

Twenty-Seventh Graduation Ceremony of Lingnan College

An address given by Prof Wang Luolin

Mr Visitor, Chairman Chiu, President Chen, Ladies and Gentlemen,

May I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to Lingnan College for allowing me to deliver a short address on this auspicious occasion.

For the past ten years, I have been engaged in academic research, and written a number of papers on the topic of "The Soviet Model and Economic Reform". I would like to share with you briefly some of my observations and ideas on this subject matter.

The term "Soviet economic model" is generally used to refer to the mode of economic development and management system prevalent in the Soviet Union in the 1930's, during which the Soviet Union underwent its industrialisation phase of development. Essentially, it is characterised by the following main features:

- seeking to develop the economy at the fastest possible speed and the economic mode is extensive;
- developing a unified ownership structure;
- establishing a highly centralised and highly administrative system of management;
- restricting the development of the commodity economy and excluding market mechanisms;
- emphasising the growth of heavy industry at the expense of agriculture and light industries, resulting in an imbalance of primary, secondary and service sectors; and
- pursuing a "closed-door" policy, leading to the isolation of the domestic market from the international market.

The reasons for the adoption of this economic model were historically rational in the circumstances existing in the Soviet Union at that time, and a number of serious failings and disadvantages became apparent in due course. Nevertheless, and notwithstanding the rather different circumstances of their own economic development, a number of socialist countries adopted the Soviet model. The results have been disastrous and have led to the current need for economic reforms.

Notwithstanding this, China followed the Soviet model in 1950's with some modifications such as the centralised management system and the balance between light and heavy industries. Owing to the deterioration of the Sino-Soviet relations from 1960 onwards, China has criticised the economic reforms adopted by the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries as "revisionism". As a result, energy was expended on attempts to postpone China's reforms and prolong the existence of the Soviet model in China until the late 1970's.

The "open-door" policy and the reforms adopted in China since the late 1970's have brought turbulent changes. We have seen signs of retreat from the Soviet model of economic management, ownership structure, industrial organisation, commodity and monetary relationships,

and foreign economic relations. Although a "socialist market economy" has gradually taken shape, the drawbacks of the Soviet model have still persisted. The persistence of Soviet influence can be detected in our management system, growth models and in people's attitudes and behaviour. For example:

- the economic growth mode is basically still extensive;
- a large number of state-owned enterprises built according to the extensive mode of economic growth are facing the strenuous tasks of management reform and structure adjustments;
- the failure to streamline the complex government structure and state-enterprise interface that was developed according to the highly centralised management system, and inseparateness of politics and enterprise has become serious obstacles to further reforms;
- the continued reliance on administrative measures to manage the economy; and
- the dualistic structure of urban and rural economies inherited from the Soviet model has not been changed significantly.

Very few socialist countries will continue to manage their economies or to shape economic reforms in accordance with the Soviet model, and there is no possibility that China will revert to this course. However, Soviet influences on the system, and people's mind-set are still very predominant and thus represent obstacles to future reforms. The time is therefore ripe to undertake an objective evaluation of the historical relevances and limitations of the Soviet model and to identify the main difference between the Soviet model and socialist market economy. These have both practical and theoretical significances in our effort to hasten reforms and to minimise their adverse effects.

In establishing a market economy, China has encountered many difficulties, in addition to the adverse effects of the Soviet influence. There are bound to be new issues and new problems to be identified, to be studied and to be resolved. Some of these problems may include questions relating to inflow of foreign capital, monetary policy, financial planning and the prevention of financial risks. Many scholars and researchers at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, including myself, are involved in research into these topics. Due to time constraint, I would not be able to go into further detail.

Nevertheless I hope that I have been able to share with you some of my understanding of this subject area. Without further ado, therefore, may I express on behalf of myself and my four fellow graduates, our deep gratitude to Lingnan College for awarding us honorary doctorates. We are proud to be members of the Lingnan family, and would like to contribute as much as possible to the development of the College and to the education of the younger generation in building a prosperous Hong Kong.

Thank you very much.

嶺南學院第二十七屆畢業典禮

榮譽文學博士王洛林教授講辭

監督先生、招主席、陳校長、各位嘉賓：

感謝嶺南學院給我機會在這裏作一次簡短的發言。

近十幾年來，我曾經以“蘇聯模式和經濟改革”為題，進行過粗淺的研究，發表過一些文章，現將我的研究心得向大家匯報。

所謂“蘇聯模式”，一般是指蘇聯在三十年代工業化時期逐步形成的經濟發展模式和經濟管理體制，它的主要特點有以下幾個方面：

- 力爭以盡量高的速度發展經濟，實現工業化。經濟增長方式是粗放型的；
- 在所有制結構上力求單一化；
- 建立了高度集中化、高度行政化的計劃管理體制；
- 限制商品經濟的發展，排斥市場機制；
- 片面發展重工業，導至農業輕工業落後甚至停滯。第一、二、三產業的比例嚴重失調；和
- 對外封閉，國內市場和國際市場基本隔絕。

這種模式，在蘇聯當時的特殊條件下有它的歷史合理性。但它所包含的一系列缺陷和弊端也留下了嚴重的後遺症。其它社會主義國家本來沒有必要也沒有條件按照蘇聯模式來發展經濟，但由於種種原因，也在或長或短的時間裏搬用過蘇聯模式，從而也留下了嚴重的後遺症。因此，無論是蘇聯，還是其它搬用過蘇聯模式的社會主義國家，都有必要針對蘇聯模式的弊病進行改革。

中國從五十年代開始也大體仿照蘇聯模式來發展經濟，建立管理體制。但由於中國一貫堅持獨立自主的方針，也由於從五十年代中期起蘇聯東歐國家都先後進行了一些調整和改革，因此，中國搬用蘇聯模式是有保留的。例如，在管理體制的集中化程度上，在輕重工業的比例上，從一開始就沒有照搬蘇聯的作法。這本來很有利於日後的改革。然而，遺憾的是，在六十年代中蘇關係惡化之後，中國把蘇聯東歐國家採取的經濟改革措施也一概斥之為“修正主義”，從而人為地推遲了自身的改革，把蘇聯模式在中國的“壽命”拖延到七十年代末。

七十年代末以來的改革開放，使中國發生了翻天覆地的變化，無論是從管理體制來說，或從所有制結構和產業結構來說，還是從商品貨幣關係的發展和對外經濟關係來說，都在很大程度上擺脫了蘇聯模式的框架，社會主義市場經濟體制正在逐步形成。但另一方面也應當清醒地看到，蘇聯模式的弊病還沒有完全克服，無論在管理體制上，在

經濟增長方式上，還是在人們的思想觀念和行為方式上，都可以看到、感覺到蘇聯模式的影響。例如：

- 經濟增長方式基本上還是粗放型的；
- 按照粗放型的增長方式投資興建的大批國有企業，正面臨着體制改革和結構調整的艱巨任務；
- 適應高度集中化、行政化的管理體制建立起來的龐大的政府架構還沒有精簡，政企不分的狀況已經成為進一步深入改革的障礙；
- 在經濟管理人員中間，單純依靠行政措施來管理經濟的思想行為還普遍存在；和
- 在蘇聯模式下形成的城鄉二元結構還沒有完全改變。

因此，儘管當今世界上繼續按照蘇聯模式來發展經濟和管理經濟的國家已經很少，儘管在中國已經不可能回過頭去再次按照蘇聯模式來進行經濟建設，但是蘇聯模式在體制上、思想觀念上打下的烙印仍然是我們繼續推進改革的障礙。客觀地、歷史地評價蘇聯模式的歷史作用和歷史局限性，認清蘇聯模式的經濟體制同社會主義市場經濟體制的主要區別所在，對於我們進一步克服搬用蘇聯模式留下的後遺症，加快改革的步伐，還有着重要的理論意義和現實意義。

當然，中國在建立市場經濟體制的過程中所遇到的或將遇到的困難和問題，遠不止是搬用蘇聯模式的後遺症帶來的問題，同時還要研究、解決一些新情況和新問題，如引進外資的問題、財政政策和貨幣政策問題，防範金融風險問題等等。對這些問題，社會科學院的學者和我本人也正在進行研究，因時間所限，不在這裏一一介紹了。

在敘述完有關中國經濟的一己之見後，我謹代表各位榮譽博士衷心致謝嶺南學院，頒予我們這光榮的博士銜。作為嶺南的一份子，我們衷心希望日後對嶺南能作出更多更大的貢獻，推動大專教育的發展，培養優質人才以建設香港。

多謝大家。