

On the Philosophical Implications of a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind from the Perspective of Chinese Philosophy

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Abstract

The concept of a community of shared future for mankind is an important concept proposed by Xi Jinping as socialism with Chinese characteristics enters a new era. It is an important embodiment of China's active integration into global governance and participation in shouldering responsibility of a major country in the new era. It is also a highly condensed version of the wisdom of traditional Chinese philosophy. In traditional Chinese philosophy and culture, the social governance concepts of "family", "state" and "the world" are highly valued, the peaceful development and the communicative civilization are stressed. The inclusive of Confucian culture is also a good approach to solve many problems around the world. Stresses on ecological balance and closely linked world reflect the overall ecological idea of Confucianism. It can be said that the community with a shared future for mankind embodies the profound philosophical wisdom of traditional Chinese culture.

Keywords

Chinese philosophy; Community with a shared future for mankind; philosophical implication.

1. Introduction

The community with a shared future for mankind is a concept proposed by Xi Jinping from a high standing, which regards the human being as a whole, from the point of mankind. And then from the perspective of social governance, it mentions the integrity, systematic and relevance of the human destiny. And especially, from the perspective of the well-being of mankind, it mentions that China should not only solve her own problems, but also actively participate in the global governance and bear the responsibility of a major country in order to achieve the happiness of the Chinese people as well as people in the world. And the rapid development in China also provides a referential Chinese solution and wisdom for those developing countries that want to maintain their independence and develop themselves rapidly.

2. The Practical Significance of a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind

At present, all countries in the world are facing various challenges and tests. Accordingly, global issues, such as food security, high resource consumption, climate change, terrorist attacks, cyber-attacks, population explosion, environmental pollution, epidemic diseases and transnational crimes, are emerging one after another. It can be said that the destinies of mankind are so close-linked that these problems above cannot be solved by one country or two. Only through enhancing cooperation, exchanges and joint efforts among the governments around the whole world can we truly solve these problems and bring real benefits to mankind. The concept of a community with a shared future for mankind put forward by China in such a period is a clear understanding of China's development situation and of the world development trend, a best solution to the problems, and a profound proposition with philosophical implications as well. The concept not only absorbs the essence of rich traditional Chinese culture, but also highlights the new development of Marxism in the contemporary and reflects the spirits of keeping with the times.

3. The Historical Background of a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind

The proposal of a community with a shared future for mankind has its own historical background. The historical development of new China has gone through three stages. Accordingly, the cognition of Chinese participation in the world also has three stages. In the first stage, China adhered to the active participation in the world communist movement, tried to improve the status in the camp of socialist countries. But the economic situation in that stage was relatively backward; in the second one, due to lack of experience in socialist construction, China took so hard detour that it began to sum up experience, hide its strength and bide the time. Meanwhile, China put forward a concept of being in good control of its own affairs and making its own development at first; and in the third stage, China proposes the community with a shared future for mankind at present. This concept reflects China's increasing strength after forty-year development and more influences on the whole world. Of course, a powerful economy does not mean a powerful soft power. However, this concept, with no doubt, can play a huge role in promoting the influence of Chinese culture on the world. The concept of respecting diversity, affirming differences and embracing all things in traditional Chinese culture is influencing China today. At the same time, China hopes to widespread this concept to the world through its own strength so that the world can have knowledge of Chinese culture and a broad-minded China that values peace.

4. A Community with a Shared Future for Mankind from the Perspective of Chinese Philosophy

4.1 A social governance emotion of family-state-and-the world.

The emotion in the traditional Chinese philosophy and culture, from the point of the degree of personal involvement in society, is a process constantly by expanding from introvert to extrovert and moving from small to big, such as the thought of "Xiu Qi Zhi Ping" (that is, an ambition of improving oneself, managing one's own family and state, and reassuring all people's livelihood) in the Great Learning, one of the Four Classical Books on Confucianism, which tells us that he should first manage his state or country well if a great man in ancient times wanted to widespread the good virtue in his mind; and first manage his own family well if wanting to govern his state or country well; then first improve himself if wanting to manage his own family well. In other words, one could not manage his own family well until he could cultivate his own character well; he could not govern his own country well until he could be in good control of his family; he could not achieve the dream of a peaceful world until he could manage his state well. [1] In Confucianism, it emphasizes that one's virtue is reflected in the process of active participation in practical activities and social responsibilities. It is a process of gradual improvement from down to top with strict logical relations. In reality, a person should do things according to the state or stage he is under. He should first cultivate his character, make a friendly and harmonious family, and then regulate his country and world well. This is also true for the development of a country. We should follow this law and the process from down to top and from small to big; otherwise we will take a detour. From the perspective of historical development, new China was founded on the basis of poverty. It first focused on "self-cultivation" and strived to improve itself. After taking a detour, China began the reform and opening-up policy and developed its national economy by summarizing the experience of setbacks. A proverb in China says that "the granaries are full and then the etiquette is known." The Chinese people have solved the problem of food and clothing that seems to be unsolvable in the world. After continuous efforts, China has entered a moderately prosperous society. The proposal means that China has entered a moderately prosperous society, but with incomplete and uneven development. When the material civilization reaches a certain level in one country, there will be a higher spiritual and cultural pursuit to improve its cultural influence. China has become the second largest economy in the world, so it naturally requires a higher pursue for spiritual culture. The proposal of a community with a shared future for mankind is a reflection of Chinese expanding governance capacity and an improvement of their spiritual realm.

4.2 The diplomatic concept that "peace is most precious" [2]8 and the win-win spirit that "when you stand firm, you can help those who fall; when you become rich, you can help others". [2]65

China's diplomacy has always been deeply influenced by the traditional culture that "peace is the most precious". The diplomatic concept of "peaceful development and win-win cooperation" proposed by Xi Jinping has been endorsed by many countries. In history, China was once so strong that it influenced the neighboring countries, but only through a powerful culture, because China had always pursued the path of peaceful development, which reflected the Confucian concept of "ruling in a benevolent way", rather than "ruling by the force of dictators". And while China is strong again today, it's important to avoid misinterpreting that power, especially the China threat theory that some western countries are advocating. "China will always be a builder of world peace, firmly follow the path of peaceful development and never seek hegemony, expansion or sphere of influence." [3] 525 And facts have also proved China's idea of not seeking hegemony, such as its assistance to Africa and the construction of AIIB(Asian Infrastructure Investment) based on strong public interest. Meanwhile, China follows international morality and international rules when dealing with some diplomatic issues, and does not bully the weak by virtue of its own strength. In recent years, a series of Xi Jinping's governance concepts have achieved remarkable results, such as the increasing CPC's governance capacity and social governance capacity, sustained economic growth, a more stable society and growing regional and global influence. "The Belt and Road Initiative" and AIIB have been well endorsed by many countries, which has not only promoted China's development, but also strengthened its ties with neighboring countries. An old proverb in China says that "in times of hardships, one should try to improve his own morality; in times of success, one should try to make people in the world benefit". [4] China's rapid economic development has promoted the development of many countries, and China also welcomes the rest of the world to take a free ride and develop them. Today, China pays more attention to its sense of responsibility, the power of influence and voice, and hopes that the world will understand a real China and avoid being led astray by the China threat theory.

4.3 The inclusive spirit of Confucianism.

In history, Confucian culture has been highly inclusive. For instance, in the prosperous tang dynasty, it has facilitated the gathering of various civilizations and cultural exchanges, rather than adopted arbitrary force and military expedition, despite its strong national strength. This is also true of China's strength today. "It needs a spirit of harmony in diversity to get along with civilization. Only through mutual respect, mutual learning and harmonious coexistence in diversity can the world become colorful and prosperous. Various civilizations embody the wisdom and contribution of different ethnic groups, without any superiority or inferiority". [3]524 Confucianism has always advocated respect for differences. The world is a multi-polar one, so we should fully respect the diversity in the world. Cultural differences create a colorful world. Each culture has its own specialty, which adds flavor to the world. As Xi Jinping said "every civilization has its unique charm and profound heritage, which is a spiritual treasure of mankind. Different civilizations should draw on each other's strengths and make common progress. Mutual exchanges and learning among civilizations have become the driving force for human progress and the bond for world peace. [3] 544 Confucian culture is one of the world's most inclusive cultures. Shi Bo, a famous thinker in the pre-qin period in China, ever recognized that "harmony generates vitality, similarity restrains development". Therefore, culture cannot absolutely keep the same. The diversity of the cultures creates the colorful world today. Different civilizations should respect and understanding each other.

4.4 The ecological concept of sustainable development.

In recent years, the world is facing the challenge of environmental pressure and ecological destruction. Xunzi, one of the greatest thinkers in ancient China, ever said "the law of nature is that one cannot step into the forest and cut them when plants growing; one cannot use net fishing to trap them when soft-shelled turtles, Chinese alligators, mudfishes and eels or other creatures in breeding period; one shall help them develop and thrive, rather than capture or kill them, when the animals are so young."

[5] Traditional Chinese culture highly values the breeding of nature. For instance, the ancients always alerted the later generations not to drain the pond to catch the fish. We human beings live in one earth with limited resources, so we should jointly cope with the challenges from the global environment and resources, rather than run in the opposite direction. Especially for some major countries, they should show a strong sense of responsibility. Confronting with serious environmental problems in recent years, China is paying more and more attention to ecological balance. “Clear waters and green mountains are as good as mountains of gold and silver” was a scientific judgment put forward by Xi Jinping when he was the party secretary of Zhejiang province during his visit to Anji County, Huzhou City, Zhejiang province in August 2005. Meanwhile, China also lays stress on people’s living environment, and advocates harmonious coexistence between human and nature. Environmental protection and emphasis on ecological civilization is what China should do today. It is also a basic principle that people in the world should jointly uphold.

The concept of the community with a shared future for mankind proposed by Xi Jinping, mentioned that the fate of the mankind is close-linked together, and called for each government in the world to jointly deal with the existing problems. It loudly speaks out the concept of China, shows the responsibility and the style of China as a major country, displays the charm of traditional Chinese culture and the ability to actively participate in global governance and the responsibility based on the height of the whole human.

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