



A book review of the english version of lectures on traditional China's political thoughts

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Abstract

This article focuses on Yang, Dan's translated work *Lectures on Traditional China's Political Thoughts* authored by Xv Datong, which presents a detailed exploration of Chinese political thought. The translator aims to introduce key concepts from the Chinese version, including Confucianism, Mohism, Daoism, and Legalism, to an international audience. The English version emphasizes making complex ideas accessible while maintaining academic rigor. It plays a crucial role in promoting Chinese political thought globally, enhancing the country's cultural discourse power, and facilitating cross-cultural understanding. The translation helps to showcase the relevance of traditional China's political thoughts in modern times and its impact on contemporary Chinese governance. By providing annotations, glossaries, and explanations of key terms, the translation bridges cultural gaps and fosters a deeper understanding of Chinese philosophy. The English edition, published by Peter Lang, contributes to the global spread of Chinese political ideas, encouraging dialogue and intellectual exchange between Eastern and Western academic traditions.

Keywords: Lectures on traditional China's Political Thoughts, xv datong, yang dan, english translation, confucianism

Introduction

1. Value of the Original Work

1.1 Academic Value: The Profound Implications of Chinese Traditional Political Culture

Mr. Xv Datong's *Lectures on Chinese Traditional Political Thoughts* was published in 2015 and is an important work within the Ministry of Education's project for Popularized Readers of Humanities and Social Sciences. Xv uses simple language to explain the complexities of traditional China's political thoughts, employing clear and detailed textual analysis along with theoretical insights into fundamental issues. He explores ten perspectives, including political thoughts and basic characteristics, clues and features of the history of ancient China's political thought, focuses of ancient China's political thoughts, different political ideological systems, and role of intellectuals in traditional Chinese society, among others. He carefully analyzes these aspects, clearly and logically, with in-depth discussion. Especially noteworthy is his interpretation of the political thoughts of Confucianism, Mohism, Daoism, and Legalism from the pre-Qin period, showcasing his rigorous academic training and deep scholarship.

1.2 Practical Value: The Contemporary Significance of Traditional China's Political Thoughts

Lectures on Traditional China's Political Thoughts explains and promotes the Communist Party of China's guiding principles and policies, popularizing the latest theoretical innovations in philosophy and social sciences. The book helps make the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics more accessible to the public, translating these ideas into a powerful force driving reform, opening up, and modernization. The book reflects Xv's adherence to core principles and methods and serves to correct and guide the healthy development of Chinese political thought research today and in the future. Unlike typical academic or popular science works, this book emphasizes the transformation and dissemination of academic innovations and embodies the concept of a master writing a small book.

It encourages scholars to unite academic pursuits with social responsibility, to adhere to the correct direction, and to keep pace with the times. This approach contributes to building an innovative system for philosophy and social sciences in universities and to enhancing confidence in China's socialist path, theory, system, and culture, ultimately contributing to the development and prosperity of socialist culture.

1.3 Social Impact: The Propagation Value of Lectures on Traditional China's Political Thoughts

Chinese political science scholars and the media have paid great attention to the publication of *Lectures on Traditional China's Political Culture*. Ge Quan (President of the Chinese Political Thought History Research Association) believes that the book, with its inclusive approach to both Eastern and Western scholarship, offers a broad academic perspective on both Chinese and foreign political thought. Yang Yang (Professor at the School of Politics and Public Administration, China University of Political Science and Law) finds the book's political thought to be visionary, enlightening, and valuable for its insight into Marxism, political science, and real-world concerns. According to Sohu News (June 9, 2019), the book embodies Xv's deep concern for the history of Chinese political thought and his consistent belief that political thought history research should address real-world Chinese issues.

1.3.1 The Radiating Power of Lectures on Traditional China's Political Thoughts

Confucianism advocates the ideal of a world governed for the public good and the selection of virtuous and capable leaders, while socialism with Chinese characteristics promotes a society of well-being underpinned by ritual and righteousness. The essence of both is similar. The transition from the Great Harmony to Moderate Prosperity is an ongoing process, as well as a dialectical absorption of Confucianism into Marxism. Since Mao Zedong proposed the concept of "sinicizing Marxism", Marxism has embraced Confucian thought, shedding its outdated

elements and keeping pace with the times. Today, traditional China's thoughts, especially Confucianism, continue to thrive as part of China's cultural promotion to the world, grounded in Marxism, and serves as an inexhaustible driving force for global reach.

1.3.2 The Significance of Harmony Thought in the International Community

Lectures on Traditional China's Political Culture contains rich ideas of harmony, seen across various dynasties through the thoughts and policies of philosophers and political figures. These ideas have formed the profound culture of traditional Chinese harmony, a precious part of China's cultural heritage and a source of inspiration for building a harmonious society today. The unity of heaven and man, harmonious governance, and man-centered harmony are examples of such thinking that embody deep philosophical concepts. These ideas transcend Western political theories and represent a new vision for international order that is in line with the times and reflects humanity's shared desires for peace. The exploration, inheritance, and innovation of these thoughts have profound theoretical and practical significance for both China and the global community.

1.3.3 The Derivative Power of Traditional China's Political Thoughts

The derivative power of political culture lies in its ability to be passed down and embedded deeply in society, spreading across generations. For example, through the Belt and Road Initiative, traditional China's political thoughts can be integrated with the spirit of the times in other countries and regions, fostering mutual benefit, value complementarity, and cultural exchange. As President Xi Jinping pointed out: "Only by advancing from history to the future, by continuing the cultural heritage of the nation, can we succeed in today's endeavors".

2. The Purpose and Significance of Translating Traditional China's Political Thoughts

Incorporating the translation and dissemination of traditional Chinese thoughts into language policy research aligns with the innovation-driven development of the country's language and character affairs since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, especially in light of the 13th Five-Year Plan for the development of language and writing. The system for translating traditional China's political thoughts is a vital part of China's cultural "going global" strategy. The creation of a translation system for Chinese political culture is an important foundation for increasing China's international discourse power, enhancing its cultural soft power, and promoting a new image of China in the global arena.

2.1 Purpose of Translation: Gaining Cultural Discourse Power

The translator does not assume that Western audiences will automatically understand, accept, or appreciate traditional China's political thoughts, nor does the translator believe that simply translating Confucianism, Mohism, Daoism, and related Chinese texts into Western languages according to Western standards will suffice. Instead, the goal is to assert China's voice through translation, publishing the English version of the work at the prestigious Peter Lang

International Academic Publishing Group (ISBN 9781433198779). Peter Lang aims to break the academic publishing boundaries of Asian studies (such as Western sinology) and bring Chinese humanities and social sciences research into the core fields of Western academia.

2.2 Significance of Translation: Promoting China's Academic Discourse Worldwide

Lectures on Traditional China's Political Thoughts is an invaluable work in the field of Chinese political thought. Its translation plays an important role in promoting China's academic discourse globally, generating Western interest in traditional China's political thoughts, and fostering exchange and dialogue between Chinese and global philosophical and social science fields. The translation process involves not only dialectical thinking about the core ideas in the original text but also innovation in textual structure, precise rhetoric, and the reconstruction of key terms, reflecting the translator's academic achievements and aspirations.

3. Academic and Social Impact after Publication Overseas

3.1 Academic Impact

3.1.1 Promoting Cultural Understanding and Recognition

The English version of Lectures on Traditional China's Political Thoughts contains rich cultural connotations. By adding annotations, endnotes, a translator's postscript, and a glossary of key terms, the book presents the cultural context of the source language, helping readers better understand both the original text and the translator's intent. This promotes greater understanding and recognition between Chinese and Western cultures.

3.1.2 Balancing Academic and Popular Appeal

Through a thorough interpretation of the original text, the book makes Xv Datong's clear and insightful explanations of traditional China's political thoughts accessible to English-speaking readers. This balances academic rigor with the need to make complex ideas approachable for a wider audience.

3.2 Social Impact Overseas

3.2.1 Enhancing Reader Understanding of the Source Culture

The author, Xv Datong, has a profound academic background, and his work is one of the most important introductions to Chinese political thought in recent years. By using traditional translation methods for cultural terms like rectification of names, Six Arts, and the unity of heaven and man, and providing extensive annotations, the translation helps foreign readers understand the cultural context and enhances their grasp of Chinese political philosophy.

3.2.2 Improving the Acceptance of Chinese Culture by Foreign Audiences

By providing a bilingual glossary and focusing on key political terms, the translation clarifies concepts that could otherwise be misunderstood. This approach promotes deeper exploration of Chinese cultural ideas and ensures that readers can link the translation to the original text for further study.

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