

# Research on Adhering to Cultural Self-confidence based on Cultural Differences between China and the West

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## Abstract

Among the diverse civilizations in the world today, the Oriental civilization stresses harmonious coexistence and promotes the common development of the world. In the process of the development of human civilization, Western civilization shows different philosophical thinking and chooses a "independent" development route, which has always been criticized by the international community. China has always adhered to the development concept of harmonious coexistence and common development. While increasing its international influence, China has also made positive contributions to promoting the common development of the world and won wide praise from the international community. In the current international situation, how to better adhere to cultural Self-confidence, enhance cultural soft power and give play to strong internal drive has become our key thinking problem. A better understanding of the essence of Chinese and Western culture will help us further strengthen our cultural Self-confidence and national Self-confidence. By further clarifying the essential characteristics of Chinese and Western culture and the philosophical thinking guiding development, this paper obtains the prospect of the future development of Chinese and Western civilization, and makes a deeper beneficial exploration on better adhering to cultural Self-confidence.

## Keywords

Chinese and Western Civilization; Cultural Difference; Cultural Confidence.

## 1. Why Should We be Confident

China has an ancient civilization of 5000 years, which has become more and more thick after the rise and fall of several dynasties. The historical development of Chinese culture has a long history, rich heritage, inherited in one continuous line and passed down from generation to generation. Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism are the ancient and profound roots of Chinese civilization. Confucian culture advocates people to "forge ahead and make achievements". The Confucian classic Analects of Confucius Zilu puts forward: "harmony but difference"; Taoist culture advocates "let nature take its course and self-improvement". Lao Tzu put forward in Tao Te Ching: "Tao follows nature and heaven and man are one"; Buddhist culture advocates "loving all sentient beings and selfless dedication". Shi Bo, a thinker at the end of the Western Zhou Dynasty, said: "if you live with real creatures, you will not continue." [1]The profound Chinese traditional culture has shaped China's national character - inclusiveness, inclusiveness and harmonious coexistence.

China's cultural development is rich and diverse. After the founding of new China, we adhered to the leadership of the Communist Party of China and the development path in line with China's own reality. For our own cultural construction, the party and the state put forward the cultural development guideline of "a hundred schools of thought contend and a hundred flowers bloom". This inclusive national spirit is not only reflected in the development process of our own

civilization, but also in the development of the international community. We adhere to seeking common ground while reserving differences and peaceful coexistence. While adhering to their own efforts, they also advocate mutual respect and common development. One belt, one road, one that is built up in the economic, cultural and technological fields, has been developed in many fields, including the development of economy, culture, science and technology. It has helped us to build a "one belt and one road" and build a community of human destiny. It has made the due contributions to the international community and won widespread praise from the international community. Our country has been closer to the center of the world stage. China's development has never been "independent" development. Emphasizing its own development also encourages common development and mutual benefit all over the world.,It is not difficult to find that China's development thought is deeply influenced by the inclusive Chinese culture. For the development of countries around the world, we still adhere to the principle of "benevolence, wisdom", respect tradition and advocate freedom. The Chinese nation has a noble national spirit and a national mind of "home, country and the world".[2]

## 2. What is the Essence of Western Culture

For western culture, we should make an in-depth discussion from its origin. When we understand the three sources of Western civilization again, it is not difficult to find that the ancient Greek civilization represented by Socrates and Aristotle paved the scientific tradition for Western civilization; The ancient Hebrew civilization and the Judaism developed from it derived the thought of religious original sin from the fear of God (similarly, this thought also provides an ideological basis for the modern western world to explain and attack China's social system and national culture); [3]The civilization of rule of law in ancient Rome also paved the way for the concept of modern legal system. Therefore, the three sources of ancient Western civilization have laid the most basic ideological foundation for the development of modern western civilization.

Ancient Western civilization brought western colonialism, racial invasion and centrism, and created the so-called voting democracy in the western capitalist world, which actually emphasizes the material civilization realized by individuals. It has been confirmed many times by history. In modern times, the large-scale aggressive war launched by western countries is to sacrifice the interests of other countries to meet their own interests and needs, so as to continuously consolidate their status as a world power. It is not only at the level of war, interfering in other countries' economies, habitually using the thought of Western religious original sin to slander other countries' social systems and cultures, and implementing cultural soft invasion, but also trying to find various ways to implement "colonialism" against other countries from non war ways. [4] At the same time, it was opposed and resisted by many countries in this process.

Economy determines politics. Culture is the concentrated expression of economy and politics. Culture plays a strong and lasting role in promoting economy and politics. From its source, western culture has a strong centrism and narrow pattern of personal realization. When its own development speed is overtaken by other countries, the first consideration is not how to optimize the system, alleviate social contradictions and improve the level of people's livelihood, but to start from an angle that doesn't seem bright, adopt political means Economic means and cultural invasion to curb the benign development of other countries in the world. This explains why the United States, as a world superpower, looks at China's continuous rise and everywhere restricts China's development. It tries every means to attack human rights, trade wars, military threats, sanction the development of high-tech companies such as Huawei, etc. This reflects a country's culture from one side and deeply affects the values and development orientation of the nation and the country. Compared with the general pattern of the "world" feelings of

inclusiveness, inclusiveness, self-restraint and propriety in China's Confucian culture, the western countries instead show the nature of being independent and individual realization. Under the banner of democracy and freedom, they can only move towards the "empire" again, the narrow development pattern and the future human civilization, The choice is self-evident.

### 3. Where Will Human Civilization Go? Human Choice - Oriental Civilization

Those who gain the Tao help more, while those who lose the Tao help less. While the development of world civilization is more and more prosperous, cultural blending and collision run through it. However, for the diversified development of human civilization, the Western civilization represented by the United States and other countries and the eastern civilization represented by China have made different choices with their own practical actions. While developing their own economy and culture, western countries wantonly interfere and crack down on the development of other countries in an attempt to maintain their status as a great power. The cultural invasion of China by the United States has never stopped. A large number of films, books and religious organizations full of American spirit have been widely spread in China. Nixon once said in his book *win without war*: "when one day the young people in China no longer believe in the teachings of their ancestors and their traditional culture, we Americans will win without war." To maintain one's own cultural status by occupying the culture of other countries can be described as a narrow development pattern.[5]

China has always adhered to the development concept of harmonious coexistence and seeking common ground while reserving differences. It promotes the common development of the world with its own development. It has always been an active promoter of the progress of the international community. It has practiced this development concept with its own practical actions and won wide praise from the international community. American futurist Nesbitt said in his new book *"Asian trends"*: "today, we have to face such a reality: the rise of the East. Not only Easterners, but also some Westerners have clearly observed that the world is developing in the direction of Orientalization. In the world, the west is still important, but it has no power to control and monopolize the world. The focus of global development has shifted from the west to the East." The people of the world have made their own choices for the Western civilization with power and hegemony under the cloak of democracy and freedom, which is actually colonial plunder, and the open, symbiotic, inclusive and inclusive Eastern civilization. As one of the authors of *looking forward to the 21st century*, Dr. tonby (British) said in the book: "only Chinese Confucianism and Mahayana Buddhism can save human society in the 21st century, so the 21st century is China's century." We have every reason to be proud and confident of our culture. We understand and respect the civilizations of all countries in the world. At the same time, we should also maintain the purity and independence of our own civilization. Just as the slogan at the gate of the Afghan National Museum: "only a country's culture and history live, that country can live". It is terrible for a nation not to have its own culture. It is sad not to carry forward and adhere to its own culture. With an excellent culture, it is shameful for Chinese people to trample on it and not to cherish and create it.

General secretary Xi Jinping, on the 95th Anniversary Conference of China's Communist Party, clearly stated that China's Communist Party must persist in "four Self-confidence" in its "insisting on not losing heart and moving forward", that is, "China's own socialist road Self-confidence, theoretical Self-confidence, institutional Self-confidence and cultural confidence". He also stressed that "cultural Self-confidence is, More basic, broader and deeper Self-confidence". General secretary Xi Jinping's important exposition of "four confidence" highlights the cultural foundation, cultural essence and cultural ideal of China's socialism with China's characteristics, which is the inheritance and distillation of Chinese traditional culture. [6]The

proposal of cultural Self-confidence in the "four Self-confidence" emphasizes the national Self-confidence in foreign cultural exchanges. Full national Self-confidence makes the culture open, and makes the Chinese culture have global thinking and international vision. Global thinking and international vision are very important for the development of a national culture. With global thinking and international vision, we can understand the general trend of world cultural development, understand the development achievements of other national cultures, eliminate the national psychology of being closed and arrogant, but understand ourselves from the perspective of the world, promote ourselves to keep pace with the times and walk with the times, Bring Chinese culture into the overall pattern of world culture.

#### 4. Conclusion

Therefore, we should fully understand our own excellent traditional culture and vigorously carry forward and inherit excellent traditional culture on the basis of full understanding. We have reason to improve our recognition ability for the invasion of foreign culture, especially western culture. We should adhere to cultural Self-confidence and constantly carry forward China's excellent traditional culture in a high degree of cultural Self-confidence, Improve the country's cultural soft power.

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