Xi Jinping: Speech at the International Academic Symposium to
Commemorate the 2565th Anniversary of Confucius’ Birth

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Speech at the opening meeting of the International Academic Symposium in
Commemoration of the 2565th Anniversary of the Birth of Confucius and the Fifth
General Assembly of the International Confucian Federation

(September 24, 2014)

Xi Jinping

Distinguished guests,

Dear experts and scholars,

Ladies and gentlemen, friends:

“It’s a great pleasure to have friends from afar.” Today, guests, experts and scholars from China and all over the world gathered in Beijing to hold the International Academic Symposium to commemorate the 2565th Anniversary of Confucius’ Birth and the Fifth International Confucian Federation Conference. This conference is a grand meeting of international Confucianism and international academic circles. First of all, I would like to extend my warm congratulations to the convening of the meeting! I would like to express my sincere welcome to all my friends!

The theme of this conference is "Confucianism: World Peace and Development", which embodies the humanistic sentiments of paying attention to the future of the world and the destiny of mankind. It is a topic of great practical significance.

Peace and development are the themes of the current era, as well as two major issues related to the happiness and well-being of the people of all countries. People all over the world want to live in a peaceful atmosphere and look forward to war and violence away from mankind. People all over the world also hope to live in a safe and healthy environment, and hope that hunger and poverty will be far away from mankind. However, the real world is
still occur extensively. Continuous wars and extreme poverty still threaten the survival of many people, especially many women and children are still in war and poverty. Struggling under the shadow of these unfortunate people, our hearts are filled with sympathy and responsibility. The international community should work together to maintain world peace and promote common development. Only in this way can there be hope for peace and hope for development.

Maintaining world peace and promoting common development requires a multi-pronged approach and multi-party assistance. One of the most important aspects is to ideologically establish the concept of peaceful development. In March of this year, when I visited the UNESCO Headquarters, I was deeply impressed by a sentence engraved in various languages on the stone tablet in front of the building. Build a barrier to defend peace in people's minds.” This sentence makes a lot of sense. I believe that the establishment of peace-loving ideas in people’s hearts is very important for achieving peace.

The Chinese nation has always been a peace-loving nation, and peace-loving also has a deep origin in Confucianism. Since ancient times, the Chinese have admired "Harmony of All Nations", "Friendly and Good Neighbors, the treasure of the country", "Brothers in the four seas", "Distant relatives are not as good as close neighbors", "Look for good neighbors, neighbors and neighbors", "National Although it is big, belligerent must die" and other peaceful thoughts. Peace-loving ideas are deeply embedded in the spiritual world of the Chinese nation, and today it is still China's basic philosophy in handling international relations.

From the outbreak of the Opium War in 1840 to the founding of the People’s Republic of China in 1949, the Chinese nation suffered from foreign invasions and internal unrest that are rare in the world. The Chinese people suffered unprecedented suffering, and once reached the danger of extinction. In the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression alone, the Chinese nation paid a heavy price of 35 million casualties. The Chinese people who have experienced long-term suffering since modern times know best the value of peace and the importance of development. The Chinese people know well that peace is as important to mankind as sunlight and air. Without sunlight and air, everything cannot survive and grow.

Do unto others, do not impose on others. China needs peace, loves peace, and is willing to do its utmost to maintain world peace and sincerely help people who are still suffering from war and poverty. China will unswervingly follow the path of peaceful development. China also hopes that all countries in the world will follow the path of peaceful
development into their policies and actions.

Ladies, gentlemen, friends!

This year is the 2565th anniversary of Confucius’ birthday. The Confucianism founded by Confucius and the Confucianism developed on this basis have had a profound impact on Chinese civilization and are an important part of Chinese traditional culture. Confucianism, along with other ideologies and cultures produced during the formation and development of the Chinese nation, records the spiritual activities, rational thinking, and cultural achievements that the Chinese nation has carried out in the struggle for homeland construction since ancient times, reflecting the Chinese nation’s cultural achievements. Spiritual pursuit is an important nourishment for the continuous growth and development of the Chinese nation. Chinese civilization has not only had a profound impact on China’s development, but also has made significant contributions to the progress of human civilization.

Chinese traditional culture, especially the formation and development of its core ideological culture, has generally experienced several histories such as the contending of a hundred schools of thought in the pre-Qin period, the prosperity of Confucianism in the Han Dynasty, the popularity of metaphysics in the Wei, Jin, Southern and Northern Dynasties, the parallel development of Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism in the Sui and Tang Dynasties, and the development of Neo-Confucianism in the Song and Ming Dynasties. From this historical process that lasted for more than 2,000 years, we can see several characteristics. One is that Confucianism and other theories in Chinese history are both opposed and unified. They compete with each other and learn from each other. Although Confucianism has long been in a dominant position, it has always been in a harmonious but different situation from other theories. The second is that Confucianism and other theories that exist in Chinese history have moved with the times and changed things. They have been continuously developed and updated in response to the development of Chinese society and the advancement of the times, so they have long-lasting vitality. Third, Confucianism and other doctrines existing in Chinese history adhere to the principle of administering the world for practical use, focusing on bringing into play the civilizing function of culture and transforming people, and combining the civilization of individuals and society with the governance of the country, so as to achieve mutual complementation and mutual promotion. the goal of.

From a historical point of view, the outstanding components of Chinese traditional ideology and culture, including Confucianism, have contributed to the formation and
to the formation and maintenance of the political situation of China’s multi-ethnic
and united family has played a significant role in forming and enriching the Chinese national
spirit, in motivating the Chinese sons and daughters to safeguard national independence
and resist foreign aggression, in promoting the development and progress of Chinese
society, and in promoting the balance of Chinese social interests and social relations.

Important role.

In today’s world, human civilization has made tremendous progress in both material and
spiritual aspects. In particular, the enormous abundance of material is completely
unimaginable in the ancient world. At the same time, contemporary mankind is also facing
many outstanding problems, such as the continuous expansion of the gap between the rich
and the poor, the excessive pursuit of luxury in material desires, the vicious expansion of
individualism, the continuous decline of social integrity, the deteriorating ethics and
morality, the increasingly tense relationship between man and nature, and so on. To solve
these problems, it is not only necessary to use the wisdom and power discovered and
developed by mankind today, but also the wisdom and power accumulated and stored in
human history.

Some people of insight in the world believe that China’s excellent traditional culture,
including Confucianism, contains important enlightenments to solve the problems faced by
contemporary humans. , The thought of the Great Harmony World, the thought of
continuous self-improvement and virtue, the thought of people-oriented, the peace and
prosperity of the people and the people, the thought of governing with morality, and the
thought of being upright by the government. , Innovation, innovation, and advancing with
the times, the thoughts about down-to-earth and seeking truth from facts, the thoughts
about applying the world, the unity of knowledge and practice, and the thoughts about
practice, the thoughts about brainstorming, sharing benefits, and teamwork, about the
benevolent, loving others, and virtue Liren’s thoughts are about treating people with
sincerity, believing and cultivating harmony, about being honest in government, diligently
serving public affairs, about frugality, self-preservation, and abstaining from luxury, about
neutrality, peacefulness, seeking common ground while reserving differences, harmony but
difference, and coexistence in harmony. The thought of not forgetting danger, not
forgetting death, not forgetting chaos, thinking about danger in times of peace, etc. The rich
philosophical thoughts, humanistic spirit, enlightenment thoughts, and moral concepts of
China’s excellent traditional culture can provide useful enlightenment for people to
understand and transform the world, provide useful enlightenment for the governance of
carry forward the content of traditional culture that is suitable for and encouraging people to move toward goodness in light of the conditions of the times, and give them new meanings. It is hoped that scholars from China and other countries will exchange and learn from each other, study this subject well, and let the excellent traditional Chinese culture and the excellent cultures of other countries work together to benefit mankind.

On September 24, President Xi Jinping attended the International Academic Symposium to commemorate the 2565th anniversary of the birth of Confucius and the opening meeting of the Fifth General Assembly of the International Confucian