

# The Social Responsibilities of Contemporary Universities

## Community of Common Destiny

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**Abstract**—The world is undergoing a period of great changes and adjustments. The rapid development of the productive forces and the increasingly close interaction of the society have promoted the development of human civilization, and it has brought many challenges to the survival of mankind. Contemporary university as a modern society, a think-tank, and the cultivation base of high-end talent should be from the height of human interests, beyond the boundaries of the university, and shoulder the mission of build a new world order. The concept of human destiny community is the new international relations principle proposed by China based on the historical experience of the world and the new trend of the times. It has important theoretical significance for the extension and deepening of social responsibility in contemporary universities, and also points the way forward for the future international cooperation of education.

**Keywords**—social responsibility education; contemporary universities; community of common destiny

### I. INTRODUCTION

The world is in a period of great changes and adjustments, and peace and development remain the themes of the times. World multi-polarization, economic globalization, social informatization and cultural diversity are further developed. The reform of the global governance system and the international order has accelerated. Countries have become increasingly interconnected and interdependent, and the international balance of power has become more balanced and the trend of peaceful development is irreversible. At the same time, the problem of instability and uncertainty in the world is highlighted. The world economy is not growing in momentum, and the gap between the rich and the poor is becoming more and more serious. Regional hotspot issues keep cropping up. The terrorism, network security, and major contagious disease, climate change and other non-traditional security threats continue to spread, and mankind is faced with many common challenges.

In response to these common challenges, a "human destiny community" based on the continuation of human civilization has gradually been recognized. In 2011, the "China's peaceful development" white paper proposed that we should seek the new connotation of common interests and

common values of mankind with a new perspective of "community of destiny". Human destiny community means that the existence of human beings as a whole community of partners. It means that there is a community of shared interests among nations, among the peoples of the world, which are interconnected, interdependent, and shared by each other. People become partners of mutual benefit, risk sharing, value compatibility, behavioral convergence and mutual assistance. It is a relationship of mutual dependence, trust, solidarity and shared prosperity. University is the think tank of modern society and the hub of truth and the base of talent cultivation. In his book the time of scholars, n.m. heap, the 24th President of Harvard University, has pointed out that: "Every large-scale modern society, regardless of its political, economic, or religious system is what kind, and all need to establish a mechanism to deliver esoteric knowledge, analysis and critique of existing knowledge, and explore new areas of knowledge. In other words, where there is a need for rational analysis, identification, exposition, or concern, there will be universities." University is a place for scholars to conduct teaching, scientific research and social services, and it is its primary responsibility to cultivate talents, conduct scientific research and serve the society. To reinterpret the university's responsibilities and to build a fair and equitable international order of education is inseparable from the guidance of values and ideas. The community of human destiny has injected new era content into contemporary university responsibility.

### II. THE THEORETICAL CONNOTATION OF THE COMMUNITY OF HUMAN DESTINY

In traditional societies, people are isolated from each other in relatively confined Spaces. With the universalization of great industry, division of labor and communication, the world market has been opened up and history has become the world's history. The mutual exchanges between nations and peoples and the interdependence of various aspects are irreversibly becoming historical trends and basic facts. In the current era, no country can deal with it alone on issues such as ecological environment, anti-terrorism and nuclear security. The people who live together in the global village are now answering a puzzling question: where are the humans going? Based on this question, we introduce a

concept - community. The idea of the community is already existed in the history of human thought, and it has a long history in philosophy, politics and sociology. The concept of the community can be traced back to the ancient Greek Aristotle, who once said in his "Political science": "All city-states are some kind of community, and all communities are built for a common good." Aristotle defined the community in the sense of ethics. He defined "good" as the highest value of the community, and every community was established to accomplish certain good karma. Unlike Aristotle, Cicero in ancient Rome believed that the community was "a combination of many people based on the unity of law and the community of interests". Cicero goes beyond Aristotle's purpose of "good", and holds the law, interests, etc., as the basis for people to combine. Strict sense, the early of the "community" is not in the form of concept; it is only as a "national" (city) the collection of repeat, is the "country" (city) of the interpretation and explanation. Today, the community as an important concept is widely used in philosophy, politics, sociology, ethics, anthropology and other fields. From the point of view of etymology, the community (community) originated in ancient Greek & western Κοινότητα, means through conversation, communication, exchange, communication, etc., and formed the common words and understands the background of social group. German famous sociologist and philosopher Ferdinand Tönnies think community is based on natural groups (such as family, religion). It is based on the instinct of the people, the adaptation of habit, the common memory of the mind, it is not the state of machinery, but the organic life. It is precisely because the community is related to the high degree of personal intimacy, the compatibility of each other's emotions, the strong moral commitment, and the strong social cohesion, etc., characteristics. It makes the community not only a descriptive concept to reveal the relationship between people, but also a concept of value bearing human's rich moral feelings. British sociologist Zygmunt Bauman pointed out that community means between the people is a close partnership, has a strong emotional foundation and the value of a strong identity, and closely interdependent relationship, it is not only the interests of the community, it is affective community, is also an interactive community. It is a symbol of the mutual trust, to pull together in times of trouble, the sharing of common prosperity, the stability and determination of the people, and the presence of the people, so it is the human heart's yearning for the existence of the state. People combine to form a community for the benefit of the community and for the acquisition of certain necessities in life. Community, therefore, is not a group of people loose combination, but inherently contains the friendship, loyalty, justice, order and obligations such as value. It has the concept of identity and behaviors of social groups, common interests constitute the core link and important foundation of its existence. The current international situation is characterized by multi-polarization, economic globalization, cultural diversity and social informatization. Food safety, the shortage of resources, climate change, the network attack, population explosion, environment pollution, disease epidemic, transnational crimes and other global non-traditional security problems

emerge in endlessly, of the international order and poses a serious challenge for the survival of the human race. No matter where people live, how faith, whether they want to, they are actually in a community of destiny. At the same time, a global value system that aims to address the common challenges of mankind has begun to emerge and is gaining international consensus. With the change of times, when the concept of community is embedded in the context of globalization, a whole new concept is formed — The community of human destiny. In 2011, China's 'White paper on peaceful development' advocated different types and countries in different stages of development, and they formed a human destiny community. In January 2017, President Xi Jinping delivered an important speech on "Jointly build a human destiny community for mankind" at the UN headquarters in Geneva for the first time to explain to the international community the concept of building a community of Shared future for mankind. Human destiny community means that the existence of human beings as a whole community of partners, also means that between countries, between the people of the world to form a mutual contact and mutual dependence, common fate is closely linked, and the interests of the community. The relationship among people is the mutual benefit, risk sharing, value compatibility, behavioral convergence and mutual assistance. The community of human destiny includes the view of equality and mutual understanding. The security concept of fairness, justice and joint contribution. The community of common destiny includes the view of equality and mutual understanding, the security concept of fairness, justice and joint contribution, the concept of win-win cooperation and inclusive development, the civilization of different and eclectic view, and the ecological view of natural and green development.

### III. UNIVERSITY RESPONSIBILITY BASED ON HUMAN DESTINY COMMUNITY

#### A. Cultivate Talents with the Idea of Community of Human Destiny

University is a kind of social institution, which originates from the needs of society, assumes the responsibility of society, and serves the development of society. Cultivating talents is the fundamental mission of the university. In "the rise of universities", Charles Homer Haskin pointed out that the university has been cultivating talents as its eternal fundamental task since its birth. No matter how the outside world changes, the main business of the university has never changed. It is to train students and keep learning and to explore the tradition. The responsibility of educating people is always the core of social responsibility of the university. The university should guide the cultivation of talents with the concept of the community of Shared future of mankind, build a platform for college students, and promote the exchanges among university students in different countries. By means of mutual exchange, joint training and other methods, the internationalization level of personnel training can be promoted, and the international understanding and international recognition of university students will be enhanced in the communication. In addition, the university

needs to strengthen students' education for international understanding, help students to rational understanding of different cultures in different countries, guides the student to focus on common problems and challenges facing humanity, improve the students' international vision of open, equality, respect and tolerance, let them get into the international sense of mission and sense of responsibility.

#### *B. To Guide the Establishment of an Academic Community Based on the Community Concept of Human Destiny*

In 1867 John Hopkins founded the first real research university — Johns Hopkins university. He initiated the new education model of academic research, scientific research and postgraduate education, and scientific research became the main responsibility of the university. The aim of scientific research is not only to study science for the sake of science, but to promote the development of human civilization and social progress. Mr. Gilman, the President of Johns Hopkins University, once articulated the idea that "there are multiple purposes for establishing a university, but first of all, to build a better society than it is now." University scientific research direction should abandon the narrow geopolitical concept; highlight the global governance, diseases and disasters, environmental pollution, such as threatening human survival crucial important areas of science. The direction of scientific research in universities is to promote the exchange of information and academic communication, to maximize the sharing of scientific research resources, and to contribute to the sustainable development of human civilization. To lead to human destiny community to build the academic community, by integrating internal and external environment, to dismantle the campus walls, set up different countries "knowledge alliance" between actors, realize the elements of knowledge creation, sharing, and transfer in the university. Strengthen the international cooperation of universities, promote the interaction and integration of knowledge, stimulate knowledge innovation and optimize knowledge sharing constantly; Maintain an open system, build a wide and diversified international cultural exchange network platform, and promote exchanges and dialogue with education institutions in different countries and regions; Create a global partnership network that takes on global responsibilities to lead humanity to global challenges; We should give full play to the role of knowledge pioneers and provide solutions for the formulation of policies that affect the world's social and economic changes from theory and practice.

#### *C. To Guide and Optimize Social Services with the Concept of Community of Human Destiny*

The social responsibility of university service can be understood as the process of transforming the intellectual resources of universities directly into the productive forces of society. University on the basis of the guarantee teaching and scientific research task, which is based on training talents and developing knowledge, take advantage of the college of physical and human capital, have a purpose in a planned way directly for the social economy, politics, science and technology, culture, the development of the service. University service society is not only the responsibility of

universities, but also an important way for universities to seek their own development. The process of university service society is also a process combining theory with practice, which is a practical test of the transformation of academic achievements into productive forces, and is one of the important ways to promote the development of universities. The university should shoulder the responsibility of serving the society, strengthen the attention to the country and society, actively serve the social development of the country, and conscientiously fulfill the mission of responsibility for the destiny and future of the country. In addition, the university should take the necessary international responsibility and make a corresponding contribution to the world, set up exchanges and cooperation with interactive mechanism, ACTS as a bridge of multicultural communication and integration, promote dialogue and exchanges among different civilizations. It needs to promote the network of global partners and expand collaborative space on the basis of common interests and human well-being to jointly solve global problems. Actively provide international public goods with non-competitive and non-exclusive features to the international community. Universities should overcome the "logic of collective action" and actively contribute to the formation of a fair and just world order.

#### *D. Guided by the Community Concept of Human Destiny to Guide Social Development*

The university is the birthplace of the social dominant spirit, and is the top organization of education and the social think tank. It is responsible for the development of society. British educator Ashby E. points out that in all social organizations, to be able to do the task of the guidance of human ambitions and future human interest management tasks, in university is most appropriate. If this is the university as its function, then, the university is the most need to work for the public service, the university has a variety of disciplines of the wisdom of the class, use to solve research to adapt to social change. Since its birth, the university has accumulated a large number of technological and cultural elites, which has a great influence on social culture through the dissemination of knowledge, the creation of knowledge and the interaction with society. That is to say, the university is endowed with the function of a society that is both inborn and more unique and has a profound influence on the culture. At a time when the world is undergoing major changes and adjustments, universities should shoulder the responsibility of leading the society. With human destiny community concept as a guide, comply with the trend of world civilization development, through closer interaction, enhance the cognition of the world's peoples knowledge and culture, deepen the reality of the world's people's awareness and vision of the future. It encourages students from all over the world to enhance mutual understanding, establish a world vision, inspire innovative ideas, and establish a lofty aspiration to contribute wisdom and power to human peace and development. The community of human destiny infuses the new era of university responsibility and will promote the common well-being of all mankind and the peoples of the world.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

The propose of human destiny community, reflects the era of human theory is used to grasp and crack problems, pushes forward and deepen of human exploration, shoulders the inheritance and inheritance and continuation to people civilization. As the cradle of advanced culture and the birth of advanced science and technology, contemporary university must play its role in promoting the progress of human society. University should blend the concept of community fate in cultivating talents, science research, society service, society guidance, focus on human interests, the interests of the earth, break narrow bound, surpass the university boundary, build continuation of the mission of the new world order and promoting the civilization, become the bridge connection between national and regional culture.

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