

## **From Ecological Thinking and Ecological Culture to Ecological Compensation and Ecological Democracy**

### **DE LA PENSÉE ÉCOLOGIQUE ET LA CULTURE ÉCOLOGIQUE À LA COMPENSATION ÉCOLOGIQUE ET LA DÉMOCRATIE ÉCOLOGIQUE**

**GAO Jianzhong<sup>1</sup>**

**Abstract:** Ecology has become a new thinking approach to constantly influence social development. Ecological civilization has been raised to the top political philosophy. Ecological democracy should be a system to ensure to implement ecological civilization. The essence of compensation of china's ecosystem service is to practicing ecological democracy. This paper analyzes the corelation of ecological thinking, ecological civilization and ecological democracy.

**Key words:** ecological thinking; ecological civilization; ecological democracy

**Résumé:** La écologie a déjà transformé en une façon de réfléchir, qui pénètre dans tout domaine social. Et elle influencera continuellement le développement social. La culture écologique est devenue le concept suprême du parti communiste de Chine(PCC). Et il faut la démocratie écologique comme un système pour protéger la culture écologique afin de sa réalisation. La pratique de la compensation écologique moyenne demande à la réalisation de la démocratie écologique. Cette mémoire commence par le concept écologique en mise en corrélation de l'analyse de la relation parmi la pensée écologie, la culture écologique et la démocratie écologique.

**Mots-Clés:** pensée écologique; culture écologique; démocratie écologique

Ecology is closely related to people's productivity and life. Especially in recent 50 years, people's life has increasingly threatened ecology, the conflict between man, environment and resources are becoming more and more severe. And the ecologic problem has become a global issue. To understand the

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<sup>1</sup> Northwest A&F University, Shannxi, Yangling, 712100, China.

1968-, PHD, Vice Professor, Born in Shanxi; academic communication in Canada in 2007-2008; major in forestry economy, ecological economy, agricultural economy.

Email: [gaojianzhong2003@yahoo.com.cn](mailto:gaojianzhong2003@yahoo.com.cn)

relationship between man and nature, and then solve the problem between environment and development from the perspective of ecology has formed a new global view and methodology.

## **1. ECOLOGY AND ECOLOGIC CULTURE**

### **1.1 Plentiful Ecology**

Ecology is the complex of inter-organism relationship as well as the relationship between organism and their living environment. Because organism themselves include not only the link between organic matter and its living environment but also the relationship between organism, the combination of ecology and its theory will bring many cross-disciplinary subjects, such as human ecology, animal ecology, biogeochemical ecology, forest ecology, medical ecology, nuclear ecology, physical ecology, urban ecology, ecology of education, industrial ecology etc. Meanwhile, many ecological terms also emerged, such as ecological democracy, ecological politics, ecological modernization, ecological socialism, Ecological Marxism, ecological civilization and so on.

### **1.2 Ecologic Culture has become the belief of executive party**

In the 17<sup>th</sup> National People's Congress, ecologic culture has been recorded in the government report, and has been in accordance to the idea of harmonious society. The occurrence of ecologic culture could be seen as the improvement of the wrong idea which focuses on the partial interest and in contrast with sustainable development. In the past, we accelerated development, and then strived for faster and better development. But this time, we came up with the idea of good and fast development, which means that we should emphasize on the quality and benefit of development. This is in coherent with ecologic culture.

Ecologic culture provides an essential ecologic base for material culture, spiritual culture and political culture building. All the four kinds of culture have built a culture building system. Ecologic culture is the ascending and base of material, spiritual and political culture. That is why it has been recorded in the party report.

## **2. ECOLOGICAL THINKING**

The definition of environment has been changed from the past physical environment to the current complex environment between nature and society. The idea of ecology has influenced every aspect of people's life, and formed new ecological economic view, cultural view and politic view. Ecological thinking has changed people's way of production and life. People are now trying to adopt a tender, sustainable, ecologic green and recycling economic way instead of the only focusing on GDP growth, high input and expense, and severe pollution.

### **2.1 Ecology has become an ethical idea**

People have a new ethical code for treating nature and environment. Ecology is the long-term sustainable process. Former US President Bush rejected to participate in Kyoto Protocol and then has been strongly condemned by international ecological ethic. However, his former opponent, Al Gole has won the Nobel Peace Prize for his contribution to global weather change.

## **2.2 Ecological thinking has challenged conventional economic theory**

Economic interest center has now been changed to ecologic interest center. This is because ecological thinking has changed the very basic theory, assumption and core propose of conventional economy, and even will change it completely.

# **3. FEATURES OF ECOLOGICAL THINKING**

## **3.1 Plentiful**

The value of ecology emphasizes on complexity, which will bring more social ways. Ecologic society requires a democratic design which could embody and ease the conflicts within it, could coordinate democratic differences and come to an agreement through conversation.

## **3.2 Sustainable**

Sustainable means not only respect natural environment but also fairly distribute economic and social reward and opportunities. It also emphasizes on fairness, balance and coordination. This is also an important rule of primary organizations. Many of the ecologic policies pushed by government has reached a dissatisfactory result due to people's unawareness.

## **3.3 Integrity**

Ecologic problem not only apply to a certain region, certain country, but is a social and global issue. Thus, ecological thinking should from a integrity perspective.

Ecological compensation means that since market economy could not deal with the individual exterior quality, it shall come to a new deal by using another more powerful system. The clearer the market economic responsibility is, the more developing the private ownership is, the bigger the possibility of exterior problem is.

## **3.4 Individual Responsibility**

Ecological thinking emphasizes on individual responsibility, but it should also be combined with group and social responsibilities. Enforced hierarchy responsibility is not solid enough, but clarified responsibility will make it easy to for individual and group to take their responsibility of building ecological culture. During the discussion, individual could learn from the conversation, participation, recognition and studying, then clearly understand his as well as others' responsibilities, and understand the agreement on public policy construction. Based on this point, citizen has the responsibility to keep and help to accelerate the public interest, so as to better support special organization and party.

## **3.5 Power Delegation**

Another feature of ecological society is power delegation, which could help to protect the complexity of environment and flexibility of society. Power delegation means the rule should apply to the political and economic power field and serve as a part of force to enhance primary democracy.

In fact, many cases have shown that those who concern about the ecological problems the most are actually the common people, who are easy to be exposed to pollution. Usually, their voice is easy to be overlooked. But without public participation and supervision, a few organizations are very difficult to take their responsibilities under the great influence of some powerful interest groups.

## **4. ECOLOGICAL THINKING AND DEMOCRACY**

To convert ecological thinking to ecological ideology, behavior, system, production and practice, it is far from enough if we stay in the report level. The key is to understand how to execute.

### **4.1 The purpose of ecological thinking is the core of ecological democracy**

The purpose of ecological thinking is ecological justice, social justice and social justice, including the justice between man and nature, among mankind, between this generation and next generation. It is the fair distribution of social political, economic, and other interests. It means an even power, appropriate distribution, fair opportunities and judicial justice. If one could treat nature fairly, he could also treat the social members in the same way. This ideology is, to some extent, a conversational self-governing based on comprehensive participation rather than political governing.

### **4.2 The technology to solve ecological problem is very limited**

The complexity of ecological problem is far from mere technological field. It also involves interest re-allocation and power operation. In this perspective, ecological problem is in essence a political issue. Since the technology to solve ecological problem is very limited, it is impossible to rely solely on technology. Apparently, in a democratic society, a effective method to solve the ecological political problem is through democratic system.

### **4.3 The basic right of ecologist**

In foreign counties, they focus on human. Chinese politics also emphasize on this point. There are no essential differences between the two ideas. The only difference is that the former one is through laws and systems but the latter one is still a slogan. Ecological democracy is the basic requirement of environment right in human right, and is the reflection of environment right in political life. It is very meaningful to have it announced in real life.

## **5. THE DEMOCRATIC DEFINITION OF ECOLOGICAL COMPENSATION**

Ecological compensation is a direct and effective method. In order to construct a comprehensive, long-termed ecological culture, ecological democracy is a must. It is required not only to control the ideology to ease the conflict in social, economic, environmental and resource developing factor, but to ensure the implement of ecological culture.

As far as the author concerned, the flood in 1998 is a warning. After that, sand storm appeared in Beijing. After that, it is encouraged to prohibit forest hag, protect the mountains and enhance the power of environmental protection. Ecological compensation has been used comprehensively.

### **5.1 Ecological compensation is a pioneer practice of ecological democracy**

Return farmland to forest is the re-allocation of southeastern coastline and the middle west inland. It is the reflection of the fair purpose between developed and developing regions, which is also advocated by the government.

Compensation program of ecosystem service is the re-balance of forestry department and other departments. It is also the practice of government protected ecological democracy.

Compensation program of drainage is the ecological practice through conversation to protect water resources among regions. It is the bud of ecological democracy.

Forest certificate refers to some non-government organizations in foreign countries call for customers change their consuming ideology to give pressure to government and force enterprise to select their price policy according to sustainable forestry products through market compensation. This kind of justice includes the mainstay in market.

Forest certificate also provides a system for everyone who concerns about sustainable forest management. This is the final result and system of international conference on forest issue. Forest certificate focuses on justice and comprehensive participation. It is in essence a system that changes the external cost to internal cost through market theory, the core assumption of which is that a consuming group has the ability, sense and is willing to pay more to buy certificated products.

International carbon trade is a powerful protocol made through the conversations between developing countries and developed countries and reach to an agreement on ecological ethics and morality. In this protocol, the key project of the clean producing system is a compromise method due to the obstacle in the conversation, which could be regarded as that the real trade and economic compensation in forest carbon storage system. None of the countries would like to adopt carbon dioxide reduction policies internally. Thus, CDM could help developed countries to buy the reducing count from developing countries. In this way, global reducing optimization is achieved and the reducing total cost could be minimized.

## 5.2 There is still much ecological unfairness to be solved

The root of external producing is complexity of interests and a lack of general cooperation and decision. This sort of conflict between individual sensibility and group sensibility is deeply rooted in human society. Since the world is a multiple one, the more detailed the industry is, the deeper individualization is, the more impossible to erase the exterior factor completely. The direction of human's effort is to cooperate, to reduce people's participation in the activities closely related to their own interests, to create a challenging environment, to provide more opportunities for people to participate and select, and to use less enforced methods to solve problems.

Some countries are on the one hand enjoying luxuries; on the other hand, diverting the high-costing industry to developing countries. They import finished products from developing countries but leave the pollution to the poor countries. The population of USA only covers 3% to 4% of global population, but the emitted carbon dioxide volume exceeds 25% of the total. But USA accused developing countries on high cost and pollution, and is reluctant to make it up for global warming. This is in contrast with international ecological democracy.

To conclude, ecological thinking forecasts that human political development requires a new replacing selection. Ecological society should be closed to democracy. The management method is a kind of conversational democratic politics based on public participation. Democracy does not belong to politics exclusively. Market economy has pushed China on the road of economic democracy, but not in other aspects yet. Ecological democracy is easy to put into practice due to the less conversation, large common sense and is easy to be applied. Therefore, comprehensive democracy in economic and ecological field will help to accelerate the democracy in politics.

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