A Review on the Contemporary Value of Combination of Marxism and Chinese Excellent Traditional Culture

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Abstract: During the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the President of the State delivered an important speech on the implementation of Marxism and the promotion and inheritance of Chinese excellent traditional culture. And, at the centennial celebration of the founding of the Party in 2021, it is also pointed out that the combination of the basic principles of Marxism and the excellent traditional Chinese culture should be promoted. This means that in the process of Chinese modern culture construction, it is needed to combine Marxism with Chinese excellent traditional culture, so as to promote and build a new Chinese modern culture system. Starting from the connotation of Chinese excellent traditional culture, this paper analyzes the preconditions and objective historical reasons for the combination. On this basis, it analyzes the new convergence point of the integration of Marxism and Chinese excellent traditional culture. Finally, it expounds the practical significance of the combination of Marxism and Chinese excellent traditional culture to contemporary Chinese society from three aspects. It is believed that the paper can bring reference for relevant researchers, so as to burst out stronger cohesion, improving China’s cultural soft power, and lay a solid foundation for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Keywords: Marxism, Excellent Traditional Culture, Contemporary value,

1. Introduction

Sinicization of Marxism refers to the combination of the basic principles of Marxism with the actually situation in China, gradually forming a Marxist theory with Chinese characteristics[1]. In short, it is needed to combine China’s national conditions with the basic principles of Marxism, which requires not only adhere to Marxism, but also focus on the development of Marxism. Chinese excellent traditional culture refers to the creative achievements of Chinese civilization, which is spiritual concept, moral inheritance and various cultural thoughts in national history[2-3]. Normally, the idea of Confucius and Laozi are the main body, based on which the sum of intangible culture such as art, politics, ideology and economy is formed. Chinese excellent traditional culture has a long history, which can be described as the internal driving force affecting political, economic and cultural development. It is not only the necessary ideology in the process of social development, but also the source of power for economic and political development in China[4].

As the main theme in the localization of Marxism in China, the combination of Marxism and Chinese excellent traditional culture is regarded. The construction of a socialist country with Chinese characteristics requires that it is necessary to take Marxism as the main guiding ideology. In order to relieve the goal of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, it is necessary to connect Marxism with Chinese excellent traditional culture from the perspective of cross-cultural integration[5]. It is necessary to focus on the rational breakthrough point between the two and the logical relationship between the pursuit of images, and build a more scientific and rational combination system, so as to enrich the ideas in China’s modernization construction with practical value[6].

On the other side, for Marxism to be accepted ideologically and emotionally by China’s advanced intellectuals and the Chinese people, it must be rooted in Chinese history and culture. The greatness of Marxism lies in its integration with Chinese reality, including its integration with Chinese history and traditional culture[7]. Both the Chinese Communist Party and socialist society are rooted in China, a country of 1.4 billion people with a deep historical and cultural tradition. In order to maintain China’s national identity and give Chinese people a Chinese heart, it is needed to inherit China’s excellent traditional culture and morality. Even if we gain power, it will be impossible to build a new China with a highly developed civilization and culture.

The combination of Marxism and the excellent Chinese traditional culture is an objective and inevitable requirement for promoting the Chineseization of Marxism and realizing the creative transformation and development of the excellent Chinese traditional culture. The combination of Marxism and excellent Chinese traditional culture is manifested in two processes: Marxism becomes Chinese Marxism through Chineseization; at the same time, the ancient excellent Chinese traditional culture cannot adapt to the needs of the new era without the theoretical support and methodological guidance of Marxism and the light of Marxist truth[8-10]. Only through creative transformation and innovative development under the guidance of Marxism can traditional Chinese culture become a new culture adapted to socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era. The innovative development of Chinese culture and the Chineseization of Marxism are two aspects of the problem of combining Marxism with the excellent Chinese traditional culture[11].

2. The Connotation of Chinese Excellent Traditional Culture

Chinese excellent traditional culture has a long history. It is an
excellent tradition and virtue left over by Chinese traditional culture in the historical process of 5000 years, and plays a positive role in promoting social progress and national development. It penetrates into people’s spiritual field and has a strong dominant role in people’s daily life and ideological action. Chinese excellent traditional culture mainly includes four aspects of the basic content: First, the rise and fall of the world, Yin Fu responsible patriotism; second, the Confucian thought of harmony, harmony but different; third, self-improvement, strong spirit of struggle; fourth, do not want, do not apply to people’s attitude to life. These four aspects cover and summarize the core and essence of China’s excellent traditional culture, which is the positive energy of Chinese national values[12-14].

2.1 It’s the Source of National Cohesion

From a historical point of view, Chinese culture is profound and has a long history. Five thousand years of history of China gave birth to a unique oriental civilization. As the source of Eastern culture, Chinese culture plays an important role in the formation of East Asian cultural circle. The profound connotation of Chinese culture itself is one of the important sources of confidence of the Chinese nation. No country can deny the important position of Chinese culture in world culture. The spiritual bond to maintain the common life of 56 ethnic groups in China is China’s excellent traditional culture. Although there are various differences in beliefs and customs among different ethnic groups, they can always be firmly united. The most fundamental reason is the same cultural identity, the cohesion of the Chinese nation also comes from this[15].

2.2 It’s the Spiritual Gene of the China

Chinese culture is the spiritual sustenance and spiritual home of the Chinese nation. In Chinese excellent traditional culture, there are many reflections on national governance, personal quality, moral ethics and the nature of the world. General Secretary Xi stressed that we should pay attention to these distinctive national characteristics of Chinese culture, with Chinese excellent traditional culture to build a unique Chinese spiritual world. Socialist core values are formed and promoted for this purpose, and are the refinement of Chinese thought. In today’s world where various ideological trends continue to emerge, how to establish a solid ideological system has become a challenge for each leader. Xi Jinping said the cultural genes of the Chinese nation should be adapted to contemporary culture. General Secretary Xi combines Chinese excellent traditional culture with the needs of the times and endows it with new historical significance. The unique values of Chinese civilization have imperceptibly affected the thinking mode of Chinese generation after generation. The reason why the Chinese Communists can continue to move forward is that they constantly draw spiritual nourishment from Chinese traditional culture.

2.3 It’s the Spirit of Blood of China

General secretary Xi stressed that cutting off the spiritual blood is equal to losing the foundation of national and national development. Faced with the invasion of foreign enemies, the spiritual lifeline gives the people the courage and determination to sacrifice for the motherland. When the country is in trouble, the Chinese people adhere to the belief that everyone should be responsible for the prosperity or decline of the country. Modern China stumbled forward, but never really died out, it is because of the spiritual blood of sacrifice for the country to be inherited. Countless heroes of the Chinese emerged and wrote a tragic epic. At the time of the ups and downs of the times, China did not stand firm, but actively take measures to seize the opportunity - its internal thought is supported by the’ inclusiveness’ in Chinese traditional thought.

2.4 It’s the Cultural Blood of the China

5000 years of culture contains the crystallization of countless wisdom. The scope of Chinese culture is quite extensive, from myths about the birth of the earth to philosophy and literature about governing the country and dealing with government affairs, to traditional medicine of treating diseases and rescuing people. Chinese culture has a long history of development and rich ideological content. After thousands of years of dissemination, Confucianism can still pass through time and national boundaries and radiate unique charm. Chinese civilization has lasted for thousands of years and made indelible contributions to the development of world civilization. China is the only surviving country among the world’s four ancient civilizations, in which Chinese culture plays an important role. It is a common cultural concept that supports the unity and progress of 56 ethnic groups in China. We Chinese must look at our culture through the past and present. In order to protect our cultural heritage, we need to innovate and develop continuously according to the needs of the times. Inheriting culture is the premise and foundation of developing culture. Chinese culture has a strong national cohesion, which makes it difficult for Chinese people to forget their hometown anywhere. Chinese people can always find their identity in Chinese culture. This is unparalleled, is nothing can replace, this is the strong cohesion of Chinese culture. Because of the cultural heritage, Chinese people have enough confidence and reason to maintain the reunification of the motherland.

3. The Prerequisites and Objective Historical Reasons for the Combination of Marxism and Chinese Excellent Traditional Culture

As early as the late 19th century and the early 20th century, in the development process of modern China, it was urgent to solve the problems of national liberation and prosperity. Since the old China was in a closed state, it was classified as a semi-feudal and semi-colonial classified as a semi-feudal and semi-colonial country by many advanced Western countries at that time, which made the Chinese people have a critical idea of the Western capitalist thought and the concept of globalization at that time and have to make some reflections accordingly. However, the various systems and cultural propaganda contents put forward finally ended in failure. During the outbreak of the October Revolution, Li Dazhao and Chen Duxiu were the main spreaders of Marxist thought, which gradually made Chinese people resonate strongly with Marxist thought. And Marxist thought as the main channel to save the nation. This period also made Marxism the
mainstream of China’s ideological world. The victory of the Russian revolution has also moved out the theme of national liberation, and the combination of Marxism and Chinese excellent traditional culture has finally formed the theoretical system of Marxism. The combination of Marxism and Chinese excellent traditional culture has also constructed a theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics. At the same time, it will also produce the theme of different times, and there will be various new theoretical studies.

4. New Points of Convergence of Marxism And Chinese Excellent Traditional Culture

According to historical data, Marxism is the main product of Jinhua culture. Although Marxism is known as a worldwide scientific theory, Marxism does not include Chinese excellent traditional culture. There are great differences and theoretical contradictions between the two, but it can not be ignored that there is a new convergence point of horizon integration between the two. In order to build a social master country with Chinese characteristics in the new era, it is necessary to deeply understand the key points of integration between Marxism and Chinese excellent traditional culture. The supplement of Chinese excellent traditional culture to Marxism is mainly reflected in the following aspects: Firstly, the influence of Confucianism in China’s excellent traditional culture in the world is the most profound. This thought is mainly reflected in the concept of filial piety, the concept of life realm, the concept of human nature and the value of life. However, Marxism does not elaborate the above problems. If this view is integrated into Marxism, it can greatly enrich and develop Marxist thought, and can also construct the form and structure of Chinese children’s favorite news and opinions, so as to better realize the new system of Marxism with Chinese characteristics. From the perspective of epistemology, Chinese excellent traditional culture pays more attention to moral cultivation, and epistemology in Marxism mainly expounds the cognitive ability, cognitive process and the standard content of cognitive truth. However, it is necessary to make up for the cognitive basis by such moral cultivation. Chinese traditional culture can supplement it appropriately. The thinking mode of Chinese traditional philosophy is mainly based on the epiphany thinking, which plays an important role in people’s correct understanding of the world and transforming the world at that time. Especially in terms of scientific innovation or experimental invention, it is more important than rational thinking. Therefore, when the epiphany thinking in Chinese traditional philosophy is used to make up for the rational thinking in Marxism, it greatly enriches the epistemology in Marx.

5. Value of Combining Marxism with Chinese Excellent Traditional Culture

5.1 Addressing Contemporary National Crises and Achieving the Transformation of A Realistic Culture

Modern China is in a closed-door and self-served feudal country, which reflects the development form is difficult to compete with the mass production of industrial machinery adopted by the western industrial revolution. Finally, it can only be forced to sign various unequal treaties to become the puppet of capitalist countries. During this period, the country is also exploring various ways to save the nation from extinction. Under the trend of internal and external disasters, new ideological theories are needed to bring a brighter direction for modern China. The emergence of the New Culture Movement and the May Fourth Movement also shows that it is necessary to combine Marxist theory with Chinese excellent traditional culture in order to better realize the national crisis and cultural transformation, and gradually enhance the patriotism of Chinese children. After the founding of the People’s Republic of China, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory, Three Represents and other scientific development concepts and important ideas appeared. These timely guidance theories of New China will enable China to better realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

5.2 The Internal Mechanism of the Transformation of Chinese Thinking

Marxism is mainly grown up and developed in the system of western culture. In order to take root in the world of Chinese culture, it is necessary to integrate into the mainstream culture of China, so as to better sublimate the old guiding ideology of China, which can reflect the theoretical requirements with Chinese characteristics in form and content. Marxism without national forms is difficult to be understood by the Chinese people. For example, Marxism advocates scientific research and social development, while Chinese excellent traditional culture pays more attention to human relations and human relations order. Therefore, in the formulation of economic and social development plan with Chinese characteristics, development strategy and diplomatic strategy and other ideological content, or mainly rely on Marxism to guide, but in the proposed family education and school education, we can combine Marxism with excellent traditional culture, carry out the education content of human relations for future talents, so that the principle of benevolence, righteousness, courtesy and wisdom of Chinese traditional culture is better rooted in the construction of Chinese modern ideological education. At the same time, in order to promote the all-round development of the new cultural cause of the Chinese nation, our country should adhere to the scientific socialist communist thought in the national construction, and also to reflect the Chinese cultural characteristics, which requires the use of Marxism and Chinese excellent traditional culture similarities, such as simple materialism, people-oriented thought, collectivism, dialectics and Marxism has a lot of points of convergence, through the integration of the two points of convergence, can provide more resources for the construction of socialist culture with Chinese characteristics. It can also effectively promote the transformation of Chinese excellent traditional culture to modern culture.

5.3 Exogenous Requirement for Contemporary Social Transformation

The Eighteenth National Congress of the Communist Party of China has clearly put forward the construction of socialist core values, mainly reflected in the construction of a richer and stronger socialist country, the rule of law, democracy and justice, harmony and integrity, these concepts are widely absorbed in the concept of Chinese excellent traditional
culture, will also be accepted by all countries in the world, to make Marxism and Chinese excellent traditional culture more popular, grounding. It is necessary to accept China’s national culture and bright style and national language, to deeply explore the history of Marxism in China’s communication period, through summing up a variety of rich experience will provide good service for the construction of Chinese culture. At the same time, it is also necessary to strengthen the construction of Marx’s moral rule system and belief system, which can be widely used for reference to the achievements of Chinese excellent traditional culture. At the same time, we can not ignore the construction of scientific truth system of Marxism. For example, Chinese traditional culture pays more attention to the content of religious ritual and music system and religious system. At this time, these morality and belief can be rooted in Marxist theory, so as to improve the material carrier and system carrier in the process of cultural construction in China. At the same time, we can also learn from foreign religious belief system, which can better promote the progress of Chinese national modern spirit construction. As China’s rising in various fields has attracted people from all over the world to study and further study in China, so in the combination of Marxism and Chinese excellent traditional culture, it is necessary to integrate some academic system and discipline system or some discourse system related content, to learn more from and absorb the research fields and teaching materials of all countries in the world, so as to make a great contribution to the development of world culture, but also make the construction of modern Chinese culture more perfect and ideal.

6. Conclusion

In short, to integrate Marxism with Chinese excellent traditional culture, it is necessary to deeply study the influence of Marxism on China from ancient times. At the same time, it is also necessary to dialectically analyze the new conjunction point between Marxism and Chinese excellent traditional culture. It is necessary to actively and accurately eliminate the dross and take its essence, so as to provide stronger and powerful cultural support for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

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