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# Ecological Civilization: From Theory to Practice. China's Endeavor in a Global Concern.

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## Résumé

### Abstract

” Ecological Civilization ” is one of the core concepts of Chinese politics today. Since 2007, when Hu Jintao promoted this concept of ” Shengtai wenming ” during the XVIIe congress of the Chinese Communist Party, this idea has been widely spread in Chinese Politics and Scientific Fields as one of the main target of this Nation. If we refer to the XIIIe five years plan adopted in 2011, it seems very clear that Chinese Politician has decided to enroll China in a new stage of development based on the principles of an eco-civilization. Two arguments, or general reasons are given to sustain this new development: on one hand the actual situation of China, and on another hand its Tradition.

What could it be to live within an Ecological Civilization? And first of all, what could it mean? Aren't those two words ” Ecological ” and ” Civilization ” put together a contradiction? The notion of civilization goes with those of development and progress, and is currently opposed to the notion of wilderness or barbarism. Humankind became civilized by associating to each other and building tools, communities, arts, rules, beliefs. Humankind became civilized by overwhelming the dangers of nature, buy overtaking their weak condition thanks to the engineering of their brain and to the faith in their own power. What should ” ecological ” be added to the notion of our achievement? What's wrong with ” civilization ”? What could be the necessity of this new conception?

This paper wants to describe and evaluate what is an ” Ecological Civilization ”, or what it could be, in China, and in the Global World. First of all, on a conceptual point of view:

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what does the expression " Ecological Civilization " means in the " Western World " and in China? What are the key concepts and epistemological foundations of such a conception? Secondly, on a practical point of view: what has been done and what is being done in the West and in China to settle and implement an Ecological Civilization? What are the political practices, policies and rules that have been created to answer this need? Thirdly, what are the main problems that interfere in the building of such a new model? And mainly: How is it possible to articulate economical growth and ecological civilization?

## **Introduction**

" Ecological civilization " is one of Chinese Politics new direction. This concept comes from Chinese Tradition and concerns today's main urgent problems. This paper wants to explicit this content in a pragmatic perspective that is to say from theory to practice.

What can be an Ecological Civilization today? Work on concepts: Civilization and Ecology.

### **1 - Theoretical Background -**

A - Historical outline of the concept

- a) Hu Jintao speech in 2007 and previous origins. 2011 : XII five years plan of PCC
- b) Chinese conceptualizations
- c) Western conceptualizations
- d) Comparison

B - Philosophical Roots: Chinese and Western Roots of the concept

- a) Nature and Men In China ( )
- b) Nature and Men in the West
- c) Conceptual Fecundity : the Ontological Relation between Men and Nature
- d) Comparison

### **2 - Practice -**

" Ecological civilization " is more a general idea, a trend of thought, than a defined and fixed concept. To explicit its content, we must point out its practice, in the east and in the west.

A - is a comprehensive concept (For a global development )

Eco-Economics ( ), eco-Culture, eco-Environment, eco-Society Extension form eco-nationalism to eco-universalism

B- Chinese practice Law and implementation- Temporal process, linked to sustainable development.

C- Western practice Law and implementation - Green development in EU, States, and Canada.

D – Comparison

### **3 - Opening : The present and the future of Ecological Civilization.**

According to 2011 five years plan, the eco-civilization is supposed to be achieve in 2030.

A - Ecological values (Respect, Responsibility, Common concerns).

B - Ecological education (the place of Chine NGO like ACEF and " Friends of Nature ")

C - Ecological conscientiousness and citizenship.

**Mots-Clés:** Ecological, Civilization, China, economic growth, politics, policy