Context Protection and Inheritance in the Process of Urbanization

Xiao-yun JIAO* and Jin WANG
School of Marxism, Hunan Normal University, Yuelu District, Changsha Hunan, China
*Corresponding author

Keywords: Context, Protection, Inheritance, Urbanization.

Abstract. Urbanization is the required course leading to modernization and an important guarantee for the prosperity and strength of the country, the revitalization of the nation and the happiness of the people. The traditional urbanization destroys the cultural context inheritance, such as, the traditional urbanization model cuts off the continuation of the cultural context of the city while the traditional urbanization mode destroys the inheritance of local culture. Then, How to do? We should have to strengthen the protection and utilization of urban cultural heritage, as well as construct the urban culture and continue the urban context.

Introduction

The purpose of promoting urbanization is to allow more people to enter the city and share the fruits of development. In addition to material aspects, excellent traditional culture is also an important achievement of modernization. However, the expansion mode of "urban sprawl" and the construction way of large-scale demolition and construction have caused serious damage to the cultural inheritance of our country. A large number of historic sites, cultural famous streets, famous buildings, ancient towns and ancient villages are brazenly destroyed under the banner of "protective reconstruction", and the material carriers on which traditional culture depends for survival no longer exist. Xi Jinping has repeatedly stressed that excellent traditional culture is the root and soul of the Chinese nation, the spiritual lifeline of the Chinese nation, and the solid foundation for the Chinese nation to stand firmly in the torrent of world culture. The origin of the cohesion and centripetal force of the Chinese nation lies in the traditional culture. If the cultural context cannot be passed down, the Chinese nation will be in disarray, and the great revitalization of China will be difficult to achieve. At present, our country is in the strategic transition period of urbanization, the returning to people and the cultural context inheritance will be the focus of urbanization development in the future. Xi Jinping pointed out that excellent traditional culture was the foundation of national inheritance and development, and abandoning traditional culture was tantamount to cutting off the spiritual lifeline of the nation. Economy is the material basis of the city, without the full development of the economy, urban development is like water having no source, or wood having no root. Culture is the flag and life of the city, plays an irreplaceable role in promoting the vitality and quality of the city and continuing the urban characteristics.

The Traditional Urbanization Development Destroys the Cultural Context Inheritance

The Traditional Urbanization Cuts off the City’s Continuation of the Cultural Context

The characteristic city culture is the root and soul of the city, inheriting and developing the traditional culture is the inevitable choice to strengthen the city connotation, improve city quality and city image, only if the city obtains adequate nourishment from the city culture will it have its own characteristics and temperament. However, the construction of urbanization has destroyed the inheritance of urban historical culture, and damaged the root and soul of the city.

First of all, the large-scale demolition and construction causes damage to historic buildings and cultural inheritance. Due to the lack of understanding of the importance of urban development law and cultural inheritance, the phenomenon of "abandoning history, abandoning culture" in the process of traditional urbanization is more prominent. Urbanization construction ignores historical
inheritance and cultural continuation, falling into expansion of real estate and greed for large scale and foreign style have become the characteristics of urbanization in many places, urban construction has become the experiment of foreign designers. According to statistics, the world's 87% of skyscrapers under construction is in China, in 2022, the total number of skyscrapers in China will reach 1, 318, of which 80% will be built in the less developed inland areas. Corresponding to the construction of new cities and the construction of new houses, historic buildings and urban "living fossils" have perished. Since reform and opening up, more than 40,000 immovable cultural relics have disappeared in China. People pay too much attention to the development of real estate and industry, neglect the cultural memory function of historic buildings. The large-scale demolition and construction destroys the continuation of culture and counteracts the infiltrating function of culture.

Secondly, the reconstruction of the old cities causes the constructive destruction of the historical cultural landscape. Old city reconstruction includes restoration and reuse, and historical protection of old buildings, and improvement of infrastructure, etc. Generally speaking, old city reconstruction needs to maintain the original style and characteristics of the city, and merge the designer's understanding and thinking of the city into the building. It can be said that the transformation of the old cities has played an important role in improving the function of the city, building the image of the city, improving the quality of life and so on. However, driven by economic interests, and lacks relevant norms, the transformation of the old cities is more for economic and political purposes, ignoring the function of the city and the building as "stone history book". "Constructive destruction" continues spreading in the city, "the natural and cultural personality of the city is destroyed," and the transformation of the old cities blindly pursues foreign design or applies the same pattern, resulting in a sad scene of "the same style of thousands of cities."

Finally, excessive commercial development causes development damage to urban landscape. In places where historic sites and historic buildings are concentrated, local governments often develop tourism, which is not only conducive to local economic development, but also can exert the functions of teaching and cultural dissemination of historic sites and historic buildings. However, a small number of local governments in the development of tourism are in one-sided pursuit of economic interests, carry out excessive commercial operations and overload utilization to historic sites and historic buildings. Some of them, in order to expand the scope of scenic spots, even adopt destructive development methods such as demolition and reconstruction, overall transformation and so on. This makes a large number of historical cultural famous towns, famous streets, famous buildings, celebrities' former residence and other cultural resources be seriously damaged. "the authenticity and integrity of the original social structure of the cities, cultural relics, urban style and features as well as the local customs have all been destroyed." The development destruction has made the city lose its sense of history and gravity, its character and personality.

**The Traditional Urbanization Destroys the Inheritance of Local Culture**

Most of the traditional culture is the product of agricultural civilization, but in the process of rapid urbanization, with the disappearance of traditional villages, the impact of urban civilization on local civilization, the anomic of rural education and the rural culture protection mechanism, etc., "the cultural form of the traditional villages, which has been passed down from generation to generation and has been handed down to the present, is rapidly changing, and the internal structure of the traditional culture is also facing the crisis of fragmentation." The process of urbanization should be a process of mutual competition and mutual integration of urban culture and rural culture, urbanization is not to be rural, but to innovate and develop rural culture, make it more suitable for the needs of social development on the premise of maintaining the true character of rural culture. Under the condition of urban-rural dual society, the rapid advancement of urbanization has destroyed the inheritance of local culture.

First of all, the disappearance of traditional villages leads to the loss of the material carrier of the local culture. Farming civilization is the foundation of local culture, and rural natural village is the material carrier of local culture. In recent years, in the rapid urbanization tide, accompanied by land
expansion plan of local government, a large number of rural areas (including arable land) have been included in the town planning, the large-scale demolition and construction leads to rapid disappearance of natural villages. According to statistics, from 2000 to 2010, the number of natural villages in China decreased from 3.63 million to 2.71 million, with an average of 250 traditional villages disappearing every day. Village is the carrier of the local culture, the disappearance of the village means that the people feeling homesick cannot be comforted and homesickness has no shelter.

Secondly, urban culture and modern values have a great impact on local culture. Since the reform and opening up, our society has entered the transition period, a variety of new ideas, new concepts have poured into the country, transformed the traditional urban culture and values, urban civilization gradually connected with the world. In the dual structure, the local culture rooted in the farming civilization still develops according to the original economic structure and social structure, and the urban-rural culture keeps a delicate balance in the widening gap. In recent years, the urbanization with rapid development has brought the urban popular culture to the vast rural areas. The urban culture with modern industrial civilization as the main characteristic has a huge impact on the local culture with the traditional agricultural civilization as the main characteristic. To a certain extent, this has caused confusion of people's thoughts and misunderstanding in cognition, and has cast a shadow on farmers' values and cultural psychology. Nevertheless, rural culture still plays a social role in maintaining social stability in rural areas and maintaining the normal operation of clan order.

Finally, the mercantilism and profit-oriented thought of market economy disintegrates the local culture. With the promotion of urbanization, market economy has begun to take root in rural areas, the mercantilism and profit-oriented thought of the market economy conflict with the traditional justice and profit concept of the local culture, coupled with the widening gap between the rich and poor, farmers’ adherence to traditional values has wavered. Under the staggered impact of the old and new values, the farmers who are conservative and have not outstanding receptive ability have the tendency of value dislocation, and the original differential order pattern with clan relationship as the core in rural areas is difficult to adapt to the development of the market economy. Economic relations gradually replace blood relations and act as a link to maintain the relationship between people, local culture is facing the crisis of disintegration and fault.

Protection of Cultural Heritage and Continuation of the Chinese Cultural Context

Strengthening of the Protection and Utilization of Urban Cultural Heritage

City is the hall of culture, provides people with colorful cultural feast, urban cultural heritage is "history book", condenses the essence of thought, history and culture of different periods. The protection and rational use of urban cultural heritage can not only improve the cultural taste of the city and improve the quality of life of people, but also can accumulate cultural resources for the long-term development of the city.

First of all, clarifying government responsibility, changing the inherent concept of the government on economic development and urban cultural heritage protection. Urban cultural heritage is the most valuable cultural resources, providing high-quality cultural services for urban residents is an important responsibility of the government, therefore, the government should take the main responsibility in the protection of urban cultural heritage. For a long time, we have attached importance to the economic development, and ignored the development of the humanistic spirit, simply and brutally dealt with the relationship between economic development and the protection of urban cultural heritage, thought that it could not be reconciled and the development of economy would inevitably damage the urban cultural heritage, which has caused great damage and waste to the urban cultural heritage of our country. In fact, urban cultural heritage is not the burden of the city, but an important driving force for the sustainable development of the city. The local government should change the idea and set up the scientific idea that the city cultural heritage is the precious wealth, and regard it as an important part of our living and even life. In protective development, we need to understand that urban cultural heritage is a precious legacy left by our
ancestors, not only belongs to us, but also belongs to future generations, and we are only temporary
users and temporary custodians, so we cannot cut the way for our children and grandchildren just
for the temporary interests.

Secondly, in the process of urban construction and tourism development, strengthening the
protection of urban cultural heritage. Human urbanization requires that urban construction should
be based on human livability and human development. In the process of urban construction, we
should not only consider economic development, but also consider cultural heritage, preservation of
characteristics and heritage protection. We should take the initiative to learn from foreign
experience, abolish the old idea of "old city reconstruction", set up the scientific idea of "urban
renewal", and pay attention to the protection of historical cultural heritage, national cultural style,
traditional style and feature in the old city reconstruction, avoid the constructive destruction to
urban cultural heritage; constructing buffer zone around the important urban cultural heritage to not
only create a certain historic environment for the urban cultural heritage, but also reduce the human
and natural damage to the cultural heritage. We should respect the original structure layout and the
mechanism of streets and alleys in the transformation of historic blocks and traditional houses with
profound heritage, and cannot destroy the existing road network pattern. Tourism development is an
important way to protect urban cultural heritage, therefore, we should pay attention to the tourism
development of urban cultural heritage. Most of urban cultural heritage can be developed as tourism
resources, rational development based on the premise of strengthening the protection of urban
cultural heritage not only can promote the development of urban tourism economy, but also can rise
its social value, produce greater social benefits, and thus get more and more effective protection.

Finally, urging the public to become actively involved in the protection of urban cultural heritage.
To carry out the inheritance and development of urban cultural heritage, we must change the present
situation of government’s "monologue", insist on people-orientation, co-construction and sharing,
public welfare attribute and mass participation, highlight the characteristics, encourage innovation,
and actively outline a new vision of government-led and citizen-involved urban cultural heritage
protection. The government should do a good job in popularizing propaganda, let the public know
their dual identity as participants and beneficiaries of urban cultural heritage protection, and fully
mobilize the enthusiasm of the people to participate in. At the same time, the government should
disclose the relevant information of cultural heritage protection in time to ensure the people's right
to know. When making the relevant decision, the government should provide the public with the
platform to express their opinions, and actively give feedback to the public opinions, so as to
guarantee the people's right to participate in: In the process of policy implementation and cultural
heritage protection, the implementing departments should be under stricter supervision, and the
public should exercise the right to supervise.

Construction of Urban Culture and Continuation of Urban Context

Urban culture is the historical accumulation of the long-term development of the city, the root and
soul of the city, and "the context of the city is a part of the civilization history of the city and the
cultural gene of forming and accumulating the character of the city". In the process of urban
construction, it is necessary to construct city culture, build city spirit, and make use of cultural
resources reasonably to continue the historical context of the city, improve the quality of the city
and optimize the humanistic environment of the city.

First of all, exploring the city characteristic, creating "golden card" of the city. Each city has its
own characteristic, which is the root of the difference between this city and other cities. Only by
inheriting and carrying forward the characteristics of the city and developing it well while
protecting it can the soul of the city last forever and the context of the city be continued. In the
construction of urban culture, the first thing is to make a good plan, according to the city's
geographical environment, natural scenery, historical evolution, cultural heritage, national customs
and other characteristics, design the urban culture theme, and on this theme, deeply excavate and
refine the city's cultural resources, and focus on construction of cultural elements, which can best
reflect the city's cultural characteristics, to create the "golden card" of the city.
Secondly, merging historical culture into urban construction. Any society cannot completely get rid of its previous culture, seeking new changes and abandoning the cultural tradition will inevitably lead to a tragedy. Urban construction should not only carry on the infrastructure construction, but also explore, protect and inherit the historical culture and the urban context. Therefore, urban construction should pay attention to the integration with urban historical culture. Under current conditions, public places can be built to provide cultural services to the public, and the cultural and artistic features of the city should be merged into. Culture and art can be expressed in a variety of forms, sculpture, performance, video, murals and other forms can be used to attract and affect the masses, no matter what form it is, its purpose is to show the essence of urban culture, improve the moral sentiment and cultural quality of the public while spreading and inheriting urban culture.

Finally, building the spirit of the city. The country needs the national spirit, the city also needs the city spirit. City spirit is the core of urban culture, which plays the role of soul support, direction guidance and driving force for urban development. The Central City Work Conference demanded that each city should "build its own city spirit according to its own historic heritage, regional culture, and the requirements of the time, build an image, and get the citizen to cohere." To build a city spirit, we must first analyze the historical context and social characteristics of the city. From this point, the city spirit is the condensation and sublimation of the city's historical culture, and the new development of the urban context in the contemporary era. In general, the content of city spirit should be based on the city itself, not only reflect the characteristics of the present era, but also tap the essence of historical culture, and more importantly, should show the future goals. Of course, building the spirit of the city also needs the guarantee of the system and mechanism, the extensive participation of the people, and other practical conditions.

Acknowledgment

This research was financially supported by the Fund of Hunan Provincial Social Science Achievement Review Committee, The topic is Study on the Theories of Urban Problems in China And Its Governance Mechanisms (NO. XSP18YBC096).

References


[5] Tian Qing: We should have a sense of cultural urbanization, China Culture Daily, March 11, 2013.

