

A Logical Analysis of Strengthening Religious and Cultural Exchanges to Build A Community of Shared Future for Mankind

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Abstract

For the construction of a Community of Shared Future for Mankind, it is an extremely important path of strengthening religious and cultural exchanges and promoting cultural exchanges and mutual learning. In terms of theoretical logic, religious culture is consistent with the value connotation of a Community of Shared Future for Mankind; In terms of practice logic, strengthening religious and cultural exchanges helps to resolve religious conflicts in different countries and regions; From the perspective of historical logic, it is an inevitable choice to strengthen religious and cultural exchanges to build a Community of Shared Future for Mankind.

Keywords

Religion cultural. Exchange. a Community of Shared Future for Mankind.

1. Introduction

Religion is an important carrier of human civilization, which once occupied an important position and played a significant role in the development of human history. As Xu Yihua argues, "no matter in public diplomacy, cross-cultural dialogue, cultural exchanges between China and foreign countries, or in the construction of a Community of Shared Future for Mankind, religion has a value that cannot be ignored and should play a greater role." [1] It is undoubtedly of great theoretical and practical significance to explore the logic of building a community of shared future for mankind from the perspective of religious and cultural exchanges.

2. Firstly. From the Perspective of Theoretical Logic, Religious Culture Is Consistent with the Value Orientation of A Community of Shared Future for Mankind

A community of shared future for mankind is a Chinese concept and a Chinese plan for building a new international order based on the three issues of where mankind came from, where it is now and where it will go. The connotation of a community of shared future for mankind includes "lasting peace, common security, common prosperity, open and inclusive, clean and beautiful." A community of shared future of mankind focuses on solving global issues and deep-seated problems. Its connotation is extremely rich, including politics, economy, society, culture, ecology and other fields. It goes beyond the narrow views of unilateralism, individual supremacy and civilization superiority, and advocates the establishment of a world order of co-construction, sharing, openness and inclusiveness. The proposal of a community of shared future for mankind is based on the common pursuit of human values, but it does not negate differences. It also emphasizes that differences should be respected.

Religion is a historical phenomenon when human society develops to a certain stage. In the long history, religion and culture coexist, blend and develop, cultivated and form the spiritual home of human beings. For example, Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism co-construct the spiritual home of the Chinese nation. Christianity has become an important core of Western civilization, and Islam is the core spirit of Arab civilization. There are two views on religious culture: one

like the relationship between a big tree and a branch, a primary and a secondary; the other is that the relationship between religion and culture is juxtaposition. No matter what kind of view, religion and culture are deeply integrated and complementary.

The spirit of religious culture is consistent with the value orientation of a Community of Shared Future for Mankind, and the value connotation is common. From the perspective of religious culture, most religions in the world uphold the concept of peace, openness and inclusiveness, and pursue harmony among all people, Great Harmony in the world and one family in the world. The spiritual ideas of different religions are common. All major religions in the world contain some doctrines to persuade people to be good and guide people to live in peace. Take Christianity, Islam and Buddhism as examples, "Islam" itself means "peace and obedience", and the Koran also expresses the meaning of equality for all; The basic doctrine of Christianity is to love God and love others. There are many contents about peace and tolerance in the Bible. Buddhism emphasizes "mercy and benefiting others". Major religions point out in their doctrines that they should uphold the concept of tolerance and live in peace and friendship, which provides reference for dealing with the relationship between people and between countries and regions. The wisdom of harmonious coexistence between man and nature is of positive significance for promoting the construction of ecological civilization and promoting the harmonious relationship between man and nature.

A Community of Shared Future for Mankind has profound Chinese religious and cultural origins. The connotation of Chinese religious culture is rich, from the ancient primitive religion of heaven and earth worship, ancestor worship, Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism, as well as Islam, Catholicism and Christianity, different religions are interconnected and infiltrated with each other, and at the same time, they are integrated, absorbed, innovated and developed with Chinese traditional culture. Complement each other, constitute the traditional Chinese culture together. Chinese five major religions contain rich values of a community of human destiny, such as: Taoism believes that "Heaven, Earth and I come into being together, and all things and I are one". China is a multi-ethnic and multi-religious country in history. In terms of ideology and belief, Confucianism is the main, Buddhism and Taoism are supplemented. There are also various folk beliefs, which give birth to the superb wisdom of dealing with the world. "All living creatures grow together without harming one another". Openness and inclusiveness are the meanings of its theme. Because of openness and inclusiveness, there has never been a large-scale religious war in Chinese history.

On the whole, Chinese religion's understanding of the world is holistic and harmonious, which goes beyond the limitations of nationality and region, and advocates to spread care to the whole world including human beings and nature. Chinese religious culture is not only the source of a Community of Shared Future for Mankind, but also provides important wisdom for the construction of a Community of Shared Future for Mankind.

3. Secondly. From the Perspective of Practical Logic, Strengthening Religious and Cultural Exchanges Is An Important Way to Solve Practical Differences and Conflicts

The construction of a Community of Shared Future for Mankind is not a smooth road. In reality, there are many problems and challenges. In today's world, western centralism, and the theory of Clash of Civilizations are rampant. Unilateralism, Hegemony problem, and protectionism are constantly on the rise, and some narrow ideas are prevailing. On January 2017, Xi Jinping delivered a speech at the headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva: "On the other hand, mankind is also in an era of numerous challenges and increasing risks. Global growth is sluggish, the impact of the financial crisis lingers on and the development gap is widening. Armed conflicts occur from time to time, Cold War mentality and power politics still exist and non-

conventional security threats, particularly terrorism, refugee crisis, major communicable diseases and climate change, are spreading." [2]

In the world, ethnic and religious conflicts are an important source of conflicts between international regions. The development of the world economy is speeding up the integration and globalization. The political, ethnic, religious and ideological fields show a trend of split up and confrontation. The refugee crisis, terrorism, power politics and so on, which are all influenced by religious factors. The declaration of the Millennium peace conference of world religious and spiritual leaders in 2000 also pointed out that "our world is destroyed by violence, disaster, war and all kinds of destruction, which are often referred to as in the name of religion". There are both social and religious factors in the international religious differences and conflicts. The two factors are intertwined. In addition, religion is a special ideology, which has sacredness. Religion is a factor that cannot be ignored and plays an important role in the conflict. The differences and conflicts in the field of religion are important challenges to build a community of shared future for mankind. The conflicts in the Balkan Peninsula, such as the disintegration of Yugoslavia etc, are to a large extent manifested in the contradictions among Orthodox, Catholic and Islamic; The Chechnya separatist forces in the north Caucasus take Islam as the banner; The Kashmir conflict in South Asia is mainly manifested in the differences and conflicts between Islam and Hinduism. Xi Jinping once said that the area along the ancient Silk Road was once a place where milk and honey were flowing. Today, many places have become the words of conflict, turbulence and crisis.

From the domestic point of view, China has the advantage of resources to carry out religious and cultural exchanges. China is a country with rich religious resources. There are five major religions, including Buddhism, Taoism, Islam, Catholicism and Christianity. There are also a large number of folk beliefs and social customs integrated together, and a large number of people participate in it. In the historical process of religious development, a large number of cultural heritages have been formed, including the Mogao Grottoes and other religious art treasures. Among the five major religions, Buddhism has natural ties with South Asia, East Asia and Southeast Asia. Zhao Puchu said that "Buddhist culture is the golden link among China, Japan and South Korea"; Taoism's ideas and actions in ecological civilization can provide Chinese wisdom and Chinese programs for harmonious coexistence between man and nature; Islam actively explains the concepts of peace, obedience and tolerance, and spreads them with China Good experience and practice have been formed in the exchange and integration of traditional culture; Christianity has actively participated in international cooperation in the fields of helping the poor and supporting the weak, supporting the elderly and other public welfare charities, and achieved remarkable results. In the future, with Chinese opening wider, religious exchanges will be more in-depth, and the role of religion in promoting social harmony, civilization and progress, and world peace will be more prominent.

From the perspective of religion itself, religion is an important link connecting different countries and regions. Religion is a historical phenomenon in the development of human society to a certain stage, which exists universally in today's world. According to the 2015 Pew Research Center's report on world religions, among the 7.3 billion people in the world, More than 85% of the world's population believes in religion. Religion is also an important link connecting the region. Most of the regional communities, such as the Ten ASEAN countries, Eight South Asian countries, Eighteen West Asian countries and Five Central Asian countries, have their dominant religions. Religion plays an important role in the formation and development of civilization, constitutes the core value system of different cultural circles, has a strong influence, and forms the realistic basis of exchange and mutual learning. Religion is not only an important carrier and spiritual link of cultural exchange, but also a soft power in geopolitics. Religion is the fuse of conflict and the lubricant of peace. Religion often affects the value orientation and behavior choice of believers. The resonance of religious emotion can play

an unexpected role in promoting understanding and identification, which is of great significance for resolving differences and forming consensus.

From the perspective of Chinese foreign relations, the religious field is a field with weak mutual recognition, low trust and many differences. Religion and human rights are the most prominent areas of ideological struggle between China and the West. It is a common means in the western world to criticize China through religious freedom and religious human rights. Western countries, led by the United States, issue reports on religious human rights and religious freedom on a regular basis every year, and frequently issue bills related to Xinjiang, Tibet, Hong Kong and Taiwan, criticizing and slandering Chinese religious human rights. Take the recent example, in December 2019, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the "2019 Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act", which interfered with Xinjiang's ethnic and religious issues; in January 2020, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the so-called "Tibet policy and support act of 2019" in an attempt to interfere in Chinese internal affairs. Chinese "The Belt and Road Initiative" strategy to promote the construction of a community of shared future for mankind is also referred to as "Marshall Plan for China" and "Asian version NATO" by some western countries and regions. A survey conducted by the Pew Center of the United States in 2017 also shows that although Chinese reputation has improved in recent years, it is still not highly rated in some countries. People in India, Poland, Turkey, Vietnam and other countries do not have a high degree of liking for China.

4. Thirdly. From the Perspective of Historical Logic, Strengthening Religious and Cultural Exchanges Is An Inevitable Choice to Promote World Peace and Development

From the perspective of world historical development, religious and cultural exchanges are positively related to the peaceful development of the world. In the period of frequently religious and cultural exchanges, the whole world is also in a peaceful period; on the contrary, the interruption of religious exchanges and the intensification of religious conflicts are nightmares in the history. The conflict between Western Christianity and Islam is a thread of world development. The conflict between the two civilizations almost accompanied the whole process of the meeting of the two religions. The "crusade" broke out in the 11th-13th century lasted for hundreds of years, which had a great impact on the world at that time. After the industrial revolution, the economic and social development of the western world has been rapid. In the conflict with the Islamic world, many Islamic countries were reduced to colonies or semi colonies; during the first and second world war, the Islamic world fell into decline and split in the game with Europe; during the cold war, religious conflicts were interwoven with geopolitics and energy competition, which resulted in the current situation of the Islamic world's extreme forces and frequent terrorist incidents. After the cold war, the ideology of national and regional conflicts has gradually weakened, religious ethnic conflicts and "civilization conflicts" have gradually become the main force of world conflicts, and religious issues have emerged one after another. American scholar Samuel Huntington put forward the famous theory of "clash of Civilizations". He pointed out that the conflicts among several major civilizations in the world largely determine the trend of the international situation. The clash of civilizations is the greatest threat to the future world peace, and one of the bases for dividing different civilizations is religion. On the surface, the conflicts of civilization are mainly about economic, political and ethnic issues. In essence, they are closely related to religion.

From the perspective of Chinese religious history, Chinese Religious Exchange and dialogue has a profound historical tradition. As early as Tang Dynasty, Chinese Buddhist monk Jian Zhen traveled to Japan and contributed greatly to the spread of Chinese culture. Among the five major religions in China, except Taoism, which is a local religion, the other four religions were

introduced into China through cultural exchange and integration, and achieved localization in the exchange and agitation with local religion and local culture, which adapted to the survival and development of Chinese society. In history, Chinese religious exchanges and dialogues have paid more attention to learning from classics. This tradition and gene have determined that Chinese religions emphasize "Enlightenment" rather than institutionalized missionary work. Chinese religious exchanges with foreign countries are not characterized by aggressive missionary impulse and expansiveness, which reduces the resistance of cross-border exchanges, and provides an inclusive and sustainable choice for International Religious exchanges [3]. Compared with the grand occasion of religious and cultural exchanges in history, the current work of religious and cultural exchanges in China is lagging behind. For a long time, the western world has dominated the discourse in religious exchanges and dialogues. Chinese religious foreign exchange lags behind economic and social development, and does not match the status of a new big country and a country with religious resources. The advantages of religious resources have not been transformed into practical advantages.

From the perspective of the history of religious development, world religions are showing a trend of diversified development, which requires more exchanges. The traditional pattern of religious distribution is changing. Christianity spreads to the south. Latin America, Asia and Africa are gradually becoming the core areas of Christian distribution. The core status of Christianity in the western world is declining. With the rapid growth of the population of Islam, with the refugee crisis, religious extremist forces and other issues, the influence of Islam is expanding. New religions are developing rapidly and religious organizations And the number of believers increased rapidly. It is worth noting that religious extremism does not only exist in a certain religion, but also in Europe, Oceania, South Asia, Southeast Asia and other regions in recent years. Analyzing these events, we can see that all major religions have extreme phenomena. Religious conflict is a challenge to the development of the world. At the same time, religious exchanges are also actively exploring, and some good experiences and practices have been formed to boost world peace and development through religious and cultural exchanges. Taking China as an example, since the reform and opening up, Chinese major religions have increased their foreign exchanges and their international activities have been constantly active. At present, Chinese religious circles have established friendly relations with religious organizations in more than 80 countries. Since the new century, China has paid more attention to religious exchanges and dialogues. It has organized and launched a series of Religious Exchange conferences, such as The World Buddhist Forum and The International Taoist Forum, to create a platform for exchange and dialogue, and to help build a Community of Shared Future for Mankind. In 2018, the "Fifth World Buddhist Forum" held in Fujian issued a declaration: "we sincerely call on Buddhists all over the world to jointly carry forward the spirit of harmony of the middle way, let the exchange and mutual learning of civilizations become the power to promote the progress of human society and the link to maintain world peace, make unremitting efforts to build a Community of Shared Future for Mankind, and make unremitting efforts for all sentient beings to make unremitting efforts." In recent years, the "International Symposium on the Bible and a Community of Shared Future for Mankind" and "the Fourth National Islamic Symposium: Islamic Studies in the new era" and other religious research exchange conferences, a Community of Shared Future for Mankind has become a hot topic. Chinese religious Peace Commission has joined the Asia religious Peace Commission and the world religious Peace Commission, and has launched many initiatives beneficial to the construction of the country, society and people's hearts, which is of positive significance to promoting the exchange and mutual learning of civilizations and promoting world peace and development.

With the increasing religious conflicts in some countries and regions, the necessity and importance of religious exchanges and dialogues have become a common consensus. The role of strengthening religious and cultural exchanges in building a Community of Shared Future for

Mankind has been paid more and more attention. Hans Kung, a famous German sinologist, said: "if there is no peace between religions, there will be no peace among nations, countries and even civilizations; if there is no dialogue between religions, there will be no peace among religions". Xi Jinping stressed: "There are more than 200 countries and regions, over 2,500 ethnic groups and multiple religions in our world. Different histories, national conditions, ethnic groups and customs give birth to different civilizations and make the world a colorful one. There is no such thing as a superior or inferior civilization, and civilizations are different only in identity and location. Diversity of civilizations should not be a source of global conflict; rather, it should be an engine driving the advance of human civilizations" [4]. At present, The world is undergoing profound changes. All countries should further reflect on the orientation of religious and cultural work, correctly understand the status and role of religious and cultural exchanges, strengthen religious and cultural exchanges and dialogues, resolve conflicts, pool consensus on peaceful development, and actively promote the construction of a community of shared future for mankind.

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