



Guangming Literary Review Channel > Bookworm > Text

"Slow Water": Only this kind of water can "benefit all things without competing"

Source: Beijing Daily 2023-12-29 10:44

Author: Yu Kongjian

I am often horrified by the tragedy of the Lajia ruins in Qinghai 4,000 years ago, the moment when a mudslide buried an entire village; I am also horrified by the horror of the Yellow River changing its course countless times and sweeping across the Central Plains in the past 2,000 years. The land of China, dominated by the monsoon climate, has many mountains and few plains, with alternating drought and flood seasons and uneven precipitation from north to south. There are many people but little land, and the spaces of flood, town and countryside overlap and conflict with each other. The power of nature has always challenged the survival wisdom and social resilience of the Chinese people, resulting in scenes of thrilling disaster tragedies and scenes of graceful comedies in which humans and water coexist harmoniously. Sad or happy, what's the reason? "Slow Water" will reveal its secrets to us.



"Slow Water: How We Coexist with Water in the Era of Disasters" Written by Erica Gies and translated by Zuo Anpu, Zhejiang People's Publishing House

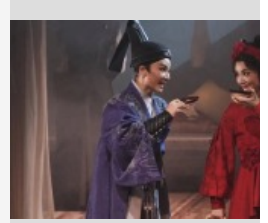
We may think that in the battle between humans and water, contemporary industrial civilization has given us a better chance of winning than the ancients; however, this is not the case. Tragedies of droughts and floods take place in turns around the world every year: from the 2022 floods in Pakistan that flooded one-third of the country and killed more than 1,700 people, to the successive droughts that led to widespread famine in Africa; from the 2005 floods that led to the entire city of New Orleans in the United States The Mississippi River burst its banks, which paralyzed and killed more than a thousand people, and then the record-breaking floods that have occurred in European countries in recent years. It can be said that no matter ancient or contemporary, no matter rich or poor, no matter how developed science and technology is, no matter how powerful the water control project is, in the competition between man and water, the conclusion that "water will always be the winner" is precisely what Elie, the author of "Slow Water" The title given to the original English version of this book by Carl Gies.

Therefore, humans who have mastered the latest technology, energy and machinery, especially relevant professionals and decision-makers, need to accept the question: What kind of philosophy, science and technology should humans use today when global climate change and drought and flood risks are

visual focus



Tian Guang: Cold eye
compassionate feeling



Chen Yaling: Can opera's
change into "retention"

Most popular articles

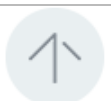
Internet companies must follow the path of "three corruptions"

Enhance employees' awareness of the rule of law

Holding hands and connecting hearts, we draw a "concentric circle" of national unity.

Unlocking the spiritual code, diversity and unity of the Chinese nation

Take you to know the culture Northern Xinjiang in one mir





diversion project stretching thousands of miles, a flood discharge channel that quickly discharges directly into the sea, an ultra-large-scale urban rainwater pipe network and a super-powerful water pump, or is there something else? A smarter, more sustainable and civilized approach? From the failure of various gray water control projects around the world, to the plight of irrigated agriculture in California, the United States; from the natural wisdom of otters building weirs to create habitats, to the water cultural wisdom of ancient India and Peru; from the protection of water towers in Kenya, to China's Construction of "sponge city". Erica Gies presents a story about water to us in an all-round way: the shyness of the gurgling springs, the unrestrained rivers stretching for thousands of miles, the interdependence of water, rocks, creatures and humans, the harmonious coexistence of humans and water based on nature, and the indifference Natural and ultimately failed water control projects, returning to nature and reviving traditional culture, regenerating the destroyed water system... She clarified for us a different concept and path from the engineering water control under the concept of contemporary industrial civilization: slow water.

The various projects and behaviors that humans use to control and conquer water are absurd and ignorant. "Slow Water" accuses this, explains the inevitable catastrophic consequences, and also exposes the fundamental misunderstanding of engineering thinking-human beings only care about water. To satisfy their own interests: For local interests, humans build high dams on rivers to collect water; to cope with local floods, humans cut and straighten river channels, narrow shoals, build high embankments, and build super-scale urban rainwater pipe networks and deep Tunnel projects; in response to the dry season, humans grab groundwater. Such projects often do not consider that groundwater needs wide riverbanks to slowly replenish it, nor do they consider that local and foreign organisms need to thrive in symbiosis with the seasonal rise and fall of water. This is the "fast water" thinking of industrial civilization in modern times, which claims to be the single-goal engineering thinking of the progress of human civilization. Erica Gies tells us that even projects that have temporary benefits and appear to be a quick solution to a single problem will eventually fail, as the joke among water conservancy workers goes: "There are only two kinds of rivers in the world." There are two kinds of embankments: one has already burst and the other is about to burst. "Because various projects try to fight against water and become enemies of water; because when human beings carry out such projects, they never ask what water needs. Going against the will of the water! The water needs to slow down: it falls from the sky to the ground, seeps into the land, and dives into the vegetation; the rapids meander gracefully, undulating between rocks and slow down; the rivers meander on the plains, and the deep pools and shallows sing all the way, in the woods and in the countryside. It twists and turns, leaving behind gravel and soil, nourishing the earth and towns. Eventually, the water that has experienced ups and downs needs to gather and rest in low-lying places, forming lakes and swamps, depositing nutrients and moisturizing life. "Slow Water" emphasizes the locality of water and the inseparable ecological relationship between water and rocks, soil, microorganisms, plants, animals and humans.

Thousands of years of disaster experience have enabled mankind to accumulate a wealth of "slow water" wisdom. Each nation has a "slow water" cultural heritage that is adapted to the local "water nature", which is reflected in all aspects of philosophy, methods and engineering technology. . These "slow water" cultural heritage based on nature have been or are being replaced by the "fast water" concepts and projects of large industrial civilization. Recovering the wisdom of "slow water" and making it scientific will bring new hope to the world in adapting to climate change, repairing life on earth that has been impacted and destroyed by industrial civilization, and realizing harmony between man and water.

 Culture: Identity Chapter

 Vigorously develop new productive forces in the process of building a beautiful China

 Compliance with laws and regulations is the foundation of Internet companies

 The power of the rule of law protects the development of the Internet

 What role does red culture play in northern Xinjiang culture?





my personal experience to state my testimony. ; If the author is advocating the global "slow water" movement with her deep love for nature and human beings, I am more than willing to use my personal experience to advocate and preach.

My hometown is a remote village in the Jinqu Basin. The village is at the intersection of Wujiang River and Baisha River. Baisha Creek originated from Nanshan. In the early Eastern Han Dynasty 2,000 years ago, General Lu Wentai abandoned his official position and retired here. He began to build low weirs on the stream to irrigate the fertile fields on both sides. Since then, the ancestors have built a total of 36 low weirs on the stream that is 45 kilometers long and has a height of nearly 170 meters to slow down the stream and irrigate more than a hundred villages and thousands of hectares of fertile farmland. There are also many large and small ponds scattered across the fields, which act like sponges to store rainwater and irrigate the surrounding farmland during the dry season. These ubiquitous ponds and wetlands are always accompanied by tallow trees and shrubs, and wild flowers bloom alternately throughout the seasons. During the plum rainy season, there is always a sense of excitement and excitement in the village, because at this time the water in Baisha Creek rises, and groups of carps swim upstream from the Wujiang River, passing over the creek beaches and entering deep pools, rice fields and ponds. It's a good time to fish! These 36 low weirs do not try to stop the flood, but only slow it down. They will not cut off the passage of swimming fish. My personal experience in childhood made me sigh, "People know how to compete with water for land, but they don't know how to store water in fields. When there is a severe drought, they just sit back and watch the seedlings wither, seeing small gains but losing big ones. This is very stupid." It is this "slow water" system composed of low weirs, pools, and ponds that has fostered a productive, beautiful and interesting "Peach Blossom Spring" that has endured for 2000 years.

Please don't misunderstand me. I am not denying the achievements of industrial civilization and modern engineering; the industrial revolution has given humans the ability to resist the destructive power of nature. What I emphasize is how to exercise this ability in a controlled manner. Water needs space, water needs to slow down, and water needs to be with life. Only such water can "benefit all things without competing for it." It also needs to be clarified that the concept of "slow water" is not to completely let nature go, but to understand the nature of water and what water needs, so as to adapt to water, make the best use of the situation, and use engineering water control in a controlled manner, rather than fighting water, controlling water uncontrollably or Denial of water rights.

Erica Gies is a senior writer on science and environment topics for authoritative media such as Nature, National Geographic and The New York Times. She travels around the world and is especially fond of water. With the keenness of a detective, the insight of a philosopher, the truth-seeking of a scientist, the affection of a litterateur, and the perseverance and love of an explorer, she explains the pros and cons of "slow water" and "fast water" in this book. It tells the philosophical concept of "water benefits all things without contending with them, but nothing can compete with them" and attempts to enlighten a global action on water ecological civilization.

(The author is a professor at Peking University and an academician of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences)

[Editor: Liu Bingya]





客户端



官方微博



微信公号

Related Reading



The road to common prosperity led by new productive forces



Guided by scientific and technological innovation, accelerate the development of new productive forces

Internet companies must follow the path of "three corruptions"

Enhance employees' awareness of the rule of law

Holding hands and connecting hearts, we draw a "concentric circle" of national unity.

Why Be a Model | Feature Film Series on

Northern Xinjiang Culture: Identity Chapter

your mood at this moment

文艺评论平台
提供技术支持



happy

0



sad

0



like

0



drifting by

0

Exclusive planning



A new theory on China-Practice



The New Journey of Li Impact in China



Times Qingyin-Theoretical Scholar Support Program



Reasons sound in China | Sonorous "reasons" · Party School Open Class Season 7



New ideas for education in the capital



Reasons sound in China:sonorous reasons



Recommended reading

The construction of the "big ideological and political course" work system must focus on three aspects:





2024-03-18 10:28

Effectively shoulder the new cultural mission

The subjectivity of Chinese culture is rooted in the fertile cultural soil of more than 5,000 years. It is based on the creative transformation and innovative development of China's excellent traditional culture, the inheritance of revolutionary culture, the development of advanced socialist culture, and on the basis of drawing on and absorbing the achievements of all outstanding human civilizations. established.

2024-03-08 16:31

Keep pace with the times and work together to create a better future in the digital space

With the accelerated development of digitalization, networking and intelligence, all countries are facing new development opportunities and need to deal with new global problems. The international community urgently needs to work together to jointly create a peaceful, secure, open and cooperative cyberspace and jointly build a cyberspace. A community of shared future.

2024-03-01 14:51

Agricultural modernization is the key to Chinese-style modernization

2024-02-23 09:24

Continuously consolidate the good momentum of China's economic recovery and improvement

The Spring Festival, the traditional Chinese festival, is coming soon. On this occasion, looking back at 2023, the main expected goals of China's economy have been successfully achieved. Looking forward to the new year, my country's economic development will still face some difficulties and challenges, but at the same time it also has the competitive advantages of large scale, resilience, strong innovation potential, the supporting effect of large macroeconomic policy maneuvering space, and a new round of comprehensively deepening reform and opening up. growth dividends and other three favorable supports.

2024-02-09 16:37

Make good use of the "addition, subtraction, multiplication and division" method to promote and deepen institutional reform

It is necessary to focus on the central tasks of the party in the new era and new journey, focus on accelerating the transformation of government functions and optimizing the government responsibility system, make a fuss about "addition, subtraction, multiplication and division" to promote further deepening of institutional reform, so as to comprehensively promote Chinese-style modernization on the new journey. Provide new impetus.

2024-01-30 11:31

How to get out of "digital loneliness" in the age of social media

In the face of ever-upgrading digital social products, young people need to be aware of the marketing strategies and operational logic behind immersive social environments, so as to keep a distance from the sensory stimulation and virtual selves generated by social media.

2024-01-15 09:41





The connotation and basis of “people’s needs for a better life”

The proposal of "people's needs for a better life" contains the value purpose of Marxism, embodies the essential requirements of socialism, is rooted in China's economic and social development reality, is in line with the original mission of the Communist Party of China, and reflects the high degree of regularity and purpose. Unite.

2024-01-12 09:39

Feel the pace of China's development in the New Year's greetings

At the winter solstice, Yang is born, and the year turns around. In the new year, we stand on the hard-earned achievements of this year and are full of confidence in the future. It is even more necessary for us to continue to struggle, forge ahead, and achieve more development results.

2024-01-04 15:35

Paths to improve the supply capacity of ideological and political teachers in colleges and universities

In view of the outstanding contradiction that the current supply capacity of ideological and political courses cannot effectively meet the development needs of strengthening ideological and political courses, it is necessary to effectively improve the supply capacity of teachers, improve teaching methods, and promote the high-quality development of ideological and political courses in the new era.

2023-12-14 17:59

The CIIE will turn China’s big market into a big market shared by the world

my country has always proactively implemented strategies and policies to expand imports, held consecutive import expos, and advocated open cooperation. This is fundamentally different from previous trade protection theories and policy propositions, and has injected strong impetus into maintaining an open world economy.

2023-11-09 10:22

Looking at the ten-year transformation of the “One Belt, One Road” from changes and unchanged

Facing the future, we must further expand the "circle of friends", draw a "fine brushwork", and connect "hard connectivity" and "soft connectivity", adhere to the principles of inclusiveness, cooperation, and win-win, and strive to achieve national rejuvenation and promote the well-being of all mankind. And work hard.

2023-10-24 11:06

The foundation of “One Belt, One Road” has been set, but there is still a long way to go

Cultural exchanges are very important. When we talk about the "One Belt, One Road" initiative, we also need to talk about the benefits that "co-building the country" brings to us. In fact, we are faced with the problem of how to treat ourselves correctly. The "Belt and Road" is not a unilateral grant, but a two-way or multi-way mutual benefit.

2023-10-10 09:58





Building an open gateway from northeast to north

We must fully grasp the historical mission of opening Northeast Asia to the north, and solve the dilemma of different strategic intentions and interests and lack of strategic mutual trust among Northeast Asian countries by promoting Northeast Asian sub-regional and country-specific cooperation.

2023-09-27 09:53

Ideological weapons and action guides for high-quality development of the cyberspace industry

In 2022, the scale of my country's digital economy will reach 50.2 trillion yuan, ranking second in the world in total, with a year-on-year nominal growth of 10.3%, and the proportion of GDP rising to 41.5%. The digital economy has become an important engine for my country's stable growth and promotion of transformation.

2023-09-15 10:49

Improving the national security legal system

Adhering to the guidance of Xi Jinping's thoughts on the rule of law and the overall national security concept, and accurately grasping the contemporary connotation and implementation path of improving the national security legal system are the only way to advance the construction of the national security legal system with Chinese characteristics in the new era and new journey.

2023-08-22 09:41

The original theoretical contribution of "two combinations" in the new era

General Secretary Xi Jinping further promoted the integration of the basic principles of Marxism with China's specific reality and excellent traditional Chinese culture, creatively answered major questions related to the development of the party and the country's cause, and formed a series of original theoretical achievements.

2023-08-18 09:14

Correctly grasp the relationship between theoretical depth and network mass communication

Profound theory comes from the practice of the people. Only by continuously expanding the depth and breadth of theory and using "popular discourse" to clarify "theoretical discourse" can theory truly become a sharp weapon in the hands of the people.

2023-07-18 17:59

Building a new socialist countryside through rural management

The "Ten Million Project" combines village improvement with economic development, takes rural management as the starting point, and continues to open up the transformation channel of "lucid waters and lush mountains are valuable assets", turning ecological dividends into people's livelihood benefits.

2023-07-12 09:32





Systematic and theoretical research on regional and national studies

Regional and national studies are a typical interdisciplinary subject. Only by contributing knowledge increments from different disciplinary perspectives, and through integration, collision and innovation, can a disciplinary consensus be finally formed.

2023-06-28 09:36

load more



All rights reserved by Guangming.com

