

Advancing the Modern Urban Manifestation of Harmonious Coexistence between Humans and Nature

-- Illustrated by the Construction of Chengdu Park City in China

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ABSTRACT

In the report of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the harmonious coexistence between humanity and nature was established as a key development objective and a defining feature of China's path to modernization. Consequently, promoting the expression of modern cities that embody this harmonious coexistence is integral to advancing China's unique modernization drive. This paper delves into the genesis of the concept of modernization centered on the harmonious coexistence of humanity and nature. It examines the historical, theoretical, and practical linkages between this coexistence and China's modernization efforts. Furthermore, taking the construction of the Chengdu Park City Demonstration Area as a case study, the paper unpacks the expression of a modern city that embodies the harmonious coexistence of humanity and nature. By comprehensively exploring the concept's genesis, policy agendas, mission objectives, and construction achievements, this paper offers a comprehensive overview of Chengdu's park city construction. It analyzes the practical logic and significance of Chengdu's park city from the perspective of harmonious coexistence between humans and nature, ultimately demonstrating that park city construction serves as a modern urban expression of this harmonious coexistence.

KEYWORDS

Harmonious Coexistence between Humans and Nature; Modernization; Park City.

1. INTRODUCTION

The ecological environment serves as the foundation for human survival and development, and ecological issues have profound impacts on human well-being and sustainable development. The construction of ecological civilization represents a pivotal approach to optimizing the human living environment, enhancing human well-being, and fostering global sustainable development. Currently, China's ecological environment remains significantly damaged, with a fragile ecological foundation and insufficient carrying capacity. There is considerable room for improvement in environmental quality, and the sustainable supply of resources remains weak. Additionally, there exists a gap between the progress made in enhancing environmental quality and the public's aspirations for a beautiful environment[1].

Through unremitting efforts in the construction of ecological civilization, overall, China's pollutant emissions have continued to decline, the quality of the ecological environment has significantly improved, the stability of the ecosystem has been continuously enhanced, the ecological security barrier has been continuously consolidated, pollution reduction and carbon reduction have been

synergistically enhanced, and the comprehensive green transformation of economic and social development has been vigorously promoted[2]. To continue accelerating the modernization of the national governance system and governance capacity in the field of ecological environment, and to take solid steps towards building a beautiful China, it is necessary to accurately grasp and promote the distinct theme and core essence of modernization of harmonious coexistence between humans and nature based on a profound understanding and grasp of the connotation of ecological civilization.

The harmonious coexistence of man and nature is the basic principle and distinctive theme of China's ecological civilization construction, the basic strategy of building a beautiful China, the Chinese plan of building a beautiful world, one of the goals of achieving Chinese path to modernization, and the common expectation of all countries in the world to deal with ecological environment problems and build green homes [3]. Focusing on the ideological concept and practical approach of ecological civilization construction, the harmonious coexistence between humans and nature reflects the adherence to green and low-carbon development, the adherence to harmonious development between humans and nature, the adherence to overall system development, the adherence to people-centered development, and the realization of people's livelihood and well-being. Further focus on the living environment, quality, and satisfaction of residents that are closely related to people's livelihoods, and the harmonious coexistence between humans and nature is reflected in the macro construction and development of cities that enhance people's well-being. Moreover, one of the goals of Chinese style modernization is to achieve a harmonious coexistence between humans and nature. Achieving a harmonious coexistence between humans and nature in modernization is inevitably complementary to achieving urban modernization, which is reflected in the expression of a modern city where humans and nature coexist harmoniously. The construction of park city is the Chengdu practice of the expression of a modern city where people and nature coexist harmoniously. It is also an active exploration of the expression of Chinese path to modernization cities. It is to actively promote the modernization of the harmonious coexistence of people and nature in the development of urban construction on the basis of understanding and grasping the connotation of Chinese path to modernization.

2. MODERNIZATION OF HARMONIOUS COEXISTENCE BETWEEN HUMANS AND NATURE: CONCEPTUAL ORIGINS AND LOGICAL ANALYSIS

2.1. The Origin of the Modernization Concept of Harmonious Coexistence between Humans and Nature

The relationship between humans and nature has continuously evolved throughout history, going through stages such as dependence on and conformity to nature, exploitation and plunder of nature, and harmony between humans and nature. The relationship between humans and nature is not only reflected in human historical practice, but also in rich philosophical research, among which Marxism has a large number of basic theories and fundamental principles about the relationship between humans and nature. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, our party has gradually deepened its emphasis on the construction of ecological civilization and the protection of the ecological environment; In 1973, China held its first National Conference on Environmental Protection, which included environmental protection in the important agenda of the country; Since the reform and opening up, protecting the environment has been established as a basic national policy by the Party and the state; After the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, China identified sustainable development as a national strategy and continuously promoted the cause of ecological environment protection in sustainable development; In the 21st century, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China proposed new ideas and measures such as

sorting out and implementing the Scientific Outlook on Development and building a resource-saving and environmentally friendly society[4].

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the Party Central Committee has actively and comprehensively promoted the construction of ecological civilization, achieving significant results and taking constructive steps towards a beautiful China[5]. After the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, President Xi Jinping put forward the concept of harmonious coexistence between man and nature, hoping to achieve long-term and sustainable development. At the Ecological Environment Protection Conference in May 2018, he profoundly answered major theoretical and practical questions such as "why to build an ecological civilization, what kind of ecological civilization to build, and how to build an ecological civilization", pointing out the development direction and providing fundamental guidance for realizing the modernization of harmonious coexistence between humans and nature[6]. The report of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China clearly pointed out that Chinese style modernization is a modernization that promotes harmonious coexistence between humans and nature, and promotes green development and harmonious coexistence between humans and nature. We need to accelerate the prevention and control of pollution, promote the green transformation of development mode, enhance the function and stability of ecosystems, and actively and steadily promote carbon peak and carbon neutrality.

2.2. The Inner Logic of Harmonious Coexistence between Human and Nature and Chinese path to modernization

In the report of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the harmonious coexistence between humans and nature was established as one of the development goals and important features of Chinese style modernization, and there is a clear historical logic, theoretical logic, and practical logic between the harmonious coexistence between humans and nature and Chinese style modernization.

From a historical perspective, the evolution of the relationship between humans and nature is parallel to the evolution of human social civilization, presenting a wave like and spiral like trend of progress. The relationship between humans and nature is interactive. Humans rely on natural resources and the environment for survival, while nature relies on human protection for sustainable development. The evolution of history is the best proof of this interactive relationship. Looking back at history, the harmonious coexistence between humans and nature is an inevitable requirement for the smooth progress of history; Looking forward to the future, promoting Chinese path to modernization and realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation will also be inseparable from the harmonious coexistence of man and nature, and the modernization of harmonious coexistence of man and nature will develop with the construction of a modern socialist country with Chinese characteristics [7].

From a theoretical perspective, there exists a dialectical unity between humans and nature. Based on the principle of "unity" between humans and nature, humans and nature are a community of life, laying a theoretical foundation for understanding and grasping the relationship between humans and nature, and promoting the modernization of harmonious coexistence between humans and nature. Adhere to the harmonious coexistence between humans and nature, provide fundamental guidance for the harmonious unity between humans and nature, modernization and natural system balance, economic and social development and ecological environment protection, and also provide theoretical explanations for determining the possibility of successful ecological civilization construction.

From the perspective of practice, Chinese path to modernization cannot be the modernization of "pollution before treatment", but must be supported by a stable ecosystem of sustainable development. The concept of harmonious coexistence of man and nature has pointed out the development direction for China's ecological civilization construction and even economic and social development, that is, we should adhere to green development, conservation and intensification, and ecological priority, and

promote carbon reduction, pollution reduction, green expansion, and growth through multi participation and coordination, so as to promote China's economic and social green development, which answers the practical logic of ecological civilization construction team to promote Chinese path to modernization.

3. THE MODERN URBAN EXPRESSION OF HARMONIOUS COEXISTENCE BETWEEN HUMANS AND NATURE: THE CONSTRUCTION OF CHENGDU PARK CITY

3.1. Concept Proposal and Policy Agenda of Park City

In February 2018, President Xi Jinping first put forward the concept of "Park City" when he inspected Tianfu New Area in Chengdu, Sichuan. Chengdu Tianfu New Area is required to plan and construct well, and propose to incorporate ecological value into the value selection category of urban construction. The expectation of a city is that the entire city is like a big park, and the people walking out are like gardens in their own homes. This clearly points out a new direction for urban development, and creating a park city that integrates mountains, waters, people, and cities harmoniously has become a new goal and measure for modern urban construction. Afterwards, the policy agenda for building a park city in Chengdu was very rapid.

In July 2018, the Chengdu Municipal Committee decided to accelerate the construction of a beautiful and livable park city; In April 2019, Chengdu held the Global Forum on Park Cities; In December 2019, the Sixth Plenary Session of the Thirteenth Chengdu Municipal Committee of the Communist Party of China passed the Decision of the Chengdu Municipal Committee of the Communist Party of China on Implementing the Spirit of the Fourth Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee and Establishing a Comprehensive Modern Urban Governance System that Reflects the New Development Concept; In January 2020, the 6th meeting of the Central Committee of Finance and Economics proposed to support the construction of a park city demonstration zone in Chengdu that practices the new development concept; In July 2020, Chengdu formulated the overall plan for building a park city demonstration zone that practices the new development concept; In December 2020, the Provincial Party Committee and Provincial Government issued the "Opinions on Supporting Chengdu to Build a Park City Demonstration Zone Practicing the New Development Concept"; In January 2021, the 23rd meeting of the Standing Committee of the 17th People's Congress of Chengdu passed the "Chengdu Beautiful and Livable Park City Construction Regulations"; In January 2022, the State Council approved the construction of a park city demonstration zone in Chengdu that practices the new development concept, clarifying the direction and focus of construction; In February 2022, the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Natural Resources, and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Rural Development jointly issued the Overall Plan for Building a Park City Demonstration Zone in Chengdu to Practice the New Development Concept; In May 2022, the Action Plan for Building a Park City Demonstration Zone in Chengdu to Practice the New Development Concept (2021-2025) was released.

The construction of Chengdu Park City has evolved from the initial concept, to the construction plan and regulations, and then to the action plan. The vision of building a park city that harmoniously integrates mountains, waters, people, and cities has gradually become strong, the goals have become clear, the planning has become clear, the pace has become steady, and the results have gradually become significant. The concept of harmonious coexistence between humans and nature has been demonstrated in the process of park city construction. All aspects of modern park city construction are promoting the realization of modern urban expression of harmonious coexistence between humans and nature.

3.2. The Mission and Goals of Park City Construction

3.2.1. Explore New Practices of Harmonious Integration of Mountains, Waters, People, and Cities

The macro level modernization of harmonious coexistence between humans and nature, when implemented in urban construction and development, focuses on the meso level harmonious integration of mountains, waters, humans, and cities. The harmonious coexistence between humans and nature expresses a harmonious symbiotic relationship between humans and nature, which refutes the opposition between humans and nature recognized in the development process of Western capitalism, and believes that people should use nature to a limited extent and protect it endlessly, while nature will also provide positive feedback to people in its own way. In the harmonious coexistence between humans and nature, "humans" are in a more active position relative to "nature". People need to actively adapt to nature, transform nature in moderation, and embed this relationship between humans and nature into the development of modern cities. Ecological value should be embedded into the goals of urban development, exploring new measures to improve residents' living environment, new ways to enhance people's well-being, and new practices for the harmonious integration of mountains, waters, humans, and cities.

Chengdu has always been known as the "Land of Abundance", which highlights its favorable natural environment and conditions for production and life. Based on this condition, by maintaining the original natural scenery and rebuilding a new ecosystem, Chengdu can further leverage its natural advantages and create a leading demonstration area for harmonious integration of mountains, waters, people, and city. In addition to having a natural foundation of being a pioneer, Chengdu also has a humanistic foundation of being a pioneer. The people of Chengdu have a slower pace of life, are good at observing life, enjoy life, and have a higher level of attention and earnest expectations for urban software construction. Therefore, the construction of Chengdu Park City is highly anticipated by Chengdu citizens. Exploring the construction of a park city in Chengdu that harmoniously integrates mountains, waters, people, and cities, focusing on cultivating a green ecological foundation, shaping the beautiful form of the park city, constructing an overall character pattern that integrates park form and urban space, protecting and restoring natural ecosystems, establishing a blue-green interwoven park system, improving modern environmental governance system, exploring and releasing the value of ecological products, shaping the characteristic style of the park city, and exploring new paths for the construction of park cities in the province and even the whole country.

3.2.2. Explore New Paths for the Transformation and Development of Mega Cities

The development of traditional mega cities is mainly based on abundant labor force, with new technologies leading the development of traditional industries and achieving the integration of emerging industries and traditional industries. However, due to the limitations of various resource endowments including natural resources, talent and technology, and financial security, the efficiency and capacity improvement of urban development are relatively weak, and the economic and social development of cities is constrained by various factors mainly due to resource scarcity. The traditional urban development model can no longer meet the requirements of modern development, and it is necessary to promote the transformation and development of mega cities to stimulate new development vitality.

As a mega new first tier city in western China, Chengdu has favorable conditions for its transformation and development, including basic labor force, advanced talents, and natural resources. Taking the construction of park cities as an opportunity, Chengdu, as a pilot demonstration area, has leveraged its excellent resource endowment to launch the "first shot" of urban transformation and development with green development, livability as the guide, and people's well-being as the goal, creating a demonstration area for livable and business friendly urban residents. To promote the modernization of harmonious coexistence between humans and nature in mega cities, we will

promote green and low-carbon lifestyles in residents' lives and corporate offices, protect natural landscapes, build artificial ecological conservation areas, cultivate green culture to enhance cultural tourism charm, integrate the concept of coexistence between humans and nature into the construction of high-quality modern communities, improve and enhance various resident security systems, focus on creating livable and beautiful lives, and promote the well-being of people in park cities; Promote the green transformation of industrial production methods, develop green advantageous enterprises that demonstrate competitiveness, promote innovation and entrepreneurship and high-quality employment, build a talent gathering highland, focus on creating a favorable environment for business, and stimulate the economic vitality of park cities. Therefore, the construction of Chengdu Park City is an effective exploration of a new path for the transformation and development of mega cities.

In addition, the construction of Chengdu Park City Demonstration Zone has implemented a "two-step" strategy. By 2025, achieve a deep integration between the form of park cities and urban spaces, establish a preliminary mechanism for realizing the value of ecological products, significantly improve the quality of life of residents, and improve the governance system of park cities; By 2035, the construction of park city demonstration areas will be fully completed, and a green, low-carbon, and circular production and lifestyle as well as urban construction and operation mode will be fully formed. A mature modern urban governance system will be established, and a park city that integrates mountains, waters, people, and cities will be fully built. The concept of harmonious coexistence between humans and nature has been gradually practiced and deepened in the construction of modern park cities. Residents feel the balance between their id and nature from the changes in their living environment towards goodness, and the economic and social development of cities is gradually promoted from the perspective of the balance between humans and nature. The relationship between humans and nature in park cities continues to reach new equilibrium points.

3.3. The Effectiveness of Park City Construction

At present, in terms of top-level design, Chengdu has established the Park City Construction Management Bureau as a specialized agency to oversee the construction of park cities. It has released the country's first Park City Index and compiled more than ten special plans on park city planning, construction guidelines, and park city communities, promoting preliminary research on local legislation for park city construction and establishing preliminary rules and standard systems for park city construction. In terms of ecological shaping, ecological projects such as the Huancheng Ecological Park, Longquanshan Urban Forest Park, and Giant Panda National Park have been implemented, relying on the natural landscape of the city to build the city's "green heart", "green lung", "green vein", "green ring", and "green axis". More than 8000 green projects have been implemented, and more than 5000 kilometers of Tianfu Greenway have been constructed. In terms of value transformation, ten national ecological value transformation demonstration zones and nearly 400 ecological value transformation scenarios have been established, and the output value of the ecological and environmental protection industry has exceeded 100 billion yuan. In terms of improving people's livelihood and well-being, we vigorously promote the renovation of old urban areas and the coverage of convenient living circles, improve basic public services, and have been ranked first in the "China's Happiest City" for thirteen consecutive years.

4. THE PRACTICAL LOGIC AND PRACTICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF PARK CITIES FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF HARMONIOUS COEXISTENCE BETWEEN HUMANS AND NATURE

4.1. Practical Logic

4.1.1. Shaping a Community of Harmonious Coexistence between Humans and Nature

Chengdu Park City is a community of harmonious coexistence between humans and nature created around the concept of "beautifying the environment"[8]. Its construction logic is reflected in the creation and optimization of the park city's ecological environment from different dimensions. On the premise of protecting natural ecological elements, we should coordinate mountains, waters, forests, fields, lakes, and grasses to consolidate the ecological conservation foundation of the park city. Incorporate ecological value into the consideration scope of urban spatial layout, take ecological bottom limit as the basic premise of urban planning and construction, strictly follow the carrying capacity of resources and environment, strictly implement ecological protection standards, strictly abide by the red line of farmland protection, focus on protecting areas with high ecological value and sensitivity, and build a comprehensive ecological protection pattern to consolidate the ecological conservation foundation of park cities. The second is to focus on the protection and reconstruction of ecosystems, build ecological corridors, protect biodiversity, and conserve ecological habitats. On the basis of in-depth research on the activity characteristics, migration patterns, and environmental needs of biological species, a scientific ecological corridor is constructed by protecting and reshaping ecosystems such as wetlands and forests to protect biodiversity, provide suitable living and activity spaces for rich species, comprehensively enhance the biodiversity level of park cities, and increase the efficiency of ecological spaces. The third is to build a relatively dispersed yet interconnected global park system based on the people's longing for a better life. Based on the ecological resource endowment of each region, guided by the functional needs of residents and enterprises in each region, and relying on the overall ecological pattern framework, we plan and construct mountain parks, rural parks, urban parks, ecological green spaces, and various parks that meet the diverse needs of production and life. Through the linkage of urban greenways and slow traffic networks, we form a comprehensive park system pattern for the integrated park city.

4.1.2. Urban Development Transformation under the Concept of Park City

One of the mission goals of park city construction is to explore new paths for the transformation and development of mega cities. The urban development logic, spatial layout, and ecological value transformation under the concept of park city construction have undergone certain changes. In terms of development logic, investment attraction has shifted from passive transfer of resources to proactive provision of advantageous business and development environment. Park cities build parks, greenways, and basic public service facilities to create beautiful environments, provide complete supporting facilities, enhance the soft power of urban investment attraction and talent introduction, and overall enhance regional value. In terms of spatial layout, the construction of park cities is based on the reverse holistic thinking of "building cities in parks", placing the construction of a complete ecological system and park system in the city in a global position, implementing ecological civilization construction guided by different specific goals for urban, urban, and rural areas, and building an interconnected ecological civilization system for the whole area. In terms of ecological value transformation, park city innovation promotes the transformation of ecological value, actively explores the practical path of "green mountains and clear waters are as valuable as mountains of gold and silver", enhances the value of surrounding land through the positive external effects created by green space, and makes green ecological space a value-added land by implanting emerging consumption functions and new development modes.

4.2. Practical Significance

4.2.1. Practicing the Ecological Civilization Concept of Harmonious Coexistence between Humans and Nature

"The construction of ecological civilization is related to the well-being of the people and the future of the nation." Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, President Xi Jinping has attached great importance to the construction of ecological civilization and made a series of important judgments around the construction of ecological civilization. "The construction of ecological civilization is the fundamental plan for the sustainable development of the Chinese nation.". The Chengdu Park City Demonstration Zone attaches great importance to urban ecological construction, and coordinates the construction of an interconnected and interconnected global ecological system. The beautiful environment, dense vegetation, and diverse species of urban parks are easily accessible to citizens, and their lives are closer to nature. Citizens are closer to nature, understand nature, and protect nature. Citizens derive joy and a comfortable life from urban green spaces, which are protected and nurtured by people. The relationship between citizens and urban green spaces is more harmonious, and humans and nature coexist in the same world.

4.2.2. Advancing the Modern Urban Manifestation of Harmonious Coexistence between Humans and Nature

The report of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China pointed out the need to promote green development and achieve harmonious coexistence between humans and nature. To promote the modernization of harmonious coexistence between humans and nature, we need to plan development from the perspective of harmonious coexistence between humans and nature, promote green development, adhere to ecological priority, green low-carbon, and intensive conservation; To promote the modernization of harmonious coexistence between humans and nature, we need to work together to promote low-carbon, emission reduction, pollution reduction, green expansion, and growth, promote high development at low cost, and ultimately build a modern socialist strong country with Chinese characteristics; To promote the modernization of harmonious coexistence between humans and nature, we must adhere to the guidance of the people's demand for a better environment, plan economic and social development and ecological environment protection from the perspective of harmonious coexistence between humans and nature, take protecting and repairing the ecological environment as the starting point and focus of improving people's livelihoods, and meet the higher demands of the broadest masses of the people for a beautiful ecological environment[9]. The construction of Chengdu Park City Demonstration Zone meets the modern practical requirements of harmonious coexistence between humans and nature in urban construction and development, such as green development, low-carbon pollution reduction, expanding green growth, and beautifying the environment. It is a modern urban expression of harmonious coexistence between humans and nature.

4.2.3. Provided a City Template that Says 'Green Mountains and Clear Waters are as Valuable as Mountains of Gold and Silver'

The modernization of harmonious coexistence between humans and nature in cities must achieve ecological value transformation to promote sustainable development. One of the development positioning of Chengdu Park City is to serve as a demonstration area for the concept of "green mountains and clear waters are as valuable as mountains of gold and silver". It is necessary to fully tap and release the value of ecological products, promote the transformation of ecological advantages into development advantages, shape a beautiful pattern of integration between the city and parks, interweaving development and protection, and coordinated development of economy and green space[10]. The overall plan for the construction of a park city demonstration zone in Chengdu that practices the new development concept points out the need to establish and improve a government led, enterprise and social participation, market-oriented operation, and sustainable ecological product value realization path, promote the green transformation of social and economic development, and

establish a sound ecological product value transformation mechanism. The economic and social development of park cities is a coordinated and coordinated development involving multiple parties. It is achieved through the transformation of ecological product value to enhance economic and social development and increase efficiency. It serves as a pioneer for cities across the country to implement the principle of "green mountains and clear waters are as valuable as mountains of gold and silver" in economic and social development, and creates a beautiful template for urban green development.

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