

Theoretical Foundations of Community of Shared Future for Mankind

Zheng Xu

Guangdong Institute of International Strategies, Guangdong University of Foreign Studies,
Guangzhou Guangdong, 510420, China

Abstract

Community of Shared Future for Mankind (CSFM) is a diplomatic ideology put forward by Chinese government, it is code of conduct of Chinese government when dealing with international relations. Many scholars have already taken researches on the area with multi-dimensional academic methods, but theoretical foundation of CSFM needs to be further expounded in order to demonstrate scientific characteristic. Some of scholars from other countries misinterpret theoretical meanings of CSFM, it is necessary to take a deeper research on it to correct their misinterpretation. Theoretical foundation of CSFM can be divided into two parts, one is Marxism and the other one is Confucianism. According to basic principles of Marxism, there are three words needed to be focused on: change, contradiction and universal connection, so CSFM strongly advocates that the world need to be changed into harmonious world, respect cultural diversity and every country should collaborate together. In the part of Confucianism, which is one of the most important Chinese political philosophy, Confucianism combines Confucius's quotations, which is sort out by his students. In the individual level, the purpose of Confucianism is to guide people how to behave themselves well in their daily life; Confucianism also can be applied in international relations, the paper uses three Confucius's quotations in handling the relationships among countries, which are rooted in the CSFM. CSFM proposes every country should negotiate when facing predicaments instead by using force; every country should spare no efforts to create harmony international environment because it will be conducive for world economic development; it is necessary to help other countries when some countries have improved their national comprehensive ability. Therefore, Marxism and Confucianism are two dimensions of theoretical foundation in CSFM, it has very important international political implications, that is, the world needs respect, equality, trust as well as faith so that the CSFM will be presented in the near future.

Keywords

Community of Shared Future for Mankind; Theoretical foundation; Marxism; Confucianism; International Political Implications.

1. Introduction

Throughout human history, human always want to ensure their happiness and prosperity in future so that a majority of proposals have already been put forward and implemented in order to prevent war, economic crisis, poverty as well as social turmoil from happening. One of the latest proposal is Community of Shared Future for Mankind (CSFM), it is also the latest production of Marxism of international theory combined with contemporary world trends, which still has strong research value and needs to be advocated. The CSFM can be divided into four aspects: politics, economy, culture and security. In economy sphere, the CSFM advocates

that the world's economic development should be based on the efforts from every single countries, because countries are strongly tied with each other, there is no other countries developing its own economy without win-win cooperation. When it comes to world politics, it advocates that every countries should work together, respect each other instead of reaching zero-sum game. The preconditions of collaborating together are to respect other countries' will and do not interfere in other countries' domestic affairs. In the cultural aspect, cultural communication should be widely spread, and respect should be applied in protecting cultural diversity. The world should include multiple cultures and find several scientific ways to coexist. Last but no least, in the sphere of security, the CSFM expresses that every countries in the world should share responsibility to secure safety of the world because sound international environment can provide developmental opportunities, the world should no longer be suffered from terrorism and wars because we realize the world is becoming a global village, which means that security has significant value for the whole world.

Scholars from Chinese and other countries have conducted multi-dimensional researches on theoretical foundation of Community of Shared Future for Mankind. Shiren Liu (2019) has conclude that the concept is the production of Marxism philosophy in the 21st century, the core essence of CSFM contains Marxism philosophy, which has been proved its scientific characteristic. [1] Zhang Hui(2019) proposes that the CSFM has combined with Chinese traditional culture, it will be conducive for development of CSFM, reflecting its Chinese wisdom. The CSFM also have very important theoretical and practical meanings for international law, it has great value for China since it can narrow the gap between China and the world. [2] Some other scholars(Jun Ding& Hongjin Cheng, 2017) consider that the CSFM will have substantive effect on Middle East Governance, it will be beneficial for preserving cultural diversity in Middle East as well as support the realistic needs of the people there. [3] Jian Ye (2019)shares his viewpoint that CSFM is basically influenced by Contemporary Chinese diplomatic philosophy. [4] Other scholars like Fabio Marcelli from Italy constantly emphasizes important implication of the concept, the CSFM covers two major areas like international peace and security, and it also put forward pragmatic solution for environment problems and provides pedagogical implication of the concept. [5] From the analysis above, Chinese literature are abundant but literature from other countries are still insufficient, therefore, the paper will learn from some useful implications from other academic papers, and buildup theoretical foundation of the CSFM, which aims to help people from other countries, especially from western countries, know what is purpose of promoting the CSFM.

Nowadays, many scholars have already put forward their perspective about the inner meaning of the CSFM, but it is still lack of systematic framework and sometimes people from other countries will misunderstand it and take it as a China's weapon to gain international discourse or consider it as China's expansionism. Facing with these misunderstandings, the paper wants to response these predicaments. First of all, based on literature reviews, the paper will reveal the important international meaning of the CSFM; secondly, the author will use two dimensions to buildup the prototype of CSFM, one is from Marxism, because CSFM is the new production of Marxism of International theory combined with world current situation; the other one is from Confucianism, as we all know that Confucianism is from Chinese traditional culture, one of the most important component of Chinese philosophy. The theoretical prototype of CSFM will be presented from Marxism and Chinese traditional culture, which will be more persuasive, and finally, research implications and conclusions will be summarized, which will be conducive for China, even for other countries' diplomatic policy-making.

2. Theoretical Foundations of CSFM

2.1. Western Philosophy: Marxist Philosophy

Marxism can be regarded as an important component in CSFM. Especially the Marxism of international theory. Marxism is originated in 19th century and it was put forward by two German philosophers, Karl Marx and his friend Friedrich Engels. The theory was named after Karl Marx because the basic structure of Marxism was formed by Karl Marx; historical materialism and theory of surplus values. Engels once expressed that it was reasonable that the theory was named after by Karl Marx because he contributed a lot for the theory. In the theory, Marx and Engels analyze historical development, social development and economy development by materialistic interpretation, which aims to prove that the world has the characteristic of materiality. Marxism have already seen through everything in the world because it propose that everything is contradictory to each other, contradiction is not a horrible thing because it will promote the development of specific aspects. CSFM has inherited two characteristics: materiality and contradiction. The CSFM acknowledges that conflicts are everywhere in the world, but we should solve the conflicts in peaceful ways and focus on the living conditions of people. [6] CSFM is influenced by Marxist spirit, emphasizing that prosperity can be achieved only if every countries in the world take necessary actions. Besides, Marx's theory of world history is also influenced on CSFM, world history means that we should take the world as a whole, identifies that all the nation in the world should be treated with equality, European continent should not be regarded as the central of the world because every continent starts to link together after industrial revolution, it is undeniable that European countries have play important role in the world history, sometime it can be seen as the "engine" for the world, but now if we overstate the position of Europe, we will neglect other potential places, which is go against developmental trend of the world.

Marx once said that the philosopher have only interpreted the world in various ways, the point is to change it. Marx would like to express his ideas that interpreting the world is barely enough to make the world have promising future, we should find several ways to change the world so that the world can make progress and it will be beneficial for mankind. It is difficult to find the ways to change the world because changing the world also means changing human's consciousness. CSFM's inner intention is to change the world. In current global situation, poverty, famine, war, pollution and climate change, all of these are threatening people's life, we still cannot find a way to solve these problems around us. Although we know that people should take necessary precaution several decades ago, these global issues are getting worse. CSFM provide theoretical foundation for solving these issues. CSFM advocates that win-win cooperation is the only way that people can be protected from hunger and poverty, and put forward a vision of prosperity in the world.

The theory of Marxism can be divided into three main categories: Marxist philosophy, Marxist political economy and scientific socialism, each of category should be analyzed in dialectical way. Therefore, dialectical analysis is one of the important element in the theory of Marxism. There are three main principles in dialectical materialism: law of unity and struggle of opposites, law of transformation from quantity to quality as well as law of negation of negation. These three principles have one thing in common, which is admitted that the contractions are coexisted in this world, even in the universe. The core of Marxist philosophy is to acknowledge contradiction. There are over 200 countries in the world and each of them has their own characteristics, so we live in the world full of differences and it will be easily led to conflict. The CSFM accepts that contradiction is existed but it does not take it as a potential threat because contradiction is a driving force of development so that mankind can seek harmony and progress in diversity. One word to summary the analysis above, the CSFM propose that all the countries in the world should find the similarities among them, when we come across confrontations, we

should sit down together and search for the ways to handle mutual conflicts, strengthen cultural communication. Global economic development and prosperity will be presented in our world one day.

Materialist dialectics are one of the most important dimension in the Marxism, the basic principle of materialist dialectics is universal relations, and that is the logical starting point to expound other philosophical categories. The nature are connected instead of isolation, everything cannot produce for no reasons including social development, cultural development or global development. In a word, CSFM wants to prove that no matter what kind of dimension we mention, like historical, social, political and economic aspect, all of these are interconnected. In CSFM, it explains interconnection in the world from three aspects, first of all, it stresses that the Earth is the only planet where people can be inhabited, if we do not cherish our homeland, we will be lost everything, demonstrating the connection between human and the Earth. Secondly, CSFM strongly advocates that nations should collaborate together, there is no single country which can depend on itself to develop, facing with serious climate change, poverty or terrorism, all the nations should take the responsibility to handle problems. Thirdly, CSFM proposes that, in human society, politics, economy, culture, security are indispensable, society needs to be maintained so that it will be prosperous in future, which means that people from all walks of life make contribution for it, globalization is main trend of the world, therefore, people from all over the world should spare no effort to keep world's society operating. Once the world stops developing, and human will be degenerated, the best way to keep the world operating is that people from all walks of life in the world stick together, and create their own value, namely, theoretical power of CSFM.

2.2. Chinese Philosophy: Confucianism

Confucianism is one of the most important Chinese philosophical thought, which was put forward by Confucius and he was also one of the most important Chinese thinker, philosopher as well as politician in Chinese ancient times. Confucianism teaches people how to behave themselves, and how people handle relationship with their relatives and friends. Confucianism is more like a political ideology and social ethic, which had greatly influenced on Asian countries like Japan, Korea and Vietnam. CSFM have inherited the part of essence of Confucianism, Confucius once said that "we should not do to others as you would not wish done to yourself" [7]. That is the basic principle that people handle their relationship with others, here he stresses that we should increase the ability of our empathy, and the scope of this principle can be extended from individual level to international level. As we are well-known that powerful countries always colonized, exploited the weak countries in human history, the purposes of power countries wanted to gain more natural resources to develop themselves, so that they can increase their ability to continue colonize other weak countries, but the weak countries did not want to be colonized and thought they deserved basic respect from other countries. Therefore, the powerful countries and the weak countries' relation can be very difficult to deal with. CSFM advocates that no countries want to be manipulated and exploited, so it is necessary to build up a community where every country can respect each other, if we come across serious international issues, we will negotiate till we find a proper solution, interfering in domestic affairs or disrespecting each other will not be allowed in the community. The community that CSFM advocates is based on mutual cooperation and justice, securing promising future of the world we share. In other word, the CSFM combines with Chinese traditional values like "World harmony", "harmony in diversity" which are highly advocated by Confucianism.

Confucius also expressed his idea before, "harmony is to be prized and diversity is valued" [8]. In individual level, Confucius wants to emphasize people should create harmony together, harmony can bring wealth and the living atmosphere will be better than before. In international level, it means that this world should be inclusive in order to create harmony, harmony does

not appear in the middle of nowhere, it needs every nations' effort to create. The CSFM expresses that diversity is the nature of the world, what makes the world beautiful and prosperous is diversity, CSFM takes diversity as a catalyst toward the richness and prosperity of the world, through cultural exchange to create harmony in the world. Therefore, we can understand the relation between CSFM and Confucianism, two of them are combined together, Confucian principle of harmony can be applied in the area of dealing with international relation, which is to create harmony with mutual respect.

Confucius once said, "now the man of perfect virtue, wishing to be established himself, seeks also to establish others; wishing to be enlarged himself, he seeks also enlarge others" [9]. In the individual levels, Confucius wants to tell us that if we want to help other to achieve success, the first thing we should do is to improve ourselves. In the international levels, every country can seize the opportunities to develop itself, but that is not enough because you should help other countries to realize your value, and cultivate sound international ambience. The CSFM proposes that not only should we find a scientific ways to improve our national comprehensive ability, but also help other countries to find the proper ways that can be beneficial to them. Chinese government always stresses that China are willing to share Chinese wisdom to the rest of the world, sharing the developmental fruit all together. Some scholars are so confused why the Chinese government will promote such policies, answers to the question is that Chinese government are influenced by Chinese ancient philosophy, the wisdom is entirely rooted in Chinese's thought. Therefore, CSFM will be recognized by Chinese people because it is our common will.

3. International Political Implications

3.1. Theoretical Connotation of CSFM

The Community of Shared Future for Mankind is one of the most important part of 21st century Marxism, it provides the Chinese wisdom for international governance. The world does not need a specific leader, every country should respect cultural diversity in order to create a harmonious world, protecting the world from poverty, famine and wars. The CSFM is not political tools to gain hegemony of the world, the concept reflects Chinese government's ultimate concern for the future.

In the above analysis, the theoretical foundations of CSFM are clear presented, which can be divided into two parts: one is the Marxism and the other one is Confucianism. Marxism is originated in Western country, namely Germany, theoretical power of Marxism is prosperous in China because Marxism always keeps abreast of times, and it will offer solution when the world is facing difficulties. In the part of Marxism, Marxism put forward the jargon like contradiction, dialectical thinking and universal connection, these jargon are accepted in the core of CSFM. According to three main principle of dialectical materialism, Contradiction exists in the universe. Contradiction is admitted by CFSM, so it provides the idea that every country should respect diversity and discrepancy because the contradiction are already existed, we should embrace it instead of rejecting it. Marxism tells us that it is necessary to change the world, not just interpreting the world, CSFM is a proposal to change the world. Marxism have proved that everything in the universe is connected to each other, therefore, universal connection is the nature of the world. Every country cannot develop on its own, a country cannot cut off the connections with other countries. CSFM emphasizes the world as a whole, every country is an indispensable member, which means each country has their own connections. Hence, Marxism provide theoretical foundation for CSFM.

In the part of Confucianism, the paper have already listed three important sentences from Confucius, each sentence provides evidence for theoretical foundation. Confucius's quotation

can be paraphrased in two levels: one is the individual level and the other one is international level. Individual level can always reflect the international one, therefore, Confucius's quotation will never be out of date, it also provide several ways to manage international government. CSFM's inner meanings contain Confucianism, every country respect each other instead of forcing any countries, every country seek for the ways of develop, the country should help other countries when it make some progresses. Harmony can produce wealth, every country spares no efforts to create sound developmental environment. Therefore, CSFM's theoretical framework is consisted with two major parts: Marxism and Confucianism. CSFM is the human wisdom combining with both the East and the West, which demonstrates its tremendous theoretical values and practical values.

3.2. CSFM's Future

The CSFM is a scientific diplomatic proposal which is strongly advocated by Chinese government, it has two major theoretical foundations: Marxism and Confucianism. These two important theories play its unique role in the CSFM. Marxism stands for the ideology from the West and Confucianism is symbolic political ideology in the East, CSFM is produced by the combination of East and West, which proves that CSFM is scientific theory rather than slogans. To larger extent, CSFM is the human's achievement because every nation starts to realize that we should solve conflicts through collaboration instead of reaching zero-sum game. In order to realize CSFM, every country should respect for cultural diversity, equality, inclusiveness and share progress and prosperity all together.

Many scholars have taken multi-dimensional research direction to analyze the origin of CSFM, it still has its own academic value because the world is changing all the time. One thing have to be pointed out is that CSFM is not the ultimate solution for every international issues, it just provides the possible solution for international issues. National interests are major things that every country pursues for, which will cause conflicts sometimes. Therefore, CSFM should be craved in mind because its basic principles should not be violated. Even though complicated international situations will be difficult to make it realize, every country should have faith in CSFM and it will come true in the near future.

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