Abstract

Mr Chen Xujing, in his theory on "Thorough Westernization", advocated that the only way for the Chinese culture to move forward is to totally discard its heritage and thoroughly embrace westernization. This theory was based on his cultural perspective, which in turn, was derived from his studies on Western civilization, anthropology and sociology in the nineteenth century.

This paper introduces his theory on "Thorough Westernization" in detail and examines the various causes which resulted in his perspective for the advancement of the Chinese Culture. The paper also attempts to present some analysis and critique on his theory and offers some personal views on related cultural issues.

Mr Chen's theory on "Thorough Westernization" is closely related and influenced by the modern Chinese social realism and cultural trend. At the same time, his unique experiences and background also contributed in shaping his views on the Chinese Culture. Some of the main points raised by him are the concepts of:

1. Cultural association and undulation whereby changes in one aspect of culture will have a catalytic effect on the other aspects of the culture. However, Mr Chen seems to ignore the possibility of cultural conflicts or the possible nature of some aspects of culture which remain stable, constant and unaffected by rapid and radical changes elsewhere;

2. Cultural dynamism whereby culture advances through both evolutonal and revolutonal means. His exaggeration on the pace of cultural advancement is both incorrect and extreme, and reflects
the impatient felt and urgent need for national salvation during this period of modern Chinese history; and

3. Cultural co-ordination and harmony whereby contacts between different cultures will result in a smooth and harmonious evolution and integration. Mr Chen's mistake here is that he took a too simplistic and naive view of cultural problems.

This paper attempts to reconcile some of the issues raised and advocates the concept of cultural balance and integration.