

Confucian cultural heritage, political ideology, and government trust in contemporary China

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Abstract

Chinese people have indicated a high satisfaction level with China's political system. To explore the factors influencing the high political satisfaction of Chinese citizens, we conducted a regression analysis and a moderating analysis on data from the Social Consciousness Survey completed by professor Ma Deyong. The results show that the Chinese people's political satisfaction is high (3.49/5). Moreover, the Confucian Political Heritage ideology's citizen-oriented dimension ($\beta = -0.121^{***}(-4.960)$, $\beta = -0.121^{***}(-4.960)$, $\beta = -0.127^{***}(-7.372)$), National Accountability ideology's stability maintenance dimension ($\beta = 0.061^{***}(5.998)$, $\beta = 0.061^{***}(5.998)$, $\beta = 0.070^{***}(9.731)$), the nation-oriented dimension ($\beta = -0.045^{*}(-1.460)$, $\beta = -.094^{***}(-3.232)$, $\beta = -0.064^{**}(-3.047)$), and high-level government trust ($\beta = 0.409^{***}(8.298)$, $\beta = 0.409^{***}(8.298)$, $\beta = 0.410^{***}(11.832)$) are the main factors predicting political satisfaction. The interaction between benevolent government and grassroots government trust ($\beta = 0.045^{*}(2.393)$) as well as between the citizen-oriented dimension and high-level government trust ($\beta = 0.183^{***}(6.562)$) also significantly predict political satisfaction. Further, the analysis of different income levels shows that the Confucian Political Heritage does not predict political satisfaction among low- and middle-income citizens, but among high income citizens, the benevolent government dimension does predict political satisfaction ($\beta = 0.008^{*}(0.450)$). These findings confirm the theory of cultural change. Once citizens have gained a certain level of material abundance, they prefer post-modern liberalism and value a harmonious society, leaning toward the traditional Confucian political ideal of a society with Great Harmony. However, notable at all income levels,

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