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Social and Economic Stimulating Development Strategies for China's Ethnic Minority Areas

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Preface

This book is the final result of the “Investigation and Research on Building a Moderately Prosperous Society in All Respects in Ethnic Minority Areas,” a research project on major national conditions by the CASS, and it is also the fruit of the efforts from all members of the research team. This project was initiated in 2016 and completed in 2017. Wang Yanzhong and Ding Sai, leaders of the team, led team members to conduct in-depth field investigations and large-scale questionnaire surveys in ethnic minority areas. This questionnaire survey, at the same time, is an integral part of the “Comprehensive Survey of the Economic and Social Development of China’s Ethnic Areas in the Beginning of the 21st Century,” a special project entrusted by the National Social Science Fund of China under my charge. Through years of painstaking research and investigation, the members of the research team completed and published a batch of research results related to the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects in ethnic minority areas, and finally, this book was born. There are 14 chapters in this book. The authors of each chapter are as follows: Chap. 1: Wang Yanzhong etc.; Chaps. 2 and 3: Liu Xiaomin; Chap. 4: Ding Sai, Björn Gustafsson, and Hiroshi Sato; Chap. 5: Lv Lidan, Liu Xiaomin, and Chen Xinzhi; Chap. 6: Wang Yanzhong and Yuan Linjun; Chap. 7: Chen Xinzhi and Liu Xiaomin; Chap. 8: Ding Sai; Chap. 9: Wang Yanzhong, Long Yuqi, and Ning Yafang; Chap. 10: Zhang Shan; Chap. 11: Ding Sai; Chap. 12: Ding Sai, Pad-ma lhun-grub, and bkralo; Chap. 13: Ning Yafang; and Chap. 14: Wang Yanzhong and Ning Yafang. Wang Yanzhong and Ding Sai were responsible for the final compilation and editing.

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cooperated with and received support from relevant departments of the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology of the CASS, as well as experts and scholars inside and outside the institute. I would like to express my gratitude!

Beijing, China

Yanzhong Wang

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Chapter 1

Building a Moderately Prosperous Society in Ethnic Minority Areas: Challenges, Problems and Countermeasures



The research team of the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) has launched a study evaluating the progress of building a moderately prosperous society among ethnic minorities and in ethnic minority areas in China. The study is designed to better understand the development of ethnic minorities and the areas where they live since the beginning of the twenty-first century, particularly during the 12th Five-Year Plan period, to summarize the achievements and experience of the work on ethnic minorities by deeply analyzing its current circumstances and to put forward countermeasures and suggestions for the future economic development of ethnic minority areas and the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects by determining the reasons for difficulties in the economic development of ethnic minorities and ethnic minority areas. The study is mainly divided into the following aspects: the tremendous importance of accelerating the building of a moderately prosperous society among ethnic minorities and in ethnic minority areas, the overall evaluation, main progress and problems of building a moderately prosperous society in ethnic minority areas and the countermeasures and suggestions for the problems.

1.1 Speeding up the Development of Ethnic Minorities and Ethnic Minority Areas: A Critical Step for China's Modernization Drive

As a unified multiethnic country characterized with a long history and vast territory but unbalanced regional development, China has taken on multiple tasks in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and achieving socialist modernization. In this context, China must advance both the rapid development of coastal areas and the leapfrog development of inland regions and ethnic minority areas; in addition to accelerating economic growth by taking economic development as the central task, it must also promote coordinated economic, political, social, cultural and ecological

advancement; and while keeping economic growth at a certain speed for a long period to achieve and surpass its goals, it must step up the transformation of the economic development mode to improve the quality and efficiency of economic growth. China has scored remarkable achievements in building a moderately prosperous society and in its socialist modernization drive through the rapid development over the decades since the reform and opening up. Despite all the gains, it has also accumulated many contradictions and problems. The acute contradictions and problems now facing China are the unbalanced development among different regions and between urban and rural areas and the failure to effectively make the fruits of development equally shared by all members of society. The overall development of ethnic minorities and ethnic minority areas lags behind, thus intensifying the contradictions and problems mentioned above.

Since the beginning of the 21st century, the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the Chinese government, guided by the system of theories of socialism with Chinese characteristics, have formulated and implemented a host of major strategic thoughts and initiatives to deepen reform, maintain stability and promote development. The 16th National Congress of the CPC in 2002 pointed out that China's goal for the first two decades of the twenty-first century is to build a moderately prosperous society in all respects. The 17th National Congress of the CPC in 2007 further proposed "the new requirements for attaining the goal." The 18th National Congress of the CPC in 2012 clearly put forward "the goal of completing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects by 2020." The Third Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee of the CPC in 2013 adopted the "Decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CCCCP) on Some Major Issues Concerning Comprehensively Deepening the Reform," which not only reiterated that the goal should be achieved by 2020 but also further proposed "to build China into a great modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced and harmonious and to realize the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation." Speeding up the development of ethnic minorities and ethnic minority areas and building a moderately prosperous society in all respects thus play important strategic roles in China's modernization drive.

First, the realization of a moderately prosperous society throughout China depends on the realization of a moderately prosperous society in ethnic minority areas. In 2010, the degree to which the goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects had been achieved reached 80.1% in China, 88.0% in the Eastern region, 71.4% in the Western region and only approximately 70.0% in eight ethnic provinces and autonomous regions predominantly inhabited by ethnic minorities—Inner Mongolia, Guangxi, Tibet, Ningxia, Xinjiang, Yunnan, Guizhou and Qinghai. The western region, especially ethnic provinces and autonomous regions, falls far behind the eastern region and cannot even reach the national average level on aspects such as resources, ecological environment, local cultures and economic mix, turning out to be the crux of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects nationwide and thus posing a great challenge for the achievement of this goal. Lifting people out of the poverty line in many ethnic minority areas, particularly 14 contiguous poverty alleviation and development areas, is a top priority. To

some extent, the progress and level of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects nationwide are related to whether ethnic minority areas can accomplish the goal.

Second, accelerating the development of ethnic minorities and ethnic minority areas is the key for realizing the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation. The new central leadership of the CPC repeatedly emphasizes that the goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects cannot be achieved without the development of ethnic minorities and ethnic minority areas, and the goal of realizing the Chinese Dream depends on 1.3 billion Chinese people among 56 ethnic groups to strive with one heart. Building a moderately prosperous society in all respects is not the destination of China's development but a goal in the process of building China into a great modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced and harmonious. On this basis, making national rejuvenation a reality comes as a bigger, higher and greater goal and the greatest dream of the Chinese people since modern times. The Chinese Dream represents the long-cherished wish of several generations of Chinese people, demonstrates the overall interests of both the nation and the people and remains the common aspiration of every Chinese. The Chinese Dream is about the country, the nation and the people. In pursuing this goal, the CPC endeavours to lead all the Chinese people to work together, with every part and ethnic group involved, and its realization calls for the unremitting efforts of every Chinese from every ethnic group.

Third, quickening the development of ethnic minorities and ethnic minority areas is the basis and fundamental task of ethnic work in a new era. As a multiethnic country with a long history, China has a wealth of experience and lessons in handling ethnic issues. Particularly since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the CPC has not only, for the first time in Chinese history, achieved political equality among ethnic groups and established socialist relations among them based on equality, solidarity, mutual assistance and harmony but also made remarkable progress in boosting reform, opening up and economic, social and cultural development in minority areas. The fundamental reason for such notable progress in China's work on ethnic minorities is the integration of ethnic work into China's socialist modernization. Some minority areas have developed an overall system for ethnic work, under which ethnic work serves as the guidance for the work of the Party and relevant government authorities, greatly bolstering the reform, development and social stability of those areas. As the Party's top priority in governing and rejuvenating the nation, development is the key for solving all our country's problems. Being fundamental to the achievement of "unity among all ethnic groups for common prosperity" and crucial to the management of challenges and problems in minority areas, accelerating the economic and social development of ethnic minorities and ethnic minority areas is the main task of current ethnic work.

Last, boosting the development of ethnic minorities and ethnic minority areas is the pillar of strong border defense, good neighborly relations and stability and prosperity in border areas. China is one of the countries with the longest borders, the most neighbors and the most complicated border situation in the world. Of China's 22,000-km land border, 19,000 km, 90% of the total, traverses ethnic autonomous regions.

China's land, which involves six ethnic provinces and autonomous regions and 107 border ethnic regional autonomous banners (autonomous counties), borders 14 countries. The vast border areas where China's minority groups concentrate and a large number of cross-border ethnic groups inhabit form a compact habitation for minorities in China. Those cross-border ethnic groups, with similar languages, cultures and religions, have frequent exchanges both in and outside China. Neighboring regions are the first-hand external barrier for China to maintain its social stability and national harmony. As the neighboring environment can directly affect China's domestic environment and development strategy all long, ensuring neighboring security is the major task of neighboring diplomacy. A peaceful and stable neighboring environment is the fundamental prerequisite for China to successfully realize socialist modernization. Our land border can be safe and secure with the stability of ethnic regions in border areas and the harmony in ethnic relations. Accelerating the development of ethnic minorities and ethnic minority areas not only promotes stability and harmony and prosperous development of the ethnic regions in the border areas but also advances the openness and cooperation between China and its neighbors, creating an international neighboring environment that fits rapid and stable development. To a certain extent, speeding up the development of ethnic minorities and ethnic minority areas and further creating an amicable, secure and prosperous neighborhood is an important foundation for China's diplomatic strategy and neighboring security strategy, as well as an essential part of China's own development strategy.

1.2 Overall Evaluation of the Progress of Building a Moderately Prosperous Society Among China's Ethnic Minorities and in Ethnic Minority Areas

By 2020, building a moderately prosperous society in all respects across the country, as China's strategic goal, is currently the central task for the modernization of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Compared with the eastern coastal area and even the central provinces in China, ethnic regions, despite great achievements made in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, face arduous difficulties and challenges. The following discussion will be made in three aspects.

1. Under the "Indicator System for Finishing Building a Moderately Prosperous Society in All Respects," it is difficult for ethnic minority areas to attain the common goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects

In accordance with the plans made by the CPC Central Committee, the National Bureau of Statistics of China (NBS) developed the indicator system to release monitoring reports on the progress of building a moderately prosperous society on an irregular basis. According to the "2011 Statistical and Monitoring Report on the Progress of Building a Moderately Prosperous Society in All Respects in China" published by the NBS, the degree to which the goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects had been achieved reached 80.1% nationwide in 2010,

20.5% higher than that in 2000 and registering an average annual increase of 2.05%. In the Eastern region, the degree was 88.0% in 2010, which could, if the current growth rate stands, secure the goal ahead of schedule. In the western region, whose starting point for building a moderately prosperous society in all respects was rather low, the degree rose to 71.4% in 2010 compared to a mere degree of 53.2% in 2000, amounting to an average annual increase of only 1.82%. The increase in China's eight ethnic provinces and autonomous regions was 1.8% per year, slightly lower than the average level of the whole western region.

Following the average increase rate of the monitoring indicators of building a moderately prosperous society in the first decade of the twenty-first century, the grand goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects throughout the country is attainable. Although the goal was even harder to achieve in the face of the definite slowdown in the national economy since the beginning of the second decade, a rise of 12% (approximately 60% of the average growth rate range of the previous decade) within ten years is still possible. In 2011, 2012 and 2013, when growth in the national economy was slowing (an average increase of 8.2%), the economic increase of the ethnic provinces and autonomous regions still outpaced the average increase nationwide (approximately two percent higher), which is conducive to narrowing the gap between the ethnic provinces and autonomous regions and the rest of the country in building a moderately prosperous society and to speeding up the fulfillment of the targets required by a moderately prosperous society in the ethnic provinces and autonomous regions.

The crux lies in the unbalanced regional development in China. The trend that the disparities among the ethnic minority areas and the Eastern region and even the country on average in economic and social development are widening has not been thoroughly reversed. Consequently, it is still rather arduous for the Central and Western regions, ethnic provinces and autonomous regions in particular, to fulfill the goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects. Following the average increase rate in the first decade of the twenty-first century, ethnic provinces and autonomous regions can achieve approximately 89% of all the monitoring indicators of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, roughly attaining the level of the Eastern region in 2010. Following the national average increase rate that equals 90% of the average increase rate in the first decade (the average level of the first decade), ethnic provinces and autonomous regions can achieve approximately 87% of all the monitoring indicators, just approaching the average level of the Eastern region in 2010. Following the national average increase rate (60% of the increasing range of the first decade) in the second decade, ethnic provinces and autonomous regions can only achieve 83% of all the monitoring indicators in 2020, slightly higher than the national average level in 2010. Even if the ethnic minority areas can outpace the whole country in economic growth indicators by two percentage points from 2011 to 2013, or calculated in accordance with 122% of the average increase rate in the first decade in building a moderately prosperous society nationwide, these areas can only achieve approximately 91% of all the monitoring indicators in 2020. In the

face of the economic microenvironment that undergoes major changes, there is a small possibility of reaching the increase rate mentioned above.

In addition, different ethnic provinces and autonomous regions differ greatly in the progress of building a moderately prosperous society. In 2010, Inner Mongolia lagged behind the national average level by merely 0.5 percentage points, registering the smallest gap; Guangxi 7.7 percentage points, the second smallest gap; another six ethnic provinces and autonomous regions more than 10 percentage points, and over 17 percentage points for Qinghai, Xinjiang, Guizhou and Tibet (see Table 1.1). Based on the abovementioned increase rate, it is only possible for Inner Mongolia to fulfill the indicator tasks measured by the Indicator System for Finishing Building a Moderately Prosperous Society in All Respects, while it is almost an impossible task for other provinces and regions.

As a result, it will be rather difficult for ethnic provinces and autonomous regions to fulfill the grand goal of completing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects by 2020. If ethnic minority areas fail to develop by leaps and bounds or make proper adjustments to their indicator system based on the new situation in the second decade of the twenty-first century, it will be rather possible for these areas to fail to fulfill the indicator tasks of finishing building a moderately prosperous society in all respects. If so, the quality of a moderately prosperous society in all respects nationwide will be affected to a certain extent, even though the country fulfills its indicator tasks as a whole.

2. Following the Development and Life Index (DLI), ethnic minority areas are confronted with increasing difficulties in narrowing the development gap and building a moderately prosperous society in all respects

In 2013, the NBS released the DLI for the years 2000–2012. The DLI aims to monitor the economic development, livelihood improvement, social progress, ecological

Table 1.1 Gap between the eight ethnic provinces and autonomous regions and the country on average in the realization degree of building a moderately prosperous society and the six aspects 2010

	Realization degree	Economic development	Social harmony	Quality of life	Democratic legal system	Cultural education	Resources and environment
Inner Mongolia	−0.5	7.4	6.2	−7.3	−2.5	−7.8	−8.3
Guangxi	−7.7	−18.9	−8.7	−3.6	−0.8	−8.8	11.2
Guizhou	−17.4	−24.5	−21.1	−15.6	−8.4	−15.0	−7.7
Yunnan	−12	−22.4	−21.7	−18.8	0.1	12.3	−1.4
Tibet	−17.2	−23.4	−20.2	−28.3	−5.0	−22.9	16.6
Qinghai	−18.3	−15.5	−25.2	−22.7	−10.4	−15.4	−18.1
Ningxia	−14.1	−14.4	−12.5	−13.2	−5.2	−9.3	−28.5
Xinjiang	−17.9	−16.4	−22.3	−22	−15.1	−16.0	−12.6

Source Calculated in accordance with relevant monitoring indicators published by the NBS

construction, scientific and technological innovations of all regions as a whole and guide development onto the path of improving the quality, benefits and well-being of the people. The DLI evaluation indicator system comprises six aspects, including economic development, livelihood improvement, social progress, ecological construction, scientific and technological innovations and public comments (the last has not been carried out now), with 42 indicators in total, and the coverage of the second-level indicators is much broader. The compilation and calculation of DLI mainly draw experience from those of the Human Development Index (HDI) used by the United Nations. Each indicator's evaluation index, which usually ranges from 0 to 100, is calculated based on the upper and lower thresholds of indicators, and the classification index and the total index are compiled in accordance with the weight of indicators. The DLI reflects all 23 s-level indicators in the monitoring system for building a moderately prosperous society except the Gini coefficient. This change is made out of the considerations for the new situations emerging in regional economic and social development, especially the new requirements set by the 18th National Congress of the CPC to highlight the improvement of people's lives. In February 2013, the NBS released the DLI for 2000–2011, and in December 2012, the DLI released the DLI for 2012, which provides more comprehensive and convenient statistics for us to study and evaluate the progress of building a moderately prosperous society in ethnic minority areas.

According to the two Statistical and Monitoring Results of the Development and Life Index (DLI) released by the NBS since the twenty-first century, the 11th Five-Year Plan period in particular, the DLIs of the Eastern region, the Central region and the Western region increased tremendously, registering a growth of 25.18%, 23.50% and 24.04%, respectively, compared with the year 2000. The index of the eastern region, the highest, was 71.57%, and those of the central and western regions were 60.35% and 58.22%, respectively, in 2012. Different from the index of building a moderately prosperous society, the increasing range of the DLI of the western region was smaller than that of the eastern region but larger than that of the central region, which means that the gap between the western region and the eastern and central regions in the DLI conspicuously narrowed. Meanwhile, as the development base of the western region is low, given nearly the same increasing range, the western region will develop at a faster speed. From 2001 to 2012, the average annual increases in the DLI of the eastern, central and western regions were 3.68%, 4.20% and 4.54%, respectively, and the western region achieved the most rapid average increase rate, which was 123% of that of the eastern region and 108% of that of the central region. If the average growth rate of the previous 12 years stands, during the eight years from 2013 to 2020, the DLIs of all regions nationwide are expected to increase two percentage points each year, and the DLIs of the Eastern, Central and Western regions will have reached approximately 88%, 76% and 75%, respectively, by 2020. If the DLI of the eight ethnic provinces and autonomous regions equals that of the Western region, it will have reached approximately 75%. In the second decade of the twenty-first century, the increasing range of DLI has tended to decline, among which the Eastern region underwent a more drastic decline (the growth rate from 2010 to 2012 accounts for 89% of that from 2001 to 2012), and the growth rates of

the Western and the Central regions were slower than those of the 11th Five-Year Plan period but still faster than the average increase rate from 2001 to 2012 (114% and 102%, respectively) (see Table 1.2). In consideration of the abovementioned fact and based on evaluations, the DLIs of the Eastern, Central and Western regions can be adjusted to approximately 86, 76 and 77% by 2020. In this way, the DLI gap among different regions nationwide will be further narrowed, and the DLI of the Western ethnic minority areas will reach approximately 80% of all indicators. The development of the Western region, especially the ethnic minority areas, will become more simultaneous with that of other regions in the country. However, the whole country will be confronted with a widening gap in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, and although the gap is very common nationwide, the Central and Western regions are faced with wider gaps and therefore greater pressure to attain the targets and tougher tasks. Among all the eight ethnic provinces and autonomous regions, only the DLI of Inner Mongolia is slightly higher than the average level of the Western region, and the DLIs of the other seven provinces and autonomous regions still lag behind the remaining provinces and regions of the country (see Table 1.3). With such a wide gap, it is impossible to achieve the overall improvement of DLI by leaps and bounds, and it is difficult to fulfill the current targets of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

Table 1.2 Average annual growth rate of DLI of all regions in China 2001–2012. Unit: %

	Average annual growth rate from 2001 to 2012	Average annual growth rate during the 10th Five-Year Plan period	Average annual growth rate during the 11th Five-Year Plan period	Average annual growth rate since the 12th Five-Year Plan period
Eastern region	3.68	3.26	4.27	3.28
Central region	4.20	3.35	5.02	4.27
Western region	4.54	3.40	5.44	5.17
Inner Mongolia	4.28	3.82	4.85	3.99
Guangxi	4.27	4.02	4.53	4.27
Guizhou	5.43	4.83	5.72	6.21
Yunnan	3.92	1.83	5.26	5.88
Tibet	4.44	3.54	5.29	4.57
Qinghai	4.38	3.46	4.47	6.46
Ningxia	4.61	3.85	5.67	3.89
Xinjiang	4.44	2.8	5.83	5.15

Source The National Statistical Society of China and the Research Institute of Statistical Sciences of the NBS: the “2012 Statistical and Monitoring Results of the Development and Life Index (DLI)” (December 31st, 2013), the website of the NBS

Table 1.3 Development and life index of the three regions and the eight ethnic provinces and autonomous regions 2000–2012. Unit: %

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Eastern region	46.39	47.98	49.72	51.2	52.73	54.45	56.9	59.61	61.62	64.49	67.1	69.38	71.57
Central region	36.85	38.39	39.59	40.61	41.8	43.45	45.54	48.42	50.3	53.19	55.51	58.04	60.35
Western region	34.18	35.31	36.8	37.58	38.57	40.4	42.1	45.44	47.07	50.05	52.64	55.43	58.22
Inner Mongolia	35.78	36.64	37.73	38.73	40.36	43.15	45.38	50.21	49.67	52.39	54.69	56.85	59.14
Guangxi	34.83	36.51	38.3	39.15	40.01	42.42	43.86	46.34	47.64	51.09	52.93	54.33	57.55
Guizhou	28.66	29.55	31.01	31.97	33.23	36.29	37.24	40.17	41.19	44.4	47.93	51.21	54.07
Yunnan	35.42	33.79	34.99	36.25	37.15	38.79	39.58	42.96	44.69	47.77	50.13	52.95	56.2
Tibet	30.09	32.1	33.72	34.94	36.39	35.8	38.82	39.88	40.94	43.4	46.32	47.85	50.65
Ningxia	31.37	32.29	34.33	35.41	36.86	37.89	40.09	43.28	44.90	46.68	49.92	50.80	53.88
Qinghai	31.06	31.97	33.58	34.95	35.43	36.82	38.91	39.81	41.01	42.93	45.82	48.68	51.93
Xinjiang	30.92	31.11	32.51	34.67	34.35	35.49	37.17	39.90	41.54	44.46	47.12	49.42	52.10

Source The National Statistical Society of China and the Research Institute of Statistical Sciences of the NBS; the “2012 Statistical and Monitoring Results of the Development and Life Index (DLI)” (December 31st, 2013), the website of the NBS

3. The officials and the masses in ethnic minority areas are generally confident in and partially worried about building a moderately prosperous society in all respects

According to the field investigations and questionnaires made by the 16 subprojects of the “Comprehensive Survey of the Economic and Social Development of China’s Ethnic Areas at the Beginning of the 21st Century” project team of the CASS in 2013, the officials and the masses in ethnic minority areas highly support the strategic goal of building a moderately prosperous society, and generally speaking, they are confident in fulfilling that goal in the region. Of the 5,404 questionnaires for urban and rural households, 87.4% are very confident and confident; of all the 1,132 questionnaires for officials, 85.4% are very confident and confident. The masses are more optimistic than the officials. Of course, 11.3% of the masses and 12.1% of the officials lack confidence in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, and there are only a very few officials and masses showing no confidence (see Table 1.4).

The confidence of the officials and the masses in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects in the region should be valued and encouraged, and their opinions about the difficulties in attaining that goal or the reasons for their lack of confidence should be taken seriously. From the perspective of the masses, their confidence is mainly affected by the following factors: the slow pace of income growth (70.8%), unsatisfactory living conditions (35.4%), insufficient infrastructure (33.8%) and poor implementation of supportive policies (29.9%). Officials share the same view with the masses with regard to the first factor; that is, 69% of the officials hold that the slow pace of income growth is the main reason for the lack of confidence. The second, third and fourth reasons for the officials’ lack of confidence are insufficient infrastructure (50.8%), the poor implementation of supportive policies (34.9%) and the unsound social security system (37.4%). Based on what has been mentioned above, the masses hold that the main problems to be settled or their main suggestions are to speed up local economic development (61.8%), accelerate infrastructure construction (37.3%), put in place the central government’s policies (27.9%) and expand local employment (25.0%); local officials hold that the main problems to be solved are to speed up local economic development (68.3%), accelerate infrastructure construction (44.6%) and improve education level (26.7%).

Based on the data monitoring and surveys and analyses of the abovementioned three aspects, the second decade of the twenty-first century is the critical period for ethnic minority areas to finish building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, promote regional development and improve people’s living standards. The strategic goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects across the country can be fulfilled by 2020. The officials and the masses in ethnic minority areas are confident in the realization of the goal, which demonstrates their wish to keep pace with the whole country in regard to the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects. However, objective data show that it is almost impossible for ethnic minority areas to reach the goal set by the Indicator System for Finishing Building a Moderately Prosperous Society in All Respects in the time remained. In fact, since the new era, especially the 18th National Congress of the CPC, the fact that the

Table 1.4 Confidence of the officials and the masses in ethnic minority areas in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects by 2020

			Very confident	Confident	Unconfident	Impossible	Total
Gansu	Official	Sample size (person)	30	47	1	0	78
		Proportion (%)	38.5	60.3	1.3	0	100.0
	Mass	Sample size (person)	79	249	33	10	371
		Proportion (%)	21.3	67.1	8.9	2.7	100.0
	Total	Sample size (person)	109	296	34	10	449
		Proportion (%)	24.3	65.9	7.6	2.2	100.0
Guizhou	Official	Sample size (person)	25	125	34	5	189
		Proportion (%)	13.2	66.1	18.0	2.6	100.0
	Mass	Sample size (person)	162	859	221	9	1,251
		Proportion (%)	12.9	68.7	17.7	0.7	100.0
	Total	Sample size (person)	187	984	255	14	1,440
		Proportion (%)	13.0	68.3	17.7	1.0	100.0
Inner Mongolia	Official	Sample size (person)	40	66	14	3	123
		Proportion (%)	32.5	53.7	11.4	2.4	100.0
	Mass	Sample size (person)	192	391	110	5	698
		Proportion (%)	27.5	56.0	15.8	0.7	100.0

(continued)

Table 1.4 (continued)

			Very confident	Confident	Unconfident	Impossible	Total
	Total	Sample size (person)	232	457	124	8	821
		Proportion (%)	28.3	55.7	15.1	1.0	100.0
	Qinghai	Sample size (person)	26	46	8	2	82
		Proportion (%)	31.7	56.1	9.8	2.4	100.0
	Mass	Sample size (person)	66	228	42	12	348
		Proportion (%)	19.0	65.5	12.1	3.4	100.0
	Total	Sample size (person)	92	274	50	14	430
		Proportion (%)	21.4	63.7	11.6	3.3	100.0
	Xinjiang	Sample size (person)	93	232	34	8	367
		Proportion (%)	25.3	63.2	9.3	2.2	100.0
	Mass	Sample size (person)	347	820	72	15	1,254
		Proportion (%)	27.7	65.4	5.7	1.2	100.0
	Total	Sample size (person)	440	1,052	106	23	1,621
		Proportion (%)	27.1	64.9	6.5	1.4	100.0
	Yunnan	Sample size (person)	58	179	46	10	293
		Proportion (%)	19.8	61.1	15.7	3.4	100.0

(continued)

Table 1.4 (continued)

			Very confident	Confident	Unconfident	Impossible	Total
	Mass	Sample size (person)	219	1,109	135	19	1,482
		Proportion (%)	14.8	74.8	9.1	1.3	100.0
	Total	Sample size (person)	277	1,288	181	29	1,775
		Proportion (%)	15.6	72.6	10.2	1.6	100.0
Total	Official	Sample size (person)	272	695	137	28	1,132
		Proportion (%)	24.0	61.4	12.1	2.5	100.0
	Mass	Sample size (person)	1,065	3,656	613	70	5,404
		Proportion (%)	19.7	67.7	11.3	1.3	100.0
	Total	Sample size (person)	1,337	4,351	750	98	6,536
		Proportion (%)	20.5	66.6	11.5	1.5	100.0

Source The questionnaire database of 16 counties of the “Comprehensive Survey of the Economic and Social Development of China’s Ethnic Areas at the Beginning of the 21st Century” of the Institute of Ethnology of the CASS

economic and social development of China has embarked on a new phase and the new requirement that the approach to development should be transformed clearly point out that GDP is not the sole criterion for development and the assessment of officials, nor the growth rate and data and indicators. These new outlooks on development and new assessment methods relieve local officials and masses of the efforts to pursue scientific and comprehensive development that aims at improving people’s living standards, which is beneficial to the overall advancement of the progress of building a moderately prosperous society.

1.3 Great Progress in Building a Moderately Prosperous Society in All Respects in Ethnic Minority Areas Since the 21st Century

Since the twenty-first century, the all-around development in ethnic minority areas on aspects of politics, economy, society, culture and ecology has been promoted with the implementation of the strategy for large-scale development of western China, a series of state-level regional development strategies for ethnic minority areas and a series of supportive preferential policies for various fields including finance, revenue, investment, culture, education, technology, talent training, poverty alleviation and social security. In ethnic minority areas, the regional development and the improvement of people's livelihood have been faster than those in the Eastern region, the Central region and the national average level, and the progress of building a moderately prosperous society has shown an accelerating trend during the 10th and 11th Five-Year Plan periods and the first half of the 12th Five-Year Plan period. In some fields, the gap between the level of ethnic minority areas and the national average level has begun to shrink.

1. Gaining surpassing momentum in the economy in ethnic provinces and autonomous regions and achieving leapfrog development in some areas

During the 11th Five-Year Plan period (2006–2010), double-digit rate increases were seen in the GDP and fiscal revenue of the eight ethnic provinces and autonomous regions every year, which were higher than the national average. The GDP of the eight ethnic provinces and autonomous regions had an average annual growth rate of 13.1%; the regional GDP per capita reached RMB 18,014. The per capita disposable income of urban residents was RMB 14,070, and the per capita net income of farmers was RMB 3,931, an increase of RMB 5,328 and RMB 1,654, respectively, over 2005. Since 2002, the economic growth rate of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region has maintained first place in the country for eight consecutive years, and its regional GDP has risen from the 24th to the 15th place in the country. In terms of the “economic development” indicator of building a moderately prosperous society, the realization degree of the eight ethnic provinces and autonomous regions in 2010 varied between 51.6 and 83.5%, compared with 36.4 and 46.5% in 2000, an average annual increase from 1.37 to 3.7 percentage points, respectively. From 2000 to 2010, Inner Mongolia sprung up with an average annual increase of 3.7 percentage points (the national average annual growth was 2.58) in its realization degree of “economic development.” From 46.5% in 2000 to 83.5% in 2010, from lagging behind the country to exceeding the national average by 7.4 percentage points, rapid economic growth became the major factor for narrowing the gap between Inner Mongolia and the whole country in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects. From the perspective of the national macro development framework cycle, the growth rate of the realization degree of “economic development” in the eight ethnic provinces and autonomous regions during the 11th Five-Year period was faster than that during the 10th Five-Year Plan period. From 2010 to 2011, with the exception of Tibet, the

growth rate of the other ethnic provinces and autonomous regions was faster than that during the 11th Five-Year Plan period. Among them, Guangxi, Yunnan, Xinjiang, and Ningxia achieved growth ranges from 2.7 to 3.1 percentage points (see Table 1.5). This was a positive development trend. It is worth noting that some ethnic areas, such as Lijiang, Jiuzhaigou and Kashgar, with the support of their local industries, such as special economic zones, distinctive tourism, and the ethnic handicraft industry, not only got out of poverty and achieved leapfrog development in the economy but also made significant progress in industrialization, urbanization, and economic and social structural transformation.

2. Keeping pace with the whole country in the development of the democratic legal system and keeping the society harmonious and steady in general

The democratic legal system is an important parameter of social and political civilization, revealing the degree to which the rule of law and civil rights is realized. This index includes two monitoring indicators: the satisfaction of citizens with their own democratic rights and the social security index. From the realization degree of the “democratic legal system,” the eight ethnic provinces and autonomous regions held the percentage from 78.5 to 92.8% in 2010, an average annual increase from 0.8 to 2.34 percentage points compared with the percentage from 58 to 84.8 in 2000. From 2000 to 2010, the growth rates of all the ethnic provinces and autonomous regions were higher than the national average except for Guangxi and Guizhou. In 2010, the development progress of the “democratic legal system” in Yunnan, Guangxi and Inner Mongolia exceeded 90% (see Table 1.6), approaching or even achieving the national average. The development of a democratic legal system in ethnic minority areas has contributed to the systematic and legal guarantee of building a moderately prosperous society, especially with some areas whose democratic legal system features strong local characteristics. It has also played an economic role in protecting the legal rights of ethnic minorities and maintaining social harmony and stability.

The period of rapid economic development was also a period of rapid changes and adjustments of the interest pattern and social structure. With various social contradictions being intricate, those involving ethnic and religious problems also occurred frequently. Among the rapid developments, maintaining harmonious individual and ethnic relations and maintaining a safe and stable social environment constituted the prerequisite and basic guarantee for advancing a moderately prosperous society in all respects in ethnic minority areas. From the realization degree of “social harmony,” the eight ethnic provinces and autonomous regions saw fluctuations between 57.3 and 88.7% in 2010, a respective average annual increase from 0.98 to 2.83 percentage points compared with 22.1 to 69.3% in 2000. The eight ethnic provinces and autonomous regions kept the same pace as the whole country in the progress of achieving “social harmony.” Most ethnic provinces and autonomous regions achieved a greater growth rate in the degree of achieving “social harmony” during the 11th Five-Year Plan period than in the 10th Five-Year Plan period. The growth rate was even higher from 2010 to 2012 than that during the 11th Five-Year Plan period (see Table 1.7).

Table 1.5 Realization degree of the “economic development” indicator among the eight ethnic provinces and autonomous regions 2000–2010. Unit: %

	National total	Western region	Inner Mongolia	Guangxi	Guizhou	Yunnan	Tibet	Qinghai	Ningxia	Xinjiang
2000	50.3		46.5	40.7	36.4		39.1	45.3	45.5	45.4
2001	52.2			41.7	37.5		40.7	45.9	45.9	46.7
2002	54.4			42.9	38.3		42.4	48.3	47.3	47.9
2003	56.3			43.8	39.4		42.4	49.3	48.7	48.1
2004	58.2			44.6	40.2		43.4	50.1	50.5	49.4
2005	60.6			46.2	41.8		44.3	50.3	51.7	50.3
2006	63.4			47.6	43.5		45.5	51.2	53.5	51.7
2007	66.6			49.1	45		47.5	52.5	55.6	53.8
2008	69.1			51.4	46.8		49.6	53.5	56.4	55.5
2009	73.1			54.7	49.4	52.0	51.6	57.6	59.7	58.3
2010	76.1	62.4	83.5	57.2	51.6	53.7	52.7	60.6	61.7	59.7
The 10th Five- Year Plan period	2.06			1.1	1.08		1.04	1	1.24	0.98
The 11th Five- Year Plan period	3.1			2.2	1.96		1.69	2.06	2.0	1.88

Source According to relevant monitoring indicators published by the NBS

Table 1.6 Realization degree of the “democratic legal system” indicator among the eight ethnic provinces and autonomous regions 2000–2010. Unit: %

	National total	Western region	Inner Mongolia	Guangxi	Guizhou	Yunnan	Tibet	Qinghai	Ningxia	Xinjiang
2000	84.8		79.2	84.8	77.2		65.2	70	66.6	58
2001	82.6			82.6	75.2		75.2	68.9	71.3	58.5
2002	82.5			84.2	78.1		73.7	63	70.8	64.4
2003	82.4			85	78.5		63.6	70.4	71.9	64.5
2004	83.7			87.7	80.3		65.8	70.8	73.3	66.7
2005	85.6			89.6	80.1		70.2	72.2	74.1	62.8
2006	88.4			91.2	82.7		75.1	74.7	76.8	70.2
2007	89.9			90	83.2		72.2	77.7	82.5	74.3
2008	91.1			91.6	84.3		86.0	80	81.5	76.4
2009	93.1			93.3	84.5	90.2	75.6	81	84.3	79.5
2010	93.6		91.1	92.8	85.2	93.7	88.6	83.2	88.4	78.5
The 10th Five- Year Plan period	0.16			0.96	0.58		0.99	0.44	1.5	0.96
The 11th Five- Year Plan period	1.6			0.64	1.02		3.69	2.2	2.86	3.14

Source According to relevant monitoring indicators published by the NBS

Table 1.7 Realization degree of the social harmony indicators among the eight ethnic provinces and autonomous regions 2000–2010. Unit: %

	National total	Western region	Inner Mongolia	Guangxi	Guizhou	Yunnan	Tibet	Qinghai	Ningxia	Xinjiang
2000	57.5		69.3	62.5	33.1		36.7	47.5	58.3	22.1
2001	59.6			59.1	28.7		16.7	52.4	55	25.3
2002	57.1			55.6	24.1		49.4	51.7	56.3	24
2003	56.3			54.1	21.9		42.9	51.8	57.4	27.4
2004	59.9			52.2	21.9		58.4	46.8	58.8	29.8
2005	62.8			54.4	35.1		52.4	44.4	50.5	31.3
2006	67.6			53.8	43.7		71.1	41.1	44.2	37.1
2007	72.1			64.1	54		58.0	50.1	58.4	48.7
2008	76			67.4	52.3		67.5	50.5	57	48.7
2009	77.7			69.1	59.1	53.5	65.1	50.8	60.1	58.4
2010	82.5	74.1	88.7	73.8	61.4	60.8	62.3	57.3	70	60.2
The 10th Five- Year Plan period	1.06			−1.62	0.4		3.2	−0.62	−1.56	1.84
The 11th Five- Year Plan period	3.94			3.88	5.26		2.0	2.58	3.9	5.78

Source According to the relevant monitoring indicators published by the NBS

3. Continuously improving the living standards and quality of mass of all ethnic groups

Since the 11th Five-Year Plan, China has further advanced social construction focusing on people's livelihood, which has greatly improved the living standards of people of all ethnic groups. From the "quality of life," the realization degree was from 58.1 to 82.8% in 2010, a respective average annual increase from 1.94 to 2.84 percentage points from the 32.5 to 55.5% in 2000, which was consistent with the progress of improving the "quality of life" of people of the whole country. During the 11th Five-Year Plan period, except for Guangxi and Xinjiang, the degree of improvement in the "quality of life" in the other six ethnic provinces and autonomous regions grew faster than that during the 10th Five-Year Plan period (see Table 1.8). From 2011 to 2012, except for Guangxi, the growth rates in the other seven ethnic provinces and autonomous regions surpassed those during the 11th Five-Year Plan period. The growth rates in Guizhou, Yunnan, and Tibet reached 5.2 to 5.5 percentage points, showing a trend of accelerating development. In 2011, among the eight ethnic minority provinces and autonomous regions, the realization degree of the improvement of the "quality of life" indicator all reached or exceeded the average annual growth rate, which was necessary to achieve a moderately prosperous society in all respects by 2020 as scheduled. This stated that the country has adopted measures to improve people's livelihood in ethnic minority areas and has achieved good results.

4. Rapid development of culture and education

The development of culture and education not only reveals the soft power and human capital strength of a nation but also reflects the inclusiveness and openness of a society. The "cultural education" indicators include three monitoring indicators: the proportion of the added value of cultural industry in GDP, the proportion of residents' cultural, educational and entertainment expenditure in household consumption expenditure, and the average years of schooling. From this perspective, the realization degree of the "cultural education" indicator in the eight ethnic provinces and autonomous regions reached from 45.1 to 80.3% in 2010, a respective average annual increase from 0.22 to 1.58 percentage points (see Table 1.9) compared with the 35.1 to 51.2% in 2000. The average annual growth range of Qinghai, Guizhou, Ningxia, Xinjiang, Tibet, Inner Mongolia and Guangxi was higher than or close to the national average. In 2010, the degree of realizing "cultural education" reached 80.3% in Yunnan, 20.1 percentage points higher than the national average. This is a remarkable result of Yunnan Province's implementation of the strategy of strengthening the province through ethnic culture. Its basic practices and experience deserve attention. During the 10th Five-Year Plan period, most ethnic provinces and autonomous regions accelerated the development of "cultural education." The average annual growth rates of Qinghai, Guizhou, Ningxia, Xinjiang, Inner Mongolia and Guangxi were higher than the national average (0.94%). During the 11th Five-Year Plan period, the cultural and educational development indicators of most ethnic provinces and autonomous regions increased to varying degrees, but the average annual growth rate was slightly lower than the national average.

Table 1.8 Progress of the “quality of life” indicator in the eight ethnic provinces and autonomous regions 2000–2010. Unit: %

	National total	Western region	Inner Mongolia	Guangxi	Guizhou	Yunnan	Tibet	Qinghai	Ningxia	Xinjiang
2000	58.3		50.7	55.5	45.6		32.5	40.9	50.1	45
2001	60.7			57.9	46.9		35.8	43	51.8	46.6
2002	62.9			59.8	49.8		36.5	46	53	47.4
2003	65.5			62.1	51.5		37.1	46.5	55.1	49.6
2004	67.7			64.2	52.9		38.6	47.9	57.8	51
2005	71.5			70.1	56.5		40.0	52.2	60.2	55.1
2006	75			71.9	58.5		43.7	54.5	62.5	57.1
2007	78.4			74.8	60.4		46.1	56.1	65.1	59.5
2008	80			77.2	61.2		48.6	58.3	67.9	59.8
2009	83.7			81.2	66	64.5	54.1	61.3	69.9	62.2
2010	86.4	75.2	79.1	82.8	70.8	67.6	58.1	63.7	73.2	64.4
The 10th Five- Year Plan period	2.64			2.92	2.18		1.50	2.26	2.02	2.02
The 11th Five- Year Plan period	2.98			2.54	2.86		3.63	2.3	2.6	1.86

Source According to the relevant monitoring indicators published by the NBS