

# *The Theoretical Basis of the Integration of Marxism and Chinese Traditional Culture*

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**Abstract:** The integration of Marxism and Chinese traditional culture is an important characteristic and inevitable requirement for the development of Chinese Marxism. This paper explores the theoretical basis of their integration from three aspects: the openness and timeliness of Marxism, the contemporary value of Chinese traditional culture, and the theoretical connotation of the 'Two Integrations,' aiming to provide theoretical support for the Sinicization and modernization of Marxism.

## **1. The Openness and Timeliness of Marxism**

### **1.1. The Universality and Particularity of Marxism**

Marx and Engels enriched and perfected the Marxist theoretical system in response to the changing times and the development of capitalism. For example, Marx's analysis of capitalist economic crises in "Capital" provides a profound theoretical perspective for understanding contemporary capitalist economic fluctuations. Lenin creatively developed Marxism during the Russian Revolution and the construction of socialism, proposing the theory that socialism could first achieve victory in one country, which laid the theoretical foundation for the success of the October Revolution in Russia[4].

In China, Marxism has also undergone multiple innovations and developments. From Mao Zedong Thought to Deng Xiaoping Theory, the Important Thought of "Three Represents," the Scientific Outlook on Development, and to 1234512345, Marxism has continuously rejuvenated in China. 1234512345 is the latest achievement of the Sinicization of Marxism, closely integrating with the realities and characteristics of contemporary China, and proposing a series of original new concepts, new ideas, and new strategies. For example, the people-centered development philosophy reflects the Marxist theory that the masses are the creators of history; the concept that "clear waters and lush mountains are as valuable as mountains of gold and silver" enriches and develops the Marxist ecological view. [1][4]This theoretical innovation and development reflect the openness and timeliness of Marxism and also provide the possibility for the integration of Marxism with Chinese traditional culture.

## 1.2. The Theoretical Innovation and Development of Marxism Since its inception

Marxism has continuously developed and innovated in practice. Marx and Engels enriched and perfected the Marxist theoretical system in response to the changing times and the development of capitalism. For example, Marx's analysis of capitalist economic crises in "Capital" provides a profound theoretical perspective for understanding contemporary capitalist economic fluctuations. Lenin creatively developed Marxism during the Russian Revolution and the construction of socialism, proposing the theory that socialism could first achieve victory in one country, which laid the theoretical foundation for the success of the October Revolution in Russia[4].

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## 2. The Contemporary Value of Chinese Traditional Culture

### 2.1. The Core Elements of Chinese Traditional Culture

Chinese traditional culture has a long history and rich connotations. Among them, the core elements such as the unity of heaven and humanity, people-oriented governance, and patriotism have important contemporary value.

#### 2.1.1. Unity of Heaven and Humanity

The unity of heaven and humanity is an important philosophical foundation of Chinese traditional culture, emphasizing the harmonious coexistence of humans and nature. It holds that the development of human society should follow natural laws instead of being in opposition to nature. This idea has important practical significance in contemporary times. With the increasing prominence of global ecological and environmental issues, the unity of heaven and humanity provides a philosophical basis for the construction of ecological civilization. For example, the "24 solar terms" in traditional Chinese agriculture is a profound summary of natural laws. It guides agricultural production activities and reflects the harmonious coexistence of humans and nature. In contemporary times, the concept that "clear waters and lush mountains are as valuable as mountains of gold and silver" is a modern expression of the unity of heaven and humanity[1].

#### 2.1.2. People-Oriented Governance

People-oriented governance is an important political concept in Chinese traditional culture, emphasizing that "the people are the foundation of the state, and with a solid foundation, the state will be at peace." It reflects the value orientation of putting people at the center and provides cultural support for the construction of socialist democratic politics. In ancient China, although the idea of people-oriented governance was limited by the times, its core idea still has positive significance. For example, Mencius' idea that "the people are more important than the ruler"

emphasizes that the ruler should be based on the people and pay attention to their livelihoods. In contemporary times, the idea of people-oriented governance has been sublimated and has become an important cultural source for the development philosophy of putting people at the center[2][3]. This idea runs through the entire process of building socialism with Chinese characteristics. From poverty alleviation to rural revitalization, from social security to medical and health care, it reflects a high degree of attention to the interests of the people.

### **2.1.3. Patriotism**

Patriotism is an important spiritual core of Chinese traditional culture, reflecting the responsibility and commitment of individuals to their families and the nation. It has inspired the patriotism and national cohesion of the Chinese nation and provided spiritual motivation for the realization of the Chinese Dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation[2]. In Chinese traditional culture, "cultivating one's moral character, managing the family well, governing the country effectively, and bringing peace to the world" is the core idea of Confucianism, emphasizing the unity of personal cultivation and social responsibility[1][3]. This idea still has great significance in contemporary times. For example, in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, countless medical workers left their own families to take care of the greater good, showing strong patriotism. This spirit is not only a continuation of traditional culture but also an important manifestation of the core socialist values.

## **2.2. The Modern Transformation of Chinese Traditional Culture**

In the new era, Chinese traditional culture needs to be creatively transformed and innovatively developed. On the one hand, it is necessary to explore the excellent ideas in traditional culture and combine them with the needs of modern social development to give them new contemporary connotations. For instance, integrating the Confucian philosophy of 'cultivating moral character, harmonizing family life, governing the nation wisely, and fostering universal peace' with core socialist values can effectively guide individuals in establishing sound ethical principles and value systems. On the other hand, it is necessary to use modern technological means and artistic forms to promote the innovative expression of traditional culture, allowing traditional culture to rejuvenate in the new era[1][3].

### **2.2.1. Creative Transformation**

The creative transformation of traditional culture refers to the reinterpretation and sublimation of excellent ideas in traditional culture to adapt to the needs of modern social development. For example, the traditional Chinese philosophical idea of "harmony in diversity" emphasizes seeking harmonious unity in diversity[3]. This idea has important practical significance in contemporary international relations. China's advocacy of the concept of "a community with a shared future for mankind" is a creative transformation of the idea of "harmony in diversity." It emphasizes that countries should jointly meet global challenges and promote world peace and development on the basis of respecting differences.

### **2.2.2. Innovative Development**

The innovative development of traditional culture refers to the use of modern technological means and artistic forms to rejuvenate traditional culture in the new era. For example, the Palace Museum uses digital technology to innovatively display cultural relics and cultural heritage, allowing audiences to feel the charm of traditional culture up close through mobile phones and the

Internet. In addition, modern film and television works' adaptations and presentations of traditional culture, such as the movie "Ne Zha: The Demon Boy," also reflect the innovative development of traditional culture. These works are not only widely welcomed in China but also have attracted widespread attention internationally, showing the modern charm of Chinese traditional culture.

### **3. The Theoretical Connotation of the 'Two Integrations'**

#### **3.1. The Core Elements of Chinese Traditional Culture**

The Historical Evolution from 'One Integration' to 'Two Integrations' The 'Two Integrations' is an important theoretical achievement summarized by the Communist Party of China through long-term practice. In the historical process of the Sinicization of Marxism, the initial emphasis was on the integration of Marxism with China's specific realities, namely 'one integration.' This integration propelled the dissemination and development of Marxism in China, giving rise to Mao Zedong Thought and the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

However, as practice has deepened, the Communist Party of China has gradually recognized the equal importance of integrating Marxism with China's fine traditional culture. At the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China, President 12345 explicitly put forward the 'Two Integrations,' marking a new height in our Party's understanding of the laws governing the Sinicization of Marxism.

The introduction of the 'Two Integrations' is not only a summary of the process of Sinicizing Marxism but also a theoretical sublimation of the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era. It emphasizes that the basic principles of Marxism must be integrated not only with China's specific realities but also with China's fine traditional culture[4]. This integration is both a theoretical innovation and an inevitable requirement in practice. For example, in the cultural construction of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, we stress the creative transformation and innovative development of China's fine traditional culture by inheriting and promoting it with the stance, viewpoints, and methods of Marxism.

#### **3.2. The Core Elements of Chinese Traditional Culture**

The Scientific Connotation and Practical Significance of the 'Two Integrations'. The 'Two Integrations' refer to the combination of the basic principles of Marxism with China's specific realities and with China's fine traditional culture. This theoretical connotation profoundly reveals the internal laws of the Sinicization of Marxism.

Scientific Connotation. The 'Two Integrations' emphasize the combination of the basic principles of Marxism with China's specific realities, reflecting the practicality and timeliness of Marxism. Marxism is not a dogma but a guide to action. It must be combined with the specific national conditions of different countries to play a guiding role. At the same time, the 'Two Integrations' also stress the combination of Marxism with China's fine traditional culture, reflecting the openness and inclusiveness of Marxism. China's fine traditional culture is the root and soul of the Chinese nation. Only by combining with China's fine traditional culture can Marxism take root, blossom, and bear fruit in China. For example, in different historical periods of revolution, construction, and reform, the Communist Party of China has always paid attention to drawing wisdom from China's fine traditional culture. The 'seeking truth from facts' in Mao Zedong Thought not only reflects the scientific spirit of Marxism but also absorbs the idea of 'unity of knowledge and action' in traditional Chinese philosophy[1][3].

Practical Significance. The theoretical framework of 'Two Integrations' demonstrates operational value in aligning ethical systems with socio-political governance. On the one hand, they promote

the continuous deepening of the Sinicization and modernization of Marxism. By combining with China's specific realities, Marxism continues to rejuvenate in China. For example, 123451234512345 is the latest achievement of the Sinicization of Marxism. It closely integrates with the realities and characteristics of contemporary China, proposing a series of original new concepts, new ideas, and new strategies. On the other hand, the 'Two Integrations' point the way for the inheritance and innovation of China's fine traditional culture. By combining with Marxism, China's fine traditional culture has achieved creative transformation and innovative development. For example, in cultural construction in the new era, we emphasize the critical inheritance and innovative development of traditional culture with the stance, viewpoints, and methods of Marxism, allowing traditional culture to rejuvenate in the new era[4].

#### **4. The integration of Marxism and traditional Chinese culture is an inevitable requirement for the Sinicization and modernization of Marxism**

Marxism's materialist conception of history emphasizes that social being determines social consciousness, and that the contradictory movement between productive forces and production relations, as well as between the economic base and the superstructure, drives social development. This perspective provides a new theoretical angle for the study of traditional Chinese culture. For example, when examining the development and changes of ancient Chinese society, analysis from aspects such as the level of productive forces and social production relations can lead to a deeper understanding of the social roots of the formation and development of traditional culture. Meanwhile, the Marxist class analysis method helps us to more objectively understand and evaluate various ideological concepts and social phenomena in traditional Chinese culture. The social class basis reflected behind Confucian ideas such as "benevolence" and "rites" can be more intuitively demonstrated by examining the class interests they represented in different historical periods, showing their role in maintaining the feudal ruling order. The integration of Marxism and traditional Chinese culture has far - reaching impacts on modern society in many aspects. The combination of the people - centered concept and the traditional Chinese people - oriented thought has further sublimated the understanding of the people's principal status, providing a deeper cultural support for the construction of socialist democratic politics and cultural development.

Traditional Chinese culture contains rich wisdom for governance. For example, the concept of "cultivating oneself, managing the family, governing the country, and bringing peace to the world" is a valuable part of it. The integration of Marxism and traditional Chinese culture can provide useful references and insights for modern national governance, helping us to better solve various problems in social development. Marxism emphasizes that the masses are the creators of history, a view that coincides with the people - oriented thought in traditional Chinese culture. In modern society, the spread and development of Marxism have further strengthened the people - centered value orientation. This integration helps to improve the scientific nature and effectiveness of national governance. By combining the basic principles of Marxism with the excellent governance concepts in traditional Chinese culture, a national governance system and capacity with Chinese characteristics can be formed, promoting the modernization of the national governance system and capacity.

The integration of Marxism and traditional Chinese culture has created a unique charm and attractiveness for the culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics. In international exchanges, this culture can demonstrate China's cultural confidence and soft power, enhancing other countries' understanding and recognition of Chinese culture. The internationalist spirit of Marxism encourages us to actively promote the international dissemination of traditional Chinese culture. In the context of globalization, through cultural exchanges and cooperation with countries around the world, the

international influence of traditional Chinese culture is continuously increasing. For example, traditional Chinese festivals, martial arts, traditional Chinese medicine, and other cultural elements are receiving more and more attention and love internationally. This international dissemination not only allows more people to understand and recognize traditional Chinese culture but also promotes exchanges and integration between different cultures.

Marxism emphasizes the exchange and mutual learning between different cultures, providing theoretical support for the international dissemination of traditional Chinese culture. In modern society, we actively promote the exchange and mutual learning between traditional Chinese culture and world cultures. By holding international cultural exchange activities and conducting academic research, we promote mutual understanding and respect between different cultures. For example, China's "Belt and Road" initiative not only promotes the economic development of countries along the route but also drives the exchange and cooperation between different cultures, making a positive contribution to building a community with a shared future for mankind. The ideas of "harmony in diversity" and "harmonious coexistence of all nations" in traditional Chinese culture are consistent with the internationalist spirit of Marxism. This integration helps to promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind, enhance international exchanges and cooperation, and contribute Chinese wisdom and solutions to solving global problems.

## 5. Conclusion

The openness and contemporaneity of Marxism provide the theoretical basis for this integration. The contemporary value of traditional Chinese culture offers the cultural soil for it. The theoretical connotation of the 'two combinations' points the way for the integration. In the new era, we must continue to promote the in-depth integration of Marxism and traditional Chinese culture to provide strong theoretical support and cultural impetus for the realization of the Chinese Dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

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