
Shi Zhengyi on Accelerated Development Strategy of China Minority Regions

Tao Yiling¹, Tian Guang²

¹School of Business, Huaihua University,
180 Huaidong Road, Hecheng District, Huaihua, China

²Corresponding Author) , School of Business, Huaihua University,
180 Huaidong Road, Hecheng District, Huaihua, China

doi: 10.51505/IJEBMR.2023.7817

URL: <https://doi.org/10.51505/IJEBMR.2023.7817>

Received: Aug 13, 2023

Accepted: Aug 22, 2023

Online Published: Aug 29, 2023

Abstract

Due to various reasons, the economy of ethnic minority areas in China has resulted in deficient levels of productivity development, extremely backward science and technology, and a highly unbalanced overall state. With this reality, China's academic community and economic development decision-makers have proposed various countermeasures. Professor Shi Zhenyi, based on his intensive analyses and research, presented a strategic approach to accelerate growth. This chapter comprehensively elaborates on Professor Shi Zhengyi's basic ideas and key points related to the accelerated development strategy of economic construction in China's ethnic regions.

Keywords: Western China, Ethnic minority areas, Accelerated development strategy

1. Introduction

Due to various reasons, such as natural, social, historical, political, cultural, domestic, foreign, internal and external ethnic factors, the economy of ethnic minority areas in China has resulted in deficient levels of productivity development, extremely backward science and technology, and a highly unbalanced overall state. After the founding of China, with the government's care, support and leadership and the joint efforts of the people of all ethnic groups, various economic construction undertakings have achieved tremendous development and remarkable achievements. However, this long-standing development imbalance, especially the gap in economic development levels among ethnic groups, not only existed after entering the 1980s but also due to the rapid development pace of coastal areas after implementing the reform and opening up policy, resulting in a gap in economic development levels between ethnic minority areas and coastal areas, showing a trend of continuous expansion (Shi, 1993).

With this reality, China's academic community and economic development decision-makers have proposed various countermeasures. These different strategies have both the right side and their respective shortcomings. In response to the above situation, Professor Shi Zhengyi focused on analyzing the historical reasons for the gap between ethnic regions and developed eastern regions in the mid-1980s and the various factors that had led to the continuous expansion of the

hole after reform and development. Based on these analyses and research, he proposed a strategic approach to accelerate growth. In physics, there is an acceleration theorem. At the same time, in contemporary Western economics, an acceleration principle states that increased income or consumption can have a chain effect on investment. The strategic policy of accelerating development mentioned by Professor Shi Zhengyi is not a general discussion but has a specific meaning (Shi, 1992).

Specifically, in the process of modernization construction in western ethnic minority areas, accelerated steps should be taken to advance. Strive to narrow the gap between China and advanced regions in the shortest possible time, and finally, wholly overcome the dilemma of backwardness and enter the ranks of developed nations. The main contents of the strategic thinking of accelerating development include the following: firstly, the state and governments at all levels should establish a strategic policy of accelerating development in leading the socialist modernization construction in ethnic areas. Secondly, this accelerated development strategy is neither to pursue high speed nor to repeat the mistakes of the Great Leap Forward in the past but to make full use of all kinds of favorable conditions, seize opportunities and accelerate modernization development. Secondly, this modernization construction should focus on economic development while comprehensively developing various undertakings, such as politics, culture, education, etc., in ethnic minority areas and promoting the structure of the two civilizations together (Shi, 1993).

Professor Shi Zhengyi believed accelerating economic and social development in ethnic regions is a systematic project. This strategy should focus on economic construction and comprehensively accelerate the development of various undertakings such as politics, culture, and education in ethnic minority areas. Not only should we accelerate the pace of reform and opening up in ethnic regions, but we should also continuously improve and improve various economic forms and social structures to optimize the combination mechanism and efficiency and constantly improve them. In terms of the development speed of the economy in ethnic regions, it is not necessary to pursue high speed without being detached from reality. Instead, we should gradually accelerate the development speed based on actual conditions (Shi, 1992).

By narrowing the gap between development rates, we aim to narrow the gap between development levels gradually. This strategy neither requires ethnic minority areas to catch up with developed areas nor needs ethnic minority areas to surpass the average development level of the country but to gradually accelerate development to achieve the goal of shrinking progressively, which is essentially different from the previous sports style Great Leap Forward. This chapter's purpose is to comprehensively elaborate on Professor Shi Zhengyi's basic ideas and key points related to the accelerated development strategy of economic construction in ethnic regions.

2. Several different theories on development

Researchers began heated discussions after the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee, especially after the 12th National Congress. They explored how to speed up economic development and reverse backwardness in ethnic minority areas (mainly in the west). At the same time, leaders and ethnic workers in ethnic minority areas have conducted in-depth

investigations and studies. People in different fields have put forward a wealth of propositions from various perspectives. Each autonomous region has developed local strategies and specific plans for economic development. Departments related to ethnic work have also introduced their strategy and policies.

Here are some of the main ideas or theories. They take ethnic minority areas and discuss them comprehensively from a macro perspective.

The first theory is the gradient theory. Several researchers in Shanghai and Tianjin first put the theory forward. Its basic idea is: that due to the unbalanced economic development in China, a gradient of economic and technological power has naturally been formed. There are vast areas with medium or average technical levels, and their economy is not highly developed. Inland and remote regions are weak in technology, lack funds and have slow development. Large areas are still using traditional technologies, and they are economically backward. Only one part of the country, the eastern seaboard, has advanced technologies and a developed economy. Given this, advanced coastal areas should be the first to master the world's advanced technologies in opening up. They can then pass these technologies gradually to the medium areas and then to the traditional regions adopting them. It costs little but benefits a lot. The central and western regions developed an inward-oriented economy and undertook the traditional industries transferred from the eastern region. At the same time, the latter focuses mainly on developing high-precision and cutting-edge products (Li & Xu, 2002). According to the theory of Robert Merton Solow, an American economist, some researchers measured the main index of technological level with the input-output ratio and calculated the technological gradient gap of the three different regions.

Table 1. Average technical level in different regions

Three technological gradients	Average technological level	The average technological level of cities in the region
1 st technological gradient in the east	1.4574	1.60
2 nd technological gradient in the middle	1.0206	1.31
3 rd technological gradient in the west	0.7088	0.87

Some researchers have further extended this theory, developing the theory of economic, social and gradient in the three regions.

The second theory is the surpassing theory. Some researchers term it the anti-gradient theory, while others term it the surpassing theory. This theory holds that the gradient theory is one-sided. It believes that the eastern areas are not superior to the western areas in all respects. First, the western areas have much more resources than the eastern areas. Regarding economic development, Sichuan and Xinjiang in the western part of China have more advantages than some areas in east China. Some backward regions may also have geographical advantages at a certain time due to the abundant resources, attracting advanced technology, capital, and other factors to gather (Li & Xu, 2002). Therefore, with the necessary conditions and policies, the

development of the western region can be accelerated. They have the potential to outpace the central and even the eastern areas. This theory believes that:

(1) The existing sequence of productivity gradients is not necessarily the sequence of technology introduction and development in the future. They are entirely different concepts; we should not simply extrapolate the trends. (2) The future sequence of technology introduction and economic development is subject to the needs and laws of economic development rather than each region’s current technological level and economic development. (3) If the third gradient is developed first and advanced foreign technologies are directly introduced, the reverse (from the west to the east) technological transfer is also possible. Backward regions do not necessarily remain backward forever. They can surpass other regions, and there are many examples of this. (4) The transfer of modern science and technologies can be in three directions: regions with developed trade, regions with developed intelligence and regions with rich resources. The resource advantages of the western areas are well known. If these advantages are combined with advanced technologies, accelerated development is achievable. (5) Driven by technological revolutions, many originally underdeveloped countries overtook more developed ones. There are examples of underdeveloped areas overtaking developed ones within the same country. There is no reason for us to think this cannot happen in China.

Table 2. Total Output of Industry, Agriculture, and Industry in Different Regions in 1982

Area	Area (%)	Population (%)	Total industrial and agricultural output in 1982	Total agricultural output in 1982	Total industrial output in 1982	
					Light industry	Heavy industry
East	14.26% (136.96)	14.15%	59.98% (492.257 billion)	48.13% (126.542 billion)	67.44% (189.836 billion)	63.66% (175.879 billion)
Middle	29.68% (285.00)	35.74%	30.44% (248.905 billion)	38.95% (102.440 billion)	25.55% (71.907 billion)	27.32% (75.498 billion)
West	56.06% (530.00)	23.11%	9.85% (78.598 billion)	12.92% (33.973 billion)	7.01% (19.714 billion)	9.02% (21.881 billion)
The whole country	100% (960.00)	100% (1.02495 billion)	100% (820.660 billion)	100% (262.915 billion)	100% (281.481 billion)	100% (276.258 billion)

Data source: collected and organized by the website of the National Bureau of Statistics
 The third theory is the two-step theory. More precisely, this theory should be referred to as the driving theory. The theory holds that the development of the eastern seaboard should be comprehensively accelerated, emphasizing the development of the central region. For the time being, the western region should implement the policy of “active preparation.” This theory regards the strategy of comprehensively accelerating the development of the eastern coastal areas as the national development strategy. It believes that implementing this strategy can accelerate

the development of the east region while driving the development of the central and western regions. China has been implementing this strategy since the Sixth Five-year Plan was launched. The practice has proved that it is necessary and feasible to develop and open coastal areas in an all-around manner, and significant achievements have been made. Our task now is to find ways to stimulate the development of the western region while continuing to adhere to this strategy and thus solve the problem of the widening gap in development between the eastern and western regions. Otherwise, it cannot play a leading role. In that case, it should not be taken as a national strategy but as a development strategy for the eastern seaboard.

Moreover, it will increase the conflicts between the east and the central and western regions, thus arousing criticism and opposition from those regions. Because of this, China strengthened the development and construction of central China during the implementation of the Seventh Five-year Plan. However, the development of the western region has not received enough attention. So it is only natural that people are now discussing the widening gap. The Central Committee has noticed this problem. It has taken relevant measures to help solve the problem of food and clothing in the western region and has established the Western Development Foundation. In the second half of 1980, we began to study the ethnological economic issues in West China. We published *The Economic Development of Ethnic Minority Areas in Western China* and *The Long-term Economic Development of Ethnic Minority Areas in China*. Both books highlight the issue of ethnic regions in the widening gap.

3. Different strategic choices

On the issue of strategic choice, when the 12th National Congress of the Communist Party of China put forward the strategic goal of quadrupling development in 1982, there was a trend of developing strategic plans. In 1987, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China stressed the implementation of the strategy of economic development in coastal areas, namely “large import and large export, with both ends being outside the country” and “the international circulation.” That has led to the favor of economic development strategies. Facing the reality of the widening gap, what should the ethnic minority areas in the west do? Which of the theory mentioned above should they base their strategic decisions on? Which strategy will best help them: Staying synchronized and lagging, surpassing or accelerating?

Strategic objectives determine strategic choices. Correct principles must guide proper strategic objectives. Otherwise, there are bound to be strategic mistakes in achieving the objectives, as many historical lessons have shown us.

First, we must make strategic choices based on specific regional conditions. Spatial factors are indeed the determining factor for regional development in China, and the level of development varies significantly with different spatial locations (Li, Quan & Pu, 2013). The regional conditions cover two aspects. The first is the natural conditions of a region. Western regions with complex natural conditions and rich material resources have disadvantages and advantages in developing transportation and economy. The second is the social conditions of the region. The productivity of western areas is extremely backward, and the development there is exceptionally imbalanced. Their economic, cultural and social development level is low, and the natural

economy dominates them. With these conditions, people of all ethnic groups live in great poverty. These are the primary conditions that we have to consider in our work.

Second, attention must be paid to the multi-ethnic composition and, thus, resulting particularities. Historically, when developing the economy and culture of the ethnic minority areas, ethnic factors were often ignored, and the economic work was often separated from the ethnic work. This practice has led to many aftereffects. What needs to be emphasized is that the ways to combine ethnic work and economic work are the new subject that requires further exploration. The means to solve the problem of backward economic development in ethnic minority areas must achieve ethnic integration and achieve a unified sense of identity and belonging (Li, Quan & Pu, 2013).

Third, the relationships between national and regional interests and between making the country rich, making the region rich and making the people rich must be appropriately handled. When planning economic development in the past, the primary consideration was to increase production and double the scale. In other words, the planning goal in history was to increase the wealth of the countries, regions and relevant departments. Improving the people's standard of living and directly satisfying people's needs were of secondary importance. At that time, the idea was to improve people's living standards by increasing production. For that reason, national priorities were prioritized when developing plans, and the needs for export and foreign aid were met first. The arrangement of people's lives was even put at the bottom of the list. Now, we should reverse the order. Fulfilling the needs of the people should be given top priority. Plans should be made with this general goal in mind.

Fourthly, developing the commodity economy is the only way to accelerate the economy and open up the western region. The natural economy should transit to the commodity economy. The single planned economy should be replaced by a new economic system combining a planned economy and a market economy. The key lies in the cultivation of market mechanisms. Whenever people talk about expanding the market, they pay attention to foreign markets. People always hope to enter developed markets such as Japan, the United States and Western Europe overnight. We are not saying this wish is terrible, but can it be realized immediately? As attention is focused on foreign markets, the cultivation and development of the domestic market receive little attention and effort. It should be recognized that as a multi-ethnic country, China has a more than one billion population. It means that the demand in the Chinese market is excellent and diversified. During China's industrialization and modernization, it would probably be a strategic mistake not to focus on developing the domestic market. It is now easy to see that the Japanese, Americans and Europeans are attracted to China because it is a huge market, not because they like any Chinese leader. The Japanese have dumped cars and electronics in China in recent years. Westerners want the same. In this context, what market strategies should we adopt?

Fifth, the principle of the westward movement should be considered. As the CPC and the state have long pointed out, the center of China's modernization will gradually move westward around 2000. In this way, the comprehensive economic construction in the ethnic minority areas in west China will thus begin. Given this, we should now actively get prepared in all aspects. In particular, we should study future development and opening strategic planning. At the same time,

other preparations should also be made, including talent training, technology introduction, institutional reform and the development of education, etc. Most ethnic minority areas are located in key investment areas for third-tier construction. The state has relocated some military-industrial enterprises from the eastern coastal areas to ethnic minority areas, laying a human, financial, technological, and material foundation for future economic development (Wen, 2002).

All the conditions mentioned above or principles should be considered when formulating economic development strategies for the ethnic minority areas in the west. Strategic objectives, priorities and steps should be determined based on them. Only by doing so can the economic strategies be feasible. Otherwise, Utopian strategies are bound to emerge:

(1) The first type is the surpassing strategy. This strategy aims to close the gap by bringing the per capita level to the national level by 2000. According to the analysis, if the ethnic minority areas in the west achieve this goal, their industrial and agricultural output value must exceed that of the developed regions in the east. For example, if we take the number in 1986 as the base number, in 2000, the per capita output value of the western regions must reach the national level of 2,450 yuan in the same period. It means an average annual growth rate of 10.57 percent, a quadrupling of the gross output value in 1986, and a 14.73 percentage point increase over 1986 to 26.13% of the national total. It can be seen that this goal is difficult, if not impossible, to achieve.

(2) The strategy of acceleration aims to narrow the gap gradually. Calculations show that to achieve this goal, the average annual growth rate of the industrial and agricultural output value of the ethnic minority regions in the west must be maintained at 7.79%. The total needs to reach 18.29% of the national total, 12.85 percentage points higher than in 1986. this goal, again, is difficult to achieve.

(3) Staying synchronized means maintaining the current development gap. According to calculations, if this strategy is to be implemented, the average annual growth rate of the industrial and agricultural output value of the ethnic minority areas in the west must be maintained at 6.24%. The total amount will reach 14.93 percent of the national total, 3.53 percentage points higher than in 1986. It can be done, but many people disagree with it.

(4) The lagging strategy refers to the continued widening of the gap, which causes the lagging areas to fall further and further behind the national average. Implementing this strategy is hard to accept. But it could also be true because that has happened over the past decade. It has met with a lot of criticism and opposition. And so far, people have not come up with reasonable solutions.

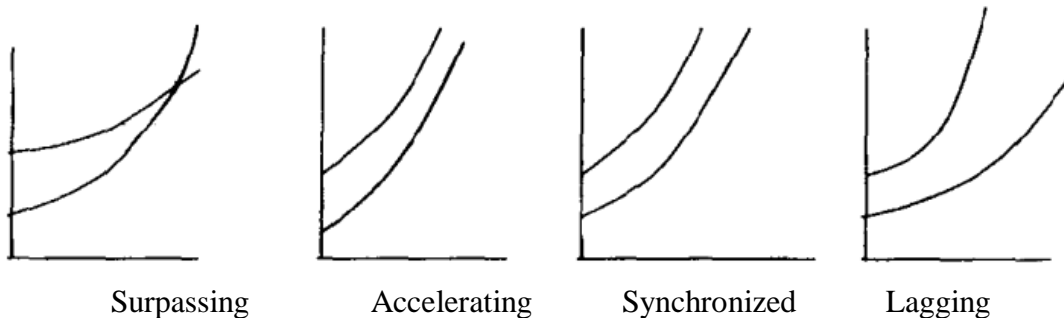


Figure 1. Four Utopian Strategies

Let's compare these four strategies:

The first strategy is ideal but difficult to achieve.

The second strategy is good, but it has many difficulties. However, it is not impossible if people make the most outstanding effort for the best possible performance in all aspects of their work. It is possible to some extent, but the conditions need to be created, and it needs to be advanced gradually. The third strategy is not ideal; many people oppose it, and it will not be easy to implement. It is completely achievable if people make a certain amount of effort. If some aspect of the action goes awry, the goal of synchronized growth may not be achieved.

The fourth strategy is not one that many people want to accept, but it is an objective reality. The key is our subjective effort.

The choice of the development strategy depends on the strategic decision of the CPC Central Committee. At the same time, it requires discussing local governments at all levels and the general public to put forward helpful plans and views. It is more important to stick together and work hard.

4. A New Path: The Strategy of Accelerated Development

Faced with the trend of the widening gap, some people do not understand, some people are surprised, and others think it is an objective law. Meanwhile, some believe this situation reflects a glaring lapse in the guidelines. Factors may have caused this situation in both aspects. If we let it develop and do nothing about it, something unexpected may happen. Therefore, we must take it seriously.

How to thoroughly solve this problem? The answer is neither to limit the growth of the eastern seaboard nor to make the western regions try to catch up as all possessed. The solution should be the implementation of a correct strategy. What, then, is a proper strategy? For ethnic minority areas in the west, it is the strategy of accelerated development.

What does this strategy mean?

In 1986, I published the Concept, Features and Economic Development Strategy of The Ethnic Minority Areas in the West. In that article, I first raised the issue of the acceleration strategy and described it comprehensively and systematically. Here is a quote from that article: The acceleration strategy means that the modernization of western minority areas should be accelerated. These areas should narrow the gap between them and the advanced regions in the shortest possible time. In this way, they should ultimately strive to eliminate the backwardness and become developed regions. It does not mean simply pursuing high speed. We have made that mistake, and more haste is a slow speed. The acceleration strategy must not be divorced from reality and go against objective laws.

Moreover, it should not solely pursue increasing the economic growth rate. Promoting the coordinated development of the regional economy, emphasizing the coordination between local and local areas and the unity and coordination of economic and social development (Wen, 2001). As a systematic project, it must improve the speed of economic development and economic benefits while accelerating the reform of economic systems. It must help enhance and perfect the structures and mechanisms of various economic patterns and organizations. In other words, the

construction of material civilization and spiritual civilization in the ethnic minority areas in the west should be accelerated in the entire system of the whole country. This process is a process of organic and comprehensive acceleration rather than a one-sided pursuit of high speed (Shi, 1987). Thus, the acceleration strategy cannot be understood as high speed. It must be understood as a systems project. At the same time, the above paragraph emphasizes that we should strive to narrow the gap so that the ethnic minority areas in the west can get rid of poverty and become advanced areas as soon as possible. Not only that, but it also emphasizes the importance of accelerating the construction of spiritual civilization while accelerating that of material civilization. Thus, this strategy is neither the so-called surpassing or lagging strategy. It advocates efforts to speed up the pace of modernization.

The fundamental reason why we advocate such a strategy is that it is the common aspiration of all ethnic groups. Moreover, it is also the objective requirement of China's modernization. China's modernization can never be realized without modernizing Western regions. It is reflected explicitly in the following aspects: (1) The western regions are rich in material resources. If these resources are not further exploited, it will hinder than east's development, and the west's industrialization and modernization will not be realized. (2) If west China does not develop faster, many ethnic minorities will inevitably remain underdeveloped for a long time. It is not suitable for the development of ethnic minorities themselves. Also, the development of Han areas and the country's progress will also be negatively affected. (3) If positive measures are not taken to narrow the gap, ethnic conflicts will intensify. It must be realized that national unity is a significant issue concerning the destiny of the whole country.

How can the economic development and modernization of the ethnic minority areas in the west be accelerated?

Many researchers have explored this issue. They have made a lot of good suggestions in their studies. They advocated speeding up the economic reform of ethnic minority areas in the west and increasing investment in them. They called for strengthening poverty alleviation in these areas, accelerating the cultivation of talents for these regions, and vigorously developing advanced science and technology. These researchers believe energy should be created and the environment should be cleaned up. They hold that the expansion of border trade and the diversification of cooperation will be helpful. At the same time, they advocate the development of the tertiary industry. Ethnic regions have their comparative advantages, with world-class tourism resources and comparative advantages in developing the tertiary industry (Chen, Li & Zhang, 2007)

There's another thing I would like to talk about, namely the theory of the Great Two-way Circulation. This theory holds that only by implementing the two-way development strategy can the ethnic minority areas accelerate their development in developing and opening up. Currently, most ethnic minority areas are still in the closed economy of small-scale farmers and small herders. Their commodity economy is very backward and lacks market mechanisms. In the past decade, reform measures such as the Contracted Responsibility System have extensively developed these areas. However, the backwardness of these areas has not been fundamentally changed. In some places, even food and clothing remain a challenge. If we continue to follow the old traditions and methods, the problems will be challenging. History has taught us that small

household production does not lift people from poverty. In addition, the planned economy and mass production of people's communes are not the solutions to the problem of backwardness. We will have no way out if we do not find a new way. Where is our way out, then? The Third Plenary Session of the 12th CPC Central Committee proposed to develop a planned commodity economy. As history has proved, developing a commodity economy can bring great wealth and advanced civilizations to humanity. The Chinese economic system is transitioning from a planned economy to a market economy, and the development strategy of regional relations must also adapt to the requirements of the market economy system (Quan, 1997). The natural economy, however, can never do the same. Where the commodity economy is well developed, production will develop, the market will flourish, and society will prosper. This truth is reflected in the towns of developed western countries and the prosperous cities depicted in classical Chinese novels.

We must realize that a commodity economy is not equal to a capitalist economy, although a capitalist economy must be a commodity economy. We must also recognize that the capitalist economy as a mode of production is not evil. How could it defeat the latter if it is not more advanced than feudalism and a small-production economy?

It must be realized that developing the commodity economy is the inevitable stage for ethnic minority areas to prosper. We must put great effort into studying and developing it. In 1985, I published an article in *National Unity* entitled, *It is More Necessary for Ethnic Minority Areas to Accelerate the Transformation from a Natural Economy to a Commodity Economy*. It discussed this issue. I think this is a new road to prosperity for ethnic minority areas. At the same time, it is also the premise of implementing the strategy of the Great Two-way Circulation.

What does the Great Two-way Circulation mean?

Ethnic minority areas must combine development with opening up to eliminate poverty and move towards affluence and prosperity. Opening up drives development, which in turn promotes opening up. The opening up of minority areas has special meaning and content. While opening to foreign countries also means opening to the rest of the country. At the same time, it requires that ethnic minority areas open up to one another. It involves political thoughts, ideological education, science and technology, friendly exchanges, etc. It is a type of social opening. It is, in essence, a multi-way or two-way opening (domestic opening and foreign opening). Thus, it is not a one-way but a two-way international and domestic circulation. When it comes to the opening up of ethnic minority areas in the west, on the one hand, it can absorb technologies, capital, equipment and talents from the eastern and central regions through horizontal economic integration. In the meantime, it can transfer abundant resources and natural products to the east and major areas. In this way, domestic circulation promotes economic development and national prosperity in China.

On the other hand, internationally, it can realize direct economic and technological exchanges with the neighbor countries countries by establishing border economic development zones, free trade zones or ethnic economic zones. Due to its proximity, ethnic minority areas have formed a cultural advantage of good good neighbor relationship, friendship, and kinship in their long-term interactions with the people of surrounding countries and have a wide cultural identity (Zhang,

2016). In this way, foreign circulation is realized. When these two circulations are combined, we get Great Two-way International and Domestic Circulation, as shown in the figure below:

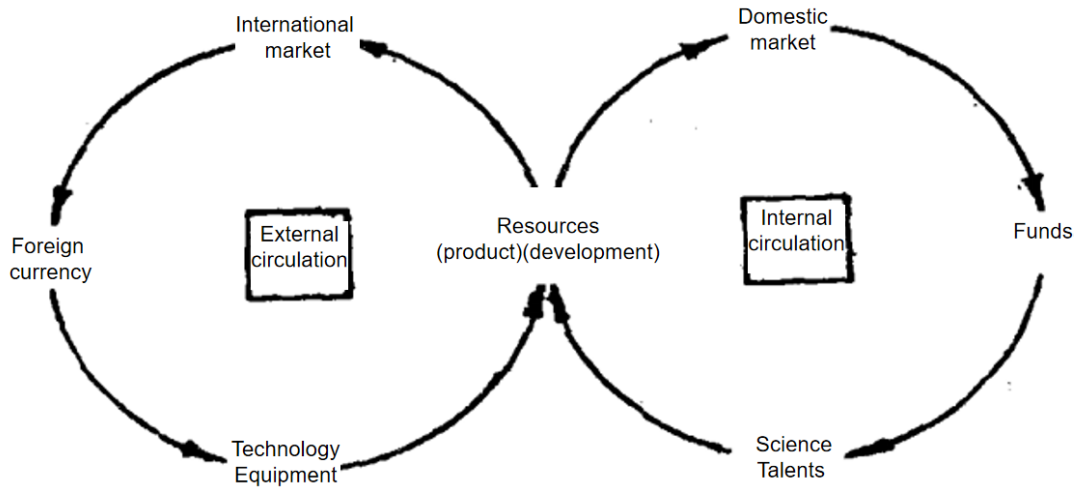


Figure 2 Domestic and International Circulation Cycle Chart

As seen in this figure, this kind of two-way circulation or two-way development will have very different effects from the practice of opening up the east while closing the west in the past. Can we achieve this excellent circulation? The answer is definitely yes. Because of domestic and international conditions, the ethnic minority areas in the west already have the mature requirements to implement this new strategy.

5. Conclusion

The strategic policy of accelerating the development of ethnic minority areas in Western China was proposed by Professor Shi Zhengyi in 1986, and it has been nearly 40 years since then. In the past 40 years, although it has attracted some people’s attention, even in many documents, there have been sentences about accelerating the development of the ethnic minority economy. However, it has not been established as a guiding principle for developing the ethnic minority economy.

Professor Shi Zhengyi once stressed that in the early 1990s, Deng Xiaoping pointed out during his inspection tour of southern China how comprehensively looking at the accelerated development in those five years could also be called a leap. Still, unlike the Great Leap Forward, there was no harm to the entire development mechanism. The development in those five years was accelerated, which contributed a lot. The five years mentioned here refer to the period from 1984 to 1988. Accelerated development has already emerged in China’s modernization construction but has not been widely recognized. According to Professor Shi Zhengyi’s approach, it should be pointed out that in developing the economy of ethnic minority areas in China, it is necessary to establish accelerated development as a strategic guiding principle based on objective conditions and needs. It is not just to operate for a few years but to persist in a

considerable historical stage and continuously implement and operate. Otherwise, it will be impossible to gradually eliminate the development gap between ethnic groups and achieve shared prosperity for all ethnic groups.

Professor Shi Zhengyi believed that implementing this accelerated development strategy, on the whole, must adhere to the primary line of “one center, two Basis points,” proceed from the specific characteristics of ethnic minority areas and implement various principles and policies. At the same time, it is necessary to mobilize and organize the people of all ethnic groups, identify with the strategic idea of accelerating the development of the ethnic minority economy, and accelerate the development of various socialist construction undertakings in ethnic areas.

References

- Charles P.K. (1982). *Economic Development*. Shanghai: Shanghai Translation Publishing House.
- Shi Z.Y. (1993). Strategic Guidelines for Accelerating the Development of Ethnic Minority Areas: Study Comrade Deng Xiaoping’s Strategic Guiding Ideology on Accelerating Development. *Inner Mongolia Social Sciences*, Vol. 1993 (2): 35-41.
- Shi Z.Y.(1992). On the Strategic Policy of Accelerating Development. *Journal of Central South University for Nationalities (Philosophy and Social Sciences Edition)*, Vol. 55(4): 18-20.
- Shi Z.Y. (1987). *Ethnology Economics and the Four Modernizations in Ethnic Minority Areas*. Beijing: Ethnic Publishing House.
- Yue W.J. (1988). *Systematic Dialectics*. Hohhot: Inner Mongolian People’s Publishing House.
- Wen J. (2002). The Choice of Economic Development Strategy for Ethnic Minority Areas in China. *Journal of Central University for Nationalities* (02), 66-73.
- Zhang L. (2016). The “Belt and Road” strategy and the socio-economic development of China’s ethnic minority areas. *Journal of Central University for Nationalities (Philosophy and Social Sciences Edition)* (04), 70-77.
- Li Z.L., Quan Z.N. & Park J.L.(2013). Summary of the Research Forum on Economic Growth and Income Gap in Ethnic Minority Regions and Coordinated Development of Regional Economy. *Economic Research* (10), 155-158.
- Chen M., Li L. & Zhang S. (2007). Analysis of the conditions for developing anti-gradient industries in western ethnic regions. *Science and Technology Information (Academic Research)* (32), 315.
- Quan H.(1997). Review of Theoretical Research on China’s Regional Economic Development Strategy. *Chinese Social Sciences*, 1997, (6)
- Li G.P. & Xu Y. (2002). The Development and Significance of Gradient Theory. *Economist* (04), 69-75