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# Sustainability of the European Integration: Approaching from the Perspective of Culture

Prof. WANG Xiaohai

Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, Guangzhou, China

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SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

# An ancient Chinese saying

- *“Yi Li Jiao Zhe, Li Qiong Ze San”*
- For those who make friends with one another for economic benefits only they will be dissolved soon when there're no more benefits to reap
- EU
- More than economic purpose

# Culture

- difficult to define, though it has been studied for centuries. (Kroeber & Kluckhohn, 1952)
- no consensus made about the definition
- That is why mainstream integration theories didn't pay much attention to it
- in this paper culture refers to “values, attitudes, beliefs, orientations and commonly held opinions in a society”.

# Relationship between culture and integration

- Not associated, *e.g. Rosamond, 2000; Hix and Goetz, 2000; Hooghe and Marks, 2001; Jachtenfuchs, 2001*
- necessary to link culture with integration / should not be separated / separation is artificial
- Closely related, *e.g. Huntington, 2003*

# Declining role of economy and politics

- The original expectation of some European scholars that the political unity of the European Union will be the inevitable result of the common market in Europe is proved to be illusory.

# **Culture: new driving force**

- European common culture
- also the spiritual factor of European integration
- become an important source of European solidarity and cohesion

## Conclusion

- “sustainability” refers to a process or state that can last for a long time
- sustainability of human society consists of several interrelated and inseparable parts
- system view --- economy, politics, culture and other factors
- *“yi xin xiang jiao, cheng qi jiu yuan” --- “Sincerity makes lifetime friends.”*

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**Thank you  
for your patience!**