

## การศึกษาความเจริญรุ่งเรืองร่วมกันในประเทศจีน: การวิเคราะห์ ระดับชาติในทางบรรณมิติและการสร้างภาพข้อมูล

### A Study of Common Prosperity in China: The National Analysis Based on Bibliometric and Data Visualization

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#### บทคัดย่อ

ความเจริญรุ่งเรืองร่วมกันมีความสำคัญยิ่ง ทั้งในระบบทุนนิยมและสังคมนิยม โดยเติมเต็มความเท่าเทียมและความยุติธรรมในสังคม การพัฒนาอย่างรวดเร็วของเศรษฐกิจและสังคมในประเทศจีน นำไปสู่ช่องว่างแห่งความมั่งคั่งที่ขยายกว้างขึ้นและเป็นเรื่องที่น่าสนใจกันอย่างกว้างขวาง งานวิจัยชิ้นนี้จึงมีขึ้นเพื่อทำความเข้าใจอย่างลึกซึ้งถึงสถานะปัจจุบันของการวิจัย จุดสนใจหลัก และการค้นพบการพัฒนาพรหมแดนของความเจริญรุ่งเรืองร่วมกันในประเทศจีน การวิจัยอาศัยซอฟต์แวร์ CiteSpace 6.2.R4 เพื่อวิเคราะห์บรรณมิติและแสดงภาพข้อมูลของเอกสาร 1,596 รายการ ที่ได้จาก CSSCI (ดัชนีอ้างอิงทางสังคมศาสตร์จีน) ในฐานข้อมูล CNKI (โครงสร้างพื้นฐานความรู้แห่งชาติของจีน) ตั้งแต่ปี 2555 ถึง 2565

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ผลการศึกษาพบว่า งานวิจัยโดยส่วนใหญ่เผยแพร่ในวารสารด้านสังคมศาสตร์และทฤษฎีมาร์กซิสต์ และมีจุดเน้นในสามประเด็นหลัก คือ ทฤษฎีความเจริญรุ่งเรืองร่วมกันภายใต้ลัทธิสังคมนิยมจีน ความก้าวหน้าของความมั่งคั่งร่วมกันผ่านระบบและกลไกการประกันสังคม และการเกื้อกูลต่อการฟื้นฟูชนบทเพื่อให้เกิดความมั่งคั่งร่วมกันอย่างมั่นคง นอกจากนี้ จากการวิเคราะห์แนวโน้มคำหลักที่เกิดขึ้นใหม่ งานที่โดดเด่นคือการบูรณาการเชิงลึกของแนวคิดความเจริญรุ่งเรืองร่วมกันกับแนวคิดใหม่ของการพัฒนาร่วมกัน ความก้าวหน้าทางนวัตกรรมของแนวคิดในการบรรเทาความยากจนแบบกำหนดเป้าหมาย และการรักษาความโดดเด่นของระบบกรรมสิทธิ์สาธารณะในการบรรลุความเจริญรุ่งเรืองร่วมกัน

ในอนาคต ชุมชนวิชาการของจีนจำเป็นต้องเสริมสร้างงานวิจัยที่มีกรอบทางทฤษฎีของความเจริญรุ่งเรืองร่วมกันอย่างต่อเนื่อง การจัดลำดับความสำคัญของการศึกษาค้นคว้าในเส้นทางของการพัฒนา ตัวแบบ และมาตรการประเมินผลที่เกี่ยวข้องกับขอบเขตของการพัฒนาในด้านการปฏิบัติของความเจริญรุ่งเรืองร่วมกัน

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### Abstract

Common prosperity is crucial for people's social welfare in both capitalist and socialist systems, embodying a quest for equity and justice. With the rapid development of China's economy and society, the widening wealth gap has garnered widespread social attention. As China faces a widening wealth gap amid rapid progress, exploring common prosperity is vital for shaping effective social welfare strategies. This research aims to deepen the understanding of the current state of research, hotspots, and frontier development of common prosperity in China, this study uses CiteSpace 6.2.R4 software to conduct a bibliometric and visualization analysis of 1,596 documents collected from the Chinese Social Sciences Citation Index

(CSSCI) in the CNKI (China National Knowledge Infrastructure) database from 2012 to 2022.

Research on common prosperity within the Chinese academic sphere has experienced a significant surge since 2012, with findings primarily disseminated through journals focusing on social sciences and Marxist theory. Through the application of keyword co-occurrence and cluster analysis, it has been identified that theories of common prosperity under Chinese socialism, the advancement of common prosperity through social security systems and mechanisms, and the contribution of rural revitalization to firmly advancing common prosperity constitute three principal areas of focus. Furthermore, an analysis utilizing emerging keyword trends has highlighted that the in-depth integration of common prosperity with the new concept of shared development, the innovative progression of the targeted poverty alleviation concept in alignment with common prosperity, and the emphasis on maintaining the predominance of the public ownership system in achieving common prosperity represent the current research hotspots in Chinese academia.

Future research within the Chinese academic community must continually enrich the theoretical framework of common prosperity. It should also prioritize investigations into the development pathways, models, and evaluative measures regarding the extent of development in the practical aspects of common prosperity.

*Keywords:* Common prosperity, Social welfare, Socialism

### **Introduction with an overview of study**

The social welfare knowledge reflecting the prosperity of any country is becoming increasingly important in both capitalist and socialist countries for how it explains the country's prosperity. Analyzing

the previous research works of any country over a while to bring it closer to reality is plausible and worthwhile, however only when there is a comprehensive presentation of the multi-dimensional statistics through taking advantage of the national database(s). For a study about the common prosperity in China, the following background and premises are proposed.

As Chinese society enters a new phase of development, the government's efforts to promote common prosperity have significantly accelerated. On June 10, 2021, the Chinese government issued the "Opinions on Supporting Zhejiang's High-Quality Development and the Construction of a Demonstration Zone for Common Prosperity" (hereafter referred to as "the Opinions"), marking the beginning of a new chapter in actively advancing common prosperity. The academic community in China has conducted extensive research on the theory of common prosperity from various perspectives, with the majority of studies suggesting a close relationship between the development of common prosperity and social welfare in Chinese society.

In the process of developing common prosperity and the evolution of social welfare, some research suggests that high-quality economic development has provided more employment opportunities and material resources (Guo, 2022), laying a material foundation for common prosperity. Other studies have examined common prosperity from the perspectives of social structure, residents' income and wealth, and the accessibility of public goods, finding that social equity plays a crucial role in promoting common prosperity (Zhan & Wu, 2024). Additionally, researchers have explored the quality of life from the angles of public health, happiness, and satisfaction, suggesting that the journey towards common prosperity needs to focus on improving people's quality of life, enhancing their sense of

happiness and fulfillment. This entails paying attention to both the material aspects of common prosperity and its spiritual dimensions (Yang & Zhang, 2024). While most existing research has primarily employed qualitative methodologies for comprehensive reviews, there is a scarcity of studies that systematically organize and conduct quantitative analyses. Making use of advance data and information analysis software, especially, The combined use of bibliometrics and Citespace can facilitate in-depth mining and analysis of extensive literature data. By applying bibliometric methods to quantify literature data and utilizing Citespace for visual representation, it is possible to systematically organize and analyze research findings in the fields of common prosperity and social welfare, thereby uncovering deficiencies and limitations within the research.

Therefore, this article adopts bibliometric methods and utilizes CiteSpace 6.2.R4 software to conduct a visual analysis of 1,596 documents retrieved from the CNKI database's CSSCI (Chinese Social Sciences Citation Index) collection for the years 2012-2022. This examination of the current state of research on common prosperity in China, research hotspots, principal researchers, research institutions, and their collaborative relationships aids in identifying new trends and potential issues within the research. This analysis can provide robust support for policy formulation and practical implementation.

This article primarily addresses the following four main research questions:

- 1) What are the theoretical explanations at the macro level about socialism with Chinese characteristics for common prosperity being actively conducted?

2) How far, at the intermediate level, are the published research works being conducted on the social security system mechanisms to promote the achievement of common prosperity under the framework of socialism with Chinese characteristics?

3) Which key topics at the micro-level are focused on promoting rural revitalization to facilitate the achievement of common prosperity?

4) What are the prospects that should be paid attention to support the fulfillment of the Chinese common prosperity?

### **Thoughts and Debates: The Western Capitalism and the Chinese Socialism on Common Prosperity**

It is necessary to grasp the internal logic relation of social security system and common prosperity, which is the theoretical basis to push forward the common prosperity agenda. The essence of common prosperity includes the basic concepts of "common" and "wealth," which require economic growth and fair distribution. Therefore, in the exploration period of common prosperity, the economic theory and the social security policy appear as double motive power. Together with the social security policy, economic thought, and theory push forward the exploration stage of common prosperity. Gradually, social welfare policy research has become a central part of the efforts to promote social security and the welfare state.

In Western academic research, although the term "common prosperity" is not directly used, discussions on how to promote economic equality and social fairness through different policies and institutional frameworks share similar pursuits with the goals of common prosperity proposed by China. Most Western scholars

agree that the increase in national wealth, or "prosperity," is a reasonable goal and fundamental guarantee for achieving common prosperity. However, significant differences exist among scholars regarding the dimensions of "common," including the balance between market mechanisms and government intervention, the relationship between free trade competition and social justice, and the trade-off between economic efficiency and equitable distribution.

Firstly, The Social Democratic School of Thought advocates for robust state governance to foster collective prosperity, emphasizing active government involvement in the social sphere. It prioritizes social protection, public services, and economic and social reforms to address poverty, and wealth inequality, and promote social justice. Pigou (2006) represents the social democracy view and contends that in a capitalist society, government allocation of rights ensures equal opportunities, but disparities in capital income distribution lead to social inequality. This imbalance disrupts the economy, causing inefficiency.

The liberal school emphasizes that economic growth and social progress rely primarily on market freedom and individual liberty. Advocates argue for minimal government intervention in the economy and oppose protectionism, believing that free competition and open trade can lead to efficient resource allocation, innovation, and productivity increases, thereby enhancing the welfare of society. Adam Smith, in his work "The Wealth of Nations," proposed that by dividing labor and utilizing the free forces of the market mechanism, the maximization of production efficiency and wealth growth can be realized (Smith,1937). Building on Smith's theory, David Ricardo developed the theory of comparative advantage, further arguing that countries can benefit from international trade by focusing on

industries where they have higher relative efficiency, even in the absence of absolute production advantages (Ricardo, 2005) . These views collectively emphasize the role of free trade and market competition in promoting wealth accumulation and equitable distribution, while pointing out that the government's role should concentrate on protecting individual freedoms and the security of private property to ensure the free and fair operation of markets.

Lastly, the hybrid school seeks to explore another path between social democracy and liberalism. The British scholar Anthony Giddens, for example, put forward the "Third Way" theory, which calls for social welfare to be transformed into active social investment. Giddens (2000) emphasizes that the role of the government should go beyond mere welfare provision, viewing welfare as an investment in human capital to boost individual growth and social progress.

In addressing the inherent crises and contradictions of capitalist society, Western countries have developed diverse welfare systems based on different theoretical schools, aiming to alleviate social conflicts. According to Esping-Andersen's classification (Esping-Andersen, 1990), welfare states can be divided into three main models: liberal, conservative, and social democratic. Under this classification, the United States has adopted a liberal welfare model, emphasizing the importance of market mechanisms and limited government intervention. Even though social security in the U.S. is primarily targeted at the most needy labor groups, but some scholars believe that the over-reliance on market mechanisms and profit incentives for resource allocation inevitably leads to the eventual monopoly of resources, failing public goods provision (Yan,2014). In contrast, Nordic countries, by implementing a social



democratic welfare system that offers comprehensive social services and benefits through government provision, have reduced market dependency, promoted social equality, and improved the quality of life, successfully achieving smaller social inequalities and higher social cohesion. Meanwhile, Germany's conservative welfare system emphasizes the close connection between welfare and individual professional status and contributions through social insurance mechanisms, thereby maintaining traditional family structures and social order. Esping-Andersen further points out that the ruling class maintains its position by controlling political institutions and the policy-making process, the distribution of political power and the nature of the party system will determine the methods and scope of resource redistribution, thereby affecting the formulation and implementation of welfare policies. However, the various welfare systems established by Western capitalist countries, although to some extent mitigating social conflicts, have not fundamentally resolved the intrinsic structural problems of capitalism. Issues such as the widening gap between rich and poor, over-dependence on welfare, and limited social mobility still exist.

In light of theoretical debates and practical experiences surrounding Western welfare systems, the Chinese government has engaged in a comprehensive review and reflection since its establishment on October 1, 1949. It has profoundly integrated Marxist thought with China's actual conditions, actively exploring and forming a path to common prosperity. Marxism, serving as the theoretical foundation for analyzing social development evolution and solving social contradictions, plays a core guiding role for China in constructing a path to common prosperity. Marx, through works like "Das Kapital," reveals that the fundamental problem and

instability of the capitalist economy stem from its essential nature of production relations, namely the exploitative process of capital accumulation and the intensification of wealth disparities. Marx's theory of surplus value further exposes the underlying reasons for the inequality of wealth in capitalist societies: a small portion of people accumulate wealth through control over the means of production and capital, while the vast majority of laborers fall into economic hardship due to receiving only limited labor remuneration (Marx, 2018). This economic structure, based on private ownership of the means of production and the employment labor relationship, leads to the unfair distribution of wealth, exacerbates social class differentiation, triggers cyclical economic crises, and further increases social instability.

Based on a profound understanding of Marxist theory and critical reflection on the inherent contradictions of capitalism, as well as reconsideration of the "egalitarianism" policies during the Mao Zedong era—policies that pursued absolute social equality through equal distribution of resources, income, and social status, yet ignored the natural differences in abilities and contributions among people. The Chinese government adheres to public ownership as the mainstay and distribution according to work as the principal approach, vigorously developing productive forces. Through scientific macro-regulation and the formulation of various forms of support policies of the government to promote the practical implementation of common prosperity. and Chinese academics have developed a large number of studies from different perspectives to support the goal of achieving common prosperity, the research involves the connotation of common prosperity (Zhang & Li, 2021), realistic challenges (Tao, 2022a), realization path (Deng & Han, 2023),

measurement indicators (Wan et al., 2023), etc., and believes that the common prosperity from the recognition to the realization of the process is a process of long term, arduous and complexity, with distinctive political, process and fairness, etc.

## **Research Methodology**

### **1. Research Method**

A review work of literature is constructively employed in this study with an application of a bibliometric method, and the visualization and analysis methods.

#### **1.1 Bibliometric Method**

Microsoft Excel 2018 is used to describe the changes in the number of common prosperity postings and to analyze them.

#### **1.2 Visualization Analysis Methods**

By using the visualization application software CiteSpace 6.2.R4 software, the hotspots and development trends of the frontier in the field of China's common prosperity research during 2012-2022 were sorted out and summarized, including 1) Sorting out the trend of research publications; 2) Summarizing the journals of the research publications; 3) Collating the core research authors and the core institutes; and 4) Analyzing the co-occurrences, clustering, and protruding of keywords to detect the research hotspots and frontiers. From 2012-2022, the time slice is set to 1 year, and Top50 is selected for analysis in each time slice. The clustering labels are extracted using keyword extraction nominal terms and LLR algorithm, and the emergent nodes of keywords are presented separately using the Burstness approach.

## **2. Sample Selection and Data Sources**

To ensure the accuracy and comprehensiveness of literature selection, this study employs a triangulation method. This methodical approach involves independent screening and cross-checking by the authors, a consensus resolution mechanism, reference tracing, and an assessment of the risk of bias in studies to cross-validate the outcomes of literature selection, ensuring the thoroughness and depth of the literature review. It conforms to the PRISMA framework (Page et al., 2020) focusing on the systematic flow of different kinds of information. Following the outlined research steps, we collectively gathered 1,596 articles for analysis.

### **2.1 Literature Search Strategy**

The co-authors conducted an online search in the China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI) database's Chinese Social Sciences Citation Index (CSSCI) for literature related to common prosperity, covering the period from January 2012 to December 2022. The search combined subject terms with free words, and references of the included literature were traced when necessary. The search formula is as follows: Subject=(Anti-Poverty + Poverty Alleviation) \* Common Prosperity.

### **2.2 Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria**

Based on strict adherence to the PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) guidelines, standards were established for literature search, inclusion, screening, and exclusion.

Inclusion Criteria: 1) Types of research design: systematic reviews, meta-analyses, quantitative studies, and high-quality qualitative studies including case studies, in-depth interviews, etc.; 2) Research subjects: common prosperity in China or with Chinese characteristics;

3) Research content: theoretical discussions, policy analysis, practical cases, factors affecting, and effectiveness evaluation of common prosperity, including its connotations, measurement indicators, paths to achievement, or policy recommendations.

Exclusion Criteria: 1) Exclude non-academic literature such as news reports, policy documents, and promotional materials; 2) Literature that has been published repeatedly; 3) Literature for which the full text cannot be obtained through various channels and methods; 4) Articles of poor research quality and from which quality information cannot be obtained.

### **2.3 Literature Screening and Data Extraction**

The co-authors independently screen the literature, extract information, and cross-check. In case of disagreement, a third party is consulted for a decision. If data are lacking, efforts are made to contact the authors for supplementation. Literature screening initially involves reading the titles and abstracts to exclude obviously irrelevant documents, followed by a full-text reading to determine final inclusion. The data extraction mainly includes: 1) Basic information of the included studies: title, first author, publication year, journal, author affiliations, collaborating institutions, etc.; 2) Baseline characteristics of the research topic, including geographical areas, social groups, or economic classes; 3) Key elements for assessing risk of bias. If the original research data are unclear or missing, other channels are used for collection, or an attempt is made to contact the authors via email. If no additional data are available or the authors do not respond, the literature is excluded.

## **2.4 Risk of Bias Assessment for Included Studies**

We used the "Risk of Bias Assessment Criteria" recommended by the Cochrane Handbook 5.0.1 to evaluate the literature, which includes: 1) whether an appropriate study type was used; 2) the presence of selection bias; 3) the reliability, validity, and consistency of data collection methods; 4) the presence of subjective variation; and 5) the presence of other biases.

## **Research Results and Analysis**

### **1. Current situation of research on common prosperity in China**

#### **1.1 Analysis of Annual Trend of Published Articles**

The variation in the number of articles issued reflects the level and degree of theoretical development of academic research in this field (Xiao et al., 2011). Since 2012, the Chinese government has done a lot of theoretical and practical exploration on how to lead the whole people to common prosperity and has achieved remarkable development. There are 1596 articles related to the study of common prosperity from 2012 to 2022, and the change of the curve in Figure 1 shows that from 2012 to 2020, the number of articles issued by China Figure 1 was stable, with about 38 articles per year. In 2015 and 2019, there was a decline, but in 2021, the number of articles suddenly increased to 226; the number of articles published in 2022 soared to 1,029, accounting for 64.51% of the total number of articles published from 2012 to 2022, which indicates that the attention paid by the academia to the topic of common prosperity since 2021 has shown a "common prosperity" trend. This shows that since 2021, the attention of academics to the theme of common prosperity has shown a "blowout" growth trend,

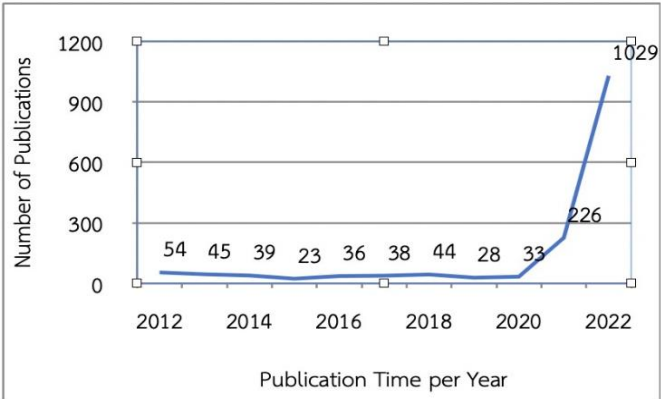
and the number of articles published has increased rapidly. This article divides the annual publication volume into two stages:

The first stage is the stable phase (2012-2020). During this period, Chinese society entered a new historical development stage, and China's anti-poverty efforts entered a critical period, with a focus on topics such as "poverty alleviation" (Wang, 2020) and "targeted poverty alleviation" (Tong and Shi, 2020).

The second stage is the rapid growth phase (2021-2022). This phase focused on topics such as "quality development" (Li & Cui, 2023) and "the third distribution" (Wu & Jing, 2022).

**Figure 1**

*Annual Change in the Number of Published Papers in CNKI-CSSCI from 2012 to 2022*



## 1.2 Analysis of Source Journals

**Table 1**

*Main source journals with articles published in the Common Prosperity Study CNKI database and indexed by CSS*

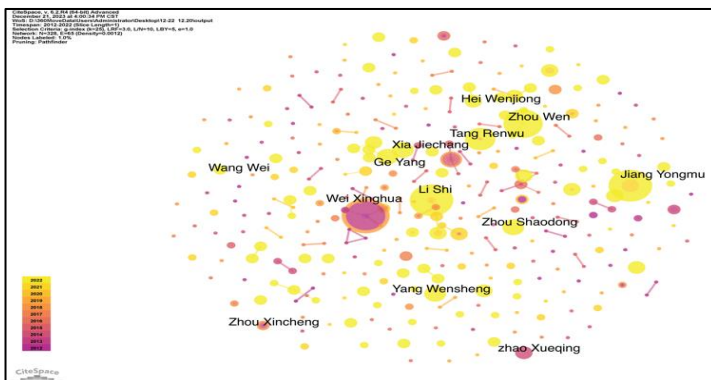
| Journal Name   | Number of articles issued | Proportion (%) | Rank |
|--|---------------------------|----------------|------|
| People's Tribune   | 36                        | 2.26%          | 1    |
| Guide Journal of Ideological Theory and Education                      | 26                        | 1.63%          | 2    |
| Studies on Marxism   | 24                        | 1.50%          | 3    |
| Contemporary Economic Research   | 20                        | 1.25%          | 4    |
| Studies on Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping Theories                       | 20                        | 1.25%          | 4    |
| Scientific Socialism   | 19                        | 1.19%          | 5    |
| Journal of Southwest Minzu University (Humanities and Social Science). | 19                        | 1.19%          | 5    |
| HongQi WenGao  | 18                        | 1.13%          | 6    |
| China Review of Political Economy                                      | 18                        | 1.13%          | 6    |



From 2012 to 2022, the CNKI database CSSCI (Chinese Social Sciences Citation Index) included 1596 articles related to research on common prosperity. Based on the original publication information of the collected articles, the top-ranking journal was "People's Forum," which published 36 articles, accounting for 2.26% of the total reprinted articles. Following closely was the "Journal of Ideological & Theoretical Education," which published 26 articles, accounting for 1.63%. Table 1 details the source journals with more than 18 articles included in the CSSCI. The published research on common prosperity is not only concentrated in social sciences, Marxist theoretical studies, and related journals but is also prominently present in economic journals. This reflects that the academic community in China has not only conducted theoretical research on common prosperity but has also paid significant attention to its practical implementation in the field of social and economic development.

### 1.3 Analysis of Core Authors

Figure 2  
*Co-occurrence map of core authors*



The core author of article is the forerunner of the development of the discipline and plays an important role in the research of the discipline. According to the distribution of core authors (Figure 2), Wei Xinghua, an academic leader, has published 11 papers, ranking first. Li Shi and Jiang Yongmu have each contributed 10 articles. Zhou Wen has authored 9 articles, Tang Renwu has published 7 articles, and Zhou Shaodong, Xia Jiechang, Yang Wensheng, and Ge Yang have each written 5 articles. According to the analysis results, All the core authors, basically doing their research, rarely cooperate, only Wei Xinghua, the core author, will appear in the cooperative group.

#### **1.4 Institutional Analysis**

The Core scientific research institutions and core authors have the same irreplaceable role but also have a strong influence (Chen, 2006). As seen from Table 2, the research institutions on common prosperity are mainly in the fields of economics and Marxism studies, and are generally among the top humanities and social sciences institutions in China, such as the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Renmin University of China, Zhejiang University, etc., indicating that the research on common prosperity receives significant attention from top research institutions. However, the cooperation among these institutions appears to be weak. (refer to Figure 3)

Figure 3  
*Graph Visualization of institution*

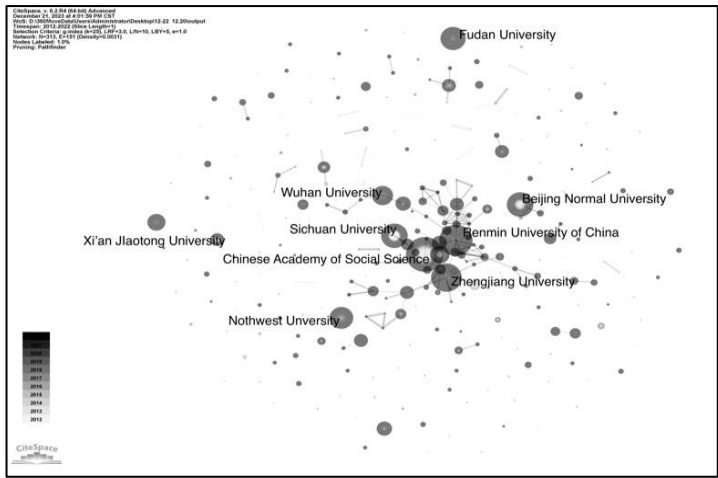


Table 2  
*The list of Main institution*

| Core Institution                   | No of articles |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Chinese Academy of Social Sciences | 148            |
| Renmin University of China         | 73             |
| Zhejiang University                | 65             |
| Sichuan University                 | 35             |
| Beijing Normal University          | 32             |
| Fudan University                   | 32             |
| Northwest University               | 26             |
| Wuhan University                   | 25             |

## 4.2 China's Research Hotspots and Frontier Trends in Common Prosperity

### 4.2.1 Co-occurrence Analysis of Keywords

Keyword co-occurrence analysis can visually reflect the frequency of appearance of key terms in the literature and thereby reveal the changing characteristics and hot topics in a specific research field (Cawkell, 2003). This paper imports 1,596 core literature articles identified with the theme of "common prosperity" and the keyword "common prosperity" from the Peking University core database into the Cite Space visualization analysis software. It sets the Time Slicing to 1 year, with the node type as Keyword, and the data extraction threshold to "TOP50". This process generates a minimum spanning tree clustering map of research in the field of common prosperity (Figure 4) and obtains a list of high-frequency keywords in the field of common prosperity research through the statistical analysis of keyword co-occurrence frequencies (refer to Table 3).

Betweenness centrality is a key indicator used to characterize the importance of nodes. When the betweenness centrality is greater than 0.1, the node is considered significant and represents a hotspot term in the literature research. Among the five keywords "Common Prosperity, Rural Revitalization, Income Distribution, Shared Development, and Socialism," all of them have betweenness centrality values exceeding 0.1. This indicates that the concept of common prosperity encompasses a wide range of fields and displays strong interconnections. The keyword "Common Prosperity" has the highest betweenness centrality with a value of 1.45, indicating that it plays a central role in connecting various other keywords in the co-occurrence network.

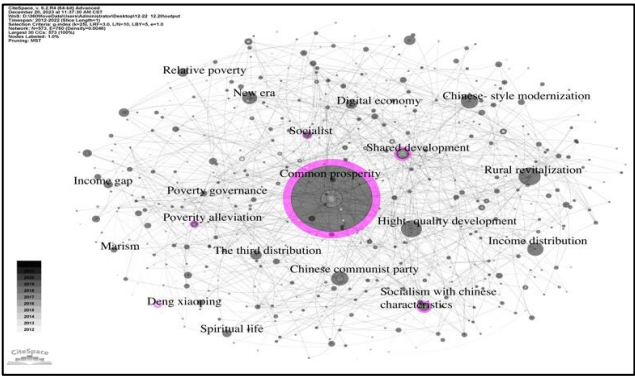
Table 3

List of high-frequency keywords

| keywords             | frequency | centrality | year | remark |
|----------------------|-----------|------------|------|--------|
| Common prosperity    | 1445      | 1.45       | 2012 | 1      |
| Rural revitalization | 108       | 0.12       | 2018 | 2      |
| Income distribution  | 72        | 0.1        | 2017 | 3      |
| Shared development   | 60        | 0.2        | 2016 | 4      |
| New era              | 57        | 0.1        | 2018 | 5      |
| Socialist            | 40        | 0.11       | 2012 | 6      |
| Poverty alleviation  | 30        | 0.09       | 2020 | 7      |
| Digital economy      | 29        | 0.03       | 2022 | 8      |
| Relative poverty     | 29        | 0.02       | 2020 | 8      |

Figure 4

Co-occurrence network mapping of keywords



In a remark: (1) Within the keywords section, the top 10 are exclusively chosen based on their frequency of appearance. (2) The primary issue in the course of China's social development remains regional polarization, with a notable concentration of poverty in rural areas. As a result, the

government's emphasis on rural governance has consistently remained of paramount importance. Furthermore, as indicated by bibliometric analysis, sociology exhibits a more pronounced inclination toward research on rural contexts.

#### 4.2.2 Analysis of Keyword Clusters

By utilizing CiteSpace's keyword clustering, one can explore the research themes in the field. Combining functionalities such as frequency, centrality, and burst detection, it becomes possible to discern the characteristics of research in different periods. After running CiteSpace for keyword clustering, the generated graph (Figure 5) reflects the research themes in the field. The evaluation indices for network modularization and homogeneity are as follows: the clustering module value (Modularity,  $Q$ ) is 0.6597 ( $Q$  value  $> 0.3$  indicates a good clustering), and the mean silhouette value ( $S$  value) is 0.9158 ( $S$  value  $> 0.5$  indicates high homogeneity). These results indicate that the clustering effect is highly reliable, and the network exhibits a high level of homogeneity (Small, 1973). Therefore, the clustering analysis proves that the research on common prosperity is highly reliable.

To gain a better understanding of the research hotspots and frontier development trends in the field of common prosperity in China, we conducted a visual analysis by integrating keyword frequency, centrality, and clustering features from relevant research on common prosperity. After conducting a clustering analysis and consulting with experts, specific keywords were summarized and categorized into three main research themes:

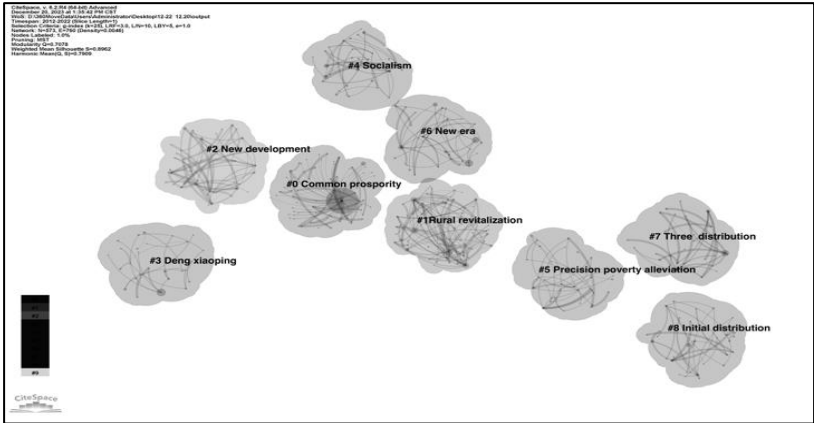
1) Clusters #0, #3, #4, and #6 can be categorized as "Theoretical Framework of Common Prosperity in the Context of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics."

2) Clusters #2, #7, and #8 can be categorized as "Social Security for Achieving Common Prosperity."

3) Clusters #1, and #5 can be categorized as "Common Prosperity and Rural Revitalization."

**Figure 5**

*Network mapping of keyword clustering for Common Prosperity research*



**(1) Hot Spot A: The Theory of Common Prosperity under Socialism with Chinese Characteristics**

In terms of keyword clustering, independent clusters were formed for keywords such as "Socialism (#4)," "Deng Xiaoping (#3)," and "New Era (#6)" (Figure 5). These keywords can be summarized as Hotspot A, representing the theory of common prosperity in the context of socialism with Chinese characteristics. The understanding of the theory of common prosperity in the Chinese academic community is an ongoing and dynamic process.

Since 2012, in the face of the widening wealth gap, regional disparities in development, and imbalances between urban and rural areas in Chinese society (Cai & Wen, 2022), Over time, research on the theory of common prosperity has transitioned from exploring theory to addressing practical social issues. Additionally, the focus has shifted from productive strategies to distributional methods. Two clear aspects illustrate this change.

Firstly, in terms of theoretical extension, research has shown that the concept of common prosperity has been further enriched in the new era. There is a clearer and more in-depth understanding of its prerequisites, fundamental components, and the entities responsible for its realization. From the perspective of prerequisites, achieving common prosperity requires the active participation of all members of society, emphasizing the concept of "joint creation and joint development." It aims to reach a level of prosperity at the overall societal level (Zhang & Yang, 2022). From the perspective of fundamental components, common prosperity is a comprehensive affluence that encompasses both spiritual and material dimensions, not merely wealth on the material level but also the spiritual well-being of the people. It represents a state of coordinated and collective development across political, economic, cultural, social, and ecological aspects (Zhang, 2022a). From the perspective of the implementing subjects, common prosperity is the prosperity of all people. This means that the socialist common prosperity is an all-inclusive wealth, "leaving no one behind," and is a "differential prosperity" within a reasonable income gap, rather than egalitarianism. It is a differentiated yet orderly common prosperity, aiming ultimately to



eliminate the polarization between the rich and the poor (Zhang, 2022b).

Secondly, in terms of the practical process, common prosperity is a dynamic and progressive landscape for development and achievement. Achieving the goal of common prosperity requires respecting objective laws. This transition involves moving from merely focusing on economic growth and gradually narrowing the wealth gap to ensuring high-quality economic development while maintaining a low level of income disparity. The process of achieving common prosperity is complex; it's not immediate or simply about redistributing wealth. Instead, it necessitates the continuous enhancement of people's ability to create wealth, under the premise of promoting holistic human development, thereby fostering the overall harmonious development of society (Jia & Zhao, 2022).

To sum up, the research on socialism with Chinese characteristics' theory of common prosperity highlights its developmental traits. The theory derives from practical applications, offers guidance to practice, undergoes practical experimentation, and continuously broadens and enriches its significance along with practical changes.

## **(2) Hot Spot B: Social Security Systems and Mechanisms to Promote Common Prosperity**

In terms of keyword clustering, independent clusters were formed for keywords such as "shared development (#2)," "three distributions (#7)," and "initial distribution (#8)," (Figure 5). These keywords can be summarized as Hotspot B, representing the advancement of social security systems and mechanisms for promoting common prosperity. In terms of practical pathways, the academic community has delved deep into the issues of income

distribution based on social security systems. Research topics cover various aspects of income distribution, including initial distribution, redistribution, and the third distribution (Zhang et al., 2022a). Particularly, the concept of shared development has gradually become one of the research hotspots. On the distribution level, China's basic economic system continues to be characterized by the principle of "distribution according to labor with multiple distribution methods coexisting." This system provides institutional safeguards for achieving common prosperity (Liu, 2018).

Firstly, at the level of primary distribution, it is essential to enhance the distribution status of laborers while also emphasizing respect for market laws and leveraging market mechanisms, giving due consideration to the impact of supply and demand relations of various market elements in primary distribution. It is not only important to focus on direct labor participation in distribution to increase the proportion of labor remuneration at the initial stage (Zhang, 2021), but also to improve the factor-based distribution mechanism that assesses contributions through market evaluation and determines compensation accordingly. With the advent of trends such as industrial structure optimization and information technology development, while optimizing the connotation of the distribution system and promoting institutional innovation, it is crucial to firmly adhere to the bottom-line thinking of China's social distribution system (Li, 2022), protecting the labor remuneration obtained by workers in the initial distribution, safeguarding their legitimate rights and interests, and laying a foundation for common prosperity.

Furthermore, at the level of redistribution, the social security system is essential for promoting common prosperity by facilitating fair wealth distribution (Chen & Chen, 2023). Redistribution is typically government-led and possesses mandatory characteristics. In the context of China, the social security system involves both government financial regulation and compulsory tax adjustments. The fiscal aspect is not only a significant means for government resource allocation and macroeconomic regulation but also a critical tool for promoting social wealth accumulation (Yu, 2022). Taxation can achieve both regulations of incremental wealth and regulation of existing wealth. Through the financial and tax systems within the social security framework, the government can provide certain public goods and services to society members, reflecting principles of fairness and justice. China's current social security system faces several challenges, including uneven benefit distribution, fairness concerns, coordination gaps, subpar coverage quality, resource deficiencies, and limited redistribution impact. To foster common prosperity, it's crucial to refine the legal structure, bolster management, streamline long-term strategies, amplify redistribution efficacy, and fortify the system's foundational resources (He & Pan, 2021), for example, using government transfer payments to address disparities in resources like education, healthcare, and housing can promote common prosperity. Enhancing national redistribution helps correct market distribution flaws, aligns interests, and leverages socialism's strengths for shared prosperity (Pang, 2021).

At the third distribution level, it involves wealth transfer driven by individuals' will, moral force, and social responsibility. The third distribution complements both the initial distribution and the redistribution processes. It helps overcome the

shortcomings of market mechanisms and supplements the limitations of government regulation while ensuring a balance between efficiency, fairness, and voluntary principles (Liang, 2021). Research indicates that It's crucial to guide and support philanthropic efforts at the institutional level for effective shared prosperity (Hu & Jia, 2022). Donors can be provided with various tax incentives, exempting all types of taxes on donation income for public welfare and charitable organizations, and offering tax preferences for the income and wealth received by beneficiaries of public welfare projects.

The three modes of distribution are interconnected and have their benefits that complement each other. To achieve significant progress toward achieving common prosperity, these three modes must be coordinated and work together seamlessly.

### **(3) Hotspot C: Rural Revitalization Facilitating the Solid Advancement of Common Prosperity.**

In terms of keyword clustering, rural revitalization (#1), and Precision Poverty Alleviation (#5) form independent clusters (Figure 5), collectively categorized as Hotspot C, representing the intersection of common prosperity and rural revitalization. Currently, China has comprehensively built a moderately prosperous society, resolving absolute poverty. the focus of rural work has shifted from precision poverty alleviation to rural revitalization (Zhong & Su, 2023).

On the one hand, it is related to the elimination of absolute poverty. In the process of poverty alleviation in China, the government has undertaken a top-level design for precision poverty alleviation, encompassing the overall layout and

working mechanisms. The focus of poverty alleviation shifted from a universal approach to a targeted one, the goal evolved from solving basic needs to achieving high-quality poverty alleviation, and the model transitioned from relief-based to development-oriented. This shift has facilitated the comprehensive implementation of targeted poverty alleviation. The concept of targeted poverty alleviation has been innovatively developed in practice, integrating the enhancement of will and wisdom, and coordinating development-oriented and security-based poverty alleviation. This ensures the full utilization of societal enthusiasm and the effective and sustainable achievement of high-quality poverty alleviation (Cheng & Zeng, 2021).

On the other hand, it involves constructing a long-term poverty alleviation mechanism. In practical terms, to consolidate the achievements of poverty alleviation and promote the process of common prosperity, it is necessary to focus on future-specific strategies and scientific mechanisms (Wu & Xia, 2020). Establish a working system that is closely integrated with the rural revitalization strategy, improve comprehensive infrastructure construction and incentive measures aimed at alleviating regional poverty, and promote rural development. Utilize the guiding role of grassroots organizations to ensure organizational support for the modernization of agriculture and rural areas; strengthen rural self-governance, enhance administrative effectiveness, and promote the sustainable and healthy growth of rural communities (Huang, 2020).

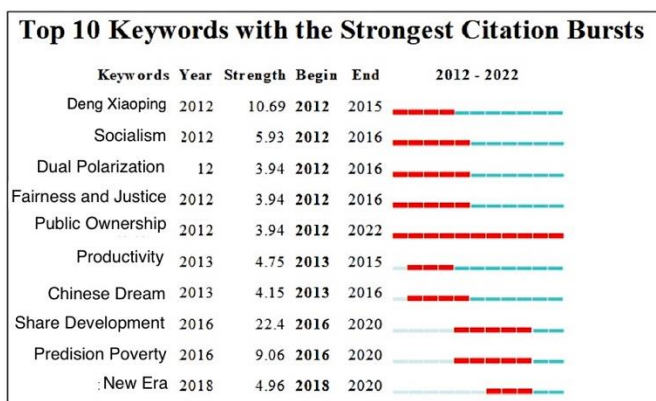
### **2.3 Analysis of Keyword Emergence**

In keyword analysis, the emergent graph of key terms generated can identify emerging trends in the research field and reflect the particular attention given by the academic

community to certain research hotspots during a specific period, (as shown in Figure 6), during the period from 2012 to 2022, the forefront of research on common prosperity is focused on "how to achieve shared development in the new era."

**Figure 6**

*Graph Visualization of the Top 10 keywords*



**The concept of shared development.** The concept of shared development has been given special attention in the context of common prosperity in the new era. Common development and common prosperity are the key means and goals of Chinese socialist modernization reconstruction, and they are also the focus of research on social welfare. Shared development is the fair allocation of resources and enriching social harmony and inclusive growth with fair benefits in of the whole society, and the goal is to realize the integration of the economy and society. It provides the foundation and guarantee system to achieve

common prosperity. It ensures equal rights and opportunities for all by allocating resources fairly (Ren & Ren, 2021). At the same time, common prosperity is also one of the objectives of shared development, wherein even in the process of development, attention is still focused on the welfare of the poor and vulnerable groups. Active measures are taken to eliminate poverty and promote social justice (Quan, 2022). Shared development is a crucial component of the new development concept, highlighting the goal of achieving common prosperity for all people. It focuses on addressing issues of social equity and justice and explores questions of for whom, by whom, and who shares the fruits of development on the path to common prosperity.

### **The Concept of Precision Poverty Alleviation.**

The experience of precision poverty alleviation not only contributes to rural revitalization but also offers Chinese wisdom to global poverty reduction efforts. Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the poverty alleviation campaign has demonstrated innovative features, including multi-party coordination, a shift from general to targeted assistance, a transition from basic needs fulfillment to high-quality poverty eradication, and a shift from relief-based to development-oriented models (Wang, 2019). The concept of Precision poverty alleviation has been innovatively developed and refined in practice, integrating the enhancement of will and intellect, and coordinating development-oriented and security-based poverty alleviation efforts. This approach has fully unleashed the enthusiasm of social forces and ensured high-quality and sustainable poverty eradication (Yuan, 2019).

It adheres **to the dominant position of public ownership**. To achieve common prosperity, it is necessary to implement a system with public ownership as the mainstay (Zhang

et al, 2022b). Public ownership has contributed to common prosperity by fostering national and societal wealth, enhancing living conditions, and narrowing the wealth gap through resource redistribution and social welfare systems, promoting social fairness and justice. In the past decade, there has been significant expansion in private and foreign-funded economies. However, some scholars argue that to address the widening income gap, it is necessary to change the trend of excessive expansion of private ownership and uphold the dominant position of public ownership. Only by implementing a system of distribution based on labor under public ownership conditions can societal material wealth be effectively distributed to the general public, achieving the unity of individual and public interests in common prosperity (Tao, 2022b).

## **Research-Discussion and Conclusions, and Future Prospects**

### **1. Discussion and Conclusion**

"Common prosperity is the essential requirement of socialism with Chinese characteristics and a long-term historical process" (Liu, 2022). This research adopts the method of bibliometric analysis and uses CiteSpace software to conduct data analysis and visualization of 1596 core journal papers related to common prosperity from 2012 to 2022. The analysis indicates that research into common prosperity primarily encompasses theoretical and practical dimensions. Studies on common prosperity are characterized by the following traits:



**(1) At the macro level, research on the theory system of socialism with Chinese characteristics for common prosperity is being actively conducted.**

Through detailed analysis and synthesis covering a broad spectrum-from the theory's and philosophical and scientific bases to its cultural roots, developmental trajectories, hands-on experiments, and future outlooks, along with China's practical experiences and theoretical solutions for achieving common prosperity- the Chinese scholarly community has sharpened its understanding and expanded its investigation into the essence of common prosperity. This includes its requirements, core content, and involved parties. This research journey highlights how the theory is rooted in, guides, and is proven by practice, and how it continually refines and broadens its meaning in response to evolving practices. This has led to the formation of a vibrant and timely academic discipline that both respects historical heritage and adapts to modern times.

This study has found that: 1) There has been a surge in academic articles on common prosperity, mainly concentrated in the field of social sciences, with a focus on Marxist theory. 2) A core group of authors within this research field has not yet formed, and the cooperation between researchers and research institutions is relatively loose. The research presented in this paper shows that studies on common prosperity in China are intimately connected with the policy requirements of the Chinese government. The increasing volume of publications and the predominance of articles published in journals within the field of Marxism, combined with the characteristics of research institutions, suggest that the theory of common prosperity, characterized by Marxism, possesses a high

level of adaptability and developmental potential in China. It can thrive within the context of the sinicization and modernization of Marxism. In terms of collaboration, a stable cooperative research network or academic community has not yet been established, indicating that scholars from various disciplinary backgrounds need to strengthen cooperation. Interdisciplinary crossover research will become the future trend in the study of common prosperity in China.

**(2) At the intermediate level, research is being conducted on the social security system mechanisms to promote the achievement of common prosperity under the framework of socialism with Chinese characteristics.**

Research has long been focused on income's primary distribution, redistribution, and tertiary distribution. Among these, income redistribution is increasingly receiving attention for its function. The social security system, which can guarantee and improve people's livelihoods while maintaining social equity, has been highly regarded. It plays an increasingly crucial role in the process of achieving common prosperity. Additionally, there is a strong emphasis on the status and role of the public sector economy to prevent wealth polarization and promote common prosperity.

Existing literature demonstrates that social security and income redistribution mechanisms are crucial in promoting common prosperity(Ting,2022). They not only help reduce the wealth gap between the rich and poor, enhance the overall level of social welfare but also prevent excessive wealth accumulation among high-income groups, thus promoting an equitable distribution of societal wealth. This article, through the application of keyword

co- occurrence cluster analysis, has identified the connection between the theory of common prosperity and socialism with Chinese characteristics, as well as the vital role of the social security system in facilitating the achievement of common prosperity. The results of the analysis explicates the fundamental dimension of "how to achieve common" within the concept of common prosperity, maintaining essential consistency with the findings of previous research.

**(3) At the micro-level, research has covered the promoting for rural revitalization facilitates the achievement of common prosperity.**

Promoting rural revitalization is an important approach to achieving common prosperity. Poverty alleviation and rural revitalization have an inherent logical relationship of mutual integration and unity. Poverty alleviation efforts require a pragmatic approach, adapting measures to local conditions, providing guidance based on classification, and implementing Precision poverty alleviation. The focus on poverty alleviation needs to shift from a general to a precise approach. Furthermore, current research in China's academic circles mainly focuses on the implementation of Precision poverty alleviation policies, with significant attention on the philosophy and policies of targeted poverty alleviation. Precision poverty alleviation is the development and extension of the theory of common prosperity, combining China's unique poverty alleviation policies with the idea of common prosperity to construct a theoretical framework for Precision poverty alleviation. The implementation of rural revitalization has become an inevitable requirement linked with poverty alleviation efforts to achieve common prosperity. Through the analysis of the keyword emergent

shows that rural revitalization is not only a continuation and deepening of poverty alleviation efforts but also an important support for achieving common prosperity. Both rural revitalization and common prosperity emphasize the value of "common," aiming to improve the welfare and quality of life of all people, especially focusing on the life issues of the weak and impoverished groups in rural areas. Rural revitalization and common prosperity have a mutually dependent and promoting relationship, with rural revitalization providing material support and spiritual sustenance for common prosperity, and common prosperity offering a clear direction and goals for rural revitalization.

## **2. Future prospects**

In future research, exploring the theory of common prosperity requires not only a focus on fully exploring the depth of its conceptual connotations and expanding and deepening the perspectives of theoretical research but also a strong emphasis on promoting the integration of theory and practice in the context of new historical positioning and the current era. This will further enhance the depth and height of research related to common prosperity.

### **(1) Enriching the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and common prosperity.**

Since common prosperity is a comprehensive and overarching theoretical proposition. In the process of promoting common prosperity. The concept of common prosperity in China enriches and innovates socialism with Chinese characteristics while contributing significantly to modern Marxist theory. In future research on the rational-critical explanation of common prosperity theory in China, the development of a better theory should reflect

the re-orientation for new advancements and new horizons of Marxist theory and re-examination of scientific socialism. It should integrate the new direction of socialist development with Chinese characteristics at the practical level, highlighting the practical vitality and re-known features of theoretical development for a better explanation and utilization of theory, thus demonstrating the intellectual depth and theoretical height of the common prosperity theory. The research also emphasizes the cross-fertilization of different disciplines, assimilating theoretical resources from various fields, and achieving a comprehensive understanding of the issues related to common prosperity. This leads to the formation of an integrated theoretical framework and the construction of a theoretical and methodological system for the study of common prosperity.

## **(2) Constructing an evaluation index system for China's common prosperity.**

The contemporary concept of common prosperity lacks an integrated theoretical framework and has not yet formed a unified measurement tool or index system. Currently, the evaluation of common prosperity mainly relies on income-based criteria. However, common prosperity should not be limited to solely income-based standards; wealth accumulation, human well-being of physical and spiritual enrichment should also be included in the evaluation scope of common prosperity. Furthermore, considering the different foundations and conditions for promoting common prosperity in various regions, it becomes challenging to accurately measure the level of common prosperity, which can have an impact on policy implementation. On June 10, 2021, the "Opinions of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council

on Supporting Zhejiang in Constructing High- Quality Development Demonstration Zone for Common Prosperity" (referred to as "Opinions") was issued. As the latest practice of common prosperity, the "Opinions" represent a significant decision to promote the common prosperity of all Chinese people. Building upon the existing index system, a China-specific common prosperity index model was constructed to gradually assess the practice of constructing a high- quality development demonstration zone for common prosperity in Zhejiang province, as an example. This should become one of the important topics in the research on common prosperity.

### **(3) Conducting empirical tests on the basic model, practical path, and evaluation index system of common prosperity in China.**

Common prosperity is a comprehensive and all-encompassing practical proposition. Currently, research on common prosperity has entered a critical phase. However, most of the existing research on common prosperity remains limited to theoretical analysis, predominantly presenting macro- level discussions and normative studies. There is a lack of empirical studies and case analyses from the perspective of economics, as well as insufficient empirical research on the implementation path of common prosperity and the micro-level interpretation of key influencing factors.

Subsequent research should strengthen interdisciplinary integration, with a particular emphasis on empirical studies. By constructing the praxis model (and sub-models) and employing qualitative methods such as grounded theory, in-depth exploration of the practical paths of common prosperity can be achieved. Rigorous research designs, comprehensive data collection, and a combination of methods such as content analysis, model construction,

case analysis, and typological analysis should be utilized for solid empirical verification.

This article adopts bibliometrics combined with CiteSpace visual analysis to mine and organize literature data. It not only focuses on the current status and hotspots of common prosperity research but also reveals three themes of the study through methods like keyword clustering, presenting a novel research perspective. While it has certain advantages in methodology and perspective, there are also shortcomings. Future research could further expand the data scope. The sources of literature should not be limited to China alone but should also include the achievements of common prosperity research from other countries. It should emphasize the combined use of empirical research and normative research, enhance the integration across multiple disciplines, rely on rigorous research design, collect rich practical materials, and comprehensively employ methods such as content analysis, model construction, case study, and typology analysis to conduct solid empirical research, thereby more comprehensively revealing the current status and development trends of common prosperity research.

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