

Change Four Dimensions of Civilization to Construct Eco-civilization

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Abstract

Modern civilization has the following fatal defects:

1. Mistakes of ideas

The guidance of modern civilization is modernity or modernism. It contains some rational ideas, but it also has fatal mistakes. It claims that nature is just the aggregate of physical entities. It is said that with the progress of science human knowledge will get closer and closer to exhaust all the secrets in Nature. And with development of technology human beings will become more and more powerful to conquer everything in nature. And it means that human being will become freer and freer or more and more autonomous in nature. Wanting to get more and more material wealth is just the natural preference of human being. Social norms are radically different from natural laws. And studies of society and morality are irrelative to natural sciences. But I think these ideas are completely wrong.

2. Wrong direction of development of science-technology

Many modern thinkers think that the internal logic of the whole science determines the sole direction of the progress of science to get closer and closer to know all the secrets of nature. Modern science supports modern technology to become more and more powerful to conquer nature. Generally speaking, to become more and more powerful to control things in nature is the direction of development of modern science-technology. The global ecological or climate crises are caused by the abuse of modern science-technology.

3. Mistake of construction of social institutions

Since the end of “Cold War”, western pattern of modernization dominates the whole world, and the western way of industrialization is developing globally. The basic “logic” for institutional construction is “logic of capital”, and it is shown typically by the institution in US and also in China today. But the institution guided by logic of capital cannot protect natural environment, because it encourages people’s greed.

Modern civilization is unsustainable, and eco-civilization is the only choice of human being in 21 century. In order to get out of the crises of modern civilization and to construct eco-civilization, we have to change four dimensions of civilization:

1. Change of ideas

We have to give up mechanical materialism, dogmatic rationalism, ethical materialism and consumerism, and turn to ecologism. We have to know that human knowledge can never exhaust the secrets in nature, and nature will always have the power to punish human's bad and wrong actions. Human beings are always dependent on the health of biosphere of the earth. The more powerfully we conquer the nature, the more dangerous the world will become to us. We can no longer take the growth of material wealth as the token of meaning of our lives.

2. Change of science-technology

There is no internal logic for the unity of science. Science-technology has to serve human life or practice. Science-technology would enslave human being if so called internal logic of the unifying science is imposed to society. Science can never end all the secrets in nature. And technology will be more and more dangerous to human being when it gets more and more powerful, and it may bring the destroy of human civilization. The end of innovation of science-technology should be to ensure safety and happiness of human being. To live safely and happily in the earth, science-technology should try to maintain the health of bio-sphere of the earth.

3. Change of social institution

The guidance of institutional construction should be changed from logic of capital to laws of ecology. It does not mean to abolish market economy and logic of capital, but means to obey ecological laws in priority to logic of capital.

4. Change of mode of economy and structure of industry

The economy should be changed into ecological economy. We have to find clean energy, develop technology of clean production, and construct the systems of ecological industry. And we have also to construct ecological cities.

Most importantly, we have change the way of lives and consumption. If you want to keep on "mass production and mass consumption", you cannot expect that mass waste will disappear. We have to go for green and moderate consumption.