The Global Dimensions and Characteristics of Xi Jinping Thought on Culture

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DOI: 10.64649/yh.eg.issn3078-4794.20260515

Abstract: Xi Jinping Thought on Culture is extraordinarily rich in global dimensions and traits, and their depth rewards close study. As cultural contact, exchange, and integration across the world keep deepening, the Thought's relevance grows more evident with each passing year. Examined through national identity, global tendencies, and value propositions, the Thought's global dimensions show how powerfully it shapes and benefits the worldwide cultural arena, and reveal that a resolute national stance and a broad international vision reinforce each other rather than stand in opposition. In this sense, the Thought does not merely describe cultural phenomena; it charts a path that is at once distinctly Chinese and open to the world.

Keywords: Xi Jinping Thought on Culture; global dimensions; characteristics and implications

1. Upholding Cultural Confidence: The Distinctive Foundation of the Global Profile of Chinese Culture

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), General Secretary Xi Jinping has repeatedly urged the Party and the people to strengthen cultural confidence while guiding China's cultural development forward. This call has generated a distinctive cultural character and an original set of cultural connotations.That confidence draws its life from three sources. First, it rests on the fine traditional culture built up over more than five thousand years of Chinese civilization. Second, it was forged through the revolutionary culture and the advanced socialist culture that the Chinese people created under CPC leadership through the periods of revolution, construction, and reform. Third, it is anchored in the great practice of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Together these foundations make up the distinctive backdrop against which the global dimensions of Xi Jinping Thought on Culture should be understood. In other words, confidence here is no slogan but a living inheritance renewed through practice, which is why it can travel across borders and speak to audiences elsewhere.

Deng Xiaoping once stated, "For developing countries in the Third World like ours in particular, without national self-respect and without cherishing our national independence, a country cannot stand on its own feet" [1]. Cultural confidence is the cornerstone of a nation's spirit and an important support for national development. It also gives a country the confidence to present its cultural appeal and values to the world with composure. General Secretary Xi Jinping has noted, "Cultural confidence is a more fundamental, broader, and deeper form of confidence; it is the most basic, profound, and enduring force in the development of a country and a nation"[2]. A nation and a country therefore need firm cultural confidence to maintain their footing in a complex and changing global cultural landscape and preserve their distinctive cultural identity and spiritual core. For the Chinese people, strengthening cultural confidence is not only a full affirmation of the value of their own culture, but also an important source of spiritual strength, national pride, a sense of shared values, creativity, and cohesion.

Cultural confidence stems from cultural subjectivity. Cultural subjectivity is reflected in the way a country, nation, and its people live their own culture as part of everyday life, often without conscious reflection, as well as in their active pursuit of innovation and creativity in the cultural

sphere. It concerns not only the inheritance and continuation of cultural traditions, but also the sustained vitality of culture. It is likewise an important way to address the debate between ancient and modern, Chinese and Western ideas that has persisted for more than a century. General Secretary Xi Jinping has consistently upheld the fundamental position of Chinese culture and attached great importance to the question of subjectivity in cultural development. In a speech at the opening ceremonies of the 10th National Congress of the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles and the 9th National Congress of the China Writers Association, he emphasized that "a nation that abandons or betrays its own history and culture will not only fail to develop, but may also witness one historical tragedy after another" [3]. Only by unwaveringly upholding cultural subjectivity and firmly safeguarding the roots and soul of our national culture can we shore up cultural awareness and cultural confidence. Only then can we keep from losing our way amid the rich diversity of world civilizations, and only then can we answer the fundamental questions of where our national culture comes from and how it will be sustained while we strengthen international communication and build a Chinese discourse system.

2. Strengthening International Communication: Advancing Global Cultural Exchange

In the age of globalization, culture has become a core element of national soft power, one that carries growing weight in international competition. Cultures of different countries and nations constantly meet and interact, and these exchanges leave a deep mark on the international opinion environment and on how national images are built. Against this backdrop, strengthening international communication and constructing a Chinese discourse system have become an inevitable choice for China: such efforts enhance its cultural soft power, safeguard its cultural security, and strengthen its discursive power in the world. The global character of Xi Jinping Thought on Culture defines the standing of culture in international communication and the goals it should serve. As General Secretary Xi Jinping has stressed, "We should strengthen our capacity for international communication, carefully develop our external discourse system, tell China's stories well, communicate China's voice effectively, and present a true, multidimensional, and comprehensive picture of China to the world" [4]. This sets the course for international communication work. Effective communication carries China's development philosophy, achievements, and values to the world; it also helps break the Western monopoly over global discourse and correct misunderstandings and biases about China in the international community.

Constructing the Chinese discourse system is the key to building international communication capacity. As understood through the global character of Xi Jinping Thought on Culture, the system should take Marxism as its guide, stay rooted in fine traditional Chinese culture, and draw on the practical experience of socialism with Chinese characteristics, so that it bears distinctly Chinese features, style, and spirit. On the one hand, the essence of traditional Chinese ideas such as "harmony without uniformity" and "the world belongs to all" should be mined afresh and given contemporary meaning, so that they serve as vital cultural supports of the Chinese discourse system. On the other hand, Xi Jinping Thought on Culture, grounded in the great practice of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, distills original concepts, theories, and perspectives; ideas with practical value and global significance are written into the Chinese discourse system and carried abroad through international communication, steadily enlarging China's voice and leadership on global development issues. A discourse system, in short, is never copied from foreign models: it grows from a nation's own soil and speaks in its own idiom.

Strengthening international communication capacity is therefore a major expression of the global character of Xi Jinping Thought on Culture, and it marks the CPC's new thinking on, and new exploration of, cultural development in the new era. Only by improving international communication, taking Chinese culture out into the world, and deepening exchange and mutual learning among civilizations can the world come to understand China better, and can China go further into the world.

3. Championing Shared Values: A Distinctive Feature of Global Cultural Flourishing

Grounded in a global vision, Xi Jinping Thought on Culture closely observes the broad trends in the development of human civilization and actively responds to cultural challenges and questions faced by all humanity. It demonstrates far-reaching reflection on, and significant guidance for, the development of world culture. Taking all humanity as its point of reference is a notable feature of its global dimensions. As the latest development in Marxist cultural theory, Xi Jinping Thought on Culture inherits and develops Marxist theories concerning human beings. From the perspective of cultural development, it advances a series of new ideas, perspectives, and judgments concerning human development, with the liberation of all humanity as its ultimate goal.

At the domestic level, cultural development under socialism with Chinese characteristics consistently follows a people-centered value orientation. The report to the 20th National Congress of the CPC states: "We must adhere to a people-centered approach to literary and artistic creation and produce more outstanding works that strengthen the people's spiritual strength"[5]. The fundamental purpose of cultural construction is to meet the spiritual and cultural needs of the people. Culture is to serve the people and to take the people´s yearning for a better life as the goal of cultural construction. With the significant improvement of people´s living standards in China, the demand for spiritual and cultural life is more diversified and multi-level. People need more culture to carry out spiritual nourishment, enhance their ideological realm and enhance their spiritual strength. Therefore, the guiding significance of cultural construction for the people is becoming more and more prominent. At the same time, the people are the creators and builders of cultural construction,The practical activities of the people provide rich materials and strong impetus for cultural development.Cultural development must therefore rely consistently on the people, fully respect their principal role and pioneering spirit, create favorable conditions for their participation, and stimulate cultural creativity. This reflects the clear people-centered stance of Xi Jinping Thought on Culture. Ultimately, the achievements of cultural development should benefit all the people; this is the ultimate value of cultural progress. The people are the final judges of whether cultural development has succeeded. General Secretary Xi Jinping has stated that "the fundamental criterion for judging the gains and losses of all our work is whether the people support it, approve of it, are happy with it, and agree to it"[6]. Whether a literary or artistic work is judged outstanding, a cultural policy effective, or a cultural project successful, the decisive test is whether the people are satisfied; only cultural achievements that win their recognition carry genuine value. A people-centered stance is the value orientation of Xi Jinping Thought on Culture. It informs every stage of cultural development and gives powerful impetus both to the free and all-round development of the individual and to opening new ground for cultural development under socialism with Chinese characteristics.

From an international perspective, Xi Jinping Thought on Culture actively champions the common values of all humanity. The idea responds to a concrete reality: as globalization deepens, social ties across the world grow ever tighter. People of different countries and nations are increasingly linked economically, politically, and culturally, bound together in relations of mutual dependence. The common values of all humanity transcend geographical, national, and cultural boundaries and lay a value foundation for exchange and mutual learning among civilizations, helping to build a more harmonious and inclusive world cultural order. Its basic principles and value orientation are to let exchange among civilizations prevail over estrangement, mutual learning over conflict, and coexistence over claims of superiority. These are no abstract slogans but the ethical floor on which peaceful coexistence rests.

Such an order would not only break down barriers between civilizations and promote equal dialogue, mutual learning, and common development, but also allow humanity to enrich and elevate its spiritual life, advance social progress, and forge broader and deeper solidarity and cooperation. First, every civilization has its own distinctive features, with unique values, ways of thinking, and aesthetic ideas. Under a new global cultural order, people can draw on the

strengths of diverse civilizations, enriching their inner lives, lifting their thinking, and widening their horizons in a continual deepening of the spirit. Second, equal dialogue and mutual learning spur innovation across science and technology, culture, the arts, and other fields: exchanges of knowledge and technology speed the translation of scientific achievements into practice, while cross-fertilization in culture and the arts sparks creativity and diversifies forms of expression. Together these processes push society forward on many fronts and raise the quality of people's lives. Third, when exchange, mutual learning, and coexistence guide relations among civilizations, misunderstandings dissolve, conflicts recede, and understanding and trust between countries and peoples deepen. This favorable climate helps humanity close ranks in the face of global problems, cooperate more deeply, meet shared challenges together, and safeguard the common interests and well-being of all. In the long run, the value of such an order will be measured by the breadth of human cooperation it makes possible.

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