

The Integration of The Marxist Ecological View and Confucian View of Heaven and Man

Ting Li, Yingyi Wu

School of Marxism, Zhejiang Normal University, Jinhua, China

Abstract

Although the Marxist ecological outlook and the Confucian idea of "unity of heaven and man" originated from different backgrounds and times, they have shown surprising resonance in the fundamental view of the relationship between man and nature. This kind of resonance just reveals the inevitable logic of the Marxist ecological view in the process of Sinicization. Under the background of the increasingly severe global ecological problems, it is of great and far-reaching significance to interpret the Marxist ecological concept based on the concept of "unity of nature and man" to deeply explore its value connotation. This interpretation will further promote the understanding of the harmonious symbiosis between man and nature, and provide inspiration for building a sustainable future.

Keywords

Marxism, Ecology, Confucianism, Harmony between nature and man.

1. Introduction

Ancient China advocated "harmony between nature and man", emphasizing the harmonious coexistence between man and nature. The Marxist ecological view firmly believes that harmonious coexistence between man and nature is essential for the survival and prosperity of mankind. It recognizes that human beings and nature are closely linked and inseparable organic wholes that depend on and influence each other. Despite the vast distance between the two ecological views and the obvious geographical differences, their core ideas are surprisingly compatible. The thought of ecological civilization is an important theoretical innovation of the Communist Party of China in the new century, which inherits and develops the Marxist ecological concept and the traditional Chinese thought of "harmony between nature and man". This innovative theory conforms to the trend of the development of human civilization and has become a strategic choice to overcome the predicament of human survival under industrial civilization, cope with the ecological crisis of contemporary mankind and solve the problems of human social development. It profoundly reveals the urgency and importance of the relationship between human beings and nature, and provides ideological guidance and action direction for building a sustainable future.

2. The Scientific Connotation of The Marxist Ecological View

Based on the critical inheritance of the Western modern view of nature and Hegel and Feuerbach's view of nature, Marx developed the ecological thought of harmony and unity between man and nature with practice as the medium, thus transcending the dualistic opposition between man and nature. [1]Marx realized that practice is the core of human objective activities, and human "objective" activities, that is, practical activities, integrate humans and nature closely. First of all, the Marxist ecological view emphasizes the scientific cognition of the laws of nature. Marxism holds that there are objective universal laws and interactions in nature that can be revealed and understood through the application of the

scientific method. The Marxist ecological view encourages people to use scientific attitudes and methods to observe, empirically, and reason about the natural world to gain a deep understanding of the complexity of ecosystems and the internal mechanisms of ecological processes. Secondly, the Marxist ecological view emphasizes the integrity and interdependence of ecosystems. It recognizes that nature is a complex system composed of organisms, environment and interactions, in which various elements are interdependent and mutually restricted, forming a stable ecological balance. The Marxist ecological concept emphasizes the protection and maintenance of the integrity of the ecosystem and emphasizes that human activities should respect and maintain the stability of the ecosystem and avoid causing damage and interference to it. In addition, the Marxist ecological view deeply recognizes the interaction between human society and the natural environment. It points out that the development of human society is closely linked to the natural environment, and human social practices have direct and indirect impacts on the natural environment. The Marxist ecological view advocates the coordinated development of human society and the natural environment by changing the social system and the mode of production and establishing a sustainable production and consumption model. The Marxist ecological outlook also focuses on the historical and social synthesis of environmental issues. It recognizes that environmental problems are not isolated phenomena, but are closely related to the development and historical course of human society. The Marxist ecological view points out that the mode of production and economic logic under the capitalist system has led to environmental destruction and ecological crisis, so the solution to environmental problems must fundamentally transcend the capitalist system and establish a socialist way of production and life so that the relationship between man and nature can be completely reversed. The scientific connotation of the Marxist ecological view delves into the objective laws of nature, the wholeness and interdependence of ecosystems, the interaction between human society and the natural environment, and the comprehensive consideration of environmental issues and social history. The Marxist view of nature aims to remind people to recognize the objective laws of nature, advocate human interaction with nature in a scientific and sustainable way, and at the same time call for transcending the capitalist system and building an ideal society in which man and nature coexist in harmony.

3. The Basic Connotation of The Confucian Nature View of The Unity of Nature and Man

The idea of "unity of heaven and man" was first put forward by Zhuangzi, and later became a systematic philosophical system under the development of Dong Zhongshu, a Confucian scholar in the Han Dynasty. [2] It reveals the idea of a close connection and harmonious symbiosis between man and nature. The Confucian idea of "harmony between heaven and man" holds that in the universe, heaven and man are interrelated to form a universal harmonious community. As a part of this community, human beings should integrate their attitude towards nature into the realm of morality. It emphasizes that human beings should follow the way of heaven and earth, stay in harmony with nature, and never deviate from the will of heaven. Human beings must live and develop together with all things in heaven and earth under the guidance of natural laws. The Confucian thought of the "unity of heaven and man" profoundly reveals the inner connection and interdependence between man and nature.[3] It reminds people that human beings can not separate themselves from nature, but should be integrated with nature. In this concept, humans are seen as part of the natural order and should act by natural laws and live in harmony with nature. Only in this way can human beings achieve political and social success, and nations and people can enjoy peace and prosperity. The Confucian thought of "unity of heaven and man" not only emphasizes that human beings should live in harmony with nature but also embodies a moral and ethical concept. It advocates people to follow the way of heaven

and earth, that is, to pursue the noble quality of morality and moral behavior. People should abide by the will of heaven and earth, take the universe as a reference, and realize the common development of man and nature. This kind of thinking guides people to pursue inner cultivation and self-improvement, while also urging people to respect and protect the natural world. With its profound connotation, the Confucian thought of "harmony between man and nature" demonstrates the close relationship between man and nature and the concept of harmonious coexistence. It calls for people to incorporate nature into the moral field, follow the laws of nature, and realize the harmonious development of human beings and nature.

The basic connotation of the Confucianists' concept of "unity of nature and man" is profound and rich, which can be further elaborated. First, the common moral values of heaven and man, Confucian "unity of heaven and man" view of nature believe that man and nature share common moral values. It holds that human beings and nature are subject to the same moral norms, and human behavior should be consistent with the moral laws of nature. Confucianism emphasizes that human beings should have a loving heart, be as broad and inclusive as heaven and earth, and treat all things with care and respect. Second, nature's non-action governance: the Confucian concept of "harmony between heaven and man" emphasizes the natural operation of nature and non-action governance. Confucianism believes that nature's operation depends on its own laws and internal forces, rather than human intervention and control. Confucianism advocates that humans should respect nature's nature and spontaneity, face nature with an attitude of non-governance, and follow the rhythm and order of nature. Third, the ethical relationship of universal life communion: the Confucian view of nature "the unity of heaven and man" emphasizes the ethical relationship of universal life communion. It holds that both human and natural life come from the same fundamental force, so everything in the universe has its own unique existence and value. Confucianism emphasizes that human beings should respect and protect the life in nature, and establish a harmonious relationship with nature that depends on and promotes each other. Fourth, moral enlightenment and moral cultivation in nature: the Confucian concept of "unity of nature and man" holds that the moral norms and wisdom in nature can enlighten human moral cultivation. Confucianism advocates learning from the principles of mutual assistance, cooperation and balance among creatures in nature, and applying this moral wisdom to human behavior and social ethics. Confucianism pursues individual moral perfection and achieves harmony and unity with nature through self-cultivation and self-cultivation. Fifth, sustainable development and environmental protection: The Confucian concept of "harmony between nature and man" emphasizes the importance of sustainable development and environmental protection. It holds that human life and development should be in harmony with the sustainability and balance of nature, following the principles of recycling and restoration in nature. Confucianism encourages people to establish an awareness of environmental ethics, advocating ideas and actions to save resources, protect the ecosystem, and achieve sustainable development.

The Confucian concept of "harmony between man and nature" is a natural philosophy based on harmony, morality and ethics, which deeply reflects on the relationship between man and nature and provides guidance on moral cultivation, ethical behavior and environmental protection. This concept is not only of great significance in shaping the moral quality of individuals and society, and promoting social harmony and sustainable development, but also provides valuable ideological resources for the construction of modern environmental ethics and ecological civilization.

4. The Inner Correspondence Between The Marxist Ecological View and the Confucian Nature View of The Unity of Heaven and Man

Both the Marxist ecological view of nature and the Confucian idea of "unity of nature and man" admit that nature plays a vital leading role in human life. They jointly advocate combining nature with human moral, social and political practices to achieve a harmonious unity between man and nature. Although the emergence of the Marxist ecological view of nature is later than the Confucian idea of "unity of nature and man", they still show the characteristics of mutual compatibility in many aspects. The Marxist ecological view of nature emphasizes the close connection between man and nature, and holds that man is a part of nature and cannot be separated from it. This view emphasizes that human practical activities must conform to the laws of nature in order to realize the harmonious symbiosis between man and nature. The Confucian idea of "harmony between man and nature" emphasizes the interdependence and harmonious unity of man and nature. It holds that humans should respect nature and follow its laws in order to achieve political, social and personal harmony and prosperity. Both of these ideas affirm the leading role of nature in human life and emphasize the importance of integration and interdependence between human beings and nature. Together, they recognize the impact of human actions on nature and the importance of ecosystems. At the same time, they advocate harmony and unity between man and nature to achieve sustainable development and shared prosperity. Although there are differences in historical and cultural backgrounds between the Marxist ecological view of nature and the Confucian idea of "unity of nature and man", they share similarities in their treatment of the relationship between man and nature in essence. Both emphasize the close connection between man and nature, advocate the concept of respecting nature and protecting the environment, and pursue a harmonious symbiosis between man and nature. This internal fit makes the Marxist ecological view of nature merge with the realm of Confucian thought of "unity of nature and man", providing us with an ideological framework to deeply understand and deal with the relationship between man and nature. At the same time, they also provide useful inspiration and guidance for the construction of sustainable ecological civilization.

There are some deep confluence of connotation between the Marxist ecological view and the Confucian view on the unity of heaven and man. First of all, the wholeness of the cosmic view and the harmonious unity of man and nature: The Confucian view of nature believes that the universe is a whole, and human and nature together form a part of the universe, and there is a close interdependence. The Marxist ecological view also recognizes the internal connection between human beings and nature, regards human beings as part of the natural world, and emphasizes the harmonious unity of man and nature. Both emphasize holistic thinking, advocating that humans should transcend the dualistic opposition between humans and nature when dealing with nature, but view the relationship between humans and nature from a holistic perspective and pursue common harmonious development. [4]Secondly, the reflection and transcendence of the social system: The Confucian view of nature on the unity of heaven and man holds that the harmony and stability of human society depend on the harmonious symbiosis with nature, and when the social system leads to the break and alienation between man and nature, the ecological crisis will occur. The Marxist ecological view believes that the capitalist system leads to the alienation and ecological crisis between man and nature, and it is necessary to transcend capitalism and establish a more harmonious and sustainable social form. Both propose a reflection and reform of the social system, calling for the establishment of a social system in line with the harmonious development of man and nature. In addition, the common concern of environmental protection and sustainable development: The Confucian concept of nature with the unity of heaven and man focuses on the importance of respecting nature and protecting the environment, emphasizing the harmonious symbiosis between

humans and nature, and encouraging resource conservation and ecological system protection. The Marxist ecological outlook also emphasizes the importance of environmental protection and sustainable development and believes that human development cannot be at the expense of the natural environment, and proposes to realize the harmonious symbiosis between man and nature by changing the mode of production and consumption. Both pay close attention to the issue of environmental protection, recognizing that the protection of natural ecosystems and the sustainable use of natural resources are essential for the survival and development of mankind. Finally, the emphasis on morality and ethics and individual cultivation: The Confucian nature view of the unity of heaven and man pays attention to individual moral cultivation and ethical behavior, and pursues the consistency of morality and nature. The Marxist ecological view also recognizes that environmental protection is a kind of ethical responsibility, and calls on individuals to take moral obligations to the environment. Both emphasize the importance of moral ethics, the shaping of individual moral consciousness and social ethics, and the pursuit of the harmonious relationship between human beings and nature.

To sum up, there are some deep concordats between the Marxist ecological view and the Confucian nature view of the unity of heaven and man. They jointly emphasize the harmony and unity of man and nature, the reflection and transcendence of the social system, the common concern of environmental protection and sustainable development, as well as the importance of moral ethics and individual cultivation. This internal compatibility provides a rich thinking framework for us to deeply understand and respond to environmental issues and promotes the exploration of harmonious coexistence and sustainable development between man and nature.

5. Conclusion

There is a deep and valuable internal correspondence between the theory of "harmonious coexistence between man and nature" in Marxist ecological thought and the traditional Chinese thought of "unity of nature and man". Although the two cannot be equated simply, they show a complementary and common spirit in the Angle and way of thinking of dealing with the relationship between man and nature. Marxist ecological thought pays attention to the problem of alienation between man and nature under the capitalist system and explores the path to realize the harmony between man and nature. On the other hand, the Confucian concept of "harmony between man and nature" emphasizes the harmonious unity of man and nature, and emphasizes that human beings should coexist with nature. Both of these ideas recognize the close connection and interdependence between man and nature. By revealing the contradictions and destruction between man and nature in the capitalist system, Marxist ecological thought calls for transcending capitalism and establishing a socialist society to achieve harmonious development between man and nature. The Confucian view of nature, "harmony between man and nature", emphasizes individual moral cultivation and inner virtues to restore harmony between man and nature.

In the process of sinicization, Marxist ecological thought is bound to combine with Confucian nature view of "unity of nature and man" to seek the ideological source and cultural basis of localization. This combination will enrich and deepen Marxist ecological thought, making full use of the Confucian tradition's unique insight into the relationship between man and nature. The Confucian view of nature of "harmony between man and nature" covers more extensive and profound ideological resources than the theory of "harmony between man and nature", which provides a rich reference for the current theoretical research. Therefore, we can learn the elements of "harmonious coexistence between man and nature" in the Marxist ecological thought, so as to enrich and expand our understanding and practice of the relationship between man and nature.

To sum up, there is an internal agreement between Marxist ecological thought and Confucian nature's view of "unity of nature and man" in the perspective and ideological tendency of dealing with the relationship between man and nature. This kind of correspondence will enrich our theoretical framework of harmonious coexistence between man and nature, and provide more in-depth and comprehensive thinking for the solution of current environmental problems. By accurately understanding the connection and difference between the two, we can promote the harmonious coexistence and sustainable development of man and nature, and lay a solid ideological foundation for building a better future.

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