A Probe into the Relationship between Chinese Excellent Traditional Culture and Socialist Core Values

Qiuyong Fu

School of Marxism, Wuhan University of Technology, Wuhan 430070, China.

Abstract

Generally speaking, Chinese excellent traditional culture is closely related to socialist core values. The cultivation of socialist core values should not only be rooted in the excellent traditional Chinese culture, but also be carried on and sublimated to the excellent traditional Chinese culture. In this regard, it is necessary to distinguish and screen traditional culture and grasp the premise of cultivating socialist core values; It is time to protect and carry forward the fine traditional Chinese culture and consolidate the foundation for the cultivation of socialist core values. In order to transform and develop Chinese fine traditional culture, we ought to grasp the key to cultivate socialist core values.

Keywords

Chinese Excellent Traditional Culture, Socialist Core Values, Relationship.

1. Introduction

When talking about the relationship between Chinese excellent traditional culture and socialist core values, General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized that "the core values of a nation and a country must be compatible with the history and culture of this nation and country". This is of great guiding significance for us to correctly understand and deeply grasp the relationship between the two, and it also promotes the cultivation of socialist core values.

2. Organization of the Text

2.1. The socialist core values must be rooted in the excellent traditional Chinese culture

General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out: "Cultivating and promoting socialist core values must be based on China's excellent traditional culture. Solid core values have their inherent roots. Abandoning tradition and losing the roots is equivalent to cutting off our spiritual lifeline. The profound Chinese excellent tradition Culture is the foundation for us to gain a firm foothold in the world cultural turmoil." The Chinese excellent traditional culture referred to here is an excellent culture created and passed down by the Chinese nation in the 5,000-year civilization. It is an excellent culture that has an important impact on realizing the "Chinese Dream" and "two hundred-year struggle goals". At the same time, The development of "soft power", "smart power" and "hard power" is influenced by traditional culture and cannot be separated from the guidance of values. Therefore, the development and progress of the Chinese nation is closely related to traditional culture. With the passage of time, traditional culture will change in form and content, and lose some things, but what remains unchanged is the spiritual core and cultural genes of traditional culture. "Don't forget that you can open up the future, and be good at inheritance to make better innovations. For historical culture, especially the values and moral norms passed down by ancestors, we must persist in making the past serve the present, bring forth the new, treat them with discrimination, inherit them with sublation, and strive to use all
the spiritual wealth created by the Chinese nation to educate people and people with literature."

For a long time, China has attached importance to economic development and neglected cultural development. Although economic achievements are obvious to all, it is not difficult to see that "soft power" has lagged behind "hard power", especially the process of cultivating socialist core values has obviously lagged behind economic development, resulting in "value crisis" and "belief crisis", with serious consequences. Therefore, China must attach importance to the cultivation of socialist core values. Only by taking root in Chinese excellent traditional culture, absorbing its nutrition and combining with Chinese traditional virtues and traditional values can we cultivate socialist core values better and faster. This is because:

First of all, from the perspective of historical development, the socialist core values embody the deepest spiritual pursuit. The cultivation of socialist core values is the core of cultural construction, which is an important part of the overall layout of the "Five in One" and the key to maintaining cultural self-confidence. General Secretary Xi Jinping mentioned that "cultural self-confidence is a more basic, deeper and lasting force". This self-confidence mainly comes from the accumulation of Chinese excellent traditional culture for 5,000 years, which is why the socialist core values embody the deepest spiritual pursuit.

Secondly, in reality, the socialist core values play a cohesive role. On the one hand, universality is an important feature of values, and socialist core values, as the "greatest common denominator" of Chinese people's value identification at present, are not only formed on the basis of Chinese excellent traditional culture and ideology, but also show and embody the universal values of the world, so they are universal. Therefore, the cultivation content of socialist core values should be incorporated into daily life in a popular way to meet the cultural needs of the people. On the other hand, the excellent traditional Chinese culture is the crystallization of the wisdom of Chinese sons and daughters for thousands of years, which deeply affects Chinese sons and daughters. Therefore, only when the cultivation of socialist core values is rooted in Chinese excellent traditional culture can we give full play to the role of cohesion.

Thirdly, from the perspective of international influence, the socialist core values, as a unique spiritual symbol which is different from other nations, must be rooted in Chinese excellent traditional culture. The competition in today's world is the competition of comprehensive national strength. As an important influencing factor of comprehensive national strength, culture has become an important weapon for western countries to implement hegemonism. In this context, China must have a value system with national characteristics and Chinese style.

It is worth noting that China's cultivation of socialist core values must not directly transplant western values. Mainly because China and the West have different history and culture, and the soil that breeds culture is also different. Western values such as freedom, equality and democracy are gradually formed along with the development of capitalism, and are also influenced by ancient Greek civilization and Christian doctrine. Chinese traditional culture is based on patriarchal society and imperial power, and formed in the small-scale peasant economy, so it is not feasible to copy western values completely. However, we should also realize that the cultivation of socialist core values is based on Chinese excellent traditional culture, but it does not mean blindly rejecting other excellent cultures. On the contrary, cultivating socialist core values requires not only Chinese excellent traditional culture to arouse citizens' recognition and public resonance, but also absorbing the excellent factors of other national cultures, so as to make up for the deficiency of Chinese excellent traditional culture and promote the creative transformation and innovative development of Chinese excellent traditional culture, thus providing rich nourishment for cultivating and practicing socialist core values.
2.2. **The socialist core values inherit and sublimate Chinese excellent traditional culture**

The "Three Advocates" put forward by the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China marked the formal formation of socialist core values and embodied the value orientation at the national, social and individual levels. The formation of socialist core values is the result of sublimation and innovation on the basis of absorbing the essence of Chinese excellent traditional culture.

**2.2.1. Innovation at the national level**

At the national level, prosperity, democracy, civilization and harmony reflect the goal of building China into a modern socialist power. General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out: "Chinese excellent traditional culture is the outstanding advantage of the Chinese nation and our deepest cultural soft power". Therefore, the first advocacy should be understood from the perspective of traditional culture, and fully realize the important role of traditional culture in the formation of values at the national level.

In the feudal era, China's economic development level was in the forefront of the world, and rulers and people with lofty ideals of all ages devoted themselves to economic development and national strength. The prosperity emphasized by the socialist core values has borrowed the ancient thought of prosperity and achieved new development. The prosperity of socialism is the unity of the people's wealth and the country's strength. The people's wealth is the support of the country, and the country creates a relaxed environment for the people's wealth.

Traditional society is an autocratic society. There is no democracy at all, but it contains rich "people-oriented thought". For example, in Song of the Five Sons of Shangshu, "The people are the nation-oriented, but the country is better", it is pointed out that the people are the foundation of the country, and only when the people live and work in peace and contentment can the rule of the country be stable. The socialist core values emphasize that "democracy" means that the people are the masters of the country. This kind of democracy is the democracy of the majority, not the democracy of the minority, and the prominent thing is that the people are supreme and the rights and responsibilities are shared. Under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, the government has continuously expanded the scope of citizens' political participation, and ensured democracy by formulating a political system, thus realizing that the people are truly masters of the country.

As an ancient civilization and a country of etiquette, China has always attached importance to the value of morality. Since the Western Zhou Dynasty, emperors of all dynasties have practiced the rule of virtue. The "civilization" of socialist core values has been sublimated on the basis of inheriting ancient civilizations, which is the unity of spiritual civilization and material civilization, and is reflected in the civilization accomplishment of socialist citizens and getting along with civilizations of other countries.

Harmony is one of the core concepts of ancient Chinese traditional culture, which is reflected in all aspects of ancient society, such as harmony between man and nature, harmony between nations and harmony between nations, and harmony within nations. The "harmony" emphasized by the socialist core values is the inheritance and development of Chinese excellent traditional culture, which has a wider meaning, including not only the harmony of people's physical and mental relations, but also the harmony between people, people and society, people and nature, nations, countries and various civilizations.

**2.2.2. Innovation at the social level**

Although the social discourse of "freedom, equality, justice and rule of law" comes from the west, it is inextricably linked with the excellent Chinese traditional culture.
The autocracy of ancient society limited the free development, so freedom is temporary and occasional for the laboring masses, rather than a real long-term and inevitable freedom, but a kind of relative freedom, which is manifested in the farmers' autonomy and free and independent state under the small-scale peasant economy. The "freedom" emphasized by socialist core values is citizens' freedom of existence and development, etc. In short, socialist freedom is all-round freedom, which is reflected in development, that is, free and all-round development as Marx said.

Equality in feudal society is an impossible equality under feudal system, an abstract limited equality, not an equality in the true sense. Pursuing equality is the basic requirement of socialism. Equality mentioned in socialist society means that every citizen has equal rights, performs equal obligations and assumes equal responsibilities in all aspects of society.

Justice means fair and valuable justice. In ancient China, it was a centralized society of feudal autocracy. Justice was difficult to be realized in the traditional society with obvious consciousness of rule by man, and only Confucian justice appeared, that is, the monarch, the minister and his son were in their own place. The justice emphasized by the socialist core values is fairness and justice without exploitation and oppression, which is the value orientation of our country at present.

China's thought of rule of law can be traced back to Xunzi in the Spring and Autumn Period and Warring States Period. He believes that the implementation of the rule of law is an effective means to govern the country. The rule of law plays a certain role in pursuing freedom and equality and promoting social progress. For example, in Shang Yang's political reform, it was stipulated that everyone except the king should be punished for breaking the law, breaking the tradition that punishment is not as good as that of a doctor. However, the ancient law is a law under the rule of man after all, and the rule of the ruling class is always maintained. The "rule of law" emphasized by socialist core values is mainly to protect private rights and restrict public power, which embodies that citizens are equal before the law. Therefore, the rule of law plays an important role in safeguarding the fundamental interests of the people and regulating social order.

2.2.3. Innovation at the individual level

As far as the third advocacy is concerned, patriotism, friendly personality, honesty and dedication all have their unique status in the moral cultivation of citizens, which are indispensable, and if they are lacking, they cannot become qualified citizens. Therefore, on the basis of absorbing and learning from the experience and lessons of traditional culture, the socialist core values are of great significance to the innovation at the individual level.

In feudal society, the king, as the supreme ruler of the country, is the representative and symbol of the country, which makes people have the illusion that loyalty to the king means patriotism. The phenomenon of "loyalty to the king without mercy" occurs from time to time, which inhibits the development of the country and hinders social progress. With the passage of time, the connotation of patriotism has changed. Patriotism emphasized by the socialist core values should not only love the great rivers and mountains of the motherland and Chinese traditional culture, but also love the socialist system and compatriots. Personally, it is embodied in the responsibility of "the rise and fall of the world, the responsibility of every man" (Gu Yanwu language) and the patriotic feelings of the supremacy of national and ethnic interests.

Traditional dedication thoughts have long been expounded in ancient Chinese prose, such as Confucius's "Deacon Respect", "Respect and believe in things"; In Book of Rites, Xueji, "One year, we should distinguish records from classics, and three years, we should respect music groups, etc. These ancient sayings express the connotation of traditional dedication, that is, devote yourself to doing things and stick to it. Dedication emphasized by socialist core values is to do one's job conscientiously and create extraordinary life value in ordinary jobs.
Dedication, as an evaluation standard of professional behavior, manifests itself in an enterprising working attitude and arduous professional spirit, which is the sublimation of professional ethics.

Honesty means honesty and trustworthiness in traditional culture, which is the basic criterion of people's life. At the same time, honesty is also an important measure of moral evaluation. However, this evaluation scale is only applicable to individuals, and seldom carries out moral evaluation on the country and society. Therefore, the traditional honesty thought separates individuals from the country and society. "Honesty" emphasized in socialist core values is not only the moral standard of citizens, but also the foundation of their foundation. What is more important is to promote honesty from evaluating individuals to evaluating society and country, so that the subject of honesty evaluation becomes individuals, countries and society.

In feudal society, friendliness is the code of conduct in interpersonal communication. For example, Confucius once said, "Do not treat others as you would like them to be"; Mencius believes that "the old and the old, the young and the young"; Mozi advocates "loving each other and benefiting each other", etc. These famous sayings all show respect and care for people. The scope of "friendliness" in socialist core values is wider. Besides being kind to others, it also emphasizes being kind to nature, society and country, which is the code of conduct for Chinese citizens to get along with each other.

2.3. The strategic analysis of cultivating socialist core values rooted in Chinese excellent traditional culture

Chinese excellent traditional culture is a deep fertile ground for socialist core values. Without the nourishment of excellent traditional culture, socialist core values will become passive water and rootless wood. Therefore, the cultivation of socialist core values must be rooted in Chinese traditional culture, and it must be differentiated and screened, protected and promoted, transformed and developed.

2.3.1. Grasp the premise: distinguish and screen traditional culture

Traditional culture originated from feudal society in China for thousands of years and grew up in farming society based on small-scale peasant economy, so traditional culture and small-scale peasant economy influence each other. On the one hand, traditional culture maintains the stability of small-scale peasant economy and promotes its vigorous development; On the other hand, due to the influence of small-scale peasant economy, traditional culture has a closed and backward side. "In the process of its formation and development, traditional culture will inevitably be restricted and influenced by the people's level of understanding, the conditions of the times and the limitations of the social system at that time, so there will inevitably be outdated or ruined things." Therefore, we should pay attention to judging the essence and dross, and correctly distinguish and screen traditional culture.

Examining and choosing traditional culture, and absorbing the parts that fit with socialist core values, there is no doubt that only the excellent parts of traditional culture can fit with socialist core values. Therefore, judging what is the essence and what is the dross is the primary problem at present. They are not as rotten as fruits. Cut off the bad ones and keep the good ones. So what is the standard of this judgment? In fact, there is no accurate evaluation scale, and there is no systematic operation standard. Chairman Mao once wrote the thesis of "democratic essence and feudal dross" in "On New Democracy", which once became the standard for judging essence and dross. As we all know, China was an autocratic and centralized society in ancient times, and there was no democracy at all. Such a criterion is not so much a cultural criterion as a political criterion, which directly leads to less essence, more dross and more criticism than affirmation. Although Chinese traditional culture has a long history, what remains is not necessarily the essence, and the dross will not disappear with it. It is necessary to examine traditional culture in real life, not only to see whether it meets the development requirements of advanced socialist
culture, but also to see whether it meets the spiritual and cultural needs of the people. In this way, it is not difficult to distinguish the essence from the dross.

2.3.2. To lay a solid foundation: to protect and carry forward the fine traditional Chinese culture

When talking about the relationship between Chinese excellent traditional culture and socialist core values, General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized: "If we want to gain a firm foothold in the agitation of world culture, we must take Chinese excellent traditional culture as the foundation and make Chinese excellent traditional culture an important source of socialist core values." Therefore, we should pay attention to the protection and promotion of Chinese excellent traditional culture and lay a solid foundation for cultivating socialist core values.

First of all, innovate ways to carry forward Chinese excellent traditional culture. On the one hand, Chinese excellent traditional culture should be effectively combined with modern new media and new media to create a cultural communication mode that is easy for the general public to accept. For example, through the integration of Chinese excellent traditional culture and TV media, Chinese excellent traditional culture education programs should be done in central and local TV stations; On the other hand, social organizations and universities are organized to participate in the compilation of general reading books of Chinese excellent traditional culture, which liberates Chinese excellent traditional culture from boring ancient books, displays its profound connotation in vivid, lively and interesting forms, and enables people to fully and deeply understand Chinese excellent traditional culture, thus providing rich nourishment for the cultivation of socialist core values.

Secondly, attach importance to traditional culture education. Incorporate Chinese traditional culture education into the national education system and implement it as a basic project. Traditional culture education should be carried out from primary school, junior high school to university to avoid fragmentation of traditional culture teaching, and a certain proportion of traditional culture teachers should be provided, so as to enhance students' recognition of traditional culture and guide students to establish a correct view of nationality and history. In addition, in traditional culture education, we should pay attention to the cooperation among society, schools and families, actively advocate traditional virtues, make traditional values glow with new vitality in modern society, and build a cultural base for cultivating socialist core values.

Finally, pay attention to the excavation of the values of traditional cultural resources. After thousands of years, the Chinese nation has accumulated precious spiritual wealth. First, explore the values contained in the material form. Material is the carrier of culture, but pure material can't be called culture, and only material bearing cultural concept is culture, such as cultural relics and artworks. If you don't understand its cultural meaning and deeper values, it will not affect the formation of socialist core values. Second, explore the values contained in symbolic culture. Traditional symbolic culture is not the product of transforming natural objects, but gradually formed in the aesthetic grasp of natural objects, such as flowers, birds and plants, which are often endowed with special cultural connotations by poems and become symbolic cultural forms. Therefore, the cultivation of socialist core values is the values contained in ordinary natural objects, not the natural objects themselves. Third, explore the values contained in the traditional theoretical culture.

Theoretical culture is the sublimation of symbolic cultural form, and the former is various concepts formed by abstract theoretical thinking of the latter. For example, "Journey to the West" is a literary and artistic work with symbolic cultural significance. Only by carrying out abstract theoretical thinking can we realize the various values contained in it. Therefore, on the basis of fully excavating and absorbing the values contained in material form, symbolic culture and traditional theoretical culture, we can better promote the cultivation of socialist core values.
2.3.3. Grasp the key: transform and develop Chinese excellent traditional culture

The cultivation of socialist core values should not only critically inherit traditional culture, but also realize the creative transformation and innovative development of Chinese excellent traditional culture. Inheritance, development and transformation are dialectical unity, inheritance is the premise, and development and transformation are the purpose. Development and transformation in the process of inheritance are inseparable. Traditional culture originated in feudal society. Due to the influence of times and cognitive limitations, it often shows the coexistence of essence and dross. Therefore, traditional culture should not only be preserved and inherited, but also be transformed and developed. Otherwise, the traditional culture will be gradually "museum-oriented", which only exists in the hearts of Chinese people, meets their emotional needs, can't fully integrate with the spiritual world of Chinese people, and can't play an active role in real life.

According to the requirements of the times, the traditional culture with positive cultural values but outdated forms should be reformed, endowed with the value of the times, and transformed into useful new ideas, so that it can become a cultural gene to conserve socialist core values and realize the organic combination of Chinese excellent traditional culture and socialist core values. For example, the core values in ancient China are "loyalty", "filial piety" and "benevolence". As far as loyalty is concerned, it mainly refers to loyalty to the emperor. Now the imperial system has long ceased to exist. Although there is no loyal object, as a kind of value, it is not outdated in today's society, which can transform the foolish loyalty to the emperor into loyalty to the country. The object of "filial piety" still exists, but the feudal "filial piety" in ancient times is incompatible with the socialist society, which transforms the traditional filial piety and reconstructs the discourse of "filial piety".

What kind of development is innovative development? It is to "supplement, expand and improve the connotation of Chinese excellent traditional culture according to the new progress and development of the times", and realize innovative development. This is because the traditional culture was created by the Chinese nation in a long history, which existed in the past and had a certain time and space distance from the modern times. This is the thought of propriety. Ancient rites include three meanings, namely, etiquette, etiquette, and etiquette. In ancient society, morality is fundamental, and it is always said that "etiquette and music are the basis, food and clothing are the last". Therefore, in the process of inheriting "etiquette", we should not only attach importance to morality, but also expand the connotation of etiquette to realize the transformation from "rule by etiquette" to "rule by law" and the combination of "rule by virtue" and "rule by law".

References
