

The Contemporary Meaning of the Global Civilization Initiative

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Abstract: *The Global Civilization Initiative, put forward as a requirement of the times and an objective demand for the development of human civilization, is a global initiative with rich contemporary connotations, and the four "initiatives" contained therein are closely related to each other and interlocked. The content of the Initiative provides a paradigm for different civilizations to get along with each other, puts forward a goal for civilizational exchanges, clarifies the objective law of civilizational development, and opens up an effective way for civilizational ties, reflecting the common wish of the people of the world and promoting the common progress of world civilization.*

Keywords: *Global Civilization Initiative; civilizations living together; human civilization development*

1. Introduction

President of the State put forward the Global Civilization Initiative at the High-level Dialogue between the Communist Party of China (CPC) and World Political Parties, with respect for the diversity of the world's civilizations, promotion of the common values of all mankind, emphasis on civilization inheritance and innovation, and strengthening of international humanistic exchanges and cooperation as its main contents. This is a Chinese answer given by General Secretary President of the State from the standpoint of the progress of human civilization, accurately grasping the changing trends of the times, profoundly observing the laws of the historical development of human civilization, actively responding to the general concern of people of all countries about how different civilizations can get along, and solving the common problems faced by human civilization, and providing Chinese wisdom and Chinese solutions for the world's different civilizations to get along with each other and for the development and progress of human civilization, which is rich in It has rich connotations for the times.

2. Respect for the diversity of civilizations as a paradigm for civilizational coexistence

Civilization is the product of the development of human social practice to a certain extent, and is the collective memory of a country and a nation. Every civilization in the world is rooted in the soil of its own existence, unites the extraordinary wisdom and spiritual pursuit of a country or a nation, and has its own value of existence.[1] How different civilizations can get along with each other has always been one of the major problems plaguing the progress of modern societies. The Global Civilization Initiative advocates mutual respect among civilizations, adheres to equality and mutual understanding among civilizations, advocates civilizational exchanges and civilizational tolerance, and provides a new paradigm for promoting the harmonious coexistence of different civilizations.

The Global Civilization Initiative is based on respect for the diversity of civilizations. Civilizational diversity is a basic feature of human society, and there are more than 200 countries and regions in the world, more than 2,500 ethnic groups and a variety of religions, and people have drawn a brilliant and colorful map of civilization based on different customs and spiritual pursuits, showing a colorful diversity of features. Each form of civilization represents different people's knowledge of social development and their identification with social practices, and it unites the spiritual concepts and value pursuits of a country or a nation. In the long history of mankind, although some peoples have become increasingly prosperous and some have become increasingly weak, and different civilizations have created their own civilizations in different order of time, this does not mean that a civilization with a strong nation and an early origin of civilization is an excellent civilization, nor does it mean that a civilization with a weak nation and a late origin of civilization is an inferior civilization. Quite the contrary, the relationship among human civilizations is one of equality and mutual understanding, and respect for the equality of

civilizations means respect for the diversity of civilizations. The Global Civilization Initiative, which upholds equality and respect and rejects arrogance and prejudice, underscores the vital importance of respect for civilizational diversity in the coexistence of civilizations.

Exchanges and mutual understanding among civilizations are an inherent requirement for respecting the diversity of human civilization. Civilizations cannot remain in a state of self-enclosure for a long period of time, or they will surely weaken. It is only through deepening exchanges, mutual learning and appreciation, complementing each other's strengths and weaknesses, and innovating that civilizations can maintain the vitality of their respective civilizations. Equality is the basis of exchange, tolerance is the attitude of mutual learning, and equality and tolerance are the prerequisites for civilization exchange and mutual learning. For a long time, the Western countries have boasted of their own civilization as a "universal civilization", promoted the "clash of civilizations theory", held the wrong power thinking, considered themselves superior in terms of races, nationalities and civilizations, and imposed their own narrow view of civilization on other peoples, and attempted to suppress other civilizations by means of power politics, cultural infiltration, etc. The Western countries have also tried to suppress other civilizations by means of cultural infiltration, Through power politics, cultural infiltration and other means, they attempt to suppress other civilizations, "but in essence, they are only trying to cover up their own narrow and specific positions and interests"[2], and practice has proved that a narrow view of civilization is not feasible and will not work. The Global Civilization Initiative "breaks down the barriers of cultural exchanges with an open mind and draws on the nutrients of other civilizations with an eclectic attitude", advocating seeking common ground while reserving differences, living in harmony with differences and getting along harmoniously on the basis of a deeper understanding of the differences between one's own civilization and those of other civilizations, so as to promote exchanges and mutual understanding among different civilizations, and to push forward the advancement of civilizations together.

Respect for the diversity of civilizations is of great significance. First, different civilizations have brought about a rich variety of human experiences and knowledge, and each civilization has its own unique cultural symbols, such as art, literature and music, which have all enriched the treasure trove of human culture; secondly, the diversity of civilizations promotes mutual understanding and respect among people, and by learning about the values and customs of other civilizations, we can reduce misunderstandings and prejudices, and promote harmonious coexistence; and thirdly, exchanges and integration among civilizations can promote innovation and progress. Thirdly, exchanges and integration among civilizations can promote innovation and progress, and exchanges among different civilizations can promote the development of science and technology, economy and society. Civilizational diversity enables each group to better understand its own culture and to enhance its self-esteem and sense of identity. The first "advocate" in the Global Civilization Initiative succinctly expresses the basic characteristics of civilizations, their attitudes towards interaction and the requirements for development, eloquently proving that world civilizations thrive on equality and tolerance, and develop through exchanges and mutual understanding, and providing a new paradigm for the promotion of coexistence among different civilizations.

3. Promoting the common values of all humankind as the goal of civilizational engagement

From the perspective of the development of human civilization, the common values of all humankind are the common goals and aspirations pursued by human societies in the process of development, and the common value pursued by the people of all countries in the world in their social practices; in the process of exchanges among civilizations, the promotion of the common values of all humankind is the common pursuit of exchanges, and it is also the goal of the Global Civilization Initiative.

Previously, in the plan of action on global development issues, adhering to the exchange and mutual understanding of civilizations and building an open and inclusive world were at the forefront, which was further deepened by the Global Civilization Initiative, which advocated the promotion of the common values of all humankind, focusing on the understanding of different civilizations of the connotation of values. Different civilizations have different perceptions of the connotations of values, but the vision of the peoples of the world for a better life is common, and "peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy and freedom are the common pursuits of all peoples"[3]. Peace and development is still the theme of the present era. It cannot be denied that there are still local wars and regional conflicts in the world, hegemony and power politics have not disappeared, the global gap between the rich and the poor continues to widen, polarization has intensified, and the vast number of developing countries are plagued by the problems of poverty and disease to this day, and that peace and development are the common

aspirations of the peoples of all countries. Fairness, justice and democratic freedom are important guarantees for the self-development of every individual, and the fairness, justice and democratic freedom advocated by the Global Civilization Initiative have their starting point in the people of all countries, and must be implemented by all people. The key to fairness, justice and democratic freedom lies in the rights of the people. Some Western countries have ignored and neglected human rights issues, with serious class divisions and disregard for the immediate interests of the majority of the people, leading to prominent social contradictions. On the contrary, President of the State has repeatedly said that people's happiness is the greatest human right, and the guarantee of rights has been fully realized on the Chinese soil. Facts have proved that social justice and human rights, democracy and freedom are the universal pursuits of people around the world.

The Global Civilization Initiative is not based on the self-interests and value pursuits of a certain country or civilization, nor is it a manifestation of the special interests of a few countries, regions and ethnic groups; the Initiative highlights the common value pursuits of different civilizations in the twenty-first century. Some Western countries strongly advocate "universal values", but the essence is to satisfy the special interests of a few countries and minority groups under the banner of universality, without truly seeking a balance of different values from the dimension of the common values of all mankind. If a civilization only starts from its own value connotation and understands the value connotation of other civilizations, it is not conducive to deepening the cognition of differences in civilizations, nor can it achieve the maximization of value consensus, and it may even push civilization exchanges to the evil and crooked path of ideological confrontation. Every country and nation has its own unique value identity, and every civilization has different needs for its own development, but humanity is a community of destiny, and all countries should be highly responsible for the future of mankind while pursuing their own interests and realizing the development of their own civilizations. The Global Civilization Initiative, on the road to promoting the common values of all humankind, advocates a broad-minded understanding of different civilizations' perceptions of the connotations of values, refrains from ideological confrontation, and promotes the building of a community of human destiny guided by the common pursuits of the peoples of all countries.

The common values of all humankind are universal and common values and principles shared by all human beings on Earth. These values transcend cultures, nations and races, and are the common norms that all human beings should follow in their lives and in their dealings with each other. The common values of all humankind should include respect for human rights, the promotion of peace and cooperation among nations, shared prosperity, ecological protection and sustainable development, social justice and fairness and the rule of law, and the common responsibility of all humankind. These common human values constitute a common ethical framework that helps to guide the behavior of individuals, societies and the international community and to promote the progress and harmonious development of human society. Respecting and practicing these values will promote global stability, prosperity and sustainable development. The second "advocacy" of the Global Civilization Initiative focuses on the pursuit of values in civilizational interactions, which are also common to different civilizations, and which are aimed at resolving global risks and challenges, advancing the civilizational development of all humankind, and providing a value foundation for a pluralistic and coexisting global civilization.

4. Inheritance and innovation as an objective law of civilizational development

The development of civilization cannot be separated from the exchange and mutual understanding of civilizations, and it is all the more necessary for the inheritance and innovation of civilizations. In order for the civilization of any country or nation to achieve the development of its own civilization, it is necessary to pay attention to the inheritance of civilization and the innovation of civilization. Inheritance and innovation are the prerequisites and requirements for the sustainable development of civilization and the objective law of civilization development.

The development of civilization is an important indicator of the progress of human society. "The sustainable development of civilization requires not only passing on the flame and guarding it from one generation to the next, but also responding to the times and introducing new ideas." [4] Only through continuous innovation and innovation for development can we promote the continuous progress of our own civilization and that of humankind. In order to realize the sustainable development of civilization, both inheritance and innovation are indispensable. Focusing only on inheritance and neglecting development is tantamount to being stuck in a rut. Civilization will not be able to adapt to the new conditions of development as the times change, gradually exposing and expanding its shortcomings, and ultimately stagnating, forming a shackle on its own development, or even perishing in the long river of

history. By focusing only on development and neglecting inheritance, civilization will become a tree without a root, water without a source, and will lose its historical and cultural heritage in the process of its development, inevitably committing the mistake of historical nihilism, and the development of such a civilization will be unstable and not long-lasting. Therefore, in the process of development, civilization should not only adhere to inheritance, but also pay attention to development, so as to keep pace with the times and maintain vitality forever. Throughout history, many countries and civilizations in the world have been eliminated in the midst of changing times and development, while the Chinese civilization has been passed down for thousands of years and continues to this day, leaving an enduring mark on the history of human civilization, precisely as a result of adherence to the lineage of the civilization and its continuous innovation and development, which has served as a model for the development of other civilizations in the world by drawing on their wisdom.

At the same time, it is necessary to promote the creative transformation and innovative development of the excellent traditional cultures of all countries in the process of modernization. Excellent traditional culture and modernization are closely connected and mutually complementary. Countries should take excellent traditional culture as a deep, profound and lasting force to promote the modernization of their own countries, and in the process of modernization and development in keeping with the times, they should in turn promote the creative transformation and innovative development of their own excellent traditional culture, so that the two can promote each other and foster benign development. Every country and nation should actively explore the objective law of its own civilization development, and take a path of modernization that conforms to its own reality and suits its own development. As the pace of civilizational development varies from country to country, and the process of modernization varies from country to country, all countries should respect the path of civilizational development of other countries and should not obstruct or destroy it.

Civilization inheritance and civilization innovation are two important and indispensable aspects of cultural and social development, which are interdependent and together constitute the evolution and progress of human society. In the area of civilizational inheritance, emphasis should be placed on the protection and transmission of historical heritage, which includes traditional values, customs and religious beliefs; the cultivation of identity and the establishment and consolidation of cohesion among individuals, societies and nations; and the drawing of lessons from history in order to avoid the recurrence of historical mistakes. In terms of civilizational innovation, it should promote scientific and technological development, which is an important driving force for civilizational progress; and encourage cultural exchanges to promote social progress. Inheritance perpetuates wisdom and wealth, while innovation drives society forward. In the context of globalization and the information age, there is a need to balance the development of tradition and modernity. The third "advocacy" of the Global Civilization Initiative reveals the objective law of civilization development and highlights the value of civilization development. It promotes the modernization of humankind and the creative transformation and innovative development of outstanding traditional cultures through civilizational inheritance and civilizational innovation, and provides a value guide for the development and progress of world civilization.

5. Strengthening international humanistic exchanges and cooperation as an effective way forward for civilizational ties

The essence of the meeting of civilizations and the bonding of civilizations is that people of all countries know each other and are close to each other. Therefore, expanding the channels of cooperation between countries and enriching the content of exchanges among peoples can promote dialogue among civilizations. The Global Civilization Initiative proposes the strengthening of international humanistic exchanges and cooperation, which is an effective way to broaden the ties between civilizations and an important path for promoting the development and progress of human civilization.

Humanistic exchanges are an important means of bridging barriers, resolving differences and enhancing understanding, and strengthening international humanistic exchanges can promote a common understanding among peoples, build consensus and establish a foundation for cooperation among civilizations. In an international environment of general peace and localized turmoil, when problems arise in relations between countries, it is essential to strengthen humanistic exchanges among peoples. Deepening international humanistic exchanges is conducive to eliminating contradictions and misunderstandings between countries, enhancing trust and understanding between countries and peoples, raising awareness of the differences between ourselves and other civilizations, and promoting the overall development and progress of human civilization. The overall development and progress of human civilization cannot be achieved by the development and progress of individual civilizations, but requires

the joint cooperation of different civilizations, which depends not only on the degree of development of each civilization in the world, but also on the great synergy generated by each civilization in the world through joint cooperation, which is the powerful driving force to promote the overall development and progress of human civilization. Only by strengthening humanistic exchanges and civilizational dialogue can the world's different civilizations jointly explore a way to promote the development and progress of human civilization, and maximize the synergy generated through cooperation. The way of cooperation among the world's different civilizations is "both the way of survival and the way of development and progress of human civilization"[5], whether it is the Eastern or Western civilization, which is the splendid fruit of human civilization and an indispensable and important factor in the development and progress of human civilization. Only when different civilizations walk hand in hand can we create a prosperous human civilization that is "beautiful and vibrant"[6].

Against the backdrop of an era of unprecedented change, the pursuit of a better life and a better environment are common to all peoples of the world, while a few countries still hold a confrontational mentality, promoting themselves and excluding others, and the value of cooperation is invaluable. Without cooperation, different countries and civilizations are prone to conflict, which is contrary to the beautiful vision of the people of all countries. Emphasis on confrontation and conflict will only destroy human civilization in the end, while cooperation is the only way to develop human civilization. The Global Civilization Initiative proposes to explore the construction of a global network for dialogue and cooperation among civilizations, to deepen the understanding of the differences among civilizations, to bridge the communication gap between civilizations, and to build a solid foundation for the path of cooperation among civilizations. Strengthening international humanistic exchanges will enrich the content of exchanges among civilizations and promote civilizational ties; building cooperation networks will be a measure to expand the channels of cooperation among civilizations, solidify the path of human civilization, and realize the great ideal of a world home of civilizations where all are beautiful and all share the same beauty.

Strengthening international exchanges and cooperation in the humanities plays an important role, and such exchanges and cooperation can help to promote mutual understanding and respect among civilizations and promote global cultural diversity and shared development. Through international humanistic exchanges and cooperation, not only can they contribute to the dissemination and protection of the unique cultural heritage and traditions of each country, promote the development of cultural diversity and avoid cultural homogenization, but they can also promote mutual understanding and friendship among countries, eliminate misunderstandings and prejudices, and enhance international trust and cooperation, making international humanistic exchanges and cooperation a major contribution to global innovation and the resolution of global problems. The fourth "advocacy" of the Global Civilization Initiative highlights the value of humanistic exchanges and cooperation, and establishes an effective path for dialogue and cooperation among different civilizations, so as to promote mutual understanding and affinity among peoples of all countries, and to open up an effective way forward for civilizations to be associated with each other, which is of great significance to the joint promotion of the development and progress of human civilization.

6. Conclusion

The "four proposals" of the Global Civilization Initiative are interrelated and have a close logic. The first is based on respect for the diversity of the world's civilizations and emphasizes the individual development of the world's civilizations; the second is based on the pursuit of the common values of all humankind and focuses on the common features of the world's civilizations; the third is based on the pursuit of the inheritance and development of one's own civilization as a driving force for the overall prosperity of the world's civilizations; and the fourth is based on the enhancement of international exchanges and cooperation among humanities and humanities as an aid to the common advancement of the world's civilizations. The Global Civilization Initiative, as a global initiative, contains the implications of the times, responding to the common aspirations of the people of the world and seeking development for human civilization and the well-being of the people of the world. This is not a responsibility to be borne by the proposing country or a certain country alone, but a responsibility to be shared by all countries in the world. Each civilization is a part of the world's civilized homeland, and each civilization is not only a practitioner and promoter of the Global Civilization Initiative, but also a beneficiary and witness to the development and progress of human civilization, so all civilizations in the world should promote human civilization with their own progress, and promote the progress of their respective civilizations with the development of human civilization. All civilizations in the world should promote human civilization through their own progress and promote the progress of their own

civilizations through the development of human civilization. We should build a hundred gardens of human civilization in which "beauty is beautiful and beauty is common" [7].

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