

Utilitarianism in Chinese Science and Technology

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The utilitarianism in China has some different meanings from the original definition of western countries. This paper is to characterize the utilitarianism in Chinese science and technology development and its different understandings between China and Westerns. In general, utilitarianism is the primary logos of Chinese programs in the development of science and technology. Analysis for utilitarianism in medium- to long-term programs of Chinese science and technology development was conducted and some reasons of the utilitarianism of Chinese science and technology were summarized. Our study indicated that the function of utilitarian in China is of great complexity.

First of all, the utilitarianism in China not only means choosing happiness but also implies searching for shortly maximum benefits. People hereby pay more attention to the benefits in the near future other than long-term interests. Secondly, the utilitarianism in China is typically characterized by more collectivism than individualism. Chinese people would like to do something in the collective environment. That is one of the reasons why Chinese scientific administration agencies like to organize numerous scientists and engineers to work together for a big scientific program. Thirdly, the utilitarianism in China is of important nationalism nature, which is however different from that of westerns. In China, many great programs of science and technology development were organized by the central government. The development of science and technology has become an important governmental goal in China since the establishment of People's Republic of China, thus making Marxism as its guidance ideology.