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

China has never denied the importance of democratic rights, but it has emphasized that they will come in stages and in a way that works best for the country. At present, the right to development is the most important, said Zheng Yongnian, a professor of political science at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (Shenzhen).

The Western world has chosen the current form of democracy after centuries of explorations. Before World War I, only a limited number of citizens in Western countries had the right to vote. Women and minority groups had no voting rights. Even in the US, “one man, one vote” started in the 1970s thanks to the US civil rights movement,

The West has always assumed its values are universal and forced other countries and regions to follow them. That’s why Washington has been carrying out “democracy tests” around the world, which invariably have ended in failure, leaving many countries and regions in a mess. Afghanistan is the latest example.

The remarkable achievements China has made since the founding of the People’s Republic show the Party is right and should be more confident of the path it has chosen, said Zheng.

郑永年：中国应坚持适合本国国情的民主

著名专家郑永年在接受中国日报采访时表示，中国从未否认人权的重要性，但同时强调权利的实现需要一个过程，且要符合本国国情。当前，发展权对中国人民最为重要。

郑永年现为香港中文大学（深圳）政治学教授。他表示，西方实现民主有一个过程。第一次世界大战前，只有少部分人有投票权。女性和少数族裔都被排除在外。自上世纪70年代美国民权运动后，美国才实现“一人一票”的权利。

西方总是认为自己代表着普世价值，强迫其他国家必须遵循。这也是美国不断在全世界开展“民主试验”的原因，但总不可避免地走向失败。阿富汗是最新的例证。

郑永年表示，新中国自成立以来所取得的瞩目成就证明中国共产党是正确的，中国应该更加自信地沿着自己的道路走下去。