

## CHINESE AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGE CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

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### ABSTRACT

For a long time, China and Russia, taking into account their unique natural conditions, lifestyle, and the special role they played in socio-historical processes, created original models of cultural life. The habits and customs of people in any region or ethnic group to a certain extent reflect the habits and mentality of the whole nation. There are differences and similarities in the models of the cultural life of China and Russia. The comparative analysis makes it possible to compare the cultural specifics of two peoples. This article discusses the similarities and differences between China and Russia (from ancient times to the present) in religious culture, food culture, digital culture, and the culture of the holidays. Comparative analysis is also a means of forming tolerance in interethnic and intercultural interaction and promotes cooperative fruitful cooperation between the two neighbouring states. China and Russia play an important role in world history and culture. Despite the differences between languages, cultural practices, and cultural life in general, it can be considered that cultural identity is formed between two countries and between two civilizations, which is a strategic resource for the joint development of the two countries.

**Keywords:** cultural differences; religious culture; food culture; national traditions; Russian culture; Chinese culture; linguistic culturology.

### Summary

For a long time, China and Russia have created primitive forms of cultural life because of their unique natural conditions, way of life and special role in the course of social history. The habits and customs of any region or nation reflect, to a certain extent, the character of the entire nation. There are differences and similarities in the cultural life patterns of China and Russia, and the cultural characteristics of the two peoples can be summarized through comparative analysis. This article discusses the similarities and differences between cultures between China and Russia in different aspects such as religion, food, festivals, and numbers from ancient times to the present. Comparative analysis is also a means of forging tolerance in inter-ethnic and intercultural interactions and promoting fruitful cooperation between the two neighbouring countries. China and Russia play an important role in world history and culture. Despite the differences in language, cultural practices and cultural life in general, it can be considered that a cultural identity has developed between the two countries and between the two civilizations, which is a strategic resource for the common development of the two countries.

**Keywords:** cultural differences, religious culture, food culture, ethnic traditions, Russian culture, Chinese culture, language and cultural studies

Both the Chinese and Russian peoples have centuries-long history. Due to the differences in the natural environment, lifestyles and socio-historical processes, cultural traditions with their own characteristics have been formed. We try to reveal the differences between the cultures of the two countries. At the same time, the commonalities of the two cultures are sought to identify opportunities for common development between the two countries. This is not only conducive to the development of Chinese and Russian cultures, but also conducive to the establishment of a platform for strategic partnership between the two countries. There is no clear definition of the term "culture" because culture itself is a continuous and dynamic process. Initially, cultural complexes arose in a specific socio-historical context. Subsequently, in the process of continuous inheritance, development, improvement and accumulation of cultural elements, a "mature" cultural complex is formed. The dynamic nature of culture (i.e., the process by which it is constantly formed) shows that culture is the product of social practices and has distinct national characteristics.

Here I will compare some of the cultural differences between China and Russia.

### **Religious Culture**

In the Chinese cultural system with a history of thousands of years, religious culture plays an irreplaceable role and attracts many believers to worship religiously. Religious cultures are diverse – Buddhist culture, Taoist culture, Islamic culture, Christian culture, Catholic culture, and the original religious culture (such as shamanic culture) in ethnic minority areas. China's religious culture not only exists in religions related to a single god, but also religions with multiple gods. The wide variety of Chinese religious culture has inherent characteristics that have allowed it to survive through periods and dynasties. In Chinese culture during the Qin period, various theories first appeared and generally originated in China. This was followed by the gradual development of Confucianism. By the reign of Emperor Wudi of Han, Confucianism had reached an unprecedented heyday and became a religious and cultural system. Chinese reveres Confucianism as an idea compatible with others. The various religious beliefs in Chinese society are also inclusive. Different sects and their forms have continued to develop in China under the premise of peaceful coexistence.

### **Food Culture**

Food is the most basic human need and the means of survival. Related to this is food culture. What to eat and how to eat, the eating habits of a region or ethnic group are usually manifested in these two aspects, and these also reflect the eating habits and thinking patterns of an ethnic group to a certain extent. Therefore, the difference in food culture between China and Russia naturally becomes the external manifestation of the difference in the personality of the two peoples.

### **Chinese Food Culture**

#### **Wine Culture**

Chinese wine culture has a long history. China's wine culture originated in the Shang and Zhou period and is one of the symbols of Chinese civilization, and its influence can be seen in traditional ancient poems, such Chinese as "Hu'er will exchange fine wine, and sell with Er for eternal sorrows", "wine still comes to sleep the most", "toast to the bright moon". In other words, Chinese not only likes to drink, but also expresses his emotions through alcohol.

### **Tea Culture**

Chinese tea culture has a long history and is famous all over the world. China is the birthplace of tea. Fresh aromatic green tea is brewed with boiling water in special vessels.

### **Food Culture**

Chinese food culture has a long history and is profound. Chinese pay attention to the pairing of dishes and the finesse of dishes. When entertaining guests, it is usually accompanied by a hearty meal to show that the host attaches importance to the guests. Chinese food culture has a long history, so dishes may be interpreted through the lens of another cultural factor. Chinese food culture is deeply influenced by history, region, cooking methods and different preferences of people in different places, for example, the main food in China is more popular. Chinese food emphasizes taking into account concepts such as yin and yang, the theory of the five elements, and the differentiation of meat and vegetables, and the cooking techniques are peculiar, and the dishes can be both colorful, fragrant and flavorful. It can be said that exquisite food is an important part of Chinese culture.

### **Russian Food Culture**

#### **Wine Culture**

Russian vodka originated in water. Wine is the "water of life". Most of Russia is located at high latitudes and has a cold and harsh climate. The Russians used wine to keep warm and protect against the cold. Vodka also became a symbol of the Russian national character. Russians like to drink hard liquor, hoping to anesthetize themselves so that they can escape the troubles of the world.

#### **Tea Culture**

The history of Russian tea culture is not long. It was not until the 18th century that tea became popular among the people. Russian tea is not a single tea leaf, it also includes two different sugars and chocolates, and this tea is generally boiled in a teapot and then drunk. It embodies the unique national character of the Russian people in a small way.

#### **Food Culture**

Most of Russia is located at high latitudes, so spirits are generally fond of drinking. In addition, Russians like high fat and food. Usually they eat macaroni as their staple food, and they also use a bread made from rye flour as a staple food. In Harbin, which is deeply influenced by Russian culture, in some large shopping malls, there is another bread called "Leba" for sale. Russians also love caviar, yogurt, coffee, etc. Although traditional Russian cuisine is not as delicate as Chinese cuisine, behind the simplicity of Russian cuisine, there is a simple but unique lifestyle of Russians.

#### **Festival Culture**

In the process of their respective historical and cultural development, China and Russia have formed continuous cultural traditions. Under the influence of these traditions, the festival culture of the two countries is now created.

## **Chinese Holidays**

### **Chinese Traditional Festivals**

Traditional Chinese festivals are mainly divided according to the lunar calendar. They are culturally specific. Almost every festival is a symbol, reflecting a close relationship with ancient agricultural production, ancestor worship and primitive taboos. Among them are the four most important traditional festivals.

### **Spring Festival**

The Spring Festival, known as "Nian", is very ancient. It is called "New Year's Festival", "New Year", etc. It is the most traditional, important and grand festival in China. On this day of the Lunar New Year, traditional customs mainly include two aspects: first, the worship of heaven, monarchs, ancestors, gods, and gratitude to relatives and friends; This is followed by "traditional customs" (in order to ward off ghosts and attract wealth, it is necessary to sweep the floor, cook tofu, cut meat, sticker pictures, buy wine, dumplings, etc.).

### **Qingming Festival (清光節)**

Qingming is one of the 24 solar terms in China. It falls around the fifth day of the fourth lunar month every year. On the day of Qingming, the earth shows its image of spring ("at this time everything is growing, pure and bright"). Some people say that Qingming is a festival of agriculture. Legend has it that on this day, people ate only cold food. On this day, there is also a more important custom - to pay tribute to the deceased, and people usually choose this day to pay tribute to the deceased relatives.

### **Dragon Boat Festival**

The fifth day of the fifth lunar month is the Dragon Boat Festival in China. The origin of this festival is not clear in history. It is said to be in honor of Qu Yuan, a famous Chinese patriotic poet who lived in the third century. He was a minister of the state of Chu, and legend has it that he was exiled abroad due to political struggles, where he wrote many lyric poems to express his longing for his homeland. A long time later, when he learned that the capital of the State of Chu had been captured by the enemy, sorrow came from it, and he did not allow himself to survive as a remnant citizen of the State of Chu, so he chose to commit suicide by throwing himself into the river. When the residents of the nearby village learned about it, they rowed their fishing boats to find Qu Yuan, while people banged on the shore to make noises and threw sticky rice and eggs into the river to prevent the fish from defiling Qu Yuan's body, and also made the boat into a dragon shape to disperse the fish and protect Qu Yuan. In addition, there is another theory that the Dragon Boat Festival originated from the early dragon totem worship in the Wuyue region, while the Dragon Boat Festival was an activity aimed at driving away evil spirits.

### **Mid-Autumn Festival (Moon Festival)**

The Mid-Autumn Festival is celebrated on the evening of the 15th-16th day of the eighth lunar month. In China, this is a festival for families to reunite. At this time, every Chinese is eager to reunite with their families, enjoy the happiness of family reunion, and at the same time be able to meet friends and enjoy the moon with relatives and friends. According to legend, the Mid-Autumn Festival is associated with two important mythological figures - Chang'e and Houyi, and Chinese like to use mooncakes as offerings to the goddess, and mooncakes are still popular in China after many eras due to the variety of fillings filled inside, and the shape of mooncakes can also be reminiscent of a bright full moon overhead.

### **Traditional Festivals in Russia**

Due to the unique natural geography of Russia, the Russian people have their own unique Russian traditions, festivals and festival customs. One of the oldest festivals in Russia, the New Year, originated in 1699 and was created by Peter the Great in accordance with Western holiday customs: the beginning of the year is January 1. Usually, Russians celebrate the New Year on January 1 and the New Year on the old calendar on January 13. Children usually look forward to the harsh winter when the New Year arrives, while adults look forward to the new year of happiness, joy and peace. When the Kremlin's bell starts to count, people open their champagnes and celebrate the New Year. Everyone congratulated each other, exchanged blessings and gave each other New Year's gifts.

### **Easter**

Russian Easter has always been the most important and solemn Orthodox holiday in Russia. Its purpose is to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ after his crucifixion, the so-called "Easter of Christ". Since the dates of holidays are calculated according to the lunisolar calendar of reincarnation, holidays have different dates each year, but they always fall on Sunday. The last week before Easter is called "passion", during which strict fasting is performed, during which believers eat only bread and drink water, do not engage in any recreational activities, and pray only for the forgiveness of their sins.

### **Christmas**

Christmas in Russia is celebrated by the Orthodox Church on January 7. Considered a public holiday and an official holiday. On the night before Christmas, solemn ceremonies are held in all Orthodox temples in Russia. On January 7th, people gather at the table to entertain guests and give Christmas presents. An ancient custom in Russia is to roast goose at Christmas and eat together as a family. Divination is also performed on Christmas nights.

As two influential powers, China and Russia have important influences in world history and culture, and although there are differences in language, cultural customs and cultural life between the two countries, it can be considered through the above comparison that a cultural identity is being formed between the two countries and between the two civilizations, which is an important strategic resource for the two countries to achieve common development in the future.

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