

# Reflections on “Reviving Confucian Culture” to Solve the Current Moral Decline in China

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## **Abstract:**

In this paper, the author has first made a dialectical analysis of the phenomenon of moral decline in current China, and analyzed its causes from China’s history and reality. Subsequently, the author has also analyzed the performance, essence and influence of the current “revival of Confucian culture” in current China. Therefore, the author has held that “reviving Confucian culture” can’t solve the current moral decline. Finally, combined with the social reality, the author has given some thoughts on its countermeasures.

**Keywords:** Moral decline, Cause of formation, Reviving Confucian culture, Countermeasure

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Currently, Chinese society is in a period of drastic transformation, and various social contradictions and problems are becoming increasingly prominent. The problem of moral decline is one of many social problems [1]. It is necessary to treat and understand this problem in a dialectical way, so as to help solve this problem and promote social stability, harmony, development and progress. In this paper, the author put forward some thoughts on this phenomenon, hoping to contribute to the analysis and solution of this problem.

## II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 2.1 Dialectical Analysis of Moral Decline in Current China

Needless to say, the problem of moral decline is indeed an objective problem in the current period of social transformation of China. However, is this problem a universal and popular social problem or a special and minority social problem in China? Whether from the perspective of the individual feelings or from the perspective of society as a whole, this is only a minority problem. That is to say, this problem only exists in a small number of social members. The overall moral status of society is still good, and the moral level of the vast majority of social members is good. This can be found in the emerging moral models around us and some common moral deeds in the newspapers. Just thinking a while, if there is

indeed a general moral decline in the whole society, there is no way for the society to continue to operate stably, harmoniously and orderly. In this case, the whole society must be a chaotic state of intrigue, self danger, unrest and disputes. However, China's current social situation is still very stable, harmonious and orderly. Therefore, it also reflects that the overall moral level of the whole society is still very high. In short, the mainstream of the moral situation of the whole society is still good. Although the problem of moral decline exists objectively, it is limited to a small number of social members and can't represent the mainstream of the whole society. Therefore, it is necessary for us to adhere to a positive and optimistic attitude towards this problem. Specifically, it is necessary for us to see that the overall moral situation of society is still good, which is the mainstream of the problem. Meanwhile, the problem of moral decline is only a tributary of the problem, which should not be exaggerated or overstated [2].

## 2.2 Analysis on the Causes of the Current Moral Decline in China

Since the current moral decline is an objective social problem, and the existence of this problem also has a negative impact on China's social stability, harmony, development and progress. Therefore, it is still necessary for us to comprehensively and deeply analyze this problem as well as thoroughly and effectively solve it. In order to solve this problem, we must first deeply analyze its causes, so as to help us put forward effective countermeasures.

There are profound and complex reasons for the emergence and existence of moral decline in current China. Specifically, it includes the following aspects.

### 2.2.1 The traditional moral standard system has been shaken by the previous ideological liberation movements since the new culture movement

The moral decline in current China is not only related to the actual social situation and social environment, but also related to some major historical events or movements. In the author's opinion, the new culture movement more than 100 years ago vigorously advocated democracy and science, which not only "knocked down the authority of Confucius's thoughts", but also shook the traditional moral norm system. Then, the cultural revolution further "broke the four old" and further cleared away the residual traditional moral consciousness and moral concepts in people's minds. Of course, because people at that time generally had a deep personal worship of Comrade Mao, the socialist morality advocated by Comrade Mao still had a strong binding force on people's behavior, and the spiritual and moral status of the whole society was still very positive. However, after Comrade Mao's death, people's worship of him and their belief in socialist morality gradually faded. Then, China started the process of reform and opening up. As a result, while China drew in capital, technology and advanced management experience from the western countries, western social thoughts began to flow into China on a large scale. Some negative social thoughts also mislead and corroded people's thoughts to a certain extent, and further compressed the living space of traditional ideas and ethics. As a result, people's traditional moral beliefs gradually declined and even completely lost. This has indirectly led to the formation of moral decline to a certain extent.

### 2.2.2 The influence of Western negative social thoughts

After the reform and opening up, China has drawn in western advanced production technology and management experience, which has promoted the rapid development of domestic economy to a certain extent. At the same time, western social thoughts have also poured into China, which are mixed. Among them, the social thoughts that had a great negative impact on Chinese society include individualism, liberalism, money worship, hedonism, etc. These social thoughts above have corroded the original moral consciousness and ideas in people's hearts, but the self-interest consciousness and ideas have been stimulated. Thus, to a certain extent, this has led to moral decline, which has appeared in a small number of people.

### 2.2.3 The development of market economy and capital logic stimulate the evil factors in human nature

After the reform and opening up, China has gradually liberalized the restrictive policies on the development of market economy. The 14th National Congress of the core administrative department of China formally put forward the socialist market economic system as the goal of economic system reform. Since then, China has embarked on a road of developing a market economy on the premise of the basic socialist system. On the one hand, this road has stimulated the vitality of various market subjects and brought about rapid economic development. On the other hand, the spontaneity of market regulation and resource cooperation has also caused a small number of market subjects to break through the bottom line of morality and even law in order to pursue their own economic interests, and made some acts in violation of morality and even law, which has given birth to and encouraged a self-interest atmosphere of only caring about themselves and ignoring others [3]. From another perspective, moral decline has also been the result of the evil factors in human nature inspired by capital logic since the reform and opening up. The essence of capital is the pursuit of value-added. Driven by this nature, it dares to break through the bottom line of morality and law and do something against morality and even law. After the reform and opening up, China has also appeared new business forms such as non-public economy. Its producers and operators have also been the personification or spokesman of capital to a certain extent, and has also been influenced by capital logic. Therefore, they have also taken the pursuit of value-added or profit as the primary goal of their production and business activities. Driven by the nature of capital, some of them didn't hesitate to break through the bottom line of morality and even law and used some improper means to seek more economic interests. This has also been a reason for the moral decline of a small number of social members.

### 2.2.4 The social legal system is not perfect

After the reform and opening up, China's modernization process has entered a period of accelerated development and drastic social transformation. As a result, many emerging business forms and subjects have emerged in the field of social production and life. However, due to the relatively backward construction of the legal system, the legal system in some production and life fields hasn't been perfect [4]. As a result, some people have played the edge ball of the law, drilled the loopholes of the law, and made some acts that violated morality, but there hasn't been legality to violate the law under the current rule of

law system, so as to seek more economic benefits. This has also been one of the causes of moral decline.

2.2.5 The new social moral system is still being formed and improved, and the moral binding force on social members needs to be improved

Since the reform and opening up, with the rapid transformation of the society from traditional to modern in China, and the drastic changes in social production and life, the traditional moral norm system has disappeared, while the moral system suitable for the new social situation and reality has still been forming, people's recognition of it needs to be improved, and its binding force on people's social behavior has still been relatively weak. Therefore, this has also indirectly promoted the formation of moral decline to a certain extent.

### 2.3 The Main Manifestation, Essence and Influence of Reviving Confucian Culture

Currently, the revival of Confucian culture has seemed to be a trend among a certain range and groups in China. Its manifestations are also diverse, such as the "Sinology fever", "reading Confucian classics fever", "Han Chinese clothing fever", the "secretly setting up a statue of Confucius" event in Tian'anmen Square, etc. Some of these expressions still seem more eye-catching or sound more useful. However, it is necessary for us to see their essence through these phenomena. The essence of reviving Confucian culture lies in trying to maintain the social moral order with a traditional moral value system. Its influence has also two sides. On the one hand, it helps to improve the moral consciousness and moral concept of some social members to a certain extent; On the other hand, its influence on the public is also limited. After all, it is now a modern society, and the social soil for the survival and development of Confucian culture has almost disappeared. And the revival of Confucian culture has mostly been confined to the external forms such as reading and Scripture, and has not really excavated the essence of Confucian culture, and combined it with the moral system and social order of modern society. Therefore, the revival of Confucian culture will also be difficult to achieve practical and extensive results.

### 2.4 Countermeasures of Moral Decline in Current China

The problem of moral decline can't be solved only by reviving Confucian culture. This is like that in order to maintain social harmony and order, Confucius seeking to revive the etiquette of Zhou Dynasty at the end of the Spring and Autumn Period when the etiquette were seriously destroyed, which is impossible to achieve. After all, the emergence and existence of Confucian culture has its specific social and historical conditions. Currently, in modern China, the social soil for the survival and development of Confucian culture almost no longer exists. Therefore, the revival of Confucian culture is difficult to achieve. Moreover, reviving Confucian culture means "retrogression" to Confucian culture to some extent, which isn't in line with Marxist social and historical view.

Moreover, the revival of Confucian culture essentially relies on the reconstruction of a traditional moral value system, which affects the operation of social order. Its impact on society is bound to be limited,

and it is difficult to completely and effectively solve the problem of moral decline to a certain extent and scope in current of Chinese society.

The author held that the solution of the current moral decline in China needs to make comprehensive efforts from the two aspects of rule of law and rule of virtue. In other words, to solve the problem of moral decline, it is necessary to combine the rule of law and the rule of virtue.

From the perspective of the rule of law, it is necessary to raise some moral principles to the height of law, so as to make the rule of law become a strong support for the rule of virtue, and let the rule of law provide the guarantee and support of legal authority for the rule of virtue.

From the perspective of rule of virtue, it is necessary to vigorously carry forward the socialist core values and use the core values to lead the moral construction of the whole society. At the same time, it is necessary to strengthen the publicity of advanced moral deeds and moral examples, so as to drive the moral trend of the whole society. In addition, the role of education should be given full play to. It is necessary to add moral education to school education, family education, vocational education and other links, improve the moral awareness and moral concept of all the members in the society, especially pay attention to early stage and small aspects, and pay close attention to moral education from kindergarten and primary school.

In short, to solve the problem of moral decline, it is necessary to combine the rule of virtue with the rule of law [5]. On the one hand, with the rule of law as the guarantee of the rule of virtue, social members who don't abide by moral norms will not only be morally condemned and despised, but also be punished and sanctioned by law, so that some immoral social members will pay a heavy price, so as to curb their immoral behavior. On the other hand, the rule of virtue is a supplement to the rule of law. As the current legal system of Chinese society is still being formed and improved, the social situation have changed dramatically and rapidly. Therefore, in the process of social operation, it is inevitable that some legal systems are relatively backward. In other words, there may be some loopholes or gaps in the law. In this case, there may be a small number of people who break through the moral bottom line and endanger others and social public interests in order to seek their own interests. At this time, morality is needed as a supplementary force. It is necessary to carry forward the socialist core values, strengthen the education of moral norms and the publicity of moral models and advanced deeds, so as to create a good social atmosphere, lead a good social moral fashion, provide a useful supplement to the rule of law, and provide a flexible binding force to solve the problem of moral decline in current China.

### **III. CONCLUSION**

Moral decline is an objective problem in the current drastic social transformation. It is necessary for us to analyze this problem in a dialectical way and take effective measures to solve it. To solve this problem thoroughly, it is necessary for us to combine the rule of law with the rule of virtue. Therefore, the current "four comprehensive" strategic layout in China plays a vital leading role in the development of the whole

economy and society. Of course, the moral status of the whole society is ultimately determined by the moral level of each social member. Therefore, all the members in the society should start from themselves and from every bit of life. They should use their behavior in line with moral norms to create a good moral atmosphere in the real society.

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