

# **Research on General Secretary Xi Jinping's Important Exposition about Carrying Forward China's Excellent Traditional Culture**

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**Abstract:** General Secretary Xi Jinping's important exposition on the promotion of China's excellent traditional Chinese culture has endowed Chinese culture with the connotation of the times, which helps to enhance national self-confidence, pride and cohesion, and promote the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. In terms of demonstrating the "soft power" of the Chinese nation and building a community with a shared future for mankind, the excellent traditional Chinese culture has provided inexhaustible motivation and spiritual strength.

## **1. Introduction**

The socialist culture with Chinese characteristics originates from the excellent traditional Chinese culture bred by the 5,000-year civilization and history of Chinese nation. It is cast in the revolutionary culture and advanced socialist culture created by the Communist Party of China (hereafter referred to the Party) leading the people in revolution, construction and reform, and also rooted in the great practice of socialism with Chinese characteristics. This is an important statement made by General Secretary Xi Jinping in the report of the 19th CPC National Congress, which fully embodies the importance that the Party and the government on China's excellent traditional culture. Whether it is the revolutionary period, the founding period of New China or the reform and opening-up period, the Party has inherited and promoted China's excellent traditional culture. Especially after the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, General Secretary Xi Jinping gave new era connotations to the excellent traditional Chinese culture. He emphasized the need to use the culture in the governance of the country, unite the global Chinese and overseas Chinese and all ethnic groups in the country, and find spiritual strength for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. At the same time, he also pointed out that it is necessary to make good use of China's excellent traditional culture to contribute to the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. In the new era, General Secretary Xi Jinping's important exposition on promoting China's excellent traditional culture has highly resonated by all Chinese people at home and abroad.

## **2. China's Excellent Traditional Culture Can Effectively Enhance National Self-Confidence, Pride and Cohesion**

From a historical perspective, Chinese culture is broad and profound, with a long history. With five thousand years of history, the land of Huaxia has nurtured a unique oriental civilization. As the source of Eastern culture, Chinese culture played an important role in the formation of the East Asian cultural circle. The profound connotation of Chinese culture itself is one of the important sources of self-confidence of the Chinese nation. No country can deny the important position of Chinese culture in the world culture. The spiritual bond that maintains the common life of the 56 ethnic groups in China is China's excellent traditional culture. Regardless of various differences in the beliefs and customs of ethnic groups, they can always be firmly united. The most fundamental reason is the same sense of cultural identity, and the cohesion of the Chinese nation also comes from this. In the traditional culture, the idea "the people are the foundation of the state" prompted

China to survive in countless moments facing peril in modern times. Every Chinese people regard the country as the foundation of his/her life. At the moment, China's excellent traditional culture is gradually making its way to the world. More and more artists and film workers are turning their attention to China, trying to incorporate China's elements into their literary opuses. These international compliments and affirmations have strongly enhanced the sense of national pride of Chinese people.

### **2.1 Excellent Chinese Culture is the Gene of the Chinese Nation**

Chinese culture is the spiritual sustenance and spiritual home of the Chinese nation. In China's excellent traditional culture, there is no lack of thinking about national governance, personal qualities, morals and ethics, and the nature of the world. General Secretary Xi emphasized that it is needed attach importance to these Chinese cultures with distinctive national characteristics, and use China's excellent traditional culture to build a unique spiritual world for Chinese people. Core socialist values are formed and promoted for this purpose, and it is refinement of Chinese thoughts. In today's world where all kinds of thoughts are constantly emerging, how to establish a solid ideological system has become a challenge for every leader. Xi Jinping said that the cultural genes of the Chinese nation should be adapted to contemporary culture. General Secretary Xi combined the excellent traditional Chinese culture with the need of the times and gave it new historical significance. The unique values of Chinese civilization have subtly influenced the thinking mode of generations of Chinese people. The reason why the Chinese Communists can continue to advance is precisely that they continue to absorb spiritual nourishment from traditional Chinese culture.

### **2.2 China's Excellent Traditional Culture is the Cultural Blood of the Chinese Nation**

Five thousand years of Chinese culture contains countless crystallization of wisdom. The scope of Chinese culture is quite wide, ranging from fairy tales about the birth of the earth, to philosophy and literature about running a country and handling government affairs, to the traditional medicine for curing diseases and saving people. Chinese culture has a long development time and is rich in ideological content. After thousands of years of spreading, Confucianism can still travel through time and national boundaries, exuding its unique charm. Chinese civilization has stretched thousands of years, making an indelible contribution to the development of world civilization. China is the only surviving country among the four ancient civilizations in the world, and Chinese culture has played an important role in this. It is the common cultural philosophy that supports the 56 ethnic groups of China to unite and move forward courageously. We Chinese must examine our culture with an insight that runs through the past and the present. To preserve our cultural heritage, it is needed to continuously innovate and develop in accordance to the needs of the times. Inheriting culture is the prerequisite and basis for developing culture. Chinese culture has a mighty national cohesion, which makes it difficult for Chinese to forget their homeland no matter where they are. Chinese people can always find their identity in Chinese culture. This is unmatched and cannot be replaced by anything, and this is the mighty cohesion of Chinese culture. Because of the cultural heritage, Chinese people have enough confidence and reasons to maintain the reunification of our motherland.

### **2.3 China's Excellent Traditional Culture is the Spiritual Lifeline of the Chinese Nation**

General Secretary Xi emphasized that Cutting off the spiritual blood is equivalent to losing the foundation of the country and the development of the nation. Facing the invasion of foreign enemies, the spiritual lifeline gave the people the courage and determination to sacrifice for the good of our country. When the country is in trouble, the Chinese people upheld the belief that “every ordinary person should be responsible for the prosperity or decline of the country”. Modern China staggered forward, but never really perished, precisely because the spiritual blood of sacrifice for the country was passed down. Countless heroic Chinese emerged, composing chapters of tragic epics. At the time when the tide of the times changed, China did not stand still, but actively took measures to seize the opportunity -- its inner thought is supported by the “inclusiveness” in traditional Chinese thought. Chinese culture not only exists in history, but also guides the future and provides spiritual

nourishment for socialist modernization. In this regard, General Secretary Xi Jinping made important instructions: there is a need to attach importance to the study of ancient poems and classics, increase ancient poems in the textbooks of Chinese, with the purpose to better inherit the excellent traditional culture of China. It is necessary to vigorously promote excellent traditional culture, increase innovation and integrate it with the spirit of the times, so that the development of Chinese culture can face the future and the whole world.

### **3. China's Excellent Traditional Culture Provides Spiritual Power for the Rejuvenation of the Chinese Nation**

In the new era, the achievement of institutional self-confidence, cultural self-confidence, theoretical self-confidence and institutional self-confidence is inseparable from the promotion of China's excellent traditional culture. Chinese culture contains the wisdom of governing a country left by our ancestors. Strengthening the study of the important ideas is conducive to providing new solutions to a series of problems that China is facing in the contemporary times, contributing to Chinese thinking and displaying Chinese wisdom.

#### **3.1 China's Excellent Traditional Culture is Conducive to Building a Well-to-Do Society**

When recalling his educated youth years, Xi Jinping deeply and truly showed the overall economic situation of China in the last century -- people were struggling to get rid of food shortage. But decades later, China has undergone tremendous changes. Now, China has achieved a big leap from “adequate food and clothing” to a comfortable level of living, which shows the remarkable achievements of reform and opening up. But it should be realized that our country is still in a state of incomplete and inadequate a comfortable level of living. The principal contradiction in society at this stage is the contradictory between the uneven and inadequate social production and the increasing needs of the people for a better life. In remote areas, there are still a large number of impoverished people whose living environment is extremely bad and their living conditions need to be improved urgently. In the past 40 years of reform and opening-up, people's lives have undergone tremendous changes in China. However, the Communists must still maintain a sense of crisis and realize that China still has a certain distance from a comprehensive well-off society. As a traditional Confucian political ideal, “a comfortable level of living” was extended by Comrade Deng Xiaoping as a five-in-one comprehensive development goal of national governance, inspiring generations of Communists to forge ahead. General Secretary Xi Jinping made the indicators of a comfortable level of living specific and comprehensive and strived to enable the overwhelming majority of the people to enjoy the results of reform and opening-up. Building a well-to-do society in an all-round way embodies the Important Thought of Three Represents and is a powerful manifestation of the Party and the country not forgetting their original mission. Xi Jinping's proposal of this idea reflects his deep concern for the people at the bottom of society, contributing to national rejuvenation.

#### **3.2 China's Excellent Traditional Culture is Conducive to Comprehensive Deepening of Reform**

Since ancient times, the Chinese nation has never stopped innovating and pioneering. From the concept of “making yourself progress every day” to the spirit of reform and innovation, they are the best proof of the innovative connotation of Chinese culture. The spirit of innovation has long become national gene of China. In the rapidly changing world today, only by keeping up with the development of the times and grasping the trend can China not be left behind. Reform is the self-improvement of the socialist system, and “being in a rut” will inevitably lead to the rigidity of the system. Only by advancing the continuous improvement of political, economic and cultural systems to adapt to the changing situation can governance capabilities and governance systems can be gradually modernized.

### **3.3 China's Excellent Traditional Culture is Beneficial to Manage State Affairs According to Law**

As an important genre in contention of hundreds of schools of thought, many remaining ideas of Legalism for governing the country are still applicable today. General Secretary Xi Jinping often uses quotations of legalists to expound his thoughts on governing the country by law. Law is the guarantee of social justice, an important part of the superstructure and the foundation of national governance. If a country does not have rules and regulations, the fundamentals of the country will be shaken, and thus there must be no false in all aspects of rules and laws. The Party must master leadership in legislation, law enforcement and abiding by the law, so as to better safeguard the dignity of the law. Legalism attaches great importance to the leadership's knowledge of the law. Only when leaders are familiar with the law and raise their awareness of the law can they better enforce the law.

## **4. China's Excellent Traditional Culture Strongly Embodies the “Soft Power” of the Chinese Nation**

Chinese culture has also played an important role in dealing with international issues and strengthening cross-cultural communication. China's excellent traditional culture is going to the world with its rich ideological connotation and is recognized by more and more countries. As a country's soft power, culture is one of the important indicators of its overall national strength. Leaders continue to derive nourishment from China's excellent traditional culture, and Chinese culture is providing new ideas for solving the practical problems of the contemporary era, with its unique wisdom.

### **4.1 China's Excellent Traditional Culture and the “Belt and Road”**

The Silk Road in the Han Dynasty pioneered the way for cultural exchanges between the East and the West. Based on this historical tradition, General Secretary Xi Jinping proposed to establish the “Silk Road Economic Belt” and the “21st Century Maritime Silk Road”. As a large developing country, China always remembers to contribute to the development of world economy. China has assumed its responsibilities with a strong sense of responsibility. The countries along the Silk Road are mostly developing countries. Chinese leaders' vision of economic belt construction undoubtedly brings huge development opportunities for these countries, and can promote exchanges and cooperation in terms of economy, culture and politics, ultimately achieving a win-win situation. At the same time, China insists on promoting peace and development of the whole world, showing the inclusiveness and broad-mindedness of Chinese culture. The New Silk Road Economic Belt will surely become a major measure that can actually benefit the world.

### **4.2 China's Excellent Traditional Culture and “Friendly Exchanges between Countries”**

Confucianism emphasizes that harmony is most precious. The world today is not peaceful. The political situation is complicated and confusing, and local wars are continuous, which has brought deep suffering to the people. As an important concept in *Book of Documents*, “friendly exchanges between countries” embodies the persistent pursuit of a harmonious society by the Chinese nation from ancient times to the present. General Secretary Xi Jinping has integrated this thought into contemporary diplomatic philosophy of China, providing new ideas for foreign exchanges of this country. China has always worked hard to safeguard world peace, and defend peace and justice. Unlike some other countries, they interfere in the internal affairs of other countries under the banner of “humanitarianism”, but in fact violate the political independence and national sovereignty of those countries. “Don't do to others what you don't want others to do to you.” In the long history, China's comprehensive national strength was one long ahead of other countries in the world and was one of the largest countries. However, China has always shown a friendly attitude in its foreign exchanges, and has never tried to invade other countries. The Chinese nation has been a nation that loves peace since ancient times, and will always be a nation that faithfully maintains peace.

“Although the country is big, it must die if warlike.” This is a warning from ancient thinkers to us. In these years, China has made rapid progress in its modernization construction, which has attracted worldwide attention. Some countries have begun to harbor unrighteous mind, attempting to smear China with labels such as “conspiracy theory” and “hegemony”. However, China has proved to the world that it will always adhere to the path of peaceful development, and this is also its long-term diplomatic strategy.

#### **4.3 Chinese Culture and a Community of Shared Future for Mankind**

It is the long-cherished wish of ancient Confucians to cultivate themselves constantly and benefit the country and the world, which also reflects the Confucianism's awareness of social responsibility. “People help each other; every family enjoys a good and prosperous life, and there is no war.” This thought outlines a beautiful prospect for the development of human society, and it also reflects the deep concern of Confucianism for every member and group of the whole society. In the world today, the ties between countries are getting closer and closer. All the countries are becoming an indivisible whole. In the face of global problems, countries must work together to deal with them. At present, the earth is facing various environmental problems, such as pollution, resource shortage, climate warming, and so on, which cannot be solved by the efforts of one country alone. In this context, General Secretary Xi proposed the establishment of a community with a shared future for mankind. With the beautiful vision of the world, China hopes to promote multi-party consultations, increase the participation of countries in global governance and promote the democratization of international relations.

#### **5. Conclusion**

At the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, it was clearly pointed out that it is needed to pay attention to exploring the ideological connotation and moral quality contained in China's excellent traditional culture to promote the inheritance and development of traditional Chinese culture. In this way, China's traditional culture can not only contribute to the development of modern China, but also better go global. Chinese culture is extensive and profound, with a long history, and the spread of Chinese culture in the world requires the efforts of several generations. It is the foundation of Chinese nation and the source of national temperament. Culture is national as well as global. In-depth study and inheritance of China's excellent traditional culture also contributes to the enrichment and development of world culture, contributing to the progress of human civilization. The fertile soil of Chinese culture can bear fruit and provide continuous spiritual power for China's modernization and the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

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