**Zheng Yongnian: China should insist on democracy that suits its national conditions**

**郑永年：中国应坚持适合本国国情的民主**

First, we should know how Western democracy came about

首先，我们要理解西方的民主怎么来的，

It didn’t drop from the skies

它也不是从天上掉下来的

The West is used to judging China based on its own experiences

西方老拿自己的概念来解释中国

Political parties and absolutism both

无论政党也好，专制主义也好，

are concepts of the West, not China’s

都是西方的概念，又不是中国的概念

China has her own form of civilization

中国有她自己文明形态的

It was a long journey before the West

西方自己本身也经历了

(established the current form of democracy)

（很长时间才建立了现在的民主）

It was not long ago

西方民主确立的一人一票

that the “one man, one vote” system began in the West

有多少年呢？

Before World War I,

你看看一战以前，

only a limited number of citizens had the right to vote

有多少人有投票权

In the UK, only male citizens

英国的话，必须男性的

who paid plenty of taxes could vote

为国家交了很多税的

Women had no voting rights

妇女没有权利

Neither did minority groups

少数民族没有权利

The “one man, one vote” system

西方的这个一人一票的权利

started in the US only in 1970s after the civil rights movement

从上世纪70年代所谓美国的民权运动才开始的

A process has led to the civil rights achievements of the West

西方的民主本身它的权利的实现是一个过程的

As English sociologist T. H. Marshall said,

像英国学者马歇尔一直说，

civil, political, and social rights

政治权利、社会权利、经济权利，

develop in a certain order.

他们实现是不同的阶段的，

China has never denied the importance of these rights,

我们也没有否认要追求这些权利了，

but it emphasizes that they will come in stages

我们只是说要分阶段的

At present, the right to development is the most important right

我们在这个阶段发展权最重要

China has never denied the importance of these rights,

我们没有否认任何的权利，

but it emphasizes

但是我们要

that they will come in a way that works best for the country

找到自己的实现这些权利的方式

Since the launch of reform and opening-up (in 1978)

从改革开放以来，

and Chinese revolutions (in modern times),

甚至中国革命，

China’s been laying stress on socialism with Chinese characteristics

我们就说马克思主义中国化

It’s because China didn’t copy and paste Western ideas and systems,

正是因为中国没有完全听西方的，

and adopted Marxism and applied Western experiences to Chinese conditions

马克思主义中国化，西方经验中国化，

that these rights could become a reality in the country

我们才能实现我们自己的权利

So I believe

所以我一直在说

it is because China didn’t listen to the West

正是因为中国没有听西方的

that the country is successful today

我们才成功了

The West, like on Afghanistan,

西方，像在阿富汗，

has been carrying out “democracy tests” around the world

在外面做了多少民主实验

Is there a successful example?

有一个成功吗？

(The tests) left all of those countries and regions in a mess

都把这些国家搞得乱七八糟

Is there any progress?

有进步吗？

No progress at all

一点进步都没有

So the developing world can learn from China

所以发展中国家可以学学中国，就这些东西，

how to boost economic growth

你又要发展

and remain independent at the same time

又要坚持自己的独立