

# An Epochal Interpretation of “Beautiful China” from the Perspective of Aesthetics

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**Abstract**—In the 19th national congress of the CPC, "beauty" is regarded as one of the important characteristics of the "second centenary" goal of China, and the construction of "beautiful China" has become an important goal of the new era of China. Over the years, the Chinese people have been working hard to build a "beautiful China" and endowed it with rich connotations of The Times. This paper interprets the connotation of "beautiful China" from the perspective of aesthetics, which is conducive to our profound understanding and accurate grasp of "beautiful China".

**Keywords**—*beautiful China; construction; Chinese dream*

## I. INTRODUCTION

In the 19th CPC national congress report, "beautiful China" has been mentioned many times, such as "We will unswervingly follow the path of civilized development featuring production, prosperity and sound ecology to build a beautiful China", "The ecological environment can be fundamentally improved and the goal of a building a beautiful China can be basically achieved", "Accelerate the reform of the ecological system and build a beautiful China" and so on. The report USES the entire ninth part to expound on accelerating the reform of ecological civilization system and building a beautiful China. It makes a planning layout for the construction of ecological civilization, and guide us how to build ecological civilization from the perspective of top-level design. In particular, the report puts forward that "building a strong, prosperous, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious and beautiful modern socialist country by the middle of this century", taking "beauty" as one of the features of the grand blueprint for China's "second centenary" goal.

The Chinese people have been making unremitting efforts to build a "beautiful China", over the years. The 15th national congress of the communist party of China clearly put forward the implementation of sustainable development strategy; the sixteenth national congress put forward a new development concept of building ecological civilization; the seventeenth congress further defined new requirements for building ecological civilization; the 18th national congress of the communist party of China took the construction of "beautiful China" as the grand goal of the construction of ecological civilization in the future and put the construction of ecological civilization in the overall layout for the first time; and the 19th congress solemnly declared to the world

that China's "second centenary goal" is to "build a strong, prosperous, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious and beautiful modern socialist country by the middle of this century." It can be seen that the building of a "beautiful China" has long been the consensus of the whole society and the common goal of all walks of life in China. In the new era of building socialism with Chinese characteristics, "beauty" is endowed with a richer connotation of The Times. "Beautiful China" can also be said to be an aesthetic expression. To elaborate "beautiful China" in aesthetic sense is conducive to our deep insight and correct understanding of "beautiful China".

## II. "BEAUTIFUL CHINA" PRESENTS THE BEAUTY OF HUMANITY AND ECOLOGY

### A. "Beautiful China" Gives Priority to the Natural Beauty of Ecological Civilization

As the aesthetic banner and ecological ideal of ecological civilization construction, "Beautiful China" put the beauty of nature at a first-line position. Nature is the material basis for the survival and development of human society and the "inorganic body" of human beings. Chinese culture has always pursued the concept of "harmony between man and nature", emphasizing the harmonious coexistence between heaven and earth. "To have both gold and silver mountains and green waters and green mountains" is the most intuitive interpretation of "beautiful China" by common people. For the first time, the report on the 18th national congress of the communist party of China (CPC) discussed "ecological civilization" in a single chapter, and fully described "promoting green development, circular development and low-carbon development" for the first time. It expresses the great wish of the CPC and the Chinese nation to build a beautiful homeland, and demonstrates the Chinese nation's spirit of being responsible to its descendants and the world. The 19th national congress of the communist party of China (CPC) stressed the importance of building a strong, prosperous, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious and beautiful modern socialist country by the middle of this century, which raised the building of a "beautiful China" to a strategic height.

### B. *"Beautiful China" Embodies the Beauty of Harmony Between Man and Nature*

The natural aesthetics and environmental aesthetics of western aesthetics have increasingly been shifting its focus from natural environment to the human environment and the environment affected by human beings, and finally to the aesthetic exploration on the production and life in general sense. [1] In China, the idea of harmonious development between man and nature has long entered the party's governing vision. The concept of green development has taken root in China and become the theoretical guidance and ideological guarantee for building a beautiful China. The 19th national congress of the communist party of China (CPC) has put forward the most stringent ecological and environmental protection system, formed a green development mode and a way of life, and firmly followed the path of civilized development featuring production development, affluent life and sound ecology, to build a beautiful China. We can see from that China has taken the lead in making and earnestly fulfilling its solemn commitment to green development in previous global climate conferences; cleaned up energy-intensive industries such as iron and steel; implemented a series of ecological projects to control sandstorms in Beijing and Tianjin; introduced energy conservation and emission reduction plans; been reducing energy consumption per unit of GDP and steadily advancing the ecological compensation mechanism...China is gradually on the road of green development that "One generation plants the trees in whose shade another generation rests". In the new journey of building a modern socialist country in an all-round way, while advocating green development, China is also striving to promote a green way of consumption and a green way of life, to give greater prominence to the development of a green development model and a green way of life so that everyone can enjoy green benefits. "Beautiful China" not only points out the specific way of scientific development for China, but also points out the beautiful vision of economic, social and human development.

### C. *"Beautiful China" Shows the Heartwarming Beauty of Humanity.*

The word "beautiful China" is soft, pleasant and poetic. Its presence in the national congresses of the communist party of China (CPC) has given people a "bright" and "heartwarming" sensation that is pleasant. It has made the report more relevant to the grass-roots level and the people, and has quickly brought the party congress closer to the people. The meaning of "beautiful China" is profound, thought-provoking as well as surprising. The beauty of "Beautiful China" lies not just in mountains and rivers, but also in culture, history and more in humanity. The beauty of humanities in "Beautiful China" is embodied in the advancement of governing philosophies, well-being of political ecology, the carrying forward of national spirit, the improvement of citizen quality, the cohesion of the Chinese spirit as well as the pursuit of national dreams.

### III. "BEAUTIFUL CHINA" SHOWS THE BEAUTY OF IMPETUS

The beauty in "beautiful China" shows the most fundamental and "true" standard of social progress — the standard of productivity, the noblest standard of kindness — the people-centered standard. The high integration and unity of "truth", "kindness" and "beauty" show the impetus of "beautiful China".

#### A. *Reflecting the Standard of "Truth"*

According to the basic view of Marx, the productive forces are the most general conditions for the existence and development of society and the decisive force for the development and progress of human history. The development and progress of human beings must be based on the development of productive forces in the final analysis. Marx pointed out: "The elimination of the alienation of the private ownership society and human development and social progress, must be under the premise of 'huge growth and high development of the productive forces'." [2] Marx's productivity evaluation standard embodies the principle of "truth".

The 19th CPC national congress report pointed out, "We will firmly adhere to the party's basic line, the lifeline of the party and the country and the line of happiness of the people and lead and unite the people of all ethnic groups in the country to build China into a strong modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious and beautiful, focusing on economic development, adhering to the four cardinal principles, reform and opening up, self-reliance and hard work; Unswervingly "taking economic construction as the center" and adhering to the "liberation and development of social productive forces, which is the essence of socialist requirements"; To promote the healthy and orderly development of all undertakings, "we must unswervingly take development as the top priority of the party in governing and rejuvenating the country, emancipate and develop the productive forces, adhere to the direction of socialist market economy reform, and promote sustained and sound economic development." All these follow the fundamental law of the development of human society

#### B. *Reflecting the Standard of "Kindness"*

Historical materialism holds that the movement of basic social contradictions is the basic driving force of social development, but it does not deny that human needs and interests play an important role in social development. In Marx's view, human needs and interests are the internal driving force of social development. The people are the makers of history, the decisive force for social development and the primary factor for the development of the productive forces. The people are also beneficiaries of the fruits of historical development, constituting the value direction of historical materialism and the value goal that Marxism has been pursuing from birth to development.

The 19th national congress of the communist party of China has repeatedly stressed the idea of "people-centered

development", referring to the word "people" more than 100 times. This fully demonstrates that our party has always adhered to the principle of building the party for the public and governing for the people. Since the 18th national congress of the communist party of China (CPC), the CPC central committee with comrade Xi Jinping at its core has always set the people's aspiration for a better life as its goal and adhered to the principle that development is for the people, depends on the people and benefits of development should be Shared by the people, and deepened reform to comprehensively stimulate the vitality of social development and people's innovation. The campaign against corruption, in particular, has taken on an overwhelming momentum as a result of comprehensively strengthening party discipline and deepening efforts to combat corruption. The political ecology of the whole party has taken on a new look, and the spirit of the people of the whole country has taken on a new look. So the whole party and the people of China have truly felt that it has been an extraordinary five years. The past five years, due to the many historic achievements the party and state have made and the profound historical changes that we have undergone, has become an important milestone in China's development and progress. The theme of the report emphasizes the importance of "remain true to our original aspiration and keep our mission firmly in mind", telling us that the original aspiration and the mission of Chinese Communists are to seek happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation for the Chinese nation". "This is a new leap and a new realm for the Marxist view of the people and the concept of development. Upholding the principal position of the people, implementing the principle of building the party for the public and governing for the people, it inherits and develops the party's fundamental purpose of serving the people wholeheartedly. It fully reflects the deep feelings of being responsible for the people and the value orientation of putting the people first. In the new era, new progress in implementing the concept of people-centered development and in providing education, employment, medical care for the sick, support for the elderly and housing for the elderly are also to be made. The Chinese dream is ultimately the people's dream

### *C. Reflecting the Unity of "Beauty"*

As the unity of value evaluation, "beauty" means the highest state — freedom. In Marxist value thought, this kind of "freedom" is the freedom of man's all-round development. It is a synthetic scale which is mainly embodied on the four types of relations: the relation between human and nature, the relation between human and society, the relation between men, the relation between men and themselves. These relations include the ability of men to utilize and transform nature and maintain a harmonious relationship with nature; the degree of justice and rationality of society and the degree to which society provides equal opportunities for human development; the degree of competition between people on the basis of equality, mutual assistance and friendship; the development degree of a person's rich personality and so on. The realization of all-round and free development of human beings is the ultimate goal and the highest principle pursued by social development. Therefore, linking economic and

social development with human progress and all-round development has become the key to the establishment of development goals. To this end, Engels once pointed out: "what development ultimately requires is a change in people's quality, which is the prerequisite and way to achieve greater development, as well as one of the great goals of the development process itself."[3]

The 19th CPC national congress report shows clearly that, "Since the 18th national congress of the communist party of China (CPC), the changes in domestic and foreign situations and the development of various undertakings in China have posed us with a major task of The Times. This is to systematically answer the question of what kind of socialism with Chinese characteristics to uphold and develop in the new era and how to uphold and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics from the perspective of theory and practice. Its purpose is to realize the three major historical tasks of advancing modernization, accomplishing the reunification of the motherland, safeguarding world peace and promoting common development, and to build a moderately prosperous society in all respects, achieve the great victory of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, realize the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and realize the people's aspiration for a better life. The 19th CPC national congress of the communist party of China (CPC) opened with a statement that "we should never forget our original intention until we have achieved the goal of achieving happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. This original intention and mission are the fundamental driving force for the Chinese communists to keep moving forward. All comrades in the party must always breathe with the people, share a common destiny and join heart to heart, We will always take the aspiration of the people for a better life as our goal, and continue to forge ahead courageously toward the grand goal of realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation with an indomitable spirit and an indomitable attitude of struggle. All these embody the value pursuit and power source of "truth", "goodness" and "beauty"!

### IV. "BEAUTIFUL CHINA" SHOWS THE BEAUTY OF REALIZING DREAMS

As the theme and goal of the 19th CPC national congress, the "Chinese dream" is the greatest dream of the Chinese nation since modern times and the highest goal for the Chinese people to strive for in this century. "To build a strong, prosperous, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious and beautiful modern socialist country by the middle of this century" is the phased goal of the "Chinese dream". The word "beautiful" placed in the characteristics of construction goals of society for the first time, means not just original intention is to show the goal of ecological civilization construction; it is endowed with more profound meanings, that is, the beauty of confidence, beauty of spirit, beauty of renewal represented by the remark "Today, we are closer, more confident and able than at any time in history to achieve the goal of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation."

On his visit to the exhibition of the road of revival on November 29, 2012, Xi Jinping first proposed "the Chinese dream", and explained it as the dream of the rejuvenation of the nation. He quoted "The strong pass seemed like a wall of iron", "The history is moving in an overwhelming trend" and "There will be the time when we realize our ideal" to sum up the "past", "present" and "future". These three lines also reveal to the world the "journey of breaking up", "journey of struggle" and "journey of realizing dreams" of the Chinese dream. Looking back at China's "journey of pursuing dreams", one cannot help reflecting only nations whose civilizations have flourished are entitled to the goal of rejuvenation; only nations who have endured hardship and hardship and have never given up on their dreams have the strength to propose the goal of rejuvenation; Only a truly great nation will not perish from suffering, but rise up from suffering.

The Chinese nation was once one of the five central regions of the ancient world civilization. Over the past 5,000 years, the great Chinese civilization has been growing in a continuous line, which has earned admiration and admiration from all nations. But the Chinese nation in modern times was just what Kang Youwei, the pioneer of the Reform Movement of 1898, once described in the Speech for Supporting the Congress on March 17: Today, under the falling roof, in the leaky boat, on the fire, the Chinese nation is, like the bird in a cage, the fish in a pot, the prisoner in a jail as if they were slaves and animals that are to be driven at the mercy of others, which is a weird transformation." The great building of the Chinese nation was in the danger of collapsing.

"The strong pass seems like a wall of iron, with firm strides we are crossing it from the very beginning." The Chinese nation has not given up its dream because of the difficulties in reality, nor has it given up its pursuit because of the distance of its ideal. So many people with lofty ideals lay down their lives for the just cause and countless heroes and heroines rise up to fight. And it was how the ancient Chinese nation has embarked on a road of rejuvenation full of tragedy and grandeur, full of hardships and enduring grandeur. The Chinese people had explored the "dream of Taiping Heavenly Kingdom", "The dream of self-improvement", "the dream of reforming" and "the dream of republicanism"... But the invasion of the imperialist powers broke the Chinese dream of learning from the west.

"Were the Heaven sentimental, it would decline; the history is moving in an overwhelming trend". At the historical juncture of national crisis, the CPC get out from the shell and led the Chinese people to achieve national independence and liberation.

"There will be the time when we can realize our ideal like riding the waves." When socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era, the journey of realizing a nation's dream has entered a new journey. "We should not only complete the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects and achieve the first centenary goal, but also seize the opportunity to embark on a new journey of building a modern socialist country in all respects and march

towards the second centenary goal." The 19th CPC national congress report is precisely the mobilization order and manifesto for building socialism with Chinese characteristics into a new era, winning the battle to complete the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects and building a strong modern socialist country in all respects. It provides a scientific guide to action and a strong spiritual force for realizing the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

## V. CONCLUSION

In this new era, when we are closer, more confident and capable than at any other time in history of realizing the goal of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, the Chinese nation has demonstrated the confidence of choice, the confidence of the spirit and the confidence of realizing our dreams. The nation is strong; the people are confident and the dream is beautiful! The Chinese nation has gone through many ups and downs from "standing up" to "becoming rich" to "becoming strong" today. As a result, we will never follow the path of "a strong country is bound to seek hegemony". We are determined to build a "community of Shared future for mankind" and continue to strive for a better future for mankind. Everyone has a dream. Every nation has a dream. The Chinese dream and the dreams of people all over the world are a beautiful jigsaw puzzle of harmony and win-win progress. It should be believed that with joint efforts, a colorful picture scroll of "beautiful China" will be spelled out, where "each country enjoys its own beauty as well as the beauty of other country so that the world becomes a harmonious place".

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