

Adherence to the principle of equality and inclusiveness in promoting exchanges and mutual understanding among civilizations

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Abstract: *In the era of globalization, there are close exchanges between countries and peoples of the world, and there are many exchanges between civilizations, but when civilizations get along with each other, they should set up the correct principle of getting along with each other and insist on the principle of equality and inclusiveness to promote exchanges and mutual understanding among civilizations. It is necessary to fully understand that different civilizations are equal in value and that there is no superiority or inferiority of civilizations; to recognize the uniqueness of civilizations from the standpoint of seeking common ground while reserving differences and to treat the achievements of civilizations in an eclectic manner; to promote civilizational exchanges to transcend civilizational barriers and to strengthen international humanistic cooperation; and to transcend the clash of civilizations through the mutual benefit of civilizations, and to promote the diversification of forms of mutual benefit of civilizations.*

Keywords: *equality and tolerance; exchange and mutual understanding; civilizational development*

1. Introduction

President of the State proposed that "civilizations should insist on treating each other as equals, and each civilization has its own value of existence." [1] Although civilizations behave differently in their formation, forms and achievements, they are essentially equal, and are the collective wisdom achievements and spiritual pursuits of various countries, regions and peoples, and should get along with each other with an equal mindset and approach. Civilizational tolerance is one of the important theories of civilizational exchange and development, emphasizing the mutual tolerance of different civilizations, including their characteristics and values. Different civilizations should adhere to openness and tolerance, and break down barriers to cultural exchanges with "the broad-mindedness of embracing all rivers" [2], so as to promote the common advancement of different civilizations as a whole. Attaching importance to civilizational exchanges is an inevitable requirement for promoting the development of global civilization. Since the development of human civilization, the degree of mutual exchanges has been deepening, and it is necessary to insist on transcending the barriers between civilizations through civilizational exchanges and strengthening international humanistic exchanges and cooperation. Mutual appreciation of civilizations is a deeper level of exchange and the purpose of civilizational exchange. Mutual appreciation is the process by which different cultures and civilizations learn from each other and draw on each other's experience in the course of exchanges, emphasizing the enhancement of exchanges and cooperation through mutual understanding and learning while preserving their respective characteristics and independence, with the intention of promoting dialogue and harmonious coexistence among different civilizations.

2. Full Understanding of Civilizational Equality

2.1 Equality of values among civilizations

Equality of value among civilizations involves respect for multiculturalism and pluralistic values, and a true understanding and realization of equality of value among civilizations requires an understanding of the historical, social and cultural background behind different civilizations. At present, there are also some schools of thought that have unique insights into culture and civilization, which help to understand and support the connotation of equality of value among civilizations.

Values are culture-specific and differences between civilizations are normal. This view holds that there is no absolute standard to measure the value of one civilization over another, but that it should be understood and evaluated in its unique cultural and historical context. There is also a universal value that holds that despite the existence of cultural differences, there are values that are considered to be common, such as the common values of all mankind, as proposed by President of the State. While the ways in which these values are realized may vary from culture to culture, they can provide common ground between civilizations. Just as people are equal to each other, civilizations should be equal to each other.

Respect for civilizational plurality is the first condition for fully recognizing and achieving civilizational equality. Equality of values requires respect for and acceptance of civilizational diversity. The fact that different civilizations may have different moral, ethical and social norms does not make one civilization superior to others. Secondly, respect for the plurality of civilizations requires a deeper understanding of the history, societies and cultures of different civilizations, as the historical events of each civilization are inextricably linked to its social development, and an understanding of present-day civilizations requires an understanding of the civilizations that existed in the past. Understanding the equality of values among civilizations is a preparation for dialogue among civilizations. Through dialogue and mutual understanding, it is possible to promote communication among civilizations, reduce prejudices and eliminate misunderstandings. Dialogue among civilizations requires a willingness on both sides to listen to each other's views and to learn about each other's cultures and values. Finally, equality of values among civilizations also requires opportunities for joint cooperation and common challenges. Cooperation among civilizations can promote common prosperity, but they may also face some common problems. By working together to solve problems, a more inclusive and understanding international community can be built.

Understanding the equality of values among civilizations requires open-mindedness, respect and inclusiveness, as well as a focus on shared values and opportunities for joint cooperation. In these ways, people can build more harmonious and equal relationships in a pluralistic world.

2.2 There is no such thing as a superior or inferior civilization

In the viewpoint of the theory of equality of civilizations, in addition to the equality of value among civilizations, it is also necessary to understand that there is no superiority or inferiority of civilizations. President of the State emphasized that "to think that one's own race and civilization are superior and to insist on transforming or even replacing other civilizations is both cognitively stupid and practically disastrous" [3]. For those who believe that civilizations are superior or inferior, their perception of civilization is wrong and absurd, and most of those who hold this view are racist supporters of the issue of the origin of civilization.

When exploring the origins of civilization, one encounters a variety of complex issues, such as why civilization was born in some regions but not in others, or why some peoples entered the age of civilization while others remained in a primitive state. There are two prominent perspectives on such questions: in addition to the environmentalist view, which holds that the origin and birth of civilizations are closely related to the environment, there is also the racist view, which still influences some people, who treat other civilizations with condescension and a sense of self-superiority. Racism holds that civilizations are created by superior peoples, while the so-called inferior peoples lack the ability to create civilizations and, in fact, may even hinder or destroy the progress of civilizations. In the history of human civilization, it is true that there is a difference between different civilized peoples in terms of the timing of the creation of their own civilizations, but this does not mean that the peoples whose civilization originated earlier are the superior peoples, nor does it mean that the peoples whose civilization originated later are the less superior peoples, nor can it be concluded in vain that the peoples who did not create civilization are the inferior peoples. The racist position is difficult to justify from the standpoint of the materialist view of history, as it fails to explain scientifically and rationally the origins of civilization or the major crimes committed by some so-called civilized peoples in the history of mankind. In the course of human history, some people have hailed their own peoples as the best and most outstanding in the world and, in that name, have committed acts of destruction of human or world civilization.

Each civilization has its own unique history, values and contributions, and there is no universally applicable standard of measurement. Each civilization's own unique values should be understood in its own historical and cultural context. Differences among civilizations do not mean that one civilization is superior or inferior to others. The use of evaluative terms such as "superior" and "inferior" to describe civilizations should also be avoided in real-life interactions, and emphasis should be placed on the diversity and equality of civilizations.

3. Adherence to a civilized and inclusive stance and attitude

3.1 Understanding civilizational uniqueness from the standpoint of seeking common ground while reserving differences

Civilizational uniqueness refers to the distinctive attributes of each civilization that distinguish it from others in terms of history, culture, values, social structure, art, religion and language. Civilizational uniqueness is formed by a civilization in the course of its long-term development and is influenced by a combination of factors such as geographical location, historical events, social structure, economic development, cultural traditions and external exchanges.

Different civilizations have their own unique historical development lineage and have their own civilizational uniqueness. Confucianism in Chinese civilization, Buddhist heritage in India, and ancient Greek philosophy in the West are all unique achievements of their respective civilizations. As a result of the uniqueness of civilizations, different civilizations have generated different values in the process of development: Western societies value personal property and privacy and practice individualism, while East Asian countries pay more attention to collective interests, believe that the collective interests are greater than individual interests, and practice collectivism. Different civilizations have shaped their own unique social structures, political systems and modes of governance. As far as art and literature are concerned, literary works can reflect the aesthetic concepts and creativity of civilizations. Each civilization has a unique artistic style and literary tradition, such as Chinese calligraphy and national painting, and oil painting born in the European Renaissance. From mythology, myths can reflect people's spiritual pursuit, such as the legends of Pangu opening the sky and Nuwa creating man in the East, and Greek myths in the West. In addition, language is the way of people's daily communication and carries special cultural connotations and values, and each civilization has its own unique language symbols. Civilizational uniqueness not only reflects the unique values of each civilization, but is also an important part of the cultural heritage of all humankind.

Seeking common ground while preserving differences is an important means of recognizing the uniqueness of civilizations. "Seeking common ground" refers to the search for commonalities among civilizations, including shared values, historical development experiences and common challenges. "Seeking common ground can promote a deeper understanding of each other among civilizations and build cooperation through communication. For example, in addressing global issues such as climate change, countries can cooperate on common goals. "Preserving differences" refers to preserving the differences among civilizations, including the unique historical background, traditions, customs and values of each civilization. Civilizational uniqueness is an important feature of human civilization. Respecting and protecting civilizational uniqueness helps to safeguard the diversity of world civilizations and protect the cultural sovereignty of each country.

3.2 An eclectic approach to the fruits of civilization

The fruits of world civilization are diverse and wide-ranging, covering all aspects of human history, including the fields of art, science, technology, politics and philosophy. Taking literature and the arts as an example, ancient Chinese poetry, calligraphy, painting, music and other art forms are unique and of high aesthetic value. Tang and Song poems, Yuan operas and Ming and Qing novels are among the treasures of Chinese literature; there is classical art including Greek and Roman sculpture, architecture and painting, and Renaissance art with works by Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo and Raphael. In the field of architecture and engineering, ancient Chinese architectural and engineering techniques including such spectacular projects as the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, and the Grand Canal not only demonstrate the engineering skills of ancient China, but are also precious achievements of the world's civilization. In the field of political and social systems, China has developed many ways of governing the country since ancient times, such as the Confucian "benevolent government" during the Spring and Autumn and Warring States Periods, and the rule of law of the Legalists. In the field of medicine, Chinese medicine has a history of thousands of years in the world and is a unique treasure of the world's medical treasury. Chinese medicine includes a variety of therapies such as Chinese herbal medicine, acupuncture, tuina, etc., and has a unique theoretical system and treatment methods. In the field of religion and spiritual culture, the long river of human civilization has nurtured religions such as Christianity, Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism, and given birth to such philosophical schools of thought as Zen Buddhism and Yoga. The fruits of world civilization not only reflect human wisdom and creativity, but also demonstrate the exchange and interaction between different cultures and eras. Each civilization achievement has a unique historical background and cultural significance, which together constitute the valuable heritage of human

civilization.

We should approach the achievements of world civilization with an eclectic attitude, which is not only an attitude towards culture and civilization, but also a condition for human development and social progress. Analysed from the perspective of the importance of the diversity of civilizations, in the context of globalization, exchanges and interactions among civilizations promote the collision of ideas and innovation; all civilizations have their unique values and strengths, and by learning from the merits of other civilizations, we can enrich and develop our own civilizational achievements. Analyzing from the perspective of the importance of the exchange of knowledge and ideas, the development of modern science and technology relies to a large extent on the exchange of knowledge among different civilizations, for example, the Arabic numerals and the concept of zero in India have a great influence on modern mathematics and science. Learning and dialoguing with each other on systems of thought developed in different cultural contexts, such as Eastern and Western philosophies, can promote a deeper understanding of the world by human beings. Analyzed from the perspective of inclusive social development, the development of societies requires the incorporation and integration of beneficial components of diverse cultures in order to promote inclusiveness, innovation and sustainability. The incorporation of the fruits of different civilizations can help to eliminate cultural prejudices and misunderstandings and promote international peace and cooperation. Overall, an inclusive attitude towards the fruits of civilization not only promotes cultural exchange and integration, but also accelerates the dissemination of knowledge and innovation and builds a more inclusive, pluralistic and harmonious world. Such an attitude is the key to meeting the challenges of globalization and promoting the common development of humankind.

4. Purposes and modalities of enhancing civilizational exchange

4.1 Transcending civilizational barriers through civilizational exchanges

The civilizational divide mainly refers to the differences and misunderstandings that exist between civilizations or cultures, which usually stem from a number of aspects. On the basis of an understanding of the source and current situation of the civilizational divide, we can better implement initiatives to transcend the civilizational divide through civilizational exchanges. First, the main manifestation of the civilizational gap is cultural differences. Different civilizations have different languages, religious beliefs, customs and values, etc., which may lead to misunderstandings and form a gap. Secondly, there are many causes of the civilizational divide, such as historical conflicts and conflicts of political and economic interests. Events such as wars, colonization and aggression in the history of civilizations often leave deep imprints on them, and these historical legacies may lead to long-term mistrust. In addition, the economic and political interests of different countries and regions often do not coincide, which may lead to competition or even confrontation, thus deepening the civilizational divide. Once again, information disseminated by the media can sometimes magnify cultural differences, creating deeper misunderstandings and prejudices and exacerbating hostility among civilizations. In addition, the xenophobia of the public can also lead to the civilization gap, for example, some societies are very exclusive of foreign cultures and immigrants. Finally, language barriers and educational and cognitive differences are also important factors affecting civilizational exchanges, and language barriers are a huge obstacle to civilizational exchanges, limiting exchanges and in-depth understanding between different cultural groups. Awareness of the existence of civilizational barriers is the first step in cross-civilizational exchanges, and positive exchanges and interactions can gradually eliminate these barriers and promote mutual understanding and respect among different civilizations.

Civilizational exchanges can transcend civilizational barriers. Enhancing civilizational exchanges can promote mutual understanding among civilizations and reduce prejudice and misunderstanding, thereby transcending the barriers between civilizations. We can promote civilizational exchanges in the following four ways: first, cultural exchanges through art, music and literature, so that people from different civilizations can appreciate and understand each other's cultural characteristics, and courses on cultures of different parts of the world should be offered in tertiary education, so as to encourage students to learn different languages and cultures. Secondly, international academic conferences should be vigorously pursued and various academic forums should be organized to allow people from different backgrounds to exchange academics, make common progress, and discuss issues of common concern, so as to enhance understanding and cooperation. Once again, bilateral and multilateral cooperation should be strengthened to promote civilizational exchanges among different countries and regions. Lastly, the media and online platforms should be utilized to showcase positive stories of different cultures and reduce stereotypes and

prejudices.

Through these methods and approaches, exchanges among civilizations can serve as a bridge of understanding and respect for each other's differences, helping to build a more harmonious and inclusive world.

4.2 Strengthening International Humanitarian Exchange and Cooperation

President of the State pointed out at the high-level dialogue between the Communist Party of China and the world's political parties that "we should jointly advocate the strengthening of international humanistic exchanges and cooperation, explore the construction of a global network for dialogue and cooperation among civilizations, enrich the content of exchanges and expand cooperation channels" [4], expanding the channels of cooperation between countries, enriching the content of exchanges among peoples, and promoting the dialogue of different civilizations. Dialogue is an important path for the development and progress of human civilization.

Humanistic exchanges are an important means of bridging barriers, resolving differences and enhancing understanding. Strengthening international humanistic exchanges can promote a common understanding and consensus among peoples and establish a basis 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 different civilizations in the world is "both the way of survival and the way of development and progress of human civilization" [5]. Both Eastern and Western civilizations are the splendid achievements of human civilization, and are indispensable and important factors for the development and progress of human civilization. Only when different civilizations walk hand in hand can we create a prosperous scene of "beautiful flowers and vibrant colors" of human civilization.

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.

5. Meaning and forms of promoting mutual understanding among civilizations

5.1 Transcending the clash of civilizations through mutual understanding of civilizations

In 1993, American political scientist Samuel Huntington first proposed the concept of "clash of civilizations", which he first elaborated in an article published in the journal *Foreign Affairs*, and later published a book with the same title, *The Clash of Civilizations and the Reconstruction of World Order*, in 1996, which explored this theory in greater depth. According to Huntington, after

the end of the Cold War, the main conflict facing international politics is no longer the confrontation of ideologies or economic systems, but the clash of civilizations. Differences and antagonisms of civilizations, especially religious and cultural differences, will become the main trend of international conflicts in the new era [6]. And the causes of the clash of civilizations are cultural differences, increased mutual contact, economic modernization and societal alterations, and the decline of Western power and the rise of non-Western civilizations. Huntington predicts that future conflicts will be bounded by civilizations, and that state behavior will be increasingly influenced by cultural and religious identity. Such conflicts may take the form of border friction, trade wars, or even armed conflict. Huntington's theory has received a great deal of attention and has also sparked much criticism. Critics point out that the theory may overemphasize the determining role of cultural and religious differences, ignoring the possibility of cross-civilizational cooperation, as well as the complexity and diversity within civilizations. In addition, some scholars believe that reducing international politics to a confrontation of civilizations may exacerbate conflicts rather than resolve them. Thus, despite being a far-reaching theory, the "clash of civilizations" remains controversial in academia and in practical policy.

Mutual appreciation of civilizations refers to the process of mutual learning and borrowing among civilizations. Civilizations learn from each other not only in the areas of culture, art, science and technology, but also interact at a deeper level in terms of values and lifestyles. Transcending the clash of civilizations requires finding common ground among civilizations and understanding and respecting the diversity of civilizations, so as to ease or resolve conflicts. Transcending the clash of civilizations through mutual understanding of civilizations should include the following three points: First, promoting cultural exchanges. Through activities such as cultural festivals, art exchanges and educational projects, civilizations should have the opportunity to come into contact with or experience other civilizations. Secondly, promoting mutual understanding. Both education and the media are very important in promoting mutual understanding among civilizations. Schools need to correctly guide students to look at different civilizations and be tolerant of diverse civilizations, while the media need to provide accurate information so as to fundamentally eliminate prejudice and misunderstanding. Thirdly, we should work together to address global issues. At present, global issues are becoming increasingly serious, such as environmental protection and the economic crisis, etc. Civilizations need to increase cooperation and jointly tackle global problems. The process of promoting the mutual understanding of civilizations beyond the clash of civilizations also faces many challenges, such as overcoming language barriers, eliminating cultural differences and resolving historical legacy issues. At the same time, there is a great opportunity to not only reduce conflict but also promote cultural diversity through the mutual learning of civilizations.

Mutual understanding of civilizations is a powerful tool that can help us to cross civilizational divides and conflicts. Based on the principles of mutual understanding and respect, the mutual appreciation of civilizations can promote the harmonious coexistence of different cultures through exchanges and cooperation. Achieving that goal also requires our long-term efforts and the joint participation of the international community.

5.2 Promoting the diversification of forms of mutual understanding among civilizations

Diversified forms of mutual understanding of civilizations can deepen civilizational exchanges and achieve mutual learning and appreciation. In order to diversify the mutual understanding of civilizations, it is necessary to strengthen cultural exchanges, enrich their contents and innovate their forms. Cultural exchanges are the key to mutual appreciation of civilizations. The organization of various cultural exchanges, such as art exhibitions, concerts, film festivals and academic symposiums, can promote understanding and respect among different cultures. These cultural exchanges should not only showcase their respective cultures, but also encourage innovation in the outcomes, such as exhibiting artworks with multicultural elements and organizing art exhibition activities to which people from different cultural backgrounds are invited. With the continuous development of technology, modern means of communication, such as social platforms and media, are all online communication channels to promote mutual understanding of civilizations. Cultural exchanges can be made possible by organizing online exhibitions and opening virtual worlds so that people can experience the charm of foreign cultures at home. In addition, digital interactive platforms, such as online forums and multilingual blogs, can become new venues for intercultural exchanges.

The promotion of civilizational exchanges and mutual understanding should focus on intercultural education. Colleges and universities need to introduce intercultural curricula, including world history, world culture and foreign language education. In addition, international exchange programs allow students to experience different cultures and help them develop cross-cultural understanding. In the

process of promoting mutual appreciation of civilizations, governments and NGOs should collaborate with each other to provide support and guarantee for cultural exchange activities. Governments can provide funds to support the promotion of their own cultures abroad. Non-governmental organizations can organize various cultural exchanges in the private sector. In addition, the media play an important role in promoting the mutual understanding of civilizations. The media can report on different cultural activities to disseminate the concept of multiculturalism and help the public to understand other cultures, but they also need to avoid spreading stereotypes and creating misunderstandings, and to promote equal dialogue among different cultures.

Mutual appreciation of civilizations should not be just a one-way cultural export, but a two-way or even multi-directional exchange and co-creation. Scholars, literary creators and artists from different cultural backgrounds should be encouraged to collaborate and exchange ideas, to create new cultural achievements and works of art, and to inspire new cultural forms and concepts. In the context of globalization, it is vital to celebrate cultural diversity. By organizing events such as multicultural festivals, international food festivals and multilingual days, we can not only showcase the unique charms of different cultures, but also deepen the public's awareness of and respect for cultural diversity. In addition, cultural exchanges often exist in economic cooperation. International trade, investment, tourism and other activities can incorporate cultural elements, such as expressing cultural characteristics through product design, and these means can effectively spread the concept of multiculturalism. In promoting the mutual appreciation of civilizations, special attention should be paid to those marginal cultures, or those in crisis. Providing financial support for the protection of these cultures and including them in international cultural exchanges can effectively protect the diversity of human civilization.

Promoting the diversification of forms of mutual understanding among civilizations requires multifaceted efforts and innovation. By strengthening international cooperation, making use of modern technology, raising public cultural awareness and protecting and respecting every culture, we can promote in-depth exchanges and mutual understanding among civilizations. This will not only help to build a harmonious international society, but is also an important way to promote the cultural progress and innovation of humankind.

6. Conclusion

The development of human society to date has resulted in the formation of diverse civilizations, each of which was formed under different conditions of geography, historical background and humanistic customs. Although civilizations differ in their formation, forms and achievements, they are the fruits of the collective wisdom and spiritual pursuits of various countries, regions and ethnic groups, fully demonstrating that human civilizations are diverse and equal. Each civilization has its own uniqueness. Therefore, in the interaction of different civilizations, it is necessary to first uphold the attitude of mutual tolerance and mutual respect in order to better promote the exchange and mutual understanding of civilizations. Civilizations are enriched by exchanges and enriched by mutual understanding, and the harmonious coexistence of civilizations can be promoted through civilization exchanges and mutual understanding.

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