
There is a fundamental issue for human civilization, that is, the relationship between individuals and the natural environment. In the long course of human history, mankind has gradually evolved from relying on and harnessing nature to transforming and conquering it. The history of human civilization can be described as a history of the evolution of human-nature relationship. Over a long period of time, the humanity has developed a green consciousness that respects nature and attaches great importance to living in harmony with nature. Green consciousness initially was embedded in different forms in the wisdom of peoples throughout the world, and was characterized by simplicity and spontaneity. Since the second half of the twentieth century, green consciousness has become a global norm that shaped modern civilization, as a result of people reflecting the interaction between economic growth and environmental impact in the past time of the industrial civilization.

From the 18th century onwards, the Western capitalist countries took the lead in the Industrial Revolution, and pushed mankind into the era of industrial civilization. Driven by capitalism, industrial civilization has pursued the growth of economic wealth and the maximization of capital appreciation at all costs, leading to the unlimited exploitation of natural resources in human production and consumption. Under such circumstances, mankind's transformation and destruction of nature has gradually reached its peak, resulting in a serious confrontation between man and nature. In the middle of the 19th century, some intellectuals began to express their concern about the destruction and depredation of nature by capitalist industrial civilization. In his book *Dialectics of Nature*, Friedrich Engels warned mankind not to revel too much in the victory on nature and to be wary of nature's vengeance on us. However, this sensible advice was not heeded at that time.

Since the 1960s, the ecological crisis has become increasingly serious around the world, with a growing number of pollution incidents and natural disasters occurring year after year. According to relevant scientific research, global ecological degradation is expanding at an alarming rate in terms of both breadth and depth, as evidenced by

the yearly exhaustion of land resources, the destruction of forest resources, the increasing strain on freshwater resources, the severity of atmospheric pollution, and the sharp decline in the number of species. On top of that, new pollutants such as noise pollution, electromagnetic wave pollution, light pollution, thermal pollution and nuclear pollution are constantly emerging. These harsh truths have forced intellectuals to reconsider the relationship between human beings and nature, to make a profound critique of the concept of industrial civilization, and to look for a new direction of development for mankind. Environmental groups including "Friends of the Earth" and "Friends of Nature", which are made up of scientists, medical professionals, lawyers, university teachers and students, and even housewives, hold high the banner of environmental protection and put forward a series of new claims and demands. For example, they advocate the protection of soil and water resources and the purification of air and water sources; they call for the non-toxic and non-polluting industries as well as the recycling of waste and rubbish; they oppose excessive marine fishing and exploitation; and they object to the hunting of wild animals and the utilization of their furs and organs for producing garments and medicines. In 1972, a study published by the Club of Rome, an environmental organization, served as a wake-up call for all mankind, revealing that since the Industrial Revolution, the development model of "conquering nature" defended by economic growth had placed man and nature in sharp confrontation, and led to constant retaliation against mankind by nature. This traditional path of industrialization has brought about a dramatic increase in global population, a shortage of resources, environmental pollution as well as ecological damage, and has in fact set humanity on a road of unsustainable development. For a bright future of humanity, all countries should take solid measures to stabilize their population size, conserve natural resources, develop and utilize renewable resources. At the same time, they are expected to change their values consciously and explore a new path of harmonious development between man and nature.