

## **ON THE INTERACTION BETWEEN THE OF BORDER-FREE SCIENCE AND THE NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS**

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With China's new opening up to the outside world and increased economic activities, the nation's economic strength is being enhanced, and the living standards of the Chinese people are greatly improved. The cohesion and the confidence of the Chinese nation have now reached a record high. These achievements have resulted not only from the correct policy of China's opening up to the outside world, the results of research and development of scientific researchers, but also from the common efforts of all the people of the nation.

Behind these achievements, however there are some phenomena which are worth our thinking: many a scholar believes that scientific research should go beyond national borders and that the fields of research and analytic specimen should be open to the public and commonly shared. The policy made by any nations for her own rights and interests always go against the lofty spirits of science. On the other hand, each side of the cooperating partners is subordinate his own country. National consciousness and patriotism are deeply rooted in each of these individuals, in the meantime, the laws of a nation requires the partners in the cooperation to protect the interests of their country. i.e. the cooperation should be based on the benefit of national interests, which should by no means be damaged. Therefore, the idea of border-free science and the thought of national interests have caused some difficulties, which have puzzled quite a few of us.

Generally speaking, science should not have borders. Otherwise, we would not have the modern civilization that we enjoy today. We would not achieve social progress, nor would we lead a modern life, let alone the exploration and research of the universe. Examples the four important inventions in ancient China (compass, gunpowder, paper-making and type printing) and the telegraph and electric lamps invented by Thomas Edison as well as the theories by Einstein show that it is the exchanges and spreading of these inventions that promote the world's development of civilization. Research work, such as the changes in modern climate, oceanic circulation and the movements of migratory birds, the greenhouse effect, can not be done by a single country alone, they require worldwide cooperation.

In its narrow sense, science does have its borders, which involves the national consciousness and national interests. Although science and civilization is shared commonly, the people engaged in the scientific research come from different nations and races. They are subordinate to a particular country or region. At the beginning stage of his research and invention, the researcher works mainly for the development and civilization of his own country. For the development of his own country, the contents of his invention and research should never be divulged and made known to the outsiders. This is called a patent. It is a concrete embodiment of the consciousness of a nation, a race and even an individual. Take the invention of electricity, for example, it did not spread over the world at the beginning. The inventions of the atomic bomb and nuclear technology are now in the hands of only a few countries and there is a tendency of monopoly in these fields.

The cause of the above-mentioned phenomena is the human nature, the innate private ownership mentality of human beings. Because humans have their ties, they are subordinate to a certain country or region, and perhaps to a certain race, thus wherever they go, what ever they do, what they ultimately care about is the development of their own. Some people call it the complex of loyalty to one's country and love of one's nationality. Each one of us is sentimentally attached to our homeland, just as we always miss our mothers. Take Madam Curie, for example, in her research on nuclear material, this would-known scientist never forgot her mother-land in war, she named uranium, which was discovered by her, in French. The lofty values of her striving for her country and her spirit of selflessness for the rejuvenation of her nation is, in fact, an expression of the true human feelings. It is a human nature as

well as the embodiment of national consciousness.

This national consciousness, which involves patriotism is also characterized by its competitiveness. One's devotion for his country and own has brought rich material and spiritual wealth and, in return, these developments directly benefit each of those who have made their contributions to society. Thus, they are able to fully enjoy the material reward resulting from their hard work, and also take pride in being superior to other nations of the world. Therefore, the relationship of the patriotism properly interacting with the spirit of being devoted to one's country greatly increases the national strength. The development of a country brought along by patriotism will in turn become the target for other countries or regions to catch up with and surpass. This creates competition between one nation and another nation and eventually this competition will result in the overall development of the entire human world. In this sense, the national consciousness is the motive force of scientific research and social advancement. So the research conducted by a scientist could be, first of all, for his nation, and this is the starting point of his research. It is the standard of his work. However, we would not reject those from outside world, nor should we develop the mentality of being closed. In fact, the development of human civilization is the result of the mixture and the references from different nations. Only by opening up some doors to the outside world, can we take in something new. This is what we need to keep life in a balanced way. Just for this purpose, the International Cooperation and Regional Alliance, as well as the bilateral symposium of Yellow Sea being held today, all help us to learn the advantages and strong points from each other. In this way, we believe that the idea of border-free science and national consciousness do not contradict each other, on the contrary, they complement each other.

In the process of cooperation, we should, to the largest extent, learn from others' good points to develop ourselves, to obtain advantages in competition. The national consciousness can encourage science to go beyond national borders and to the height of common rejuvenation and development of our world. The idea of border-free science, in return, can make up the narrow and limited national consciousness and break through the closed doors of a nation, so as to seek common progress in the human world. The mingling of the sciences and economy from different countries, the advancement in science of different nations and the development of economy as well as the increasingly improved living standard, and the flourishing spiritual life of peoples in the world, all these verify the truth that national consciousness should be relatively preserved while development is absolutely sought after. We should never forget the national consciousness in the development of our human world.