple cultures. On one hand, grassroots governance is the key guarantee for social stability. Efficient grassroots governance can accurately perceive the needs of the people and promptly resolve disputes at the grassroots level, just like building a shield for social stability. A stable social environment can attract domestic and foreign investments and ensure the sustained and healthy development of the economy, providing strong support for gaining an edge in global economic competition. General Secretary pointed out that "We should uphold and develop the 'Fengqiao Experience' in the new era, adhere to the Party's mass line, correctly handle contradictions among the people, rely closely on the people, and resolve problems at the grassroots level and nip them in the bud"<sup>[3]</sup>. A stable social environment can attract domestic and foreign investments and ensure the sustained and healthy development of the economy, providing strong support for gaining an edge in global economic competition. On the other hand, grassroots governance helps to boost social cohesion. Grassroots organizations enhance the public's sense of identity and belonging to the community and the nation through various means such as organizing rich cultural activities and promoting citizen participation. For example, in the grassroots governance of Nordic countries, much attention is paid to democratic participation and welfare guarantees, enabling the people to closely rally around the national development goals. Such a high level of cohesion can inspire the creativity and enterprising spirit of all citizens, demonstrating a powerful synergy in global cultural and innovative competitions. Grassroots governance is the crucial foundation for a country's global competition. It stabilizes society, unites the people, and promotes development, fully embodying its core value and serving as the key to success, guiding and safeguarding the country's pursuit in the global arena.

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