

# Analysis on the Value of Excellent Traditional Culture on Citizens' National Identity\*

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**Abstract**—As the root and soul of the Chinese nation's 5,000-year history, Chinese excellent traditional culture is closely related to the national identity of citizens. The process of attaching importance to, excavating and carrying forward the excellent traditional culture can greatly enhance the national identity of the citizen state. Taking good traditional culture as a path for the promotion of citizen's national identity is the development and continuation of traditional culture, and it is also the contemporary value of traditional culture.

**Keywords**—traditional culture; national identity; value

## I. INTRODUCTION

Citizen national identity is the acceptance and recognition of the citizens to their home countries in the context of the existence of other countries. That aims to solve the problem of the identity of citizens. Under the background of the strong tide of globalization and the transformation of domestic society, the status of citizen national identity is worrying. As rich heritage created by the ancestors of the Chinese nation and passed down for a long time, Chinese traditional culture encompasses rich contents such as ancient classics, folk customs, moral ethics, national spirit and values. Traditional culture coexists with us in the real society. It is always in collision and connection with our material and spiritual life. It can even be said to be related to all aspects of the production and life of Chinese citizens. On this basis, traditional culture is closely related to citizen national identity. Through the study of traditional culture, we can provide a more solid historical foundation, cultural foundation or realistic possibility for the promotion of citizen's national identity. Of course, the study of the traditional culture that is preserved today requires dialectical approach and cautious attitude. The process of attaching importance to, excavating and carrying forward excellent traditional culture can greatly enhance the national identity of the citizen. However, there is also residual cultural dross; the negative impact on the improvement of national identity

cannot be ignored. To this end, the development and continuation of traditional culture, the contemporary value of traditional culture, especially its important value to the citizen's national identity, can be better realized.

## II. NATIONAL IDENTITY AND THE CONNOTATION OF CHINESE TRADITIONAL CULTURE

National identity refers to the identity of citizens to their historical and cultural traditions, moral values, ideals and beliefs, and national sovereignty. It generally refers to the attribution and identity of home country created by people in the context of the relative existence of other countries. [1] The important external drive of citizen's national identity comes from the existence of other countries, which is what we call the "other countries". The existence of "other countries", as well as the recognition of the political system, socio-economics and traditional culture of the country can also effectively strengthen the citizen's subjective confirmation, identity and emotional belonging for the country. The connotation of identity includes both historical inherited contents such as common language and writing, traditional culture and traditional customs, as well as modern constructive contents such as the entire political community with independent sovereignty and political parties with political legitimacy.

The specific performance of identity can be divided into different levels. First is simple emotional belonging. The second is deep emotional integration and self-identification of citizenship. The third is rational development of identity behavior based on emotional sublimation and citizen self-identification. The type of identity can be divided into subjective citizen national identity and objective national identity. The subjective national identity mainly reflects the difference in the degree of identity. The objective national identity mainly highlights the shaping and promotion of identity by the state and society. In the traditional sense, national identity mainly belongs to subjective national identity. In modern meaning, the national identity emphasizes the shaping and promotion of national identity by the state and society objectively. In the traditional sense, national identity mainly belongs to subjective national identity. In the modern sense, it emphasizes the shaping and promotion of national identity by the state and society. The state has purposefully put it into reality through civic

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education, media propaganda, cultural tradition renaissance and moral cultivation.

Chinese traditional culture is rich heritage created by the ancestors of the Chinese nation and passed down for a long time. All these kinds of cultures such as the classics and the ancient books, unique language, different folk customs, mature and complete morality, national spirit and strength and profound values, have jointly shaped the splendid content of Chinese traditional culture from material culture to relationship culture to concept culture and other different cultural forms. What occupies a central position is the spirit of Chinese culture, such as its moral ethics, national spirit and values.

As we all know, modern countries are not only a community of economic and politic, but also a community of history and culture. Culture is a key factor in stimulating citizens to generate a sense of national belonging and identity. It is closely related to citizen's national identity. And this connection is constantly being highlighted in the study of national identity in different cultural dimensions. As the root and soul of the Chinese nation's 5,000-year history, Chinese excellent traditional culture is closely related to the national identity of citizens. It has its unique value and significance for citizens' national identity. The study on the traditional cultural path of the national identity of citizens proves that the important value of excellent traditional culture to the national identity of citizens is the starting point.

### III. THE VALUE EMBODIMENT OF EXCELLENT TRADITIONAL CULTURE TO THE CITIZEN'S NATIONAL IDENTITY

Under the context of globalization and the transformation of society, the political legitimacy of the modern national state and the factual improvement of the economics meet the rigid needs of the generation and promotion of citizen's national identity. On this basis, traditional culture provides soft guarantee for the generation and promotion of citizen's national identity as a kind of soft power. In the absence of such soft security, the rigid support of politics and economy will increase the possibility of the country recognizing the fragility collapse. In a certain sense, traditional culture provides this kind of "common concern with intrinsic value. Specifically, the essential characteristics of the intrinsic value of traditional culture take over the subjective needs of citizen's national identity. In fact, the strong personality of traditional culture is the result of inheriting Chinese traditional culture. Traditional culture is inherited. Traditional culture is historical treasure, and it can be preserved and passed down in the long history through its own inheritance. It is inheritance that constantly gives traditional culture the profit and supports it to make the development from ancient times to modern times.

#### A. *The Characteristics of Traditional Culture Undertake the Subjective Needs of Citizen National Identity*

The inheritance of traditional culture is not only the preservation and infiltration of the main components of traditional culture such as the material culture, institutional

culture, concept culture and other aspects, but also accumulation and transmission of common historical memory constructed by the origin, territory, cultural tradition and development history of the Chinese nation. These common historical memories are also an important source of modern citizen national identity. Here, traditional culture, especially its dynamic inheritance, has become the awakening of common historical memory as the historical foundation of citizen's national identity. As time continues to accumulate, the traditional culture continues to accumulate and precipitate, these common historical memories as the member of the Chinese nation will become more abundant. And the more common historical memory the members of the Chinese nation have, the commonality among them is more prominent. At this time, the "We-Feeling" formed by the people based on this "our history" is more vivid. It becomes more abundant soil for inspiring citizens' national identity or patriotism. With this kind of people's deep understanding of history and common memory, the historical foundation or internal foundation of citizens' national identity is profound. And the generation and promotion of citizen's national identity will have stronger and solid emotional support.

For the generation of citizen's national identity and its promotion, the timeliness of promoting traditional culture to keep pace with the times can effectively endow it with more realistic activities. The national identity value in traditional culture exists originally. This ancient national identity value cannot be automatically and effectively used for the modern citizen's national identity and its later promotion. We need constant in-depth understanding, screening and mining. Then, it maximizes the value and function of national identity of traditional culture. The reason why these excavated traditional cultural essences can be used for the promotion of modern citizen state is ultimately influenced and driven by its distinctive epochal character. It is precisely its distinctive epochal character that promotes the traditional culture of the millennium, especially the traditional culture that contains the value of identity. Its value and vitality can be truly activated. In this way, it directly or indirectly satisfies the subjective needs of generation and reality improvement of citizen national identity in the present era. It creates more premise possibilities for the generation and recognition of citizen national identity.

#### B. *The Connotation of Excellent Traditional Culture Meets the Practical Needs of Citizen National Identity*

The value of excellent traditional culture for the citizen national identity is in no way limited to the acceptance of the subjective needs of the citizen national identity with the essential characteristics of traditional culture. This kind of value is derived from the specific connotation of excellent traditional culture for the satisfaction of the needs of the citizen state. Specifically, excellent traditional culture has extremely important value for the citizen national identity, especially the rich citizen national identity resources hidden in the excellent traditional culture. These countries recognize that resources are often attached to the specific connotations of excellent traditional culture, that is, related components.

In order to maximize the value of excellent traditional culture for the citizen national identity, it is necessary to conduct an in-depth study of the excellent traditional culture. Then, it clarifies its value one by one. Citizen national identity contains value implication of ethical dimension. That is to say, citizens should identify with their countries. Specifically, the state requires that citizens should identify with all aspects of home country under the rule of law. This kind of moral restraint for the citizen national identity mainly comes from the modern ethical norm system formed on the basis of inheriting and carrying forward the traditional ethics. Another source is mainly traditional customs. Customs and habits are largely moral. This is mainly due to its formation. It often exists as an unwritten norm prototype of social convention. It contains the ethical ethics of morality, and it has the meaning of self-daoism. Based on the full conformity of "should" and "reality" in customs and habits, the state can strengthen the recognition of the moral constraints of the country by relying on the reshaping and implementation of specific traditional customs in the real society. It can enhance the citizen recognition of the country.

Specifically, this factor of national identity is reflected in various components of the traditional Chinese national spirit. Among them, there is the historical accumulation of the ancient national spirit, and the external stimulation of the modern national crisis. However, both the ancient and modern national spirits have become an important part of the traditional Chinese national spirit. And this kind of identification will not change with the passage of the times and the changes of the specific manifestation of the national spirit. As the core of the national spirit - patriotism has never changed, and the spirit of patriotism is the manifestation of the citizen national identity. It first requires the highest political common dependence, ownership and loyalty in common territory. [2] In fact, the spirit of patriotism permeates all aspects of the traditional Chinese national spirit. Citizens' sense of belonging to the nation and the sense of national identity naturally have the rationality and inevitability of their existence in the core of the traditional Chinese national spirit—the patriotism.

### C. Excellent Traditional Culture Is the Real Power to Strengthen Citizen National Identity

"What is tradition, the tradition is the history in which people can intrinsically understand it." [3] Modern comprehensions embedded in traditional history interpret history and understand tradition, which proves the distinctive characteristics of traditional culture. And the facts also prove Croce's assertion that "all history is modern history." Tradition and modernity are not opposite. Part of the tradition is modern embryos. Other part of the content has lost its existence reason due to the advancement of history and has become the burden of history. And some contents have become the "New World" and have been continuously discovered and explored by people. There is a conflict between tradition and modernity. There are also responses, associations, connections, integrations and transformations. The traditional culture keeps pace with the times, and it will divest some burdens in the era in which they are passed on. It

also uses new elements and new media to activate the essence of traditional culture. In the process, traditional culture will be given new meaning. Also, it obtains new understanding.

For the generation of citizen national identity and its realistic improvement, the traditional culture advanced with the times can effectively give it more real vitality. The national identity value of traditional culture exists originally. This ancient national identity value cannot be automatically and effectively used for the modern citizen national identity and its later promotion. We need to constantly make in-depth understanding, screening and mining to maximize the value and function of national identity in traditional culture. The reason why these excavated traditional cultural essences can be used for the promotion of national identity in the present era is influenced and driven by its distinctive epochal character. It is precisely its distinctive epochal character that promotes the traditional culture of the millennium, especially the traditional culture that contains the value of identity. Its value and vitality can be truly activated. In this way, it directly or indirectly satisfies the subjective needs of generation and reality improvement of citizen national identity in the present era. It creates more premise possibilities for the generation and recognition of citizen national identity.

## IV. CONCLUSION

As we all know, the modern state is not only a legal and political community, but also a community of history and culture. Russell has made a speech, "China represents the culture rather than a country. Viewing the present, there is indeed a reasonable point. As the root and soul of the Chinese nation's 5,000-year history, Chinese excellent traditional culture is a key factor in stimulating citizens to generate a sense of national identity. It is necessary to give full play to the value of citizen national identity that is unique to traditional Chinese culture and to make it be an important way to generate and promote citizen national identity. The key step is to enhance citizen emotional belonging to traditional culture in the process of inheriting and carrying forward the excellent traditional culture. The citizens pay more attention to traditional culture, and they consciously or unconsciously express certain identity and attribution to most traditional cultures. The value of excellent traditional culture for citizen national identity and realistic improvement can get more emotional support.

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