

# Relationship between Liaohe Culture and Central Plains Culture and Chinese Culture

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**Abstract:** Chinese culture has evolved for more than a thousand years, and has a rare civilization in the world that has been recorded. With its unique and inclusive --, seeking common ground while reserving differences, a China with a splendid culture stands in the east of the world with colorful elements. Therefore, it has always been a major task for Chinese scholars to trace back to the source. This has prompted scholars to continuously explore the watershed culture. Compared with the more widely known Yangtze River and Yellow River cultures, the Liaohe River culture stands out with its unique characteristics. The two are inextricably linked, and even break the public cognition to a certain extent. Liaohe culture is like a washing of the Central Plains culture, which stimulates the enthusiasm of Chinese culture and also restricts the trend of decadence, corruption and complacency, which makes the Chinese culture be integrated within its own scope and step into a new process.

## 1. Introduction

Faced with the problem of the origin of Chinese culture, many people first think of the Yangtze River and the Yellow River. The Yangtze River represents the southern culture, and the opposite Yellow River represents the northern culture. In addition to the Yangtze and Yellow Rivers, the easily mentioned basins such as Heilongjiang and Pearl River are well known in the corresponding areas. Therefore, the Liaohe River, which is not a large basin area, is easy to be ignored, but the historical significance of the Liaohe River cannot be underestimated in exploring the Chinese culture and its origin.

The Liao River is located in northeast China, which is a very special region. Chinese traditional civilization can be roughly divided into two areas: -- farming areas and pastoral areas. The Liaohe River basin is in the transition zone from nomadic pastoral area to agricultural area. The upper reaches of the Liaohe River borders the Mongolian plateau, and some of it can even be planned to the Mongolian plateau. It is a very typical pastoral area, while the lower reaches is the famous Liaohe Plain, which belongs to the traditional farming area. Therefore, with the particularity of its geographical location, the people here can connect back and forth between the two civilizations, and its culture will also play an important role in the history.

## 2. Cultural Particularity of the Liaohe River Basin

As early as in liaohe or “golden waterway”, liaohe culture has begun to breed here, and eventually form waterway civilization, in the process of hundreds of years, liaohe to its pentium, for history left a string of precious waterway civilization symbol, like a bright pearl, constant reflects the liaohe culture. Mention of the Liaohe River culture has to say that the Hongshan culture. In the past, Hongshan culture was regarded as a variant of the Neolithic culture in the Central Plains, among which the most famous of which was jade, especially the jade dragon. After the Hongshan culture, the most important thing in the Liaohe River Basin is the --, a Bronze Age culture. The lower culture corresponds to the Xia Dynasty in the Central Plains. It can be seen that when the Central Plains entered the Bronze Age, the Liaohe River Basin was not willing to be left behind,

and soon entered the Bronze Age.

Compared with the early culture here, the people going out of the Liaohe River Basin are more important. In history, the nationalities emerging from the Liaohe River Basin included merchants, Xianbei, Mongolia and other nations that played an extremely important position in history. Some people even exaggerate that half of the whole history of the nomadic peoples in China was created by the peoples in the Liaohe River basin<sup>[1]</sup>.

Among them, Xianbei is particularly important in Chinese history. First of all, the Xianbei people became the second people in the mighty desert. During the Eastern Han Dynasty, the Northern Xiongnu was defeated, and the Xianbei occupied the Mobei grassland. In the middle of the Eastern Han Dynasty, the Tanshihuai of the Xianbei people unified the Xianbei tribes, forming another powerful nomadic empire after the Xiongnu. However, the unified Xianbei soon collapsed. But the Xianbei people became a typical representative of the nomads entering the Central Plains. Since the Wei and Jin Dynasties, the Xianbei people have moved in a large number of internal areas. The great ethnic migration in the Western Jin Dynasty was largely due to the internal migration of the Xianbei people. For example, the southern Xiongnu moved to Shanxi and south under the pressure of Xianbei. During the Jin Dynasty, the Xianbei people established the kingdoms of Wuyan, Dai, Nanliang, Western Qin and Tuguhun in the north, occupying half of the sixteen states. Later, the Northern Wei Dynasty established by Tuoba Xianbei unified the Central Plains and carried out the Sinicization, which made all the ethnic groups entering the Central Plains integrate into the Han nationality, laying the foundation for the unification of the Sui and Tang Dynasties. The Xianbei people have made great contributions to China.

The Liaohe River basin can be said to be the “hometown” of Chinese nomads. Xianbei, Soft, Khitan and Mongolia all originated here. They appeared from the Liaohe River and the Greater Hinggan Mountains, and brought a wave of westward and southward movements, triggering the great national migration movement of the whole Eurasian continent. Of course, the actors conquered again and again, and the nomadic peoples in the Liaohe River basin were eventually assimilated into the various nations on the Eurasian continent. Although the Liaohe River was small, it gave birth to the people that conquered the Eurasian continent and changed the pattern of the whole Eurasian continent. From this point of view, the Liaohe River basin should not be ignored.

### **3. The Geographical Location of the Liaohe River Basin to Shape Its National Spirit**

Social existence determines social consciousness, and economic foundation determines the superstructure. The special geographical position of the Liaohe River Basin absolutely plays an extraordinary influence on the shaping of its national spirit. The ancients were born according to the environment. When people could not change their surroundings, all they could do was to rely on the environment to change themselves. The objective existence of the environment in the Liaohe River basin is that the Liaohe River people understand the world and have the courage to practice. Constantly develop. To realize the external motivation of the self.

#### **3.1 The Unique Inclusiveness of the Liaohe River Basin Culture**

The Liaohe River Basin is located in the transition zone between agricultural areas and pastoral areas. The people here get along and blend, and different cultures spread and permeate each other here. The nation born here is born with the ability to deal with different cultures and different lives. Surviving and growing in this environment, communicating with foreign nations seems to have become the unique advantage of the Liaohe people. According to relevant signs, Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism spread here, and even ancient Christianity had communicated here. The vast and rich black land attracts a large number of famine and war refugees, who stopped here to bring new crops and new cultures that do not belong here. In a word, the Liaohe River Basin has for thousands of years integrated with other cultures, including the Central Plains culture, which has formed a cultural relationship and is closely linked to each other<sup>[12]</sup>.

#### **3.2 Open-Minded Learning Ability of Liaohe River Basin Culture**

The Liaohe River basin contains a large number of ethnic groups, and almost every nation regards Chinese culture as its own example. At the same time, it expands outward and converges outward all the way, absorbing a large number of foreign economic models, political system, educational methods, and cultural etiquette, especially in the Central Plains. At the same time, it integrates with its own culture and forms a new type of culture, which to a certain extent belongs to taking its essence and discarding its dross, and has a certain advanced nature. For the Central Plains here belongs to the border area, but it is constantly enterprising, and even strive to surpass.

### **3.3 The Unique Ethnic Customs of the Liaohe River Basin Culture**

The Liaohe River basin has different climates and regions. National tradition and other factors influence, formed a unique ethnic customs, affect such as social customs. Architectural art, sculpture painting, daily behavior and other distinct personalities are reorganized and innovated in the process of communication with other ethnic cultures, so a more three-dimensional and distinct national culture was formed. The process has been repeated for thousands of years and passed on to this day.

## **4. The Exchange and Impact of Liaohe Culture and Central Plains Culture**

Liaohe culture influence on the central plains culture can be compared to a washing, is also a punch to the traditional central plains culture, and the central plains culture in turn to liaohe culture brought more rich, more system of cultural etiquette, etc., the combination of one, has created a rich and colorful, extensive and profound part of the Chinese culture.

In the early traditional cultural exchange, the Central Plains formed a dominant situation with its strong political, economic and military strength. Although there were shocks around it, few cultures had the ability to fundamentally shake the dominant position of the Central Plains culture. But worry about work can rejuvenate the country, escape can die, covet pleasure will certainly harm life, long past this situation makes the Central Plains demon style -- officialdom corruption, political chaos, bureaucratic absurd and obscene. At this time, the arrival of Liaohe culture to some extent purified the negative part of the Central Plains culture, reactivated the social atmosphere of Confucianism and righteousness in the Central Plains, the selfless, uncorrupted officialdom benchmark, and the feelings of national unity. In this process, Liaohe culture is not to freeze its own culture, but to praise the Han culture to a certain extent, and at the same time, blend with its own culture, taking its essence and discard its dross while well retaining its own ethnic customs. For example, in this process, the Liaohe people combined their own simple national etiquette with the tedious etiquette of the Central Plains. In this process, many inhumane etiquette were abolished, and the social status of women had also been greatly improved. The impact of Liaohe culture on the Central Plains culture is mainly because it did not superposition its own cultural machinery with the Central Plains culture, but integrated the deeper cultural connotation and derived a unique new culture, which is the product of the collision of the two<sup>[3]</sup>.

“Born in distress, died in happiness”, this is a very realistic truth in ancient times. The Central Plains culture has experienced too long comfort, and the national spirit of unremitting self-improvement has been slightly worn out in history. The impact of liaohe culture has well stimulated the sense of danger in the Central Plains, and the Central Plains nation is equivalent to being restarted by the Liaohe people. The slow communication in the traditional cultural exchange makes the Central Plains lazy. The arrival of the Liao River culture is like a thunderbolt, politicians break through many obstacles and strive for change, strategists to die in the battlefield proud at the moment. The national spirit of unremitting self-improvement and vigorous has been carried forward by countless national heroes.

## **5. Tolerance and Development of Chinese Culture**

With the impact of Liaohe culture on the Central Plains culture, the opportunities to communicate with each other have been greatly increased. Traditional Chinese culture initially paid

attention to practical work, and after consolidating its position, it began to pursue the psychism of nothingness. After being impacted by Liaohe culture, it turned to pay attention to practical work. Instead, it was criticized in turn, which can be seen that excessive pursuit of nothingness will lead to the subjugation of the country. In the exchange of traditional culture, there is inevitably a lower culture too converging to the upper culture, but the Liaohe culture is stubborn in its bones, so it is only willing to blend with the Central Plains culture. This is also a good reflection of the inclusiveness of Chinese culture, which is a rising process. Because in the impact of cultural exchange, people can realize their own shortcomings, although this understanding is often accompanied by scars. Therefore, the people of the Central Plains were also willing to break the traditional barriers and actively extend their hand to the Liaohe culture. After that, there were fewer anti-humane customs, higher women's social status, less pressure on the traditional people, the relationship between the king and ministers became harmonious, and both sides. Culture is inevitable to go astray on the road of development, and it is easy to stay in the same place. Such mistakes are inevitable in history and unacceptable to The Times. As the main body of exchange, Liaohe culture does not rush to convergence or require the other side for convergence. At the same time, it does not meet the simple political and economic occupation, but pursues a higher level of cultural connotation and requires the integration of both cultures to derive a part of Chinese culture. This is not a simple process but an extremely important process. It is with the new derived Chinese culture that it can occupy an important position in history. The inclusiveness of Chinese culture has also been strengthened in this process. In subsequent cultural exchanges, Chinese culture has always maintained its own inclusiveness, always taken its essence to its dross, has been developing in the long history, constantly enriched its connotation, and has been developed to this day.

## **6. Conclusion**

In a word, the rich connotation of Chinese culture can not be achieved overnight, it is a long and complex process. As the fundamental Central Plains culture has been inherited by virtue of its own hard power and majestic influence. Whenever there is stagnation, there will always be such as Liaohe culture to wash, reorganize and derive the Central Plains culture. It is the integration in history that forms the extensive and profound Chinese culture, which is not the crystallization of the production of a nation, but a bright treasure jointly created by each nation. Now, faced with the impact of world culture, we should also stand firm, stay true to our original aspiration, learn from each other, and foster a more profound Chinese culture.

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