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ID 1590 | REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS CONTEXTS: TAKING GERMANY AND CHINA AS EXAMPLES

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ABSTRACT: Recently, caused by the precarious situation, a large quantity of refugees are facing an immigrant condition, which is one of the major city development problems in the European region. It also brings social, religious and cultural integration to the receiving country, which will be a new challenge in the future urban planning. As we know, the effective regional development strategies to consider different religious and cultural backgrounds will benefit urban stability, harmony and diversification. So this paper will analyze the developmental experience of Germany and China, comparing the referential value of different regional integration strategies under the East and West context. Germany, for example, new status policy protects a large number of refugee camps in most cities, which also makes change to city resource allocation and facilities utilization, as well as the urgent need of residential projects and new requirement constructions. Taking Germany as an example, we can see what kind of influence this "top-down" policy will give to the city. Compared with China, which is another political system, as a multi-nationality country, there is a long history about regional integration in China. Taking Xi'an Huimin Street as an example, to discuss the pros and cons of the "bottom-up" self-built development model.

1 INTRODUCE

Partial precarious situation and intensive regional relationship especially in religious areas arises a critical discussion about regional integration which is one crucial problem in European stability. Regional integration would contribute to territorial cohesion, and both of them are the premises of national cooperation and economic growth, such as Europe 2020 strategy, which explicit the value of territorial cohesion and its meaning in future development. Thus the integration in some regions of ethnic conflicts and religious problems is worthy to getting much more attention.

2 THE PROBLEM REGIONAL INTEGRATION WILL FACE

Involving divergent social group and cultural background, the regional integration is not just a simple planning problem but a serious social problem, the core point of which is about “people”.

For new comers, after enduring different factors like family destroy from war, they have to suit new environment not only living environment, but also social atmosphere. So how to make use of their familiar collective memory and community life to conquer personal psychological barriers and build new life circle becomes a central question. For local people, they will meet more different new out-comer groups which mean social resources like working opportunities, social welfare and education will be distribute again. Obviously, how to make a balance between different groups and culture and benefit form each other in order to build health relationship gets increasing concerns.

No matter for local residents or for the new, it is both a long-time process to coordinate each other and promote themselves' development, which emphasizes especially a powerful instructor and strategic framework to guide and carry out next step's approaches. In following parts, writers will compare two different developmental examples to explain two kinds of regional integration policies: “bottom-to-up and culture-oriented development approach” and “up-to-bottom and economic-oriented development approach”.

3 EXAMPLE A: URBAN ETHNIC COMMUNITY IN CHINA

Due to the complicate situation of nationality in China formed from thousands of years ago, unity and stability is the theme and aim of each age past. After the establishment of P.R.C, the policy about ethnic minorities have been regarded as the fundamental national policy and been implemented for 68 years (There are 56 ethnic groups, except Han race, another 55 ethnic groups are called ethnic minorities), fully Carrying out the ethnic regional autonomy system. We insist on Opposing oppression and discrimination, developing ethnic equality and unity, encouraging to establish different ethnic community in scales and types, especially in historical protected areas.

3.1 XI-AN HUI DISTRICT

“Hui” is the name of Muslim people in China, which is also the third-largest ethnic minority. Due to their distinctive religious culture and eating habit, the majority of Hui people prefer to live in group, so there are many hui settlement areas in northern Chinese city like Beijing, Tianjin and Xi'an. Xi-an Hui district is a typical ethnic community in city and already have been formed for thousands year.

3.1.1 HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

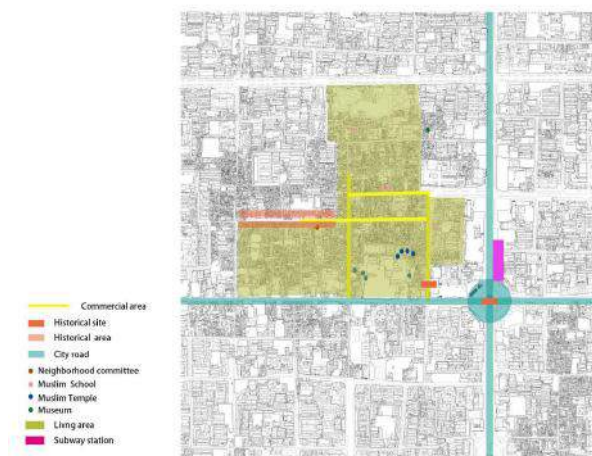
From Han dynasty(around 202 B.C), After ancient silk road formed, Chang'an(ancient name of Xi'an) as the capital city had become the start point of Silk Road, so it attracted a large amount of Muslin came from western Asian and middle Asian countries to do business and settle here who also intermarried with local woman and formed the pioneer Hui group in Xi'an. At the beginning of Song dynasty(around 960 A.C), because of the stop of silk road trade, those ancient Hui group had to build their settlements including Mosque and residential and commercial areas and lead to new Central Plain life. During the war around

Yuan dynasty (around 1271 B.C), a large number of Arabian and Persians came to Central Plain following troops and then settled here. Though thousands years of development of agriculture and economy, Hui group in Xi'an and their habitat had trended to stable situation.

3.1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SITUATION

Hui district is located in the center area of Xi'an city which is near the historic drum-tower. This district is limited by urban road and separated from another residential areas. So the inner environment of the district is different from outsider. There is the only one entrance connecting this district and city.

The structure of Hui district is like a small village in the city, including commercial street also is main street , residential area , several mosque , school and neighborhood committee. These facilities and services can basically satisfy local people's living request.



Commercial street: The main street is the commercial area not only in this district, also famous around Xi 'an city and attracts city residents and tourists increasingly. Various restaurants and booths along the street which is almost operated by Hui people also have along family business history.

Residential area and buildings: Living area is behind the street , using traditional building layout like “street -shop-yard-building-yard-street”,each unit 's inner space organized by the count yard is the family living and working space. But after many years of modern development , increasing population and numerous external population have made local people start to build additional construction on the original buildings in order to get more rent.

Mosque and religious life : The mosque usually located in the joint point of road . Some of them were built in Ming dynasty, regarded as the sacred symbol. Grand mosque is the largest and most well -known one among them. Hui people 's daily religious activities and festival events usually happens in such places.

School and neighborhood committee: The whole Hui district is managed by local committee and be regarded as a community. Local committee will in charge of social work like social insurance , demographic census and social health care insurance.

Traffic situation: Because of old urban district morphology just considering walking as the main commuting way at the beginning , after motor transportation age coming, the street space becomes crowded and chaotic. Lacking of strict traffic policies and traffic plannings , cars ,good vans and electric mobiles also threatens pedestrians' safety .

Recreation Environment: In the main road, Crowded situation and increasing number of tourists does not help to build appreciate environment due to lack necessary facilities like duty water and garbage processing stations and advanced public infrastructure. Numerous public areas around residential areas are also used in commercial way like roadside markets .

3.2 THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN XI-AN HUI DISTRICT AND XI'AN CITY

City context and city development strategy are essential to the vision of district as we known. Especially Xi'an, having experience 13 dynasties ' capital , is the symbolized city of "Han "nationality culture. In such urban background, respecting the diversity of culture is fully meaningful to regional prosperity because of favorable social environment and stable economic foundation.

The inclusive attitude given by city to Hui district provides them with more chances to develop local culture and economic. Such as cuisine culture, the main industry in this area is catering services, and restaurants are the main operational business, which are regarded as the most busy catering commercial street in the whole city . Apart from hui people's smart brain and expert business skill, its popularity also depend on government 's support. Even in official assertion, this district is regarded as a recommended place to experience Xi'an various historical culture, which also be beneficial to increase local people's income and provide more job opportunities.

More attention also brings more opportunities and then new development. In recent 20 years , due to mountaining torists flock in Xi'an city, Hui district has become the most attractive point, so local government also give more support to distirct development such like beautifying the street environment , improve the facility, import more financial support.And now, because of "the Blet and the Road" national policy , The position of Xi'an and Hui nationality street also be highlighted.

Nowadays, the Hui district have already become a necessary part in the city, they shared tourist resources and benefit image between each other, also bring a well-being culture and social environment for local people no matter nationality.

3.3 BOTTOM-TO-UP AND CULTURE -ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

Such development mode explains the natural developmental way and "bottom-to up" organizational method which would also inspire researchers to think about the value guidance during the long time process. Spontaneous formation: their natural formation process gives a stable basis about geographical relationship and family connection to long time self-organization. The strong historical accumulation also gives powerful belief and collective memory that will continue to influence the group in future.

A Self-help and management community: Independent environment and independent living habitat gives Hui people enough freedom to deal with the inner staff. Hui nationality has their admitted leaders, prestigious families and core organization. They can decide their staff independently, including the right to deal with their buildings and live like in traditional village. Area with spacial culture feature : Culture can strengthen community cohesion among group because that culture embeds in people's living habit during long history which leads to common sense and collective behavior at the same time, influencing personal sense of belonging. On the other hand, such collective action will also make their culture impressive then improve cultural influence.Refocusing on culture is not only a way to define themselves, but also to gain more respect from others.

3.4 LIMITS AND SHORTCOMINGS

In spite of above advantages, there are still some limits restricted to management. The current building appearance and structure is not well, but even government want to do some revolutions and change district layout, it is difficult to coordinate needless to say to take some measures due to the local self-management policy and governments' limit right. It is not easy to realize unified planning and large construction.

4 EXAMPLE B: REFUGEE POLICY IN GERMAN

Nowadays, refugee crisis has been regarded as the most difficult challenge since the second world war. Increasing number of refugees is flocking into European Union countries. Among these countries, German accepts the largest number of refugees and plays a leading role in helping other EU countries to solve the

refugee problems. But recent terrorist attack arises public's scare, the skeptics that come along also challenge the government's authority. So what is the double sides of German refugee policy and what can it bring to city's development.

4.1 CURRENT SITUATION

The German refugee policy has brought new newcomers to Germany and met new ethnic integration. Throughout history, we can see , after the second world war, a large number of Turks had been introduced to German and had lived in German through two or three generations' integration. For decades, although the German government try to make Turkey's Muslim integrate into the mainstream society through policies, but consciousness difference and national identity make it difficult. At present, the second fusion led by refugee policy has experienced test. Since January 1, 2006, Germany will start to repatriate those refugees who have not applied for asylum or without valid certificates . This new refugee policy is designed to control the number of refugees in Germany. Actually , in the past few years, Germany had insist on carrying out the "open welcome" policies for refugees, even public would call for the government to launch humanitarian aid. But the open situation had been changed after continuous terrorist attacks incited by extremist hided in the refugee group. And those attack events also arose public 's scare around Europe. Thus German government abandoned the friendly welcome refugees policy, and changed to "tightening" refugee policy. We can see the integration happened in German is governed by the policies, a kind of top-down approach oriented by policies. Political decisions and the public 'willing will influence the process of integration to a large extent. Especially in the western society, the public will have a great effect of policy implementation. So valid policy is the key to solve integration problems and get support from the public then to enforce top-down policy.

4.2 BENEFIT OF TOP-DOWN POLICY

Facing the refugee crisis all around Europe, such top-down and policy-oriented approach could control the situation better. From the international scope, it can balance the conflict and keep overall stable situation, and from national level , it can regulate resources and financial resources in order to supply more support.

4.2.1 GOVERNMENT AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

In 2015, The federal government have taken 1.1 million refugees into Germany. According to the standard of placement, the government will afford 670 euros per person per month as refugee bonus, so it will cost vast sums for governments. We can see , related laws and regulations are the basis of the policy 's enforcement which can maintain stability and balance. Government can call up force and money to regulate the policies.

4.2.2 REFUGEE COMMUNITY CONSTRUCTION

Due to the existing camps cannot meet the demand of refugee resettlement in real situation. So the German governments and the state governments plan to rebuild the refugee camps in order to resettle refugees, like reusing abandoned barracks and old facilities. Then new refugee settlements appears and new ethnic inhabit forms, which will also influence current urban spatial framework.

4.2.3 GUARANTEED EDUCATION AND BENEFIT

In order to help refugee group to integrate into German society, language courses and child care have been set, including social activities and visiting activities. But the language barrier and culture distinct cause more difficulties than people thought.

4.2.4 PROBLEMS IN REFUGEE CAMPS

How do the limited number of camps satisfy the increasing demand of large flocking refugee? Except building new settlements, most of refugee had to live in crowded room with dozens of people. Facing such lager social group , although this phenomenon is inevitable , it is difficult to keep the order , needless to say humanism concern and cultural construction.

4.2.5 DEPRESSION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURE

Actually Refugees have beard the greater pressure in their living. For example, they are facing complex procedures and waiting for long time to eager to get the identification certification, and they do not have chance to work and just can stay at camps. As many reports explored, the poor living condition in the camps and helpless management system always lead to frequent incidents such as violence, theft and rape. It seems like that they escape from the war, but the fact is still suffered, their dream for better life still have not been came true.

4.2.6 THE LACK OF A MUSLIM CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

In the new and unfamiliar environment, loosing their original cultural environment cause an embarrassed situation for them, which means loosing emotional sustenance and loosing their spiritual support. On the other side, their inherent national consciousness makes it is difficult to integrate, especially when meets language and cultural barriers. For themselves, they do not have ability to build a new Muslim homeland for themselves. So the missing geographical relationships makes such camps be a temporary shelter rather than a home.

5 CONCLUSION

No matter which kind of approach, the main problem is to solve people’s living problem and build stable social environment. Though the “down-to-top” strategy, we can conclude that common cultural background is the basis of common living. So it is essential to build ethic community and management system. Similarly , though the “top-to-down” policy, we can see the importance of powerful national indication and the meaning of building spiritual home and supply cultural environment.

HIGHLIGHT AND LIMITATION

Though comparing two different ethic integration method in eastern and western context, the writer attempt to conclude the valuable approaches and views. And it is creative to propose these two approaches : “from down to top and culture-oriented” and “from top to down and the policy-oriented. In the further study , writer suggest the different urban spatial framework under these two approaches can be discussed deeply. Then the write has to admit the limitation of the article, due to language and culture problem, this article does not discuss deeply about the second part.

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