

Part 1 East Asian Regional Cooperation and Japan-U.S.-China Relation

Fudan's Paper

Culture: in the East Asia Cooperation and in the Relationship among China, Japan and U.S.

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Chapter 1 Culture: the Force to Integrate East Asia

Since 1990s, the world has experienced two notable changes. One is the disappearance of the clash between the socialist camp and the capitalist camp, which is caused by the disintegration of USSR. The other is globalization. The disappearance of clash between two camps has waken up many nations' personality which was oppressed by ideology in the Cold War, and globalization has made them think about the problems as how to position themselves in the world and how to develop independently. As a result, many countries have begun to call for national culture. A nation is not only a community of politics and economy, but it is more a community of culture. A nation without its independent culture is no more than a colony, no matter how powerful it is.

Nations in East Asia have similar culture origin. In a long history period, they were all members of a community which was connected by culture, but not by politics or economy, and developed their own culture in the community. The more the East Asian countries develop their national cultures, the more they will find the intimate relationship among them. They are similar from philosophy to common social customs. In the Cold War, East Asian countries, as China, Japan, Korea, belonged to different camps. With the finish of the Cold War and release of ideology bondage, the similarity in culture helps them improve their relationship. Because of similar cultures, East Asian countries could not develop their national cultures unless developing the whole East Asian culture, nor could they show their independence in culture unless making together an East Asia culture circle with defined identity. Hence, culture should be an important aspect of regional cooperation in East Asia.

In addition, culture has an effect on political and economic cooperation in the region. East Asia is the most important district in the Pacific-Asia, with complicated profit relations. Countries out of the region, especially the U.S., also have special profit demands in East Asia. Without doubt, political and economic cooperation is necessary. We need a peaceful regional environment, and we are all eager to develop economy. But political and economic profit demands creates only the will to cooperate, we need a kind of adhesion to carry out the cooperation. Culture is the best one. An East Asian country can deeply understand the behavior and decision of another one in this region because of their similar culture background. In cooperation, misapprehension can be effectively avoided.

Therefore, culture is very important to regional cooperation in East Asia, not only is it a noticeable element itself, but also it can improve political and economic cooperation. The making of East Asia culture circle will certainly make the region have more influence on the world.

Chapter 2 Chinese and Japanese Cultural Position in East Asia and the Relationship between the Two Countries

China has a civilization of five thousand years. It was the center of East Asia culture circle. Japan, Korea and some other countries learned from China at that time in language, custom, philosophy, political and economic institutions, etc. Chinese civilization developed for thousands years independently, without pressure from other civilizations. From the Opium War in 1840s, China was pushed into the clash with modern western civilization. While beaten in the wars, especially while beaten by Japan in 1895, people's confidence in Chinese civilization was destroyed, then China began to learn from west. The "New Culture" movement in 1910s finally cut the process of self-development of Chinese civilization. Fortunately, After 100 years, traditional culture is taken into account again now.

Because of the important influence of ancient Chinese culture in this region, China has crucial duty on the making of the new culture community. Of course, due to the difference of history conditions, contemporary China should not look for the authority of its own culture in this region as ancient China, but to converse and communicate with other East Asian countries on the basis of equality, and creates the circumstances under which the similar cultures can learn from each other and improve together.

Japan is an island county. As a result of limited geographic condition and natural resource, people in Japan have a strong common sense of crisis. This common sense makes Japan a good learner. In Sui Dynasty and Tang Dynasty of China, Japan sent students and monks to China many times. In 645, an institution as Tang Dynasty was established in Japan through the Taika Era Reforms. For about a thousand years, Japanese culture was deeply influenced by China. When in the Bakufu Era, Japan also created its own culture with notable characteristics. The Shindo and Bushido spirit formed in this era, for example, still has strong impact on common value of Japanese society now. About in 17th century, relationship with China was finally broken off, and

communication to the western world was also forbidden because of the seclusion orders. From then on, for two hundred years, Japanese culture was developing independently, until the “Black Ship” event in 1853. From the middle of 19th century, Japan had to carry out open policy. It became the most successful one in Asia in turning to a modern industrial country. At the same time, western cultures and values flooded in Japan. The lost of the World War and the occupation by the U.S. later caused Japan to accept western culture much more. Many countries would like to regard Japan as a western nation more than an eastern one. However, in thirty years, Japan was not so confident of American value because of its great economic increase, and it has tried to revive national culture since 1980s. Today, both modern western culture and traditional culture are the important aspects of Japanese culture.

Japan has a special cultural position. Does it belong to western civilization, or eastern civilization, or just Japanese civilization? More than a century ago, Japan experienced a process of ‘leaving Asia for Europe’, and now, it has a tendency to come back Asia. Among East Asian cultures, we can say that Japan is a bridge connecting to western civilization, and we can also say that it has a strong centrifugal force. Besides, the aggressive spirit and collectivism in its culture also worries most Asian countries. Nevertheless, Japan is more an eastern Asian country, for its tradition, I think. It will certainly contribute to the revival of East Asian culture.

In the view of culture, there exists both attractive force and repellent force between China and Japan. On the one hand, they are not so imitate, by reason of history. The aggression and the Japanese government’s attitude to the history has created a born anti-Japan sense in common Chinese people. On the other hand, the two countries has close relationship in traditional culture, and many Chinese children grow up in the influence of Japanese pop culture, and both China and Japan have to solve the problem as how to revive national culture in the modern world. Thus, they also have some common words. The attractive force and the repellent force in culture have strong impact on the relationship between the two countries. China, as a district great power in politics, and Japan, as a great power in economy, has the duty on the revival of East Asian culture. They should solve historical problems, improve cultural communication, and contribute together to the making of East Asia culture circle and the political stability and economic development in the region.

Chapter 3 Culture in the Sino-U.S. and Japan-U.S. Relation and the Role East Asian Culture could Play in the World

The United States is a newly born country with a history of only two hundred years. It is vigorous, and well represents the modern capitalism spirit. American culture is Protestantism culture. What it emphasizes on is competition, individual success, individual rights, ruling of law and pragmatism. All of these are the culture shell that capitalist economy needs best. In their *Manifesto of the Communist Party*, Marx and Engle’s said, ‘The bourgeoisie, wherever it has got the upper hand, has put an end to all feudal, patriarchal, idyllic relations...It has drowned out the most heavenly ecstasies of

religious fervor, of chivalrous enthusiasm, of philistine sentimentalism, in the icy water of egotistical calculation.' America is a complete burgher society like this. This kind of culture brought great success to the United States, but as a result, the Americans are difficult to understand the mildness, the tolerance, the modesty and the collectivism of eastern culture. What is more, America is self-centered, it regards its institution and value as the best in the world, and would like to spread its culture through all around the earth.

Sino-U.S. relationship is closely related to the issue of culture, especially the issue of value. America needs China in politics and economy, but it is not friendly to China in the view of culture. Generally, when America is powerful enough that it has no opponent in the world, political idealism will get the upper hand in its foreign policy, but when it is not strong enough, realism will get superiority. In 1970s, the Soviet Union became a great challenge to the United States' hegemony, so while dealing with the Chinese issue, America thinks more of the national profits. Since 1980s, because of the disintegration of the communist camp and the decline of Russia, the United States has carried out a more idealistic policy on the Chinese issue. The hostility towards China often causes troubles to the Sino-U.S. relations, and even changes in the United States' East Asia strategy. As to China, due to the opening policy, Chinese are not ignorant of American culture. But as to the United States, most Americans have very little knowledge of Chinese culture and value, what they know about China is mostly from TV and newspaper. Actually, the difficulties in Sino-U.S. relationship are more likely to be caused by the misunderstanding and ignorance, but not the clash of civilizations. Now, in U.S. congress and Jr. Bush's government, there are not many experts on the Chinese issue, and Sinologists who study Chinese culture are even fewer. When President Bush deals with problems about China, he cannot well understand Chinese behavior and intention, which will easily result in the instability of Sino-U.S. relations. Therefore, the relationship between the two countries is not only a problem of politics and economy, but also an important problem of culture. China should do more to introduce its culture to the foreigners, while the United States should understand China and Chinese culture better.

Culture is also a notable element in Japan-America relations. The United States makes Japan open in 1850s, After the Second World War, America did much to support Japan, and remade Japanese society with American value. This imitates cultural relationship made Japan be the most reliable friend of America in Asia. Besides, Japan's attitude towards history often results in anti-Japan sense of people in other Asian countries, which made Japan closer to America. We can say that of economy and of culture, Japan in Asia is just as America in the world. There exist special relations between Japan and the United States not only due to the consideration of politics, but also because of the close culture and value relationship. However, since 1980s, the cultural relationship between them has not been so stable. Japan became so powerful in economy that it would no longer be blindly confident of American culture, and with the finish of the Cold War and the process of globalization, Japan began to consider the revival of its own culture. Traditional culture was developing for nearly two thousand

years, it would not be easily cut off. The tendency of Japan to return Asian culture will have far-reaching, though not immediate influence on the Japan-U.S. relations.

In the view of culture, both Sino-U.S. and Japan-U.S. relationship is the relationship between East Asian culture and modern western culture. East Asian culture must deal with other civilizations, not only western civilization, but also Islamic civilization, African civilization, etc, if a culture circle would be established in the region. In a word, there comes the question that what role will East Asian culture play in the world. In the second half of 19th century, many Asians lost confidence in traditional culture and called for western culture. Then in 20th century, a lot of people think that the good part of the traditional culture should be maintained while the bad part should be swept away. Actually, it is a shallow opinion of simply dividing culture into good part and bad part. In fact, East Asian culture should be an open system, not only open to the world, but also open to the time, not only communicate with other cultures, but also improve itself. The most important characteristic of East Asian culture is harmony, it emphasizes on harmony among persons, among nations, and even between human beings and Nature. Therefore, what East Asian culture looks for should be the harmony with other civilizations, but not the clash of civilizations. I believe that East Asian culture will well contribute to the world culture and the peace on the earth.