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Interaction between Excellent Traditional Chinese Culture and A Community of Shared Future for Mankind

Meiying Long

School of Science, Hunan University of Science and Technology, Hunan, China

Abstract: This study was designed to investigate the relationship between excellent traditional Chinese culture and a community of shared future for mankind from two sides. On the one hand, it analyzed the positive influence of a community of shared future for mankind on the culture through two dimensions (both theoretical and practical), the challenges facing the culture, as well as the feasible paths to promote the development of the culture. On the other hand, it discussed in three aspects that the community of a shared future for mankind borrowed the ideas from traditional Chinese culture, mainly concerning the relationship between human and nature, the views on righteousness and interests, along with safety and peace. The results elaborated thoroughly the interaction between the excellent traditional Chinese culture and a community of shared future for mankind. Therefore, contributions need to be made to the call of telling good Chinese stories in certain degree so as to improve our national soft power.

Keywords: Community of Shared Future for Mankind; Good Traditional Chinese Culture; Interaction.

1. Introduction

It has been almost a decade since the concept of building a community of shared future for mankind was proposed by General Secretary Xi Jinping in the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in 2012. Without phasing out, instead, it flourishes. For instance, this phrase has been widely applied in Xi's speech in the Moscow State Institute of International Relations to connect bilateral relations in BRICS meeting while drawing a blueprint. Eventually, it has been written into the UN General Assembly resolution and become the most well-known Chinese initiative in the world. We may wonder what are the reasons laying behind? The short answer is the excellent Chinese culture.

Culture refers to the characteristics of the times, regional and national styles that people show in the process of transforming the objective world, coordinating group relations and regulating their own emotions. As for Chinese culture, there are three pillars, namely, harmony, communitarianism and the whole world as one community, which gave birth to the idea of building a community of shared future for mankind. More specifically, they originate from the concept of 'Tianxia' which traversed through the history of Chinese civilization. Together with the philosophy of "Do not impose on others what you do not desire", "All within the four seas are brothers", "The value of the interests to be considered should be the interests of all", and "Troubled, improve yourself; valued, improve the world". These are inseparable genes in Chinese culture. In the new era, Chinese people are committed to realizing the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and pursuing the well-being not only for the Chinese people, but also for the people from other countries in the world.

A community of shared future for mankind is a scientific concept concerning thinking patterns and rules which gives prominence to achieve a win-win situation through consultation and governance, joint contribution and shared benefits, together with joint contribution through cooperation, green and low-carbon development. Besides, it holds that as one community, the world's destiny should be in all country's hand, not manipulated by just several superpowers. Therefore, the global affairs should be governed by all countries, during which international regulations are supposed to be set all together. And when the harvest season comes, it shall benefit all countries.

Between excellent traditional Chinese culture and building a community of shared future for mankind, there is a two-way interaction. It implies that on the one hand, excellent traditional Chinese culture, such as harmony, is the root for the latter one; on the other hand, building a community of shared future for mankind also promotes the development of excellent Chinese culture by invigoration through seeking ancestors' wisdom while dealing with the world current situation. By doing this, Chinese people's cultural confidence will be improved by offering Chinese wisdom to solve the problem facing the world. Besides, it is conducive to promote the Chinese culture for its own sake.

2. Positive Influence of the Community of a Shared Future for Mankind on Excellent Traditional Chinese Culture

2.1. Two Dimensions of a Community of Shared Future for Mankind

Concerning the theoretical dimension, there is more in building a community of shared future for mankind than merely a political idea. It is a shared value pursued by all humankind, which consists of "peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy along with freedom" and it is also an irreplaceable component of core socialist value. As President Xi put it that "The pursuit of value are contained in the road to the world for the common good" and it is also the ultimate pursuit of the Chinese nation. The values of fairness, justice and equality are not only applicable to a country, but it can also transcend the common pursuit of social system, ideology

and be cherished by all mankind." One thing that needs clarification is that a shared value pursued by all humankind is in essence different from the western claim of 'universal value'. In other words, it is neither a unilateral force promoting its values, nor the behavior imposing one's values on others. Rather, it is a basic principle under the premise of seeking common ground while putting differences aside. Besides, it respects national independence and encourage participation under the premise of mutual understanding and negotiation.

When it comes to the practical dimension, to put it in a simple way, it means applying the theories into practice through distinctive ways at different stages for various countries. However, Rome was not built in a day. Or as President Xi said "Good international relations have not been developed in a single day, nor have they been bestowed by any one. Rather, they have been forged step by step by standing together through thick and thin." The past several years has witnessed the application of this idea through every significant speech Xi delivered. For instance, in accordance with various countries, there is "China-ASEAN community of shared future" and "Asian community of shared future". Moreover, in distinctive areas, the economic one to be exact, the concept of a community of shared future for mankind gave birth to "the Belt and Road Initiative". Or in this year's pandemic, when the world is struggling and some extremists are trying to blame China for the world suffering. Fortunately, there are people and organizations willing to stand out and speak for China by stating that COVID-19 is the enemy that we all must face as a shared community. At the same time, it is also a demon that appears in the conflict between wild animals and human being. Therefore, in all the examples above and more, it is evident that the idea of building a community of shared future for mankind is so flexible and feasible that it gained support from almost every other country in the world.

2.2. Challenges Facing the Development of Traditional Chinese Culture

With five thousand years' civilization, traditional Chinese culture is still facing challenges both from home and abroad considering its decline in modern times in part. The reasons why the development of traditional Chinese culture is in trouble might be divided into two categories mainly. First and foremost, the external factors——western mainstream culture shock on the one hand. With the development of globalization, it circles around capitalism, so does the culture. Therefore, western culture is playing a dominant role around the world, in which China, as a representative of socialist culture, sparing no efforts to play a comparatively active part. There is no doubt that it leads to conflict between western culture and eastern culture. For example, western countries are trying to link the cultural development model with economic exchanges, with every intention to impose capitalist values and ideologies on China, and force China to accept western ideas and behaviors by threatening economic sanctions with strong economic backing. Militarily, they act as international peace envoys and world policeman and propagandizes their own values as generous people. In addition to the export of traditional cultural products, strong technological means, such as the technological advantages of the Internet, are also used to form an all-round and three-dimensional pattern of ideological output for ideological and cultural penetration. On the other hand, the wild expansion of western culture severely blow Chinese people's culture confidence. Western countries, the United States in particular, are trying every means to boast their political system, the cultural patterns by mass media. The cultural products such as Disney Land, cowboy, American fast food are filled with its various ideologies and beliefs. Or according to what Shi Huadong said "These products are the spiritual beliefs, philosophies, myths and ideal patterns of the American people .

Another trouble facing traditional Chinese culture is the misunderstandings people have towards it and doubts concerning government's intention to promote it. In regard to the former, foreign people especially those who have never been abroad or not well informed still have stereotypes about China as it was several decades ago. Take traditional Chinese medicine for example, in the film The Treatment in which the main character Datong Xu is forbidden to visit his own son since the Child Care Agency thinks that he abused his son by Guasha which is illegal in that state. The movie was made in 2001, and almost 20 years have pasted since then, only to find that Chinese medicine culture is still facing hard times to be accepted by the westerners. And medical area is not alone in this case, so are other fields, such as education. But the truth is through years of development, as the world second largest economy, China does lead the world in certain ways. In this very topic of building a community with a shared future for all mankind, China is offering its idea of solving the world problem with Chinese wisdom. For the latter——the doubts about the intention of promoting Chinese traditional culture. Although we employed many ways to explain our sincere intention, there are still doubts, or known as China threat theory for some individuals or countries. Furthermore, considering the communication tools, the media have undergone massive reform and changes, while the promotion of traditional Chinese culture failed to adjust to it. Indeed, the countries have made efforts to promote Chinese culture by building Confucian schools all around the globe and sending or receiving students in culture exchange projects, be that as it may, sadly, it is still not be as influential as a TV program or a video going viral online.

2.3. The Feasible Path of Traditional Chinese Culture in Building a Community of Shared Future for Mankind

Building a community of shared future for mankind made traditional Chinese culture more alive. But what should be done exactly in order to promote the culture that applied in the idea of a community of shared future for mankind. To start with, we should give top priority to the subjects, the government, media and individuals to be specific. For the government, with the policy support, it will become so much easier both for the media and individuals. It can publish articles on its website and set aside fund to boost the promotion. In addition, as the manager of Chinese culture in overseas communication, the government should make top-level design and overall coordination, clarify the goal of Chinese culture going out, and formulate national cultural policies. What's more, while paying more attention to the study of national issues, the localization strategies should be refined, so as to build a good and effective 'going out' mode for Chinese culture. In regard to organizations, they are vital platforms for the overseas dissemination of Chinese culture. In addition to strengthening the construction of Confucius Institutes and overseas Chinese cultural centers, they should

also attach great importance to the construction of think tanks and build a cultural exchange platform integrating research, communication and cooperation. With respect to individuals whose values have been recognized since primitive society when there is literally nothing in written forms. Individuals are certainly strong force for the overseas dissemination of Chinese culture. To promote the effective 'going out' of Chinese culture, it is necessary to build a comprehensive international talent team who possess 'foreign language plus literature, general knowledge and professional skills'. At the same time, the role of overseas Chinese, students studying overseas and other individuals should be brought into full play [1]. More specifically, in today's scenario, students, scholars or political figures can participate cultural exchange program or even hosting academic conferences to promote culture in a more formal and scientific way.

With regard to the mass media, they play an irreplaceable part in people's life, and they are continuing to grow. However, the situation of the mass media is quite different from old days with internet. "The Internet plays an important role in the promotion of the new era, especially in increasing cultural soft power among countries." For decades, the Hollywood movies, Korean soup operas and variety shows enjoyed popularity from all over the world. At the same time, the cultural values were transmitted through the process. The Chinese culture transmission is more counting on China's mainstream media, which did not receive very encouraging effects. What China needs right now is not mass media communication as we used to rely on, instead, what we need is a comprehensive communication network which will transfer beyond the time limit and border. Fortunately, there is an increasing number of people who come to realize the situation. Strengthening cultural publicity and spreading the Chinese voice is conducive to the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. In recent years, China has launched many excellent films and television serials, such as Wolf Warrior and Amazing My Country. These excellent works are widely spread around the world through the media of the Internet, which reflects the comprehensive strength of China from another perspective. Most of the materials of terrific films and television works come from the fabulous traditional Chinese culture, which spreads the positive energy of China. And it constantly inspires the patriotic sentiments of our people and proves the charm of Chinese culture. We will intensify cultural publicity while engaging in extensive cultural exchanges and learning with other countries. Besides, we are obliged to spread Chinese culture to the rest of the world, and to promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind to a greater extent.

3. Ideas Borrowed from the Good Traditional Culture by a Community of Shared Future for Mankind

3.1. The Relationship between Human & Nature

Meanwhile, the traditional Chinese culture is supportive for the deepening of the community of a shared future for mankind. Especially when we considering the essence of building a community of shared future for mankind, an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world featuring with lasting peace, universal security and common prosperity. Among the above, building a clean and beautiful world is the requirement of the environment and it demonstrates the eagerness to deal with the relationship between the human and nature. And it is eternal as long as we are still living in this planet but these days they are just starting to be more severe. We now moving on from being submissive to conquering to seeking harmony with the nature. Arnold Joseph Toynbee, a famous British historian, once said, "Human beings have mastered the means of technological civilization that can destroy themselves. Coupled with the opposition of political ideology, what they need most is the spirit of harmony as Chinese civilization." And the idea of harmony is deeply rooted in traditional Chinese culture. Harmony refers to "the cognition between one and others containing the meaning of harmonious coexistence and believing that 'diversity' conforms to the basic rules of the development of things and is the basis for the existence of things." It is harmony that restrains people from acting aggressive. In handling the relationship between the nature and human, the resource-provider and resource-taker, it is certain that there is conflict between the two entities. Along the way, we have managed to find the way to settle instead of going to the extremes. The idea of harmony apparently fits what we advocate about sustainable development in modern times. For the exact way to achieve harmony between nature and human, it can also be traced back to Mencius, saying that "If we do not delay the people's farming hours, we will not be able to run out of food. If the fine net is not put into the pond, the fish and turtles will not be eaten up. When the forest is cut in a certain season, the wood will not be used up." This does not only reflect the harmonious relationship between nature and human, but also facilitates the proposal of building a clean and beautiful world.

Nowadays, the ecological problems in the world are becoming increasingly serious, which warns us that human beings should deal with the ecological crisis head-on. To build a community of shared future for mankind, countries have to actively cope with ecological development, undertake their own responsibility. While adjusting the industrial structure, they should better adhere to the concept of green, innovative development, and comply with the international development of order about dealing with ecological crisis. Eventually, we will go hand in hand in the governance of global ecological crisis. Furthermore, to build a beautiful and clean world, sustainable development among countries requires the building of an ecological system that values nature and green development. This is a necessary condition for building a community of shared future for mankind. The natural ecological environment is the foundation for the survival and development of human society, and the development of all countries in the world cannot be separated from a good natural ecological environment. Against the backdrop of the global ecological crisis, a community of shared future for mankind is at the core of the global ecological problem. It was proposed to build an ecological system that respects nature and promotes green development. This is not only a necessary condition for building a community of shared future for mankind, but also imperative for countries to achieve sustainable development. Respecting the ecological ethics that nature embodies harmony between man and nature, green development has always been the eternal theme of development. Therefore, we should adhere to green, low-carbon, and circular path in order to achieve sustainable development of all countries in the world.

3.2. The View on Righteousness & Interests

In the concept of building a community of shared future for mankind, cooperation and win-win strategies have been put forward. They reflect the principles we have been following, i.e. equal negotiation and mutual respect. The traditional Chinese culture has talked a lot about how we should pursue interests with dignity. For instance, both Confucian and Mohism had discussed righteousness and interests. The former believes righteousness is over interests by stating that "noble people act according to principles of righteousness whereas villains of benefits." While the latter holds that equal prominence should be given to both sides. Although it seemed that the two parties have different views about righteousness and interests, it is actually the same in essence. Since the consensus was achieved that whether it is the right thing to do depends on God's will. Moreover, the traditional Chinese culture is deeply influenced by Confucian. Therefore, the community of a shared future for mankind is following the righteousness over interests principle all the time. In contrast, the principle of "righteousness over interests" is different from what westerners have been upholding all the time, principles such as "interests first" and "There is no perpetual friend but perpetual profit". According to President Xi, "We should let ourselves as well as others live a decent life." And this idea is not only applied in the building a community of shared future for mankind, but also in other concepts proposed by President Xi in solving the world problems as well as keeping good international relationships with other countries, such as 'One belt and Road Initiative' and 'Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank' as well. This win-win and cooperation principle borrowed ideas from the traditional Chinese culture, which allow the community of a shared future for mankind to flourish and raise international status in practice by thinking about the bigger picture.

In practice, the pursuit of shared prosperity means that countries, developing or developed, every and each of them is equal in status. While dealing with the problems, we must all take our future generations' interests into consideration. In addition, neither will we violate the interests of other countries in order to protect our own interests, nor will tolerate any behaviors that break the code. Besides, we shall always adhere to the development achievements shared by the people of the world, interest risk borne by all countries, so as to achieve win-win cooperation. Since China is ready to open its mind and welcome all countries that are willing to develop friendly relations with China. For instance, President Xi expressed China's attitudes in addressing Middle-East issues in 2016. Statements include "we should weave a cooperative partnership network for mutual benefit and win-win results" and "Instead of establishing spheres of influence, we will encourage all of us to join 'the Belt and Road Initiative' circle of friends." Besides, China is ready to provide humanitarian assistance to countries in need. The idea of building a community of shared future for mankind integrated with Confucian's view on righteousness and interests, regarding protecting the future of the entire human destiny as the greatest righteousness and ultimate goal.

3.3. Peace and Safety

One of the main connotations of building a community of shared future for mankind is that it hopes for lasting peace in the world. In the world, countries, socialist or capitalist ones, they all need to respect each other, handle problems in an equal and consultative manner and manage to live in peaceful coexistence. In other words, to build a world of lasting peace, countries need to build partnerships based on equality and mutual consultation. The concept of keeping a peaceful world echos the idea of "the whole world as a community" in traditional Chinese culture, which has been our ancestors' lifetime pursuit for several thousand years. The blueprint that Confucians have is an ideal world in which everyone plays their roles in the society and they are all supported by the government from birth to death. And most crucially, there won't be any wars or conflicts. And to build a world of lasting peace, countries need to build partnerships based on equality and mutual consultation. This is the main way to build a community of shared future for mankind. In the wave of globalization, wonderful or horrible events occurring in a country or region will spread to the whole world and have a certain impact, which is called globalization like butterfly effect. To maintain peace, the balance of power and mutual respect is of great significance. For the former, as it has been proved, after World War II, although the world was practically in a split out in two camps, one is socialist camp led by the Soviet Union and the other is capitalist camp by USA. The great war didn't not happen, though it was called "Cold War" period. It remains the same nowadays. There will be no peace at all if one particular country is dominating the whole world. Fortunately, China, as a powerful and rapidly developing country, is willing to take the responsibility to maintain the balance. As for the latter, mutual respect is also a necessitate and China will stick to it under any circumstances. As General Secretary Xi said in the speech during the 95th anniversary of the founding of CPC, "China adheres to the principle that all countries, big or small, strong or weak, rich or poor, are equal, and respects the right of people of all countries to independently choose their development paths."

In the meantime, peace is closely associated with safety, which is also stressed in the concept of building a community of shared future for mankind. The safety principle requires all countries to jointly oppose terrorism, solves various factors threatening national security through dialogue and consultation, and promotes the establishment of a new security concept. The principle of universal security is similar to the Confucian principle of benevolence and good-neighbourliness. The term 'benevolence and good-neighborliness' comes from the saying "Benevolence and good-neighborliness are the treasure of a country" in Zuo Zhuan, the Sixth Year of Yingong. It means that our national treasure is to be close and friendly to our neighbors. It also means that countries should complement and cooperate with each other in order to achieve security and peace in the surrounding environment. The world today is becoming more and more an interconnected community with a shared future. Human beings live in a global village where history and reality meet. We now face the traditional and non-traditional security threats in today's world, as well as global problems brought about by globalization. Upholding the spirit of friendship, the community of shared Future for mankind calls on all countries to abide by the basic norms governing international relations, to conduct international relations through dialogue and consultation, and to work together coping with global issues facing mankind. In practice, only cooperation between countries can promote the construction of a community of human destiny. Besides, we should maintain highly consistent in dealing with the threat to national security factors, settle conflicts in the form of

positive dialogue, and try to avoid the any forms of wars, ‘cold war’ or ‘hot war’, in order to create a relatively safe environment. Regardless of the size of the region, the strength of the comprehensive power, or the type of social system, all countries should adhere to the principle of “friendship, peace and development”, and be friendly to each other. When some countries are in need of assistance, it should be provided as much as possible. [2]

Peace and safety are important component of the community of a shared future for mankind and what people desire for after countless wars and battles in the history. And it is the traditional Chinese culture that made the idea possible for all human beings. In other word, it is values like the “whole world as a community” and “benevolence and good-neighborliness” that give birth to the idea of building a community of shared future for mankind.

4. Conclusion

The interaction between building a community of shared future for mankind and the traditional Chinese culture goes in both directions. On the one hand, the idea of a community of shared future for mankind brings vitality to the culture considering the dilemma traditional Chinese culture has been through in modern times. The difficulties include the impact that western media brought and the misunderstandings people have about the traditional Chinese culture. In order to deal with these problems, solutions like giving priority to subjects involved and updating the communication technologies are available. On the other hand, Chinese traditional culture gives birth to the idea of building a community of shared future for mankind, especially in three essences: the relationship between human and nature, righteousness and interests, together with peace and safety.

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