

Study on Overseas Chinese and Hometown of Overseas Chinese of Guangdong Province Since Modern Times

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Abstract—With the development of the times, the overseas Chinese and their hometown of Guangdong province are changing. Viewing the four perspectives such as the historical composition of Cantonese overseas Chinese, the interaction between overseas Chinese of Guangdong province and their hometowns in modern times, the new situation of Cantonese overseas Chinese in the era, and the overseas Chinese of Guangdong province and their hometowns in the context of globalization, it is inevitable that the overseas Chinese and their hometowns will change in the process of time and space. The hometowns of overseas Chinese should correctly face the reality, change their concepts, and seize the opportunities for development.

Keywords—Guangdong province; overseas Chinese; hometown of overseas Chinese; development

I. INTRODUCTION

As a specific title, the term "overseas Chinese" has only been used more than one hundred years by now, while the status of Chinese living abroad appeared in the pre-Qin period. [1] During 1840-1949, when overseas Chinese went abroad on the largest scale, the pattern of "overseas Chinese being everywhere as the sea" was established. As a result, Guangdong province has become a famous concentration area of overseas Chinese. The following is a brief discussion on the related issues of overseas Chinese of Guangdong province and their hometowns since modern times, which has combined with the relevant research in the current academic circles.

II. THE HISTORICAL COMPOSITION OF CANTONESE OVERSEAS CHINESE

The main reason why overseas Chinese of Guangdong province went abroad in modern times was the contradiction between the increasing population pressure and the relative shrinkage of arable land. For example, the phenomenon of "the increasing population pressure and the relative shrinkage of arable land in the eastern of Guangdong province" had become common in the late Qing dynasty. [2] They have no choice but to go abroad to make a living.

Due to the geographical relationship, overseas Chinese of Guangdong province migrated to Southeast Asia as early as possible. Until the Qing dynasty, Southeast Asia was still the main area, followed by America, Australia, Africa and the Europe. After the Opium War, due to the opening up of tin mines and plantations in southeast Asia and the demand for development in the Americas, a large number of Cantonese quickly dispersed to these places under the external attraction and internal pressure, which laid the basic rudiment of the geographical distribution of overseas Chinese today. According to the statistics of relevant scholars, there are at least 30 million overseas Chinese in China, and two thirds of which are from Guangdong province [3].

III. INTERACTION BETWEEN OVERSEAS CHINESE AND HOMETOWN OF OVERSEAS CHINESE OF GUANGDONG PROVINCE IN MODERN TIMES

The interaction between overseas Chinese of Guangdong province and the hometowns of overseas Chinese since modern times is mainly manifested in two aspects. One is the contribution of overseas Chinese of Guangdong province to the hometowns of overseas Chinese, and the other is the reaction of the hometowns of overseas Chinese to overseas Chinese.

A. The Impact of Overseas Chinese of Guangdong Province on the Hometown of Overseas Chinese

Overseas Chinese have made three aspects of contribution to the development of the hometown of overseas Chinese.

First are overseas remittances. It was the basic form of overseas Chinese's financial aid to their hometown in the early modern times. Overseas remittances are sent back to their homes through merchants who transported goods by water, money shops or banks, and their wives and children can live. According to relevant data, from 1862 to 1949, the total number of overseas remittances was more than US\$3.5 billion. [4] These remittances are an important source of livelihood for the families of overseas Chinese, which have greatly reduced China's foreign trade deficit to a large extent.

Second, investing in the hometown of overseas Chinese, and introducing technology and equipment have changed the lifestyle of overseas Chinese. Sixty or seventy years before China's reform and opening up, some hometowns of overseas Chinese in Guangdong province had already made strides under the investment of overseas Chinese. After 1892, Zhang Bishi, an Indonesian overseas Chinese from Taipu, Chaozhou, invested successively in Guangdong province to establish salt companies, reclamation and animal husbandry companies, machinery manufacturing factories and Guangzhou Santie Railway. [5] Overseas Chinese have also pioneered the inland investment in enterprises. [6] In the process of establishing various modern industrial enterprises, overseas Chinese in Guangdong province introduced advanced modern industrial equipment. For example, Meixian Guangyao Electric Lights Co., Ltd., which was founded in 1915 by overseas Chinese Huang Lanjun and others, purchased transmission wires and generators from Guangzhou, Shanghai and even Germany. The company generates about 50,000 kilowatt hours of electricity annually for more than 1,000 households until the eve of liberation. [7] In 1906, Zhang Rongxuan and Zhang Yaoxian, Indonesian overseas Chinese of Meixian invested heavily in the construction of Chaoshan Railway, the first pure commercial railway in China. There are also overseas Chinese of Meixian who purchase machinery and equipment from abroad setting up stocking factories, machine repair factories, matches factories and glass factories in their hometown. [8] With the investment and construction of overseas Chinese, the hometowns of overseas Chinese in Guangdong province have gradually flourished. In parallel with overseas Chinese investment in factories, changes in the lifestyle in the hometowns of overseas Chinese have taken place. Advanced scientific and technological achievements in modern western countries, such as electric lights, tap water, automobiles and trains, are rare in most areas of modern China, while the people in the hometown of overseas Chinese of Guangdong province are already familiar with them in their lives in the early years of the Republic of China, which is the contribution of overseas Chinese to their hometown.

Third is to develop education and public welfare undertakings. Overseas Chinese, with their broad vision, generally realize that the prosperity of the motherland is closely related to their destiny, and that running education will certainly revitalize China. [9] Since the late 19th century, some overseas Chinese have set up Western-style enlightenment education, hoping that their children can improve their quality and ability by learning advanced western culture, and make contributions to the prosperity and strength of the country.

It is well known that Rong Hong takes the educational measures to rejuvenate the country. He also founded "Zhenxian Yixue" in his hometown in 1872 (now Nanping School in Zhuhai). In Chaoshan area, six private schools were founded by overseas Chinese in the late Qing Dynasty. Before the founding of New China, Taishan raised funds from overseas Chinese in the form of clan names and rural areas, changed private schools or ancestral temples into schools, and raised funds to build 86 new primary schools

and 9 secondary schools. [10] In the 1930s and 1940s, all kinds of schools set up under the support of overseas Chinese of Guangdong province reached 360 schools [11].

After the founding of the People's Republic of China, there was still much overseas Chinese donating money to their hometown to run schools even in the period of the Cultural Revolution. There are 16 new primary schools in Pu'ning city and 152 new primary and secondary schools, video universities and nurses schools in Taishan city. From 1979 to 2000, donations from overseas Chinese and compatriots in Hong Kong and Macao were used to develop cultural, educational and scientific research in Guangdong province, which reached to RMB 12.461 billion, accounting for 38.81% of the total donations. [12] Since modern times, the development of the hometown of overseas Chinese of Guangdong province has been inseparable from the devotion of the vast number of overseas Chinese.

Overseas Chinese of Guangdong province and compatriots in Hong Kong and Macao have always shown great concern for their homeland in terms of promoting charitable and public welfare undertakings and saving the world and the people. Taking Taishan city as an example, the "Leshan Tang" set up by overseas Chinese in Guanghai city began to donate medicine since 1880, and set up the "Dade Tang" to collect the dead bodies. Since then, 25 hospitals (health centers) and 25 medical buildings have been built in Taishan city with donations from overseas Chinese, such as Mingshan Convenience Hospital, Hongji Hospital and Fumin Hospital, and 21 ambulances and a large number of medical devices have been donated to improve the medical conditions for Taishan people. [13] This situation is quite common in other hometowns of overseas Chinese in Guangdong province. There are some articles on it, which need not be overloaded here. Up to now, the support of overseas Chinese of Guangdong province for their hometown is still endless [14].

To sum up, overseas Chinese have poured their deep affection into the development of the hometown of overseas Chinese of Guangdong province since modern times. Guangdong province has made tremendous achievements since the reform and opening up. In addition to the national policy and people's hard work, there is also an important foundation accumulation, that is, the continuous support from overseas Chinese.

B. The Reaction of the Hometown of Overseas Chinese to Overseas Chinese

Overseas Chinese are called "wanderers". Early overseas Chinese of Guangdong province struggled abroad, but their hearts were always missing their hometown. The hometown of overseas Chinese has an invisible role and influence on overseas Chinese, which are mainly manifested in three aspects:

First, the hometown of overseas Chinese is the spiritual pillar of overseas Chinese. Since ancient times, the love for the nation has been the pillar of the Chinese people's spiritual boat. When the overseas Chinese encounter fellow countrymen, they will always have a sense of intimacy. Once

the number of overseas Chinese in a certain area has a certain scale, they will also set up a fellow countrymen's club. The overseas Chinese in old age always want to return to their hometown, hoping that "the leaves return to the roots". The hometown of overseas Chinese can be used as a way out for overseas Chinese to survive. Even a few mu of barren land can become a fortress for them to retreat in case their overseas development fails. The expectations of the relatives in the hometown are the driving force for them to overcome difficulties and develop their career.

Second, the hometown of overseas Chinese is the place where overseas Chinese realize their self-worth. Influenced by traditional culture, the phenomenon of "making one's ancestors illustrious" and "returning home after getting fame or money" are common for the vast majority of overseas Chinese of Guangdong province in modern times. They will devote their pursuit of realizing their self-worth to their homeland. If their economic capacity permits, they will be respected by their parents and elders in their hometown by investing in public welfare undertakings such as building schools, roads and schools. If the overseas Chinese invest in enterprises in their hometown, they can better integrate the interests of the hometown with those of overseas Chinese. Love for home, love for hometown and patriotism make overseas Chinese of Guangdong province realize their own personal values and social values while contributing to their families and hometown.

The third aspect is the negative influence of the hometown of overseas Chinese on overseas Chinese. In Guangdong province, due to historical and traditional reasons, as well as the special identity and characteristics of overseas Chinese, some old and bad customs of the hometown of overseas Chinese also have a certain psychological impact on overseas Chinese. The typical customs are represented by the phenomenon of "marrying a cock" and luxury.

"Marring a cock" is an old marriage custom of the hometown of overseas Chinese in Guangdong province. Overseas Chinese men make a living abroad when they are young. Some of them can't return home when they reach the age of getting married. They have to choose the girls for marriage by their parents at home, and serve the elderly. On the day of the "newly-married", instead of the groom, a series of wedding ceremonies were held by a cock held by a woman. Most brides are the daughters of poor families. "Marrying a cock" is a sign of life's hardship. After many years of marriage, when the husband does return, the wife may adopt a boy as her heir, which is called the corn earworm. A few brides have never seen the groom in their lifetime, and remain "widowed" all their lives. This custom is a heavy burden for those who do not develop smoothly overseas. The old custom of "marrying a cock" was not abolished until the founding of New China.

The luxury of overseas Chinese was once prevalent in modern times. Overseas Chinese's hard-earned remittances have improved their families' lives, promoted local economic development and social prosperity, but also created a social atmosphere of advocating luxury. Many overseas Chinese

like leisure and hate work depending on the remittances. Some overseas Chinese women spend the remittances on gambling, playing and luxurious dressing, and they don't cherish men's hard-earned money. [15] Some overseas Chinese women even get together to gamble and play cards day and night. [16] The luxurious life of the family members of overseas Chinese has formed a scale, and the business of tobacco houses, gambling houses and brothels in many places is booming. This phenomenon adds a heavy psychological burden to overseas Chinese who work abroad.

Viewing the above, the relationship between overseas Chinese of Guangdong province and their hometowns in modern times is rather complicated, and we cannot unilaterally emphasize the positive or negative aspects. This is what we should pay attention to when we objectively understand the hometowns of overseas Chinese.

Fourthly, people should pay attention to overseas Chinese journals that maintain the provincialism of overseas Chinese. In modern times, in order to communicate with overseas fellow villagers, a kind of folk magazines called "township magazine", "local accent" and "township news" appeared in the hometown of overseas Chinese in Guangdong province, which are collectively known as overseas Chinese magazines. The reports in overseas Chinese magazines are basically about the people and events in the hometown of overseas Chinese. Overseas Chinese journals are welcomed by overseas Chinese because they report information about their hometowns. They are called "collective family letters of overseas Chinese", and some scholars regard them as "the cultural landscape with the richest local flavor in the homeland of overseas Chinese" [17].

The earliest overseas Chinese magazine in Guangdong province was "Xin'ning Magazine" of Taishan city, which was founded in the first year of Xuantonq in Qing Dynasty (1909). Since then, overseas Chinese journals have appeared one after another in various overseas Chinese villages in Guangdong province, and the number of overseas Chinese journals will reach 150 by the year of 2016. [18] With the development of society, the information of the hometown of overseas Chinese compiled by overseas Chinese journals has been more and more integrated into the characteristics of the reform and opening up in the new era. Moreover, in terms of complication mode, the popularity and application of the Internet has made overseas Chinese journals have electronic version on the basis of paper edition, and the spread of overseas Chinese journals is wider. At present, Guangdong province has begun to build a database of overseas Chinese journals and local news, which is conducive to understand the development and changes of the hometown of overseas Chinese from various perspectives, thus contributing to the construction and development of the hometown of overseas Chinese.

IV. THE CHANGE OF THE MOOD OF CANTONESE OVERSEAS CHINESE

Time flies. Whenever we see the old overseas Chinese with white hair returning hometown, we can feel their

attachment to the homeland and strong homesickness. Nowadays, when we see the young and naive overseas Chinese children come to strange homeland from their host country, we have to admit that the hearts of overseas Chinese are experiencing a historic change.

A. The Plot of Loving the Native Land of the Old Generation of Overseas Chinese

Here are two pieces of information about overseas Chinese.

Data 1: On December 14, the 34th year of Guangxu period (1908), the Sanyi General Hall of the United States received a letter from overseas Chinese stating that three overseas Chinese prepared to register and preserve the information, money and relics of several friends who died in the United States before returning home, so as to collect and transport the remains for burial in the future. The letter details the information of the deceased and their remains. [19] The three overseas Chinese will take care of the remains of their deceased fellow countrymen, and help them fulfill their wishes to return to the roots of the fallen leaves.

Data 2: In 1997, Yun Changlong, an elderly overseas Chinese from Wenchang who lived in Malaysia since the childhood, returned to his hometown to spend his old age peacefully. Due to the change of administrative divisions in China, his native place has changed from Guangdong province to Hainan province, and the old house in his hometown has ceased to exist. He applied to the local government to build a house on his ancestral base. [20]

The above two materials reflect the love for hometown of the older generation of overseas Chinese to a certain extent. In the early years, overseas Chinese maintained the geographic and consanguineous cultural traditions because they held the idea of "deciduous leaves returning to their roots". However, ethnic Chinese born in foreign countries are often assimilated by the culture of the host countries. Especially after World War II, there is a tendency for overseas Chinese society to join the mainstream society of the host countries from a relatively independent "sub-social form". They have new ideas on the awareness of "roots". [21] The change of "roots on the ground" has begun.

B. The Indifference of the Second or Third Generation of Overseas Chinese to Their Hometown

The main reasons for the overseas Chinese to "return to hometown and root in hometown" are the vigorous localization movement in various countries after World War II. The declaration of non-recognition of dual nationality by New China makes overseas Chinese gradually integrate into the mainstream society of the host countries in terms of ideology, legal status and lifestyle, and the cohesion of traditional Chinese communities is shrinking. In view of this, some people have commented that although there are many overseas Chinese associations today, their social functions are much worse than before. [22] Comparing with the role played by the overseas Chinese groups in the early stage, this view is obviously reasonable.

The older generation of overseas Chinese, who are closely related to their hometowns, is getting older and older, and their descendants gradually take over their careers. These ethnic Chinese received education of the host countries from an early age. Most of them did not know Chinese. They had little or no immediate relatives in the hometown of overseas Chinese, and little knowledge of Chinese culture. It was inevitable that they were indifferent to the hometown. They do not have a good childhood memory in the homeland of overseas Chinese. They can't understand the deep feelings of the old overseas Chinese for the hometown of the overseas Chinese. They are more adapted to the life of the local country. Their support to the homeland is more likely to be investment than remittance or donation from the elderly. Over the past ten years, the younger generation of ethnic Chinese has also repeatedly organized groups to visit the hometown of overseas Chinese. Generally speaking, this kind of activity of returning to their ancestral home includes the tourism. There is a lack of local ties between them and the hometown of overseas Chinese.

In view of the above situation, the relevant departments should timely understand and grasp the changes in the situation of overseas Chinese, timely change their concepts, and establish an innovative concept of fair competition like that in non-overseas Chinese homeland as soon as possible, so as to be self-reliant. And they can't rely too much on the donations of overseas Chinese.

V. OVERSEAS CHINESE AND HOMETOWN OF OVERSEAS CHINESE UNDER THE SITUATION OF GLOBALIZATION

The world has entered an era of globalization. When we re-examine the overseas Chinese and their hometowns of Guangdong province, we find that they have merged into the tide of globalization.

A. Globalized Society and Increasingly Cosmopolitan Overseas Chinese

With the rapid development of scientific and technological revolution and the acceleration of economic globalization, the overseas Chinese of Guangdong province inevitably becomes worldwide.

One of the manifestations of the increasing globalization is the formation of networks by overseas Chinese companies and enterprises. Like the Internet, this kind of network can not only maximize the access to economic and technological information, but also facilitate the friendship and inspection among communities, thus improving efficiency under a specific cultural background and specific environment. The functions of traditional societies, such as watching and helping each other, organizing charitable and welfare undertakings, and carrying out cultural and educational activities, are still retained. This is its value.

In the globalized environment, the increasingly cosmopolitan overseas Chinese have strengthened their contacts and cooperation, which are also manifested in the formation of global and regional organizations. These activities mainly focus on economic, scientific and

technological cooperation and exchanges. For example, the annual meeting of international tide groups, the annual meeting of world relatives, the annual meeting of Chinese business leaders, the World Chinese Forum, the World Chinese Business Conference, and so on. Various forms make it possible for overseas Chinese and the hometown of overseas Chinese of Guangdong province to build a platform of mutual benefit and mutual assistance in a broader space, and both of them are on the track of world integration.

B. Globalized Society and New Trend of the Development of the Hometown of Overseas Chinese

Globalization has brought opportunities and vigor to the hometown of overseas Chinese of Guangdong province, but it has also caused some complex problems.

Overseas Chinese donations make up for the shortage of funds for social welfare and promote the development of the hometown of overseas Chinese. However, overseas Chinese donations to the hometown of overseas Chinese are also facing complex situations. First, as mentioned above, overseas Chinese donations are gradually decreasing, and this trend continues. Second, great changes have taken place in both overseas Chinese and their hometowns. On the aspect of the hometown of overseas Chinese, there are some things that violate the wishes of donors, damage overseas Chinese donation projects, and change public welfare purposes, which make overseas Chinese show distrust of the practices of the hometown of overseas Chinese. According to the online edition of Nanfang Daily on May 14, 2008, the donation of overseas Chinese of Guangdong province had exceeded 50 billion yuan by 2014. However, some representatives of overseas Chinese questioned that there were many donations from overseas Chinese, but the direction of donation was often not clear enough. The overseas Chinese hope relevant departments can legislate to supervise the direction of donation. The report of Guangzhou Daily attracted the attention of the press. Thirdly, overseas Chinese donations have always focused on the public welfare of the hometown of overseas Chinese, but not much has been used for production. This situation makes the hometown of overseas Chinese feel pressure in the fierce competition of world economic integration. Therefore, the hometown of overseas Chinese must adjust their mentality and treat overseas Chinese donations correctly. They should make full use of the human resources based on geography and relatives to build economic and trade networks at home and abroad, introduce advanced operation mode for the hometown of overseas Chinese, and build an economic platform for the hometown of overseas Chinese relying on the development of secondary and tertiary industries.

In fact, Chaozhou and Jiangmen are two hometowns of overseas Chinese in Chaozhou, Guangdong province. Chaozhou business network facilitates the enterprises in Chaozhou city to enter the world market, and promotes the economic development of Chaozhou city. The total export volume of Chaozhou city exceeded 1.8 billion US dollars in 2008, of which the share of three-capital enterprises was more than 50%. The export volume of Chaozhou city reached about 2.6 billion US dollars in 2017 [23]. [24] The

export volume of Jiangmen city, known as the capital of overseas Chinese in Guangdong province, was 9.66 billion US dollars in 2008 and 16.7 billion US dollars in 2018 [25]. [26] The export volume of Zhongshan, another hometown of overseas Chinese, reached 26.8 billion US dollars in 2018. [27] It is a wise move for the hometown of overseas Chinese to change the focus on the donation of overseas Chinese to attract investment from overseas Chinese, and then to open up and attract investment to a wider foreign and overseas market under the situation of world economic integration.

VI. CONCLUSION

Overseas Chinese have a strong feeling of homeland, and they still have the local accent. With the development and change of social environment, the relationship between overseas Chinese and their hometowns has always been maintained by emotional ties. On the other hand, it is also changing slowly. Under the trend of world economic integration, the hometown of overseas Chinese of Guangdong province should broaden their minds and keep pace with the times. The people in the hometown of overseas Chinese can exert their great potential and forge ahead. The hometown of overseas Chinese of Guangdong province should also be able to appear on the world stage with a brand-new look. Overseas Chinese will also be more emotional with the hometown of overseas Chinese because of the achievements.

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