

A Reader of Chinese Culture

汉英

文化读本

吕家林 / 中文主编
杨山青 / 英文主编



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前言

中华文化是全世界独一无二的优秀文化，也是最具有特色的文化之一。她诞生在中国这块神奇的土地上，曾经结出过最辉煌的农业文明成果；她生生不息，源远流长一直未曾中断过；她吸纳异域文明，不断融入异族文化因子，海纳百川，充满生机与活力；她曾经维系了从先秦时代的数十万众，到汉唐时代的数千万，再到满清的上亿人口，一直到今天的十三亿中国人；所有中国人的生活样式和精神面貌都由她所带来，而且还深刻影响着散居于全世界的华裔，给他们打上了深深的中华烙印。上世纪八十年代张明敏唱的《我的中国心》，这颗“中国心”就是由于中华文化造就，她告诉人们，中国人无论身处何方、走到哪里，这颗中国心都绝不改变。虽然中国这个名字也曾经让走出国门的中国人屈辱过，被人欺负过，但是随着中国经济的大发展，国力逐渐增强，国际社会希望了解中国的愿望也越来越迫切，不过我们看见国际社会对于中国文化的了解常常是肤浅的，有时甚至是错误的，所以彼此之间常闹出一些不必要的误会。

我没有研究哲学的天赋，但是很愿意采纳哲学家的观点看待世间的问题。我认为李泽厚先生的“吃饭哲学”就非常好。他与陈明的对话——《继承传统的“神”而非“形”》，对于中华传统文化的态度就说得非常到位。他说“非常欣赏欧盟”，因为“欧盟是世界大势所趋”。“本来那地方冲突矛盾是非常严重的，有不同的语言，文化、宗教，有各种各样的利害冲突，像德法世仇，打了两次大战，现在居然能够把这些放开，走到一起

Preface

Chinese culture is extraordinary because of its long history, which is unlike that of other countries in the modern world. She was born in an amazing land, China, and once gave birth to the most brilliant agricultural civilization. She is long standing and well established; she has never been discontinued. She has absorbed, and is absorbing, foreign cultures so that she can be energetic and vigorous at all times. She has held together hundreds of thousands of people in the Pre-Qin era, tens of millions in the Han and Tang dynasties, hundreds of millions in the late Qing dynasty, and now, she holds together 1.3 billion people. She brings all the lifestyles and spirits of Chinese people and influences to all the people of China scattered throughout the world stamping them with Chinese culture. Wherever the Chinese are, they will never change their Chinese heart. Although this name, China, once meant nothing but insult and humiliation to overseas Chinese, there is an ever-growing eagerness to know more about China in the international community with the rise in economy and national strength of China. As we have seen, however, foreign understanding of China is often superficial or even wrong causing some unnecessary misunderstandings.

I am willing to see the world from the philosopher's point of view. I think Mr. Li Zehou's "philosophy for existence" is very good. In

来，为什么？经济力量推动”。他又说大陆与台湾统一的问题，“要靠经济的力量把台湾吸引过来”。^① 我认为他的理论判断问题很深刻。的确，解决文化、语言等冲突的方法最好是“和而不同”，目的是“和”，求“同”是过程，尽量用一个声音说话就比较强大。这就是欧盟的智慧，合乎于中华文化的精髓。解决政治对抗的最佳方式用经济而不是战争，因为政治的根本目的是要服务于民生的。2012年年初，马英九连任就证明了“吃饭哲学”，即经济决定问题根本的理论是正确的。因此，我们很不赞同亨廷顿文化必然冲突的说法^②，原因就是我们的文化从来不是这样看待世界和各种文化的。“和为贵”是中华文化的精髓。中国世界第一的时候，没有把别人的国土攫为已有的想法。郑和下西洋，其非常庞大的舰队所到之处，只是为了传播友谊而不是要征服别人，更没有“日不落”的野心。中华文化靠融入的方式使自己的国土面积变得巨大，一个泱泱大国只是在别人需要的时候去帮助别人而绝不会趁火打劫，帮助别人安定，根本是为了寻求自己的安宁。为什么会这样呢？因为中华文化的黄金时代，西周周族人就提出了“协和万邦”的理念，而这种文化意识一直延续到今天。中国人常说自己是爱好和平的，这就是从我们的文化说起的，这具有太多的证据。例如美国前国务卿基辛格在他的新书《论中国》中说：中国的历史奠定了今天的中国外交，“中国不会试图改变他人的信仰，也不会声称其制度‘适用于中国之外的世界’”。相反“美国例外主义（American Exceptionalism）是传教式的。美国认为自己有责任向世界各国传播其价值观。”^③ 而马克思·韦伯也说

①李泽厚：《李泽厚近年答问录》（2004—2006），天津社会科学院出版社，2006年版，第113—124页。

②杜维民：《对话与创新》，广西师范大学出版社，2005年版，第110—111页。

③MICHIKO KAKUTANI, Paul Yu译：基辛格谈中国，《纽约时报书评》，2011年05月11日。