

# **Influences of Historical Status of Ba-culture on the Value of Current Culture**

**Zhengquan Liu\***

*Dazhou Academy of Administration, Dazhou, Sichuan, China*

*\*Corresponding Author.*

**Abstract:** Ba-culture is the sum of all material and spiritual cultures jointly created by ancient Ba country and various ethnic groups in Ba region. The statement that Ba is both a clan name and an ancient country name and place name is a relatively consistent research conclusion among scholars from ancient and modern times. Ba-culture is an indispensable and important component of Chinese national culture. Studying the origin and cultural formation of Ba-culture, exploring its cultural historical status and its impact on the inheritance of current cultural values, has important historical value and practical guiding significance for contemporary social civilization and cultural development. Clarifying the historical status of Ba-culture and its structural relationship with Chinese civilization as a whole is of great and positive contemporary value for enhancing the unity of the Chinese nation.

**Keywords:** Influences; Ba-culture; Historical Status; Current Cultural; Cultural Psychology

## **1. Introduction**

Ba-culture generally refers to the sum of material culture, spiritual culture, and social structure created by the ancient Ba state, which was born in the late Shang Dynasty and Western Zhou Dynasty, in southwestern and central southern parts of ancient China. It is mainly composed of the ancient Ba ethnic group and collaborated with other ethnic groups. The early Ba-culture in archaeology includes the indigenous Neolithic cultures of eastern Sichuan, southern Shaanxi, northern Guichou, and southwestern Hubei, spanning from the Neolithic era to the late Spring and Autumn period.<sup>[1]</sup>

As an important component of the overall civilization development of the Chinese nation,

Ba-culture has become an increasingly popular research topic among various sectors of society in recent years, and has become a hot and focal point of academic research for scholars engaged in history and archaeology. Academic conferences on Ba-culture are frequently held, with significant research results. A large number of Ba-culture research works and papers have been published, especially on the impact of Ba-culture on contemporary culture.<sup>[2]</sup>

On the basis of existing research results, this article intends to further expand the research space of the value of Ba-culture in the era, make up for the shortcomings of current research, and aim to more effectively and effectively inherit and promote the historical value and practical function of traditional Chinese culture.

## **2. The Origin and Historical Style of Ba-culture**

To study the historical status, historical value, and impact on the current cultural inheritance of Ba-culture, it is necessary to first complete an understanding of the overall Ba-culture, especially the most essential attributes and characteristics of Ba-culture.

### **2.1 The Origin of the Name "Ba" in Ancient Documents**

The name of Ba country was first seen in the Shan Hai Jing Hai Nei Jing. According to the "Classic of Mountains and Seas, Hai Nei Jing", "There was the state of Ba in the southwest. Tai Li gave birth to Xianniao, Xianniao gave birth to Chengli, Chengli gave birth to Houzhao, and Houzhao was the beginning of the Ba people." The historian Luo Mi of the Song Dynasty recorded in Volume 1 of the "Lushi Houji": "Fuxi gave birth to Xianniao, Xianniao gave birth to Chengli, who was in charge of soil and water, and Houzhao gave birth to Gu Xiang, who surrendered to Ba and

gave birth to the Ba people." As is well known, Ba is not only the name of an ancient ethnic minority, but also the name of an ancient country. ", It's still an ancient place name. This is a relatively consistent research conclusion drawn by scholars from ancient and modern times.<sup>[3]</sup>

However, there are divergent opinions on the origin of the name "Ba". For example, in history, some people believed that the Ba people were named after their proximity to the water, where the water flowed in a winding "Ba" shape, as seen in the "Yuanhe County Annals". There is also a more bizarre explanation based on the genus of insects and snakes, as seen in the "Shuowen" written by Xu Shen of the Eastern Han Dynasty. In the Tang Dynasty, when Sima Zhen wrote "Records of the Grand Historian", he believed that the origin of the name "Ba" was due to the common objects in the area, such as Ju (Ba). According to the research of historical and cultural studies and archaeology, there are also literature available to verify various different claims, indicating that each claim has a certain degree of rationality. Given the long history of the times, after exploring these claims to some extent, the conclusion can be drawn that they may have been speculated and added by later generations, or they may have existed at that time and have been passed down to this day.

## **2.2 The Coverage of the "Ba" region in Ancient Literature**

According to numerous historians, as well as records from ancient books such as the Book of Han, the Book of Later Han, and the Huayang Guozhi, the geographical scope of ancient "Ba" mainly covered parts of present-day Hunan, Hubei, southern Shaanxi, Sichuan, Chongqing, Yunnan, Guizhou, and other regions. Dazhou, Bazhong, and Chongqing in eastern Sichuan were the hinterland of the ancient "Ba" region.

The recognition of the geographical scope of the ancient "Ba" country mentioned above can be further confirmed by recent archaeological excavations and research on Ba-culture, as well as archaeological data obtained by archaeologists in Sichuan and Chongqing from the Ba and Shu regions. From archaeological data, it can be seen that today's Chongqing and Sichuan regions were the main areas covered by the Ba and Shu kingdoms established by

the ancient Ba and Shu ethnic groups during the Shang and Zhou dynasties.<sup>[4]</sup>

## **2.3 A Study Perspective of Ba-culture from the Perspective of Archaeology**

Due to the limited historical research materials in the ancient Bashu region, which were mainly compiled based on legends, even the unified ideology since the Han and Jin dynasties has been integrated into the inheritance system of ancient Bashu-culture. This has greatly restricted scholars studying modern and contemporary history in sorting out ancient historical materials, and even misleading situations often occur; For scholars who specialize in studying the culture of ancient Ba and ancient Shu, they face a lot of confusion.<sup>[5]</sup>

With the flourishing of modern archaeology, new research paths have been opened up for historical science. New archaeological achievements bring new research materials and methods for academic research on Ba-culture. Using the discoveries of modern archaeology as important research materials, and further exploring the spiritual connotations of ancient Ba people and Ba-culture, it has become a powerful tool for the academic community to gradually focus on studying the early Ba cultural relics in the eastern Sichuan region.

By examining the research on the Luojiaba site in Dazhou, Sichuan over the past decade, as well as using technical means to identify the composition and metallographic examination of the bronze artifacts excavated from the Luojiaba archaeological site, it can be found that the alloy composition and metallographic structure of the bronze artifacts unearthed from the Warring States period at the Luojiaba site are similar to those of the late Bashu bronze artifacts in the Xiajiang River basin, indicating that the two belong to the same technical system.<sup>[6]</sup>

## **3. The Historical Status of the Evolution and Formation of Ba-culture**

The Ba-culture has a long and rich history. According to research, it has a development history of over 5000 years. The convergence of Ba-culture and other cultures in China has formed the long history of Chinese culture. According to archaeological excavations and research, in the early Paleolithic period,

ancestors of the Chinese nation worked hard and thrived on the land in Hubei and Sichuan provinces.<sup>[7]</sup>

### **3.1 The spirit of Ba-culture Enriches the Systematic Connotation of Chinese Culture**

The Ba ethnic group is a multi-ethnic federation, and its ethnic alliance, as a branch of the Chinese nation since the Xia and Shang dynasties, has been coexisting with the ancient Chinese ethnic groups living in the Central Plains for a long time, jointly creating a brilliant Chinese civilization.

With the continuous advancement of archaeological excavations of the Ba-culture, the Ba-culture research group has also continuously released updated research results. Whether in the field of archaeology or historical and cultural studies, based on the unearthed artifacts of the Ba-culture, continuous research has been conducted on the origin and evolution of the Ba-culture, integrating the customs and culture of the Ba people with other domestic cultures, and conducting a large amount of deterministic theoretical research and practical exploration.<sup>[8]</sup>

From the shape of the Chinese character "Ba" in Oracle Bone inscriptions, it is almost identical to the "Di, Rong, Yi, Man, Miao" and other characters in Central Plains culture, both of which have the characteristics of correcting their regional and ethnic characteristics, as well as revealing their ethnic lifestyle and form. This can lead to the conclusion that Ba-culture is an important branch of the Chinese cultural system.

The study of Ba-culture and the spirit of the Ba people is the exploration of the research and theoretical connotations of Chinese cultural spirit. From the Ba-culture sites in the Xilingxia area, it can be seen that they were more influenced by the Central Plains culture and ultimately further integrated into the Chinese cultural system.<sup>[9]</sup>

### **3.2 The Practice of Ba Immigration Has Promoted the Openness and Inclusiveness of Ba Shu Culture**

From the overall trajectory of historical development, whether it is the land transportation of the Silk Road since the Han Dynasty, the Tang Dynasty's "Xuanzang's Journey to the East", or the Ming Dynasty's

"Zheng He's voyages to the West", all have greatly expanded the cultural connections and economic and trade exchanges between the Chinese nation and people of all ethnic groups around the world, reflecting that the open nature of Chinese culture is essentially an inclusive and highly open culture. Moreover, this cultural characteristic of the Chinese nation had always been leading the world before the modern ban on maritime activities.

Due to its unique geographical location, the Ba region often became a place for immigrants to choose refuge during wars in various dynasties, forming a dynamic population of prosperity and cohesion. This has also formed the concept of openness and inclusiveness in Ba-culture, which has a long history and has been passed down by future generations. In history, Sichuan has experienced several large-scale migrations. The early large-scale migration brought a large number of people engaged in agriculture and agricultural culture to the ancient Bashu region, becoming a labor force for developing local mountain and wild farmland, promoting the economic development of the Bashu region, and thus forming abundant resources, promoting the cultural openness and inclusiveness of the Bashu region.<sup>[10]</sup>

### **3.3 The Application of Ba-culture Has Become a Business Card of the Era for the "Hometown of Ba People"**

Through the study of the Luojiaba and Chengba archaeological sites excavated in Dazhou City in recent years, it can be concluded that the footprints of Ba-culture and Ba people are mainly originated and settled in Dazhou and its surrounding areas. Nowadays, the Ba people's seal has become a symbol of Dazhou in Ba-culture. The design of the Ba people's seal can be described as having a distinct theme, innovative design, originality and uniqueness, showcasing the historical and cultural inheritance attributes of the unique elements of Ba-culture and the current regional culture of Dazhou.

It can be seen that exploring the origin, formation, and cultural system of Ba-culture, clarifying the partial and overall relationship between Ba-culture and Chinese culture, is of great practical significance for promoting cultural integration and exchange among various ethnic groups in China, as well as the

confidence and self-improvement of the entire Chinese civilization.

Exploring the practical value and application of Ba-culture is conducive to promoting Dazhou's business card, promoting the integration and development of Ba traditional culture and contemporary cultural construction, and also providing governance basis and decision-making reference for various functional departments of the government. All of these have important historical application value and contemporary reference significance. At the same time, exploring the practical value and application of Ba-culture will also contribute to the construction of Merida as a historical and cultural city, and also open up opportunities for promoting the popularity and influence of Ba-culture nationwide. With the rise of the tourism and cultural industry, in-depth research will be conducted on the Ba-culture, which is one of the important traditional civilizations of Chinese culture, to provide strategic consultation and application reference for local governments. The proposition of applying it as a core cultural resource in the local area will also be successfully realized in practice.<sup>[11]</sup>

#### **4. The Contemporary Significance of Promoting the Inheritance of Cultural Values in Ba-culture**

The ancient Ba people fought against heaven and earth, constantly striving for self-improvement, and created a brilliant Ba-culture. And this culture, especially the philosophical ideas, humanistic spirit, value concepts, moral norms, etc. contained in the Ba-culture, as well as the loyal and brave character and open and inclusive demeanor formed through continuous inheritance, has been influential to this day. Its cultural inheritance has an important impact on contemporary culture. Therefore, on the basis of fully studying the broad connotation of Palestinian culture, we should vigorously promote the inheritance of Palestinian culture, thus contributing to the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and Chinese path to modernization.

##### **4.1 From the Perspective of Developing National Cultural Confidence, It Has the Function of Promoting Chinese Cultural Confidence**

The Chinese nation is gradually moving towards the great rejuvenation in history. The development and prosperity of Chinese culture will undoubtedly create historical conditions and spiritual support for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Excellent traditional Chinese culture is the "root" and "soul" of the Chinese nation. As an important component of the diverse and integrated Chinese culture, Ba-culture has always played an important role in promoting the cultural confidence of the Chinese nation.<sup>[12]</sup>

From the archaeological sites and literature records of the Ba-culture, it can be seen that the Cuban people have achieved high accomplishments in military strategy, music and dance, literature and art, especially in smelting, lacquer dyeing, and metal processing techniques. The material and spiritual heritage left by the Cuban people is the crystallization of people's wisdom at that time, and it is also a treasure of Chinese culture, reflecting the overall civilization and cultural construction of the Chinese nation contained in it. It has always been rolling forward, and the steps under its feet have never stopped.<sup>[13]</sup>

The spirit of "loyalty, bravery, righteousness, boldness, and inclusiveness" embodied in the Ba-culture demonstrates the noble character of openness and inclusiveness of the ancient Chinese nation, as well as its strong ability to conquer and fight. Its inheritance can not only greatly enhance the self-confidence and cohesion of various ethnic groups in contemporary China, promote national cultural confidence, but also provide spiritual support for adhering to and developing the contemporary social culture in the new era, further consolidating the soft power of Chinese culture, to provide assistance for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and also showcase the brilliant achievements of Ba-culture in the development of Chinese culture to the world.<sup>[14]</sup>

##### **4.2 From the Perspective of Enhancing Social and Cultural Integration, It Has the Function of Promoting contemporary Social Cultural Integration**

Although there is currently no unified theoretical understanding and value system for the spirit of Ba-culture, some scholars have combined existing archaeological materials and literature records to summarize the ancient

Ba-culture spirit as "loyalty, courage, faith, and righteousness". General Bamanzi's sincere promise to the city of the King of Chu and his gratitude towards me, as the city cannot be obtained, reflects General Bamanzi's loyalty to the country, courage to sacrifice, and keeping his promises, which can be called "loyalty"; In the process of King Wu's conquest of Zhou, "Ba Shi was brave and sharp, singing and dancing were used to defeat the Yin people, and his predecessors turned against him." This reflects the qualities of Ba warriors who kept their promises and fought bravely, which can be called "bravery", and so on. All of these reflect the spirit of "loyalty, bravery, and trust in righteousness" in Ba-culture.

The ancient Ba Kingdom was roughly equivalent to today's Chongqing, eastern Sichuan, southern Shaanxi, and western Hubei. [15]According to the "Huayang Guozhi · Ba Zhi", Ba State "extends to Yufu in the east, Bodao in the west, Hanzhong in the north, and Qian and Fu in the south", which means that today's eastern Sichuan and Chongqing regions.

The integration and exchange of contemporary social culture contribute to the promotion and popularization of contemporary social values based on the excellent traditional Chinese culture and draws on the rich ideological and moral values contained in traditional culture. The spiritual core of Ba-culture, which emphasizes loyalty and bravery to the country, integrity to society, and personal loyalty and righteousness, is in line with contemporary social values. The inheritance of the excellent traditional culture of the Chinese nation will greatly promote the realization of the integration and exchange of contemporary social values [16]

#### **4.3 From the Perspective of maintaining National Unity: It Has the Function of Strengthening the Unity and Cohesion of the Chinese Nation.**

Promoting the inheritance of Ba-cultural values, carrying forward the brave spirit of ancient Ba people, combining with the current technological innovation, daring to break through old institutional mechanisms, promoting rural revitalization work, enhancing the economic strength of all ethnic groups, is conducive to promoting national unity, and greatly enhancing the cohesion and centripetal

force of all Chinese ethnic groups. [17]

As China's economy and culture have gradually integrated into the development of global integration, and a modern market pattern that is unified, open, and competitive is gradually taking shape. Promoting the inheritance of cultural values in Ba-culture will help to consolidate the close integration of human resources, natural resources, ecological resources, and cultural resources of the Chinese nation with global economic development. [18]In this process, it is necessary to promote the unity and progress of the Chinese nation, strive hard, seize the rare historical opportunity, and achieve success in promoting the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. The happiness, sense of achievement, and self-confidence of every Chinese nation, including people from various ethnic regions and ethnic minorities, have greatly increased. The future and destiny of each individual are closely linked to the rise and fall of the Chinese nation as never before, and the sense of identity of people of all ethnic groups towards the community of the Chinese nation has been further consolidated. [19]

#### **5. Conclusion**

Ba-culture is a part of Chinese culture and an important component of human civilization. From the perspective of the development of Chinese culture, striving to develop and inherit Ba-culture is an important means to reflect the characteristics of Ba-culture, and it is also a strategic way to promote the construction of China's common homeland, promote the fine arts of Chinese culture and the value system of Chinese civilization to the world, and an effective way to promote the development of the diversity of world civilizations with the progressiveness of Chinese civilization.

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