

How to Understand the Relationship between Socialism with Chinese Characteristics and Chinese Civilization

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Abstract: The reason why the theory of socialism with Chinese characteristics has long-term vitality is inseparable from the basic role of Chinese civilization. It has come from the 5,000-year history of Chinese civilization and has grown and grown under a specific national civilization background, gradually becoming a modern form of Chinese civilization. At the same time, it will also contribute to the worldwide development of Chinese civilization. This article explores the relationship between socialism with Chinese characteristics and Chinese civilization from both diachronic and synchronic perspectives, trying to comprehensively and profoundly explain the relationship between the two and the significance of socialism with Chinese characteristics to the worldwide development of Chinese civilization.

1. Introduction

Chinese civilization refers to the sum of material civilization and spiritual civilization created by the Chinese nation in the long-term social practice. The theory of socialism with Chinese characteristics has long-lasting vitality and cannot be separated from the development of Chinese civilization. It has come from the 5,000-year history of the development of Chinese civilization, has grown and grown in a specific national civilization background, and will also contribute to the development of Chinese civilization. However, at present, how to understand the relationship between socialism with Chinese characteristics and Chinese civilization is still in the stage of generalization in academic circles, and has not yet obtained a comprehensive and profound understanding. Therefore, we need to examine and understand socialism with Chinese characteristics and Chinese civilization concretely and historically, so as to better understand the connotation, status and role of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Chinese civilization is the only civilization in the world that never stops flowing, and it is divided into two forms of civilization: traditional civilization and modern civilization. Socialism with Chinese characteristics plays an important role in the transition period from the development of Chinese traditional civilization to modern civilization, which promotes the modern transformation of Chinese traditional civilization. Taking the diachronic perspective as an entry point, placing socialism with Chinese characteristics in the long history of Chinese civilization can help us to understand more deeply the rich relationship between socialism with Chinese characteristics and Chinese civilization. Studying socialism with Chinese characteristics in the form of Chinese civilization from a synchronic perspective can also comprehensively understand the

relationship between socialism with Chinese characteristics and Chinese civilization. Through a comprehensive and profound understanding of the relationship between socialism with Chinese characteristics and Chinese civilization, we can look forward to the role of socialism with Chinese characteristics in promoting the revival of Chinese civilization.

2. Socialism with Chinese Characteristics Inherits Chinese Civilization

(1) Inheriting traditional Chinese civilization

Although the Chinese civilization is the only civilization that has lasted until now, it has been underestimated or even ignored by people for a long time. Since modern times, with the strengthening of global connections and the expansion of modern Western civilization, "Western civilization-centrism" has begun to dominate people's cognitive fields. This thesis holds that Western civilization is the center of world civilization and is the most advanced civilization, which represents the development direction of all civilizations in the world, and other civilizations should follow the Western civilization. On the issue of understanding Chinese civilization, the "Western civilization-centered theory" directly asserts that Chinese civilization originated from the West and is a secondary civilization thousands of years behind Western civilization. The Frenchman Rackbury and the Swede Andersen believed that Chinese civilization originated from the West, while the Soviet man Vasiliev believed that Chinese civilization originated from Central Asia. [1] In addition, the "Western Civilization Center Theory" also maintains that, under the impact of modern civilization, the traditional Chinese civilization has been broken and will inevitably die out. However, these understandings of Chinese civilization have long been overturned by the charm of Chinese civilization shown by socialism with Chinese characteristics. Looking back at the 5,000-year history of Chinese civilization, we can see that the most notable feature of Chinese civilization is that it has continued for 5,000 years despite several turbulences. Investigate its reason, everyone has different opinions. For example, the unique geographical environment and living conditions, the unified political structure and the unification and continuation of Chinese characters, the dominant position of Confucianism and the characteristics of a highly inclusive civilization, advanced agricultural civilization and flexible bureaucratic politics, etc. Regardless of the reasons, Chinese civilization continues to this day with its own characteristics and achievements. It is a unified, inclusive and eclectic civilization, a splendid ancient institutional civilization, and a profound traditional culture.

During the Spring and Autumn Period and the Warring States Period, the Chinese culture formed the Yuandian spirit of contention among a hundred schools of thought, inclusiveness, and the same goal by different routes, which was greatly promoted in the process of forming a unified country in later generations. [2] Since Confucius wrote "Spring and Autumn" in the Spring and Autumn Period, great unification has always been the direction of the development of Chinese civilization and the righteousness that the Chinese nation is pursuing. The critical period of development in the history of the development of Chinese civilization was accompanied by the integration of multiculturalism and multi-ethnicity. Today's China is the history and territory created by the Chinese nation. In addition, inclusiveness is a characteristic of Chinese civilization. Buddhist civilization was integrated into Chinese civilization through the Silk Road, and important inventions and creations of Chinese civilization were also spread from all over the world through the Silk Road. Socialism with Chinese characteristics inherits the characteristics of Chinese civilization, which is diverse and integrated, and embraces all kinds of civilizations, and it is full of vigor and vitality in the modern and contemporary times. Chinese civilization has also created a splendid institutional civilization. The ancient institutional civilization of our country has continued to this day and has always maintained a strong vitality. The ancient institutional civilization of our country is not only

manifested as a unified country of pluralism, but also manifested in the strong endogenous and powerful governance capabilities of bureaucratic politics, and also manifested in the stable and effective institutional influence. It has a centralized system based on blood lineage and patriarchal clan, a high degree of interoperability among rituals, laws, and customs, institutional norms full of ethical goodness, and the dominant position of political authority. [3] As far as political governance capabilities are concerned, the ancient institutional civilization of our country had people with self-awareness, endogenous governance capabilities, and flexible political governance, which provided the basic elements and dynamic mechanisms for Chinese civilization that have continued to this day. [4] In addition, Chinese civilization has also created a broad and profound traditional culture. Ancestors have created various cultures since the age of civilization. In terms of literature, such as the Hundred Schools of Philosophy, The Songs of Chu and Han Fu, Tang Poetry and Song Ci, Yuan Opera, Ming and Qing Novels, etc. At the level of values, such as the world view of the unity of man and nature, the practical view of the unity of knowledge and action, and the social view of the benevolent and loving others. In terms of spiritual civilization, such as family and country feelings, hard work and bravery, self-improvement, and social integrity. These excellent traditional cultures are inherited by socialism with Chinese characteristics, integrated into the core values of socialism, and inspire the Chinese nation to forge ahead actively. Figure 1 reflects the evolution of Chinese civilization over history. It can be seen from Figure 1 that the mid-Ming Dynasty was the transition period of the development of modern Chinese civilization. This was mainly because the invaders, mainly Western powers, kept plundering China in the mid-Ming Dynasty, and the impact and integration of Chinese and Western cultures during the plundering process stimulated the development of Chinese civilization in modern times, which gradually turned from a low tide to a high tide to a great Renaissance. Before the mid-Ming Dynasty, Chinese culture mainly took feudal culture as the domestic cultural tradition. The traditional civilization and ethics enhanced the cohesion and inclusiveness of Chinese culture, but also further restricted the development of feudal industry.

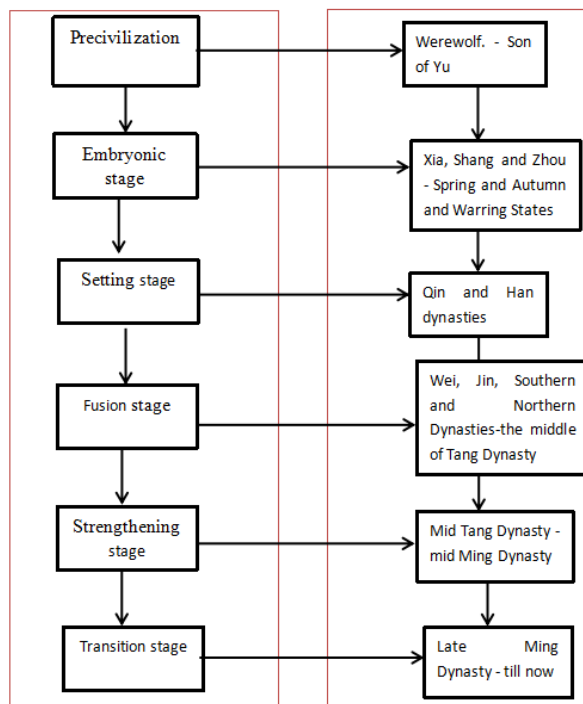


Figure 1: The development logic of Chinese civilization

(2) Experienced the modern crisis of Chinese civilization

The 5,000-year history of the development of Chinese civilization is not a history of smooth and smooth development. Almost every few hundred years, Chinese civilization will always experience a major social turmoil. The reason is either due to the periodic contradictions within the society, or because of the turbulence of the external environment and the invasion of foreign races. Foreign nations invaded the territory of the Central Plains and established their own national political power, but they often took the initiative to learn the political system and folk customs of the Central Plains to consolidate their rule, and consciously became a part of Chinese civilization. Therefore, several turbulences in history have strengthened the exchanges and integration of various ethnic groups in China and promoted the development of Chinese civilization [5].

However, the modern (Late Qing Dynasty, the Republic of China) crisis encountered by Chinese civilization is different from previous turmoil. On the one hand, the opponent that Chinese civilization is facing this time is a powerful and greedy capitalist civilization. Since the start of the new sea route, Western society has rapidly developed into a capitalist society, and the modern civilization represented by Western civilization has also developed rapidly. Capitalist civilization plunders and oppresses everywhere with bloody means, leaving only two paths for civilizations around the world, which are to perish or to learn from capitalist civilization. Therefore, the crisis encountered by Chinese civilization this time is different from the social turmoil caused by the invasion of the Central Plains by relatively backward nations, because Chinese civilization at that time was an advanced civilization that could tolerate and influence others [6]. Table 1 reflects the historical process of the struggle between Chinese civilization and Western cultures in modern times. At the same time, it also reflects the status quo of the struggle between Chinese civilization and Western civilization in the late Qing Dynasty and the early Republic of China. As can be seen from Table 1, in the late Qing Dynasty, the Chinese civilization was severely oppressed under the aggression of western powers. A series of unequal treaties showed the weakness of the Qing Dynasty at that time, which also helped overthrow the Qing Dynasty and end its rule in the subsequent Revolution of 1911, so as to explore a new road for the prosperity of Chinese civilization.

Table 1: Historical process of the struggle between modern Chinese civilization and Western powers

Events	Year	Remarks
The first Opium War	1840	Treaty of Nanjing, Treaty of Wangsha , Treaty of Huangpi
The Second Opium War	1842	Treaty of Tianjin, Treaty of Beijing and Treaty of Aihui
The First Sino-Japanese naval Battle	1895	Treaty of Shimonoseki
The Hundred Days Reform	1898	The reform movement of patriotic and national salvation
.The Revolution of 1911	1911	Overthrowing the Qing government, the Qing Dynasty fell

On the other hand, it lies in the inherent law of development of the form of civilization. Every form of civilization has its birth, development, peak and decline periods. During this period, the situation of internal and external troubles made the Chinese civilization miss the opportunity of development and faced the crisis of civilization extinction. Chinese civilization has finally reached an unprecedented problem. [7] The survival crisis of the nation has inspired the patriotic spirit of the Chinese civilization to strive for self-improvement. "The Chinese people, for a hundred years,

have been indomitable and persistent in their heroic struggles, so that imperialism has not been able to destroy China so far, and it will never be able to destroy China." [8] A group of patriots sought a China's 700-year Periodic Law of the rise and fall of chaos control (360doc.com)

Solution to the crisis and finally found the road of socialism. Table 2 reflects the historical and civilized process of Chinese people's struggle against foreign aggression in modern times. It can be seen from Table 2 that the grand cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics since modern times was born based on the continuous combination of Chinese civilization and Western civilization in the competition of history and the development needs of China's actual situation. Based on the correct guidance of Marxism-Leninism and the valiant resistance of countless young people, the establishment and victory of new democracy made Western civilization completely defeated in this competition, and socialism inspired fresh life in China.

Table 2: The course of Chinese people's exploration of the road of salvation

Events	Year	Remarks
Russian October Revolution	1917	Sent Marxism-Leninism to China
The May Fourth Patriotic Movement	1919	A national salvation movement dominated by young students
The founding of the Chinese Communist Party	1921	Establish a new nationalist revolution; find new hope, new reliance.
The founding of New China	1949	It marks the victory of China's new democratic revolution and the transformation from a semi-colonial and semi-feudal society into a new democratic society.

There are two main reasons why socialism has taken root in China: First, the Chinese civilization is eclectic and inclusive. In the 5,000-year history of Chinese civilization, although foreign civilizations have been introduced many times, they have all been integrated and localized by Chinese civilization. The most typical example is the introduction of Buddhism. After Buddhism was introduced to China via the Silk Road, it underwent several changes and finally merged with Confucianism and Taoism. The second is that certain concepts of socialism coincide with certain concepts of the native Confucian culture of Chinese civilization. People's understanding of socialism was originally obtained through similar concepts in traditional Chinese culture. For example, use the "World Harmony" of Confucian culture as a bridge to understand the highest ideal of socialism, communism.

Socialism with Chinese characteristics combined socialism with my country's specific national conditions at that time, thus successfully getting out of the modern crisis of Chinese civilization. During this period, socialism with Chinese characteristics experienced a stage of complete negation and criticism of traditional Chinese Confucian culture, and also a period of uniting the whole nation to resist with the Confucian culture of "the world is the public" and "everyone is responsible for the rise and fall of the world". In the end, socialism with Chinese characteristics treats Chinese civilization dialectically, and forms the treatment principle of "taking the essence and discarding the dross, criticizing and transforming, weeding out the old and bringing forth the new, using the past for the present, and hundreds of flowers and schools of thought". [9]

(3) Coming from the rebirth of Chinese civilization

After the founding of New China in 1949, our society went through several years of economic recovery and socialist transformation, perfectly passed the transition period of social transformation, and established a basic socialist system. The basic system of socialism is part of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and the relationship between the basic system of socialism and Chinese civilization lies in two points: First, the basic system of socialism with Chinese characteristics embodies the characteristics of Chinese civilization, which is "diversified as one and inclusive", and

inherits the pattern of Chinese civilization as "diversified as one". The political base of the basic system of socialism with Chinese characteristics includes not only the workers and peasants, but also the intellectuals and the national bourgeoisie; The political consultation system of multi-party cooperation led by the Communist Party also reflects the basic system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, which combines one-party governance with multi-party participation in politics; The ethnic system of regional ethnic autonomy shows that the basic system of socialism with Chinese characteristics realizes the great unity of the Chinese nation on the basis of equal respect for the cultures of all ethnic groups. The establishment of the basic system of socialism with Chinese characteristics has inherited the positive elements and outstanding achievements of traditional Chinese civilization. The second is that the establishment of the basic system of socialism with Chinese characteristics ushered in a new life for Chinese civilization and opened a new stage of the development of Chinese civilization, which has important historical significance for the development and continuation of Chinese civilization. The establishment of this basic system has brought an end to nearly a hundred years of social turmoil and division for the Chinese civilization, allowing the sons and daughters of the Chinese nation to regain the initiative in struggle, and allowing the Chinese civilization to regain the opportunity to be at the forefront of civilization development. Since then, the development and continuation of Chinese civilization has no longer been at the expense of great social turmoil and sacrificing the interests of the majority, but has achieved the sharing of civilizational achievements in an equal and democratic manner.

After the establishment of the basic system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, the development of Chinese civilization has not been a smooth road. The reason for this lies in the inherent law of the development of the socialist system itself, and also in the fact that many backward remnants are still mixed in the excellent Chinese culture. The Communists formulate appropriate policies for cultural development based on my country's specific national conditions to promote the further development of Chinese civilization.

To sum up, socialism with Chinese characteristics did not come out of thin air. It has inherited the achievements of Chinese civilization for five thousand years and has experienced the modern crisis of Chinese civilization, which is an excellent achievement created by the Communists leading the people on the basis of the historical continuity of Chinese civilization [10].

3. Socialism with Chinese Characteristics is a Modern Form of Chinese Civilization

As mentioned above, Chinese civilization was initially forcibly dragged into the development process of modern civilization by Western capitalism. After the birth of the Communist Party and nearly 40 years of struggle, the sons and daughters of China established the basic system of socialism, and then Chinese civilization regained the opportunity to be at the forefront of the development of world civilization. After the Mao Zedong period and the reform and opening, Chinese civilization has successfully achieved modern transformation, which is socialism with Chinese characteristics. Socialism with Chinese characteristics absorbs other outstanding civilizations on the basis of inheriting Chinese civilization, and is a modern form of Chinese civilization.

Looking back at the development of Chinese civilization and Western modern civilization, we can see that there is no distinction between the two civilizations. It is only because of the special conditions for the development of civilization that they are temporarily at different development stages, and there is a difference between advanced and backward temporarily. The Chinese civilization before modern times was "a civilization with world significance characterized by pluralistic unity and continuity." [11] According to the view of historical materialism, the development of a civilization depends on whether it represents the direction of advanced productive

forces and whether it represents the fundamental interests of the overwhelming majority of the people. Western capitalist civilization represents the advanced productive forces since modern times, and this modern civilization itself is extremely destructive and expansionary, which makes Chinese civilization face the crisis of civilization extinction when it competes with it. In the face of this modern crisis, how Chinese civilization should choose has become a difficult problem. Modernization transformation is the only way out for the survival of Chinese civilization. How to understand and realize modernization has become an urgent problem to be solved by people at that time. In the field of ideology and culture, everyone has different opinions. Most scholars believe that the West is equivalent to progress, modernization is Westernization, and the West, modernity, and the world are synonyms. [12] If Chinese civilization wants to overcome this life-and-death crisis, it must put itself into the development path of Western capitalist civilization, so that it can gain new life and catch up with the development process of other civilizations. However, many scholars still realize that although Chinese civilization should learn from the West, they also realize that Chinese civilization needs to maintain its own initiative. They have great differences on the road and direction of the development of Chinese civilization. [13] In terms of social practice, Chinese people with lofty ideals have experienced several attempts of modernization transformation, but they all failed due to the intervention of various forces. It was not until socialism was introduced into China that the Chinese saw a correct path for the development of civilization. Since this path can maintain the independence of Chinese civilization, it can also realize the modern transformation of Chinese civilization.

The establishment of New China created a suitable external environment for the further development of Chinese civilization. China has established the people's congress system, the political consultation system, and the regional ethnic autonomy system, which have allowed the awareness of unity and democracy to take root in the hearts of the people, providing a favorable social foundation for the modernization of Chinese civilization, and allowing Chinese civilization to burst into vitality. Although the establishment of the political system opened the road to political modernization and economic modernization of Chinese civilization, under the influence of international socialism, China's socialist civilization deviated from my country's national conditions and failed to properly handle the relationship between socialism and traditional Chinese culture. relationship between [14]. This not only failed to make the excellent traditional Chinese culture a positive factor in the socialist modernization with Chinese characteristics, but belittled the traditional Chinese culture, leading to the failure of the modern transformation of Chinese civilization.

In the late 20th century, my country's reform and opening up enabled socialism with Chinese characteristics to realize the modern transformation of Chinese civilization. The drastic changes in the Soviet Union made the Chinese understand a truth: the development of civilization is inseparable from communication and integration. Whether it is Chinese civilization or socialist civilization, it is necessary to communicate with the world, and innovation must be based on learning the outstanding achievements of civilizations around the world. The theory of socialism with Chinese characteristics and opening to the outside world allows Chinese civilization to reintegrate into the development trend of world civilization. This not only reflects the inherent inclusiveness of Chinese civilization, but also wins an opportunity for the development of Chinese civilization. The Chinese civilization has realized the modern transformation of industrialization and informatization, realized the concept of people-centered theory, and promoted the modernization of governance capabilities. At the same time, socialism with Chinese characteristics has fully tapped the contemporary value of Chinese civilization. The policy of reform and opening up allowed the Communist Party of China to add some new content based on the original cultural policy, so that people can more consciously promote traditional Chinese culture. For example, it

emphasizes that traditional Chinese culture, revolutionary culture, and socialist culture are the cultural sources of socialism with Chinese characteristics; it also emphasizes the development of traditional Chinese civilization through creative transformation and innovation, so that it can be integrated with modern culture; It also emphasizes the status of Confucianism, etc. By excavating and reinterpreting the wisdom resources of Chinese excellent traditional culture, it promotes the nationalization of socialism with Chinese characteristics. In addition, socialism with Chinese characteristics internalizes the Communist Party of China into the development of Chinese civilization. The Communist Party of China is a socialist political party with strong leadership and strong execution. It has been internalized by socialism with Chinese characteristics into the inherent pattern of Chinese civilization. The Communist Party of China has absorbed the positive elements of civilizations from all over the world, changed the backwardness of Chinese civilization, and promoted the revival of Chinese civilization. Socialism with Chinese characteristics continues to flourish in China. The development of socialism with Chinese characteristics has promoted the rapid development of Chinese economy. Especially since the beginning of the new century, Chinese GDP has shown a trend of continuous growth, as shown in Figure 2. The continuous and rapid growth of Chinese GDP since the beginning of the new century has interpreted the real achievements of the development of Chinese civilization, and reflected that adhering to the socialist road with Chinese characteristics is the best path for China to continue to prosper, and also the only way for the Chinese civilization to rejuvenation and prosperity [15].

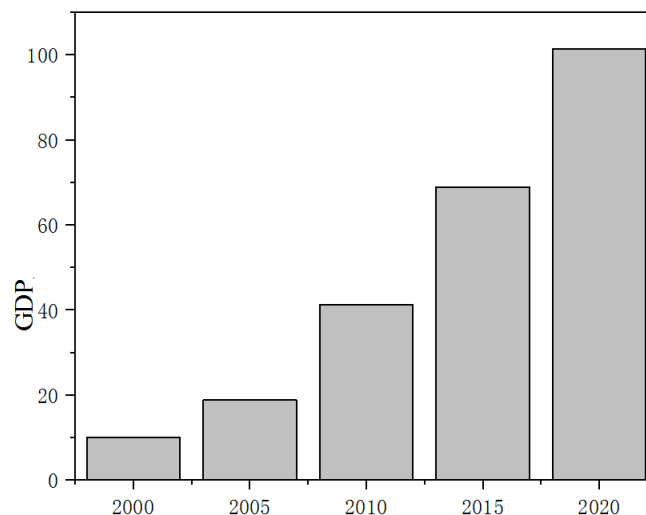


Figure 2: Chinese GDP since the new century

4. The World Significance of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics to the Development of Chinese Civilization

Looking back on history, the road to the development of socialism with Chinese characteristics is the road to the revival of Chinese civilization. Focusing on reality, socialism with Chinese characteristics is a modern form of Chinese civilization and has promoted the modern transformation of Chinese civilization. Looking into the future, socialism with Chinese characteristics will promote the further development of Chinese civilization and bring Chinese civilization back to the forefront of the development of world civilization. Contemporary Chinese civilization has undergone a modern transformation of civilization, drawing on the outstanding achievements of civilizations in other countries in the world, forming in the process of Sinicization of socialist civilization, integrating various elements of civilization, and having important world significance.

Socialism with Chinese characteristics makes Chinese civilization a model for the development of civilization in backward countries and contributes useful experience to their civilization development. The first is to take the road of socialist civilization development. Looking back at the 5,000-year history of Chinese civilization, we can know that only when civilization represents the development direction of advanced productive forces can labor enthusiasm and labor productivity be mobilized and a splendid and vigorous civilization be obtained. Since modern times, Chinese civilization no longer represents the development direction of advanced productive forces. Therefore, when it encountered western modern civilization, it faced an existential crisis. It was not until the founding of New China that this crisis of civilization was resolved and the development direction of Chinese civilization changed. Socialist civilization represents the development direction of advanced productive forces and is an advanced form of civilization. Backward countries can realize the leapfrog development of civilization by taking the road of socialist civilization development. The second is to pay attention to the traditional culture of the nation. The traditional culture of a country is the identity symbol of the country, so the development of the country cannot be at the expense of abandoning the national culture. The reason why contemporary Chinese civilization can display great cultural charm and cultural influence is because socialism with Chinese characteristics attaches great importance to traditional Chinese culture. It can fully excavate the contemporary value of Chinese civilization, allow Chinese civilization to maintain its own subjectivity, and integrate excellent traditional Chinese culture into socialist modernization. Contemporary Chinese civilization provides socialist core values based on the state, society and citizens, as shown in Figure 3. Based on the great achievements and experience of socialism with Chinese characteristics, the national leaders of the new century have proposed that the development direction of Chinese civilization is the core social values of the unity of the state, society and citizens, so as to make the country more peaceful, the society more stable and the people happier. From the perspective of historical development, the development of socialism with Chinese characteristics can promote the continued prosperity and development of Chinese civilization.

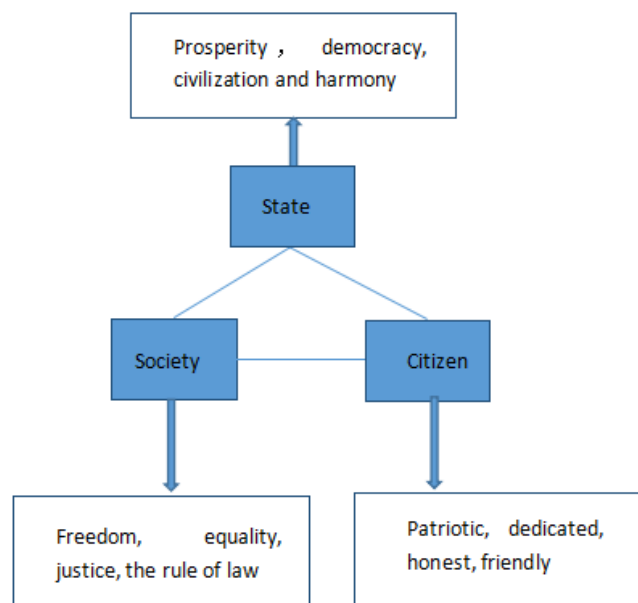


Figure 3: Core socialist values

The emphasis on traditional Chinese civilization allows it to treat civilizations of all countries in the world with an inclusive, open and inclusive attitude. The last is to pay attention to the exchange

and integration between civilizations, and to absorb and learn from the outstanding achievements of world civilizations. Looking back at the civilization development history of Chinese civilization, we can see that the development status of Chinese civilization is closely related to its attitude towards other civilizations. When Chinese civilization pays attention to the exchanges and integration among civilizations, it will have vigorous vitality; and when it ignores the exchanges between civilizations and sticks to its own civilization, the development of Chinese civilization will gradually decline.

Socialism with Chinese characteristics provides Chinese wisdom and solutions to global problems. Today's world is in a turbulent period, and all parts of the world are facing various difficulties and challenges, such as slow economic development, terrorism, environmental problems, and poverty. People have also gradually realized that Western modern civilization, dominated by capitalist civilization, has reached the extreme point of civilization development, and where world civilization should develop has become a difficult problem in the development of civilization that people urgently need to solve. In this context, socialism with Chinese characteristics has put forward two concepts of a new development concept and a community with a shared future for mankind, and has contributed Chinese wisdom and solutions to solving global problems. The new development concept of “innovation, coordination, greenness, openness, and sharing” originates from the “harmony” thought and “the unity of man and nature” thought of traditional Chinese culture, the harmonious and sustainable thought of socialism, and the principle of people-oriented. This has certain reference significance for promoting the development of civilization in developing countries and solving the problem of rich and poor in developed countries. The concept of a community with a shared future for mankind points out a new development direction for the development of human civilization, and promotes the further development of human civilization by promoting the exchange and integration of world civilizations.

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