

# An Analysis of the Characteristic Meaning of “One Dance and Multiple Ethnic Groups” in Gansu Region of China

Qing Zhou, Xi Yang

School of Dance, Northwest Minzu University, Lanzhou, Gansu 730030, China

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**Abstract:** Under the environment of the Chinese national community, which brings together the history of multi-ethnic communication and integration for a long time, the sheepskin fan encouragement with the characteristics of “one dance and multiple nationalities” has been produced in Gansu, which embodies the spiritual connotation of integrity, inclusiveness, sharing and co-creation. Focusing on the sheepskin fan dance in Gansu region, starting from the ontological characteristics of the dance, based on the proposition of The Times, this paper carries out a comprehensive and holistic analysis of such folk dances with common characteristics, thus providing the direction for the development of folk dances in the new era, and deepening the realistic role and significance of folk dances in forming a strong sense of the Chinese nation community.

**Keywords:** The consciousness of Chinese nation community; Sheepskin fan encouragement; A dance multi-nationality; Gansu

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## Fund Project:

This paper is Supported by the Fundamental Research Funds for the Central University in 2022 Universities project “Research on Multi-ethnic Sharing of Northwest Folk Dance under the Consciousness of Chinese Ethnic Community” (Project No. 31920220122).

In this context, based on the existing research basis, the paper will cross the awareness of the Chinese nation’s community with the dance art, taking the sheepskin fan drum in Gansu as the research object, closely focusing on its characteristics of “one dance and multiple nationalities”, hoping to enhance the cohesion and sense of identity of the Chinese nation from the perspective of dance art, and at the same time, it is a kind of action consciousness of the Chinese nation’s community consciousness.

Gansu has been a multi-ethnic province since ancient times. The dance phenomenon produced in this environment not only has the traditional culture of the Chinese nation, but also has the strong cultural characteristics of each ethnic group. Within the territory of Gansu, the occurrence and development of drum culture is unique, among which the sheepskin fan drum has been circulating for a long time and has a wide range of circulation. The sheepskin fan dance is performed in the Wushan Mountains of Tianshui, Longnan Xihe, Minxian County of Dingxi and Weiyuan areas of Gansu Province, all of which show the characteristics of “one dance and multiple ethnic groups”.

## 1. Integration and inclusive coexistence

The characteristics of “one dance with multiple nationalities” are mutually constructed with the Chinese national community. From the perspective of time, although the performances of sheepskin fan dance in Xihe, Dingxi, Weiyuan and Tianshui Wushan in Gansu Province are different in time, they are located in the southeast of Gansu and share the same axis in the historical evolution and development of the Chinese nation. On the one hand, the characteristics of “multi-nationality dance” have similar cultural forms and performance forms at the same time, and on the other hand, it lasted in the historical process of the development of various ethnic groups in Gansu. From the horizontal axis of time, the sheepskin fan dance of Longnan Xihe, Dingxi Minxian, Weiyuan and Tianshui Wushan is not a feature of “one dance with multiple ethnic groups” due to the exchange and integration of ethnic groups in a short

period of time, but the emergence of this feature is a result of the long-term development and integration of various ethnic groups. The cultures of various ethnic groups have collided and interwoven in the long river of history, thus producing commonalities. The sheepskin fan encouragement in different regions has the characteristics of “one dance and multiple nationalities”. With thousands of years of history in Gansu, along with the evolution of social and historical development, various ethnic groups have gradually formed a state of communication and integration, and jointly composed their own national culture and history in the process of their own development. From the perspective of space, mountains and rivers are connected and dances are integrated. The sheepskin fans of Longnan Xihe, Dingxi Minxian, Weiyuan and Tianshui Wushan coexist in Gansu as a whole and were born together in the land of the Chinese nation. They share the same physical space and are closely related.

The characteristics of “one dance with multiple nationalities” not only have the overall characteristics of one prosperity and one loss, but also inclusiveness is one of the meanings of “one dance with multiple nationalities”. In the collision with different cultures, the sheepskin fan dance of different regions does not mutually exclude and harm each other, nor does it develop independently and blindly exclude, but interweaved and integrated in the attraction of each other, with the absorption and inclusiveness of inclusiveness and diversity. Although the Han nationality is the main body of inheritance, the cultural composition of Sheepskin fan dance contains the cultural forms and relics of the Tibetan, Qiang and minority nationalities. In the form of performance, there are also Tibetan, Qiang and other ethnic groups participating in the performance, making the multi-ethnic culture together as one. This kind of tolerance does not mean the “melting” of a nation’s own culture, nor does it mean the absorption of all cultures of a nation. Rather, it further develops the essence of traditional cultures of various ethnic groups and is shared by all ethnic groups.

## **2. The co-creation and sharing of national cultural symbols**

Cultural symbols are symbols and abstract representations with unique cultural connotations or meanings. National cultural symbols are the ideological spirits and psychological emotions accumulated and formed by all nationalities in the process of historical development, and reflect unique national and regional cultural characteristics. <sup>[1]</sup>The sheepskin fan drum is a symbolic symbol of national culture.

Without the common intersection of shared material achievements and interests, it is impossible to form a consensus and a solid sense of community. The memory of history is the process and result of all ethnic groups sharing the past.<sup>[2]</sup> In the process of cultural exchanges, the spread of the inspiration of sheepskin fans has facilitated the interaction and communication between different regions and different nationalities, and built a common spiritual home for all nationalities with common emotions. The occurrence and formation of the sheepskin fan encouragement in Gansu region was not created by one nation. The national cultural symbols that have formed to the present state have gathered the efforts of many nations, and many nationalities have contributed their own culture and strength to it. In the form of culture and performance, there is a mix of Tibetan, Qiang, Han and other ethnic groups, including a strong cohesive force, but it is not only the exclusive national cultural symbols of Tibetan, Qiang and Han, but also the cultural symbols of the entire Chinese nation.

Sheepskin fan inspired “a dance multi-ethnic” characteristics is the integration of the local diverse national culture, so that the common national cultural symbols in different ethnic groups, different regions to be shared, carrying different ethnic aesthetic thoughts and spiritual temperament, not only with a single national cultural attributes, but also by a number of ethnic common use, participation in this “symbol”, the formation of a shared scene, It is the historical fact of the long-term communication and integration of the Chinese nation, which contains the interwoven and interactive Chinese culture. It is not only an explicit form of Chinese culture, but also an important cultural representation in the Chinese nation community. From the characteristics of the sheepskin fan encouraging “one dance of multiple nationalities”, the literal “multiple nationalities” is self-evidently corresponding to sharing, and its powerful “adaptability” can develop and evolve in different nationalities and regions while preserving the particularity of national cultural symbols, thus forming a unique national culture and a stable and collective sharing pattern. And the characteristics of “multi-ethnic dance” are presented in a harmonious and shared national community environment, whether it is external symbols or internal culture, the situation of mutual ownership and common enjoyment among all nationalities is revealed.

## **3. The construction of geo-community and spiritual community**

The words “Chinese nation” and “community” are combined to form the term “Chinese nation community”. Ferdinand Tunnis believes that “the basic form of community is consanguineous community, geographical community and spiritual community.” Geo-community means that people live together, while spiritual community means that people influence each other and coordinate with each other under the same environment. <sup>[3]</sup>Because of the construction of geo-community and spiritual community, the characteristics of sheepskin fan encouraging “one dance and multiple nationalities” in Gansu area have a happy land for development, laying a

foundation for the construction and development of the Chinese nation's community consciousness.

The characteristics of "one dance and multiple nationalities" emphasize the interaction and "common presence" among various nationalities, so that different nationalities do not have the contradictions formed by their own differences in culture, geographical language, identity and customs to define themselves. On the one hand, the geo-community is embodied in the performance of the art form of sheepskin fan encouragement in different regions of Gansu Province, which has the same cultural phenomenon of sheepskin fan encouragement, and has many commonalities in form and culture. On the other hand, it lies in the communication and interaction of different ethnic groups in the same space. Common geography and common living conditions are the manifestation of the natural commonality among groups. "Common existence" not only provides spatial guarantee for group interaction, but also provides emotional support for different individuals in the same space.

From the perspective of space, Gansu is located in the intersection of Loess Plateau, Inner Mongolia Plateau and Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. Longnan West and Dingxi Minxian, Weiyuan and Tianshui Wushan have similar living environment in Gansu. They are adjacent to the plateau, have rugged and complicated terrain, and drink Yellow River together, with relatively closed space environment. Born in the same geographical space, they are all part of the Chinese nation. They have a field that is in line with the interaction of various ethnic groups, and they also have a common historical memory of the sheepskin fan, which has shaped the geographical community and provided soil for the occurrence and development of the characteristics of "one dance and multiple ethnic groups" of the Sheepskin fan.

Spiritual and emotional connection is the glue to maintain the community. Spiritual community is a special spiritual entity that believes that others can also feel their own emotional state, have a resonance of empathy and will jointly maintain this emotion. The sheepskin fan inspired this folk art, which was jointly created and participated by many nationalities, has become the spiritual product of people of all nationalities. In the case of the interweaving and coexistence of different cultures, the characteristics of "one dance of multiple nationalities" are formed through the sheepskin fan. Through the common memory and interaction of all nationalities, the emotional synchronization and spiritual perception of all ethnic peoples are promoted in the scene of common performance and common appreciation, and the relationship between diversity and unity is expounded through the excavation of common memory. Jointly awaken the national spirit and emotional consensus created by "consistency". In short, the sheepskin fan to encourage "one dance multi-nationality" features involve the people of all nationalities, the emotion between the ethnic groups as the internal connection basis, based on the common emotion spirit accumulated into a whole, so that the people of all ethnic groups are closely linked together, highlighting the national centripetal force and cohesion, become the best interpretation of the spiritual community. "It also provides a dance perspective for the study of ethnic exchanges and integration in Gansu, and provides cultural support for the study of the consciousness of the Chinese nation community."

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## About the author:

Qing Zhou , female, Associate Professor of Dance College, Northwest University for Nationalities.

Xi Yang , female, master student, School of Dance, Northwest University for Nationalities.