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## **COMPARISON OF CULTURAL PSYCHOLOGY AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN CHINA AND THE WEST**

After thousands of years of inheritance, traditional Chinese culture and Western culture dominated by European culture have become rich legacies in the world's cultural treasure house. Different concepts have been refracted by people's psychology, forming different cultural psychology in China and the West, subtly influencing people's thinking and behavior. The comparative study of Chinese and Western cultural psychology provides a basis for us to critically inherit Chinese traditional culture, as well as a cultural support for learning and absorbing the essence of western culture. Therefore, it has important theoretical and practical significance.

Western culture is an individual culture based on the individual. Its essence can be summarized as two points: first, it regards the individual as the starting point of all reality and society; second, it believes that the nature of the individual is reflected in the difference between the individual and other things. In contrast, China is a group oriented country with group cultural characteristics. The Confucian family once ruled China as the main culture of feudal society for more than 2000 years. There are fundamental differences in the definition of human nature between Chinese and Western cultures, resulting in different cultural psychology on both sides. The essential difference between the two cultures is that Chinese culture emphasizes groups, while Western culture emphasizes individuals.

In addition to cultural psychology, there are differences in social development between China and the West. China and the West have different understandings of social development, with different aims and interests. China values the results of social development, while the West values the process of social development. For Chinese society, they place more emphasis on the results of social development, while for Western society, the process of social development is more important. The different emphasis on social development requirements between China and the West is deeply reflected in their respective education systems. Due to the emphasis on social development outcomes, education in Chinese society is more based on cultivating students into the desired outcomes of parents, teachers, or society; Due to its emphasis on the process of social development, education in Western society is more focused on helping students grow independently, relying solely on their interests and hobbies for learning and employment. China values the content of social development, while the West values the form of social development.

Chinese society places more emphasis on the content of social development, while Western society places more emphasis on the form of social development, making Chinese people more complex in the process of social life and endowing

social life with richer content. However, Westerners strive to simplify complex issues, making social life more single and orderly, giving social life a more pure form and making it clear at a glance.

Chinese and Western cultural psychology and social development do not go their own way, they have a profound internal fit. The specific cultural psychology leads to the corresponding social development, and the corresponding cultural development further strengthens this cultural psychology. Both Chinese and Western cultural psychology were formed in the process of social history development in a certain historical period, but once cultural psychology was formed, it had an unneglectable reaction to social development.

The above does not cover all the characteristics of Chinese and Western cultures, but only compares the main psychological characteristics of The Two Cultures. Chinese and Western cultures have their own advantages and disadvantages, and are equal to each other. There is no distinction between advantages and disadvantages. It is important for traditional Chinese culture to have an objective and clear understanding of its own advantages and disadvantages, and to pay attention to absorbing reasonable elements from Western culture in order to further improve its own culture.

First, carry forward collectivism values and give consideration to the realization of personal interests; second, weakening the cultural psychology of the mean and cultivating national innovation consciousness; third, Strengthen the construction of socialist legal system and ensure equal rights of citizens.

Overall, as a cultural phenomenon in the long river of human history, there are no essential differences or simple distinctions between the strengths and weaknesses between Chinese and Western cultural psychology. Chinese cultural psychology has its advantages and limitations, and so does Western cultural psychology. Based on specific social practices, China and the West have chosen a more suitable path and model for their own development based on their respective national conditions. It can be foreseen that in the near future, especially in the context of increasingly profound internationalization trends, the continuous strengthening of economic, political, and cultural exchanges, integration, and confrontation between China and the West will inevitably lead to both China and the West fully absorbing and borrowing from each other's strengths, improving their own weaknesses, and gradually narrowing the gap between Chinese and Western cultural psychology.

### **References**

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