

Research Issues in the History of Modern Chinese Urban Popular Culture

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Abstract: In the study of cultural history in China, it is found that studies on the history of ideas and academic history are common, and there is little involvement in the aspects of urban life and popular life. But with the development of the times, academic exchanges at home and abroad have become more frequent and close, and the field of academic research has been further expanded, effectively promoting the depth and breadth of historical research. It has further promoted the study of urban political history, urban economic history and urban social history. For China, the study of urban popular culture history has gradually become the focus of academic attention, but in terms of research effects, the achievements are relatively few and still need to be developed and deepened, especially for some theoretical issues. In order to better solve the problems of modern urban popular culture history research in China, some journal and magazine parties in China have strengthened their investment in various aspects, especially in human resources. Targeted solutions are proposed according to specific problems, aiming to promote further research on the history of modern Chinese urban popular culture.

1. Introduction

The history of modern urban popular culture in China is a comprehensive discipline and an important part of modern cultural history. In order to better study the development process and achievements of modern Chinese urban popular culture history, various scholars have conducted in-depth research on it mainly from the perspective of historiography, prompting the history of modern Chinese urban popular culture to gradually become the focus of current academic research, mainly on its content and current situation and necessity. Cities are the product of human social development, and they themselves have the dual attributes of material culture and spiritual civilization. Cities are not only in economic, political and military aspects, but also an important manifestation of the cohesion and competitiveness of a country or nation. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, China has attached importance to socialist modernization. After the reform and opening up, China's urbanization process has accelerated significantly, and at the same time a series of problems have emerged: such as the widening income gap between urban and rural residents, the urbanization process has produced a large number of rural people working in the cities and the increase of foreign mobile population, which has led to a poor living environment for farmers and serious traffic congestion, etc. Therefore, in the new situation, how to protect the urban

environment and realize the harmonious development of human and nature is an important issue that needs to be solved in the modernization of China.

2. The Need for Research on the History of Modern Chinese Urban Popular Culture

2.1. The History of Modern Chinese Urban Popular Culture is the Most Neglected Area in Academia

The study of popular culture first appeared in foreign countries, gradually penetrated into the fields of literature, cultural anthropology, history, and media in the later stages of in-depth research. From the research abroad, a certain school of history mainly studied from the environment, society, and mentality, forming a historical research model, focusing on the political history and intellectual history in which the problems of the masses are easily ignored, as a cultural history research direction of the history of mentality [1]. The study of popular culture in Britain mainly elaborates the people as the creators of history under Marxism, and its opposition to the heroic view of history can be seen in the works of Marxian historians. In the later period popular culture gradually became the main content of the British school of history research. For China, from the field of historiography, the study of urban popular culture started late, but developed rapidly. The first symposium on the history of modern urban popular culture in China was founded jointly by the history department of one of our universities, the Institute of Modern History of the Academy of Social Sciences and the editorial department of historical research, and the second conference was founded at a later stage. It attracted a large number of domestic and foreign scholars to visit and gradually formed a new research field [2].

2.2. As a Key Area in which Modern Chinese History can be Effectively Constructed from the Perspective of Popular Culture

Analyzing the theoretical background of the history of popular culture, it has a certain relationship with Marxist theory, which can prompt the operation of the right in the process of concrete construction of the knowledge system, but the analysis from the level of traditional historiography in China reveals that none of the doctrines about modern history explicitly deals with the historical materials, dimensions and methodology of the study of urban popular culture. The focus is on the history of the peasant revolution and modernization, but we can analyze this from another level, if we construct the modern history of China from the perspective of urban popular culture, and integrate the urban, group, society and culture of the bourgeoisie into the study of modern history, so as to reshape a new face of modern Chinese history, and provide a new way of thinking and direction for the study of modern Chinese history. In the process of specific research, the concept of mass needs to be clarified, the English translation of mass culture, but in the specific definition of the term needs to start from its theoretical background, some scholars from specific occasions to explore the issues about mass culture, for which the concept of unified mass is not needed. However, to analyze why China needs to conduct research on urban popular culture in modern Chinese history, the current research on cultural history is mainly based on the history of ideas and academic history, and there is very little research on the history of the masses. An analysis of traditional cultural history reveals that it has two main aspects. First, the Confucian tradition, which has lasted for a very long time, accompanied by the rethinking of traditional Confucianism and the emergence of neo-Confucianism, but it is all within the scope of Confucianism for the study of academic and intellectual history. Second, the new study of the history of thought, which is a revolutionary culture that emerged with the May Fourth New Culture Movement, is a modern culture led by the intellectual and political classes, and is analyzed from the

perspective of the creators and constructors of culture, which is a high culture. In the current development of the history field, social history has also undergone great changes, and a wave of research on social history has been set off in the society, such as the Lingnan school and the new social history research of Peking University in China. Among them, the Lingnan school focuses on the structural system under the traditional rural society from the perspective of anthropological history and folk culture, and its research on urban popular culture is very little, which needs to be strengthened. Without the study of modern urban development, it is also impossible to have a complete knowledge of modern Chinese history. After entering the modern society, China began a large-scale urbanization project, for which one needs to understand urban popular culture through the study of modern urban history [3].

2.3. The Study of Urban Popular Culture History can Innovate the Traditional Historiographical Methodology

First of all, people need to clarify the starting point of research, analyze popular culture from the background of intellectual elites, study popular culture, clarify and reflect on their own ideological views, proactively change the starting point of research from passive research on the masses to active research on the masses, and study popular culture from the perspective of the social masses. Focus on the identification of the main idea of popular culture, clarify their own elite culture direction, study popular culture from the elite culture, clarify the relationship between popular culture and elite culture, scientific analysis of the influence of both, the essence of the problem is the subject problem. The main subject of popular culture is the public, so people need to take the public as the object and the elite culture as the object in their research. For example, when studying women's Yueju in China, people need to talk about female actors and female audiences as the main body of popular culture, and in the specific study of Yueju, they also need to analyze the problem from their perspective, focusing on them, analyzing how they interact and communicate with the elite culture, how they create their own culture, and how they contribute to the generation and development of Chinese culture.

Second, one needs to conduct interdisciplinary research that takes that research as the main issue. At one level, cultural phenomena arise mainly from a certain social context, and it has a direct relationship with social classes and strata, but people's understanding of cultural phenomena is really diverse and arises in a certain context. In this regard, when people study a certain cultural phenomenon, the study of history needs to be linked to literature, anthropology, philosophy, sociology, economics, and other disciplines. At present, the classification of disciplines is mainly related to the way people think about analyzing problems and has nothing to do with the real world. For this classification method also needs to strengthen the reflection, a professor once suggested that people's classification of disciplines is too fine, especially in the disciplines of intellectual history, economic history, political history, and history. But the classification of disciplines is also a product of social and economic development, a process of knowledge system formation, not static. The current study of popular culture, because of the deep-rooted traditional culture, has led to popular culture is easy to be ignored, only appearing in performing arts activities. To develop the new research field of popular culture, it is necessary to innovate the discipline under the traditional elite culture, to explore from a new methodology, a new perspective, and a new historical background, to break the shackles of subject classification, to make such issues the center of research rather than the discipline, and to adopt a new integrated approach to explore a new methodology [4].

Finally, one needs to analyze it from the perspective of gender and feminist history. Traditional historiography has studied men, resulting in an elite class that is all male, and although there has

been a radical school of feminism, it has not changed this fact, so history has become a male history. Theoretical statements about how to analyze this issue will not change the status quo if analyzed from a single traditional elitist perspective. For this one needs to analyze from the historical map, then one finds that traditional historiography is a part of human life, belonging to the activity of a certain part of the population. However, social history and the history of popular culture are studied by people, among whom women occupy a part. In this regard, when studying social history and the history of popular culture, it is also necessary to pay more attention to the history of women and analyze the situation of women's lives and historical experiences, so as to do a good study of the history of popular culture. For gender analysis and feminist historiography to be analyzed, it is currently being studied in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and abroad in the disciplines of history and humanities and social sciences, but it is not yet in-depth for the historiography within the mainland. In this regard, the role and status of the female population in the formation and development of cultural history also needs to be clarified in the later studies of urban popular culture history, which should be considered as a key element in the later studies of popular culture.

In addition, one needs to pay attention to the issue of historical materials. Under the adjustment of research directions and angles and goals, the study of historical materials will also change, and it will keep changing with the changes of theories and research objects, for which changes need to be made from the traditional institutional history, ideological history, and political history research objects, and the traditional use of the word documents will be changed, especially historical documents, to ensure that the borrowing of historical materials is scientific, reasonable, and reliable, and to promote them as reasonable, legal, then compliant historiographic historical materials. For example, oral history is an auxiliary historical material, and in general it also has its own independence, for which one needs to have a scientific understanding. For example, when one tells the history of printing culture, generally the traditional institutional history research will use it as a rigid textual material, focusing on it as a carrier. With the change of its theoretical background, one needs to analyze how it whether it creates new products, which are not single to record things, but also can produce new knowledge, new phenomena, such as materials that need to be performed, for which further research on opera can be conducted. When it comes to opera, its a delightful form of popular culture and a special kind of entertainment. One also studies Chinese cultural history in the process of studying the way opera is performed, for which one can consider performance as a historical material, but also film, visual and -sound all as a historical material, and after studying it one needs to further study how to apply it [5].

3. Research Issues in the History of Modern Chinese Urban Popular Culture

In view of the nature of the city, it is a complex complex complex composed of many factors, and has the characteristics of involving many contents and a wide range, for which the history of modern Chinese urban popular culture is also a comprehensive discipline involving a wide range. Under the development of urbanization in China, the current academic circles have also strengthened the research on the history of urban popular culture, with a wide range of research and in-depth content. An analysis of the current research status of China's modern urban popular culture history can be summarized as follows: first, there are concepts but no system, micro but no macro, exploration but no results. Second, urban studies are scattered, lacking in totality, more micro studies, less macro, more individual cases, less regional, more single discipline, less interdisciplinary. Third, urban history connotation research, basic development line research, urban modernization research, and urban development dynamics research. Currently, many works on urban studies in modern history have been formed and several schools of thought have been born, such as the structural-functional school, the holistic analysis school, the sociological school, the

urban history school, etc. After entering into modern society, several works, materials, and papers on urban studies have also appeared in our country in a very large number, mainly on ancient cities and monolithic cities, and on the geographic, political, economic, and cultural structural forms in the process of city formation and development. Among them, monolithic cities have been studied as widely and deeply, with different works in different cities. Some scholars in our country have compiled urban culture series in their practical research, which are comprehensive academic works, classified by cities, and published several books one after another in the later period. Thus, it can be seen that the research on the history of single cities in China has achieved a series of results, focusing on multiple levels, perspectives, directions, and disciplines at a later stage, but there is still a lack of holistic research, which is mainly due to the different definitions of cities and influenced by different research priorities [6].

The study of the history of urban popular culture is a complex process, which requires in-depth discussions and analyses of historical theories and humanistic spirit, as well as analysis and investigation of the socio-political development of modern China and the living conditions of urban residents. Under the "new era", China's contemporary urbanization process is facing profound and serious challenges: (1) the increasing population size has serious implications. With the increase of industrialization and urbanization, more and more young and strong laborers from rural areas are coming to the cities, which has become an important issue, and their lifestyles and values are greatly affected; (2) The construction of urban infrastructure is lagging behind, and the supply exceeds the demand, and the economic development is relatively backward. (3) The problems of unreasonable structure of population quality and low level of culture and education are becoming more and more prominent. (4) The social security situation in the process of urbanization is not optimistic. Due to the low level of economic development in the city, people's quality of life is generally low, and the lack of security for cultural safety has led to some people smoking in public places, alcoholism and other bad behavior repeatedly, which seriously affects the social order.

4. Content and Focus of Modern Chinese Urban Popular Culture History Research

The history of modern Chinese urban popular culture is a new discipline and a new field of study developed in modern times, which is essentially different from other specialized histories, so we need to clarify the concept of popular culture in the history of modern urban popular culture before studying it. The concept of popular culture has been widely discussed, but in a broad sense, popular culture refers to the collection of material and spiritual wealth created by the public under the conditions of development of human social and historical practices. Popular culture is formed from people's lives and customs in a specific period of time, and is a characteristic historical cultural system formed in historical accumulation and in a certain geographical space, so in defining the history of popular culture it is necessary to start from a broad sense and to outline it from the perspective of Chinese cultural history. The city is a carrier of culture, and by its nature, it is a collection of regional spatial culture. The current urban popular culture specifically includes material culture form, consciousness culture form, economic culture and social culture form, etc. Among them, material culture form refers to the natural environment and ecological environment of the region under the city, it also includes the relationship between human and nature, society and environment, which is a material form that can be seen by the naked eye, and it is the carrier of the city, which will change under the role of human. Economic and cultural form refers to urban socio-economic conditions, specifically including productivity, economic level, technology level and people's living needs, which have a direct relationship with urban economic level, but socio-economic development and urban landscape changes are not synchronized, and people's aesthetic level is not synchronized with urban culture and economic development. Among them, the

urban social form specifically includes social structure, ethnicity, class, system, and municipal management, etc.

The study of the history of modern Chinese urban popular culture is mainly guided by Marxist philosophy, which plays an important role in the development of ancient Chinese society and modern Western urbanization by conducting a comprehensive and systematic investigation and analysis of history. First of all, from the theoretical point of view, "neoclassical literature", as a branch of China's traditional literary system, has distinctive characteristics of the times, and it can reflect people's knowledge and understanding of the spiritual world in the specific cultural environment at that time, and it has been widely used in ancient Chinese literature. Secondly, from the practical point of view, the study of urban popular culture history is based on Marxist philosophy as the guiding ideology, the construction and dissemination of modern Chinese humanities as the purpose, through analysis of the social development of China's various periods and summing up the lessons learned and other aspects of in-depth exploration and exploration; finally, from the theoretical level: "neo-classical literature" has inherited some features of modern Western literature to a certain extent in the process of its development [7].

5. The Basis for the Study of Modern Chinese Urban Popular Culture History

At present, people need to clarify the base point of research on the history of modern urban popular culture in China: research from the theoretical perspectives of historiography and modern urban culture, so as to check the gaps and learn from history, and through research to better guide and serve the work of urban construction, taking discursive historical materialism as the main methodology. The history of modern urban popular culture is the main object of study, including the history of the city, the history of its formation, and the history of its construction. Considering the inheritance characteristics of culture itself, the history of urban culture can be divided into ancient and modern, and it is necessary to study the history of modern urban popular culture from the perspective of urban cultural history. The modern urban cultural history of China mainly takes the modern city as the research object, studies the development form of urban popular culture history, grasps the law of cultural development, through the study of modern urban popular culture history can deeply analyze the theory of modern urban culture, the formation process, scientifically analyze the relationship between the role of urban popular culture elements, aiming to promote the healthy development of the city. In this regard one first needs to clarify the scope of research when conducting historical research, to clarify the temporal and spatial scope, and through that research to clarify the specific research structure. From a temporal perspective, the history of modern Chinese urban popular culture specifically includes the time periods of modern Chinese political history, economic history, industrial history, and technological history. From the spatial perspective, considering that various activities in China's modern period were carried out in regional exchanges, it is necessary to conduct an overall study of cities with the same cultural characteristics in China's modern history. In this process, it is necessary to study both single cities and urban regional histories, as well as to conduct comparative analysis of foreign cultural histories, so as to summarize the characteristics of reforming different urban popular culture histories. Finally, from these characteristics, we will discover the laws of urbanization development, the laws of urban popular culture development, and finally the accurate development trend of urban popular culture in my modern China [8,9].

6. Conclusion

In general, there is still a gap in the study of modern urban popular history in China, which needs

to be studied as an emerging discipline and clearly distinguished from professional historiography. In the specific research, we need to clarify its content and objectives, basic ideas and directions, and research bases. After clarifying these contents, we need to systematize the research, so as to highlight the characteristics of this discipline and form our own theoretical system and research paradigm, distinguishing it from urban social history, urban history and local cultural history.

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