

# The Value and Role of Yunnan Minority Dance in the “Belt and Road” Cultural Exchanges

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**Abstract:** This article mainly discusses the value and role of dance in cultural communication under the “Belt and Road” initiative. The article firstly introduces the background and significance of the “Belt and Road” initiative and the role of dance in it. Then, the article analyzes the advantages of Yunnan minority dance under the “Belt and Road” policy, including the superiority of geographic location, the diversity of minority dance, and the value of dance in cultural exchange and dissemination. Dance, as an intuitive form of art, helps deepen the emotional ties and friendship between the people of the countries along the route, and at the same time, has a wealth of educational value and social value. Finally, the article puts forward the role of dance of Yunnan minority dances in communication, including promoting the development of cultural industries, bringing new economic growth points for countries along the route, and promoting cultural exchanges and cooperation.

**Keywords:** “Belt and Road”; Yunnan Minority Dance; Cultural Industry; Economic Development

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“One Belt, One Road”, short for “Silk Road Economic Belt” and “21st Century Maritime Silk Road”<sup>[1]</sup>, is an important initiative put forward by China to promote economic globalization<sup>[1]</sup>. The initiative aims to build a community of human destiny by strengthening economic cooperation among countries along the route and realizing policy communication, facility connectivity, smooth trade, financial integration and people-to-people communication<sup>[2]</sup>. In this context, cultural exchanges and cooperation among countries is particularly important, which not only helps to deepen the understanding and friendship among people of different countries, but also helps to promote the development of cultural industry<sup>[7]</sup>. Under the promotion of the “Belt and Road” initiative, dance culture plays an increasingly important role as a medium of communication. Through dance, people from different countries can understand each other's culture more intuitively, and enhance mutual understanding and respect. At the same time, dance is also an important way to promote the development of cultural industries in the countries along the route and strengthen international cultural cooperation.

## 1. The Advantages of Yunnan Minority Dance Highlighted under the Belt and Road Policy

### 1.1 Advantages of the geographical location of Yunnan Province

Yunnan, a beautiful and colorful province, is an important part of southwest China. Yunnan is the closest place to the Indian Ocean in China, an important corridor connecting China to Southeast Asia and West Asia and the frontier of opening up to the outside world<sup>[9]</sup>, and also the only province in China that communicates directly with the Indian Ocean littoral countries from the land, which has a prominent strategic position in the three major art markets connecting China, Southeast Asia and South Asia. Yunnan has a large number of ethnic minorities, which also gives Yunnan a unique position in culture and art. In terms of folk dances, Yunnan is even more famous, its colorful and brilliant dances not only reflect the natural scenery and ethnic culture of Yunnan, but also show the spirit of the people of Yunnan who are hard-working and brave, and love life. In the long history of Yunnan, the mingling and fusion of different ethnic groups have laid the foundation for the development of Yunnan's folk dances.

### 1.2 Diversity of Minority Dances

China's minority dances are colorful and distinctive. These dances have unique forms and deep connotations, and are an important part of the traditional culture of the Chinese nation. With the development of the times, minority dances have gradually stepped out of the country and gone to the world, becoming an important carrier to show China's diversified and integrated culture. Yunnan Province, as the richest area of dance art and culture on the Belt and Road, has 25 ethnic minorities of different sizes, showing the advantages of diversity. In the process of mutual exchanges of dance culture, Yunnan's minority cultures have constantly gained new elements and inspirations, making the dance expressions richer and more diversified. In folk art performance, Yunnan's ethnic minorities have inherited a long history of dance art culture,

thus forming a unique artistic style and characteristics

## **2. The value of dance in cultural exchange and dissemination**

### **2.1 Dissemination and Exchange of Yunnan Minority Dances**

Minority dance is an important representative of Yunnan culture, which has a profound historical background and cultural connotation. Under the "Belt and Road" initiative, the inheritance and development of Yunnan minority dance culture has received more attention and support, which is of great significance for the protection and promotion of Chinese traditional culture. Yunnan minority dance culture plays an important role in promoting cultural exchange and integration. With the acceleration of economy and the diversified development of culture, the exchanges and cooperation between the cultures of different ethnic groups and different regions have become increasingly close. As one of the representatives of Chinese traditional culture, Yunnan minority dance plays an important role in cultural exchange with other countries and regions. By displaying the unique charm and cultural connotation of Yunnan minority dance, it can promote understanding and recognition between Chinese and foreign cultures, and enhance friendship and cooperation between different ethnic groups.

### **2.2 Yunnan minority dance culture has rich educational and social values.**

Yunnan Province is a multicultural gathering area with many nationalities and cultures. In the early years, due to the inconvenient transportation and economic backwardness of Yunnan, there are some straight through nationalities such as Nu, Dulong, Jingpo, Lisu, etc. They are the nationalities who have not gone through the democratic reform after the founding of New China and have been directly transitioned to the socialist society across the border by the primitive society, therefore, these nationalities' primitive dance resources are very natural and pure, which is also conducive to the preservation of the national natural culture. The Dai, a household name, has also deepened and developed a set of teaching systems through continuous research and development, using these standardized methods to cultivate and train dance talents and teach them dance skills in order to promote the dissemination, exchange and prosperous development of dance. In terms of education, through the inheritance and development of Yunnan minority dance culture, more talents can be cultivated to inherit and promote traditional Chinese culture, and the cultural self-confidence and self-awareness of students can also be enhanced. In the social aspect, the inheritance and development of Yunnan minority dance culture can enhance cultural identity and social harmony among different ethnic groups, help maintain social stability and promote economic development.<sup>[1]</sup> In the social aspect, the inheritance and development of Yunnan minority dance culture can enhance cultural identity and social harmony among different ethnic groups, help maintain social stability and promote economic development<sup>[3]</sup>. Under the framework of the "One Belt, One Road" initiative, dance cultural exchanges and cooperation have become increasingly frequent<sup>[5]</sup>.

### **2.3 Dance can promote the development of cultural industries and bring new economic growth points to countries along the route.**

Since the 21st century, along with the Chinese government's Belt and Road Initiative, the cultures of various ethnic groups have begun to exchange and integrate greatly. At the same time Yunnan minority dances have brought great impetus to the tourism industry. Yunnan attracts many domestic and foreign tourists with its rich ethnic culture and natural scenery. As an important part of Yunnan's culture, minority dance has become an important attraction for tourists<sup>[4]</sup>. By watching minority dances, tourists can gain a deeper understanding of the history, culture and lifestyle of Yunnan's various ethnic groups, thus enhancing their interest in and goodwill towards Yunnan.

Secondly, Yunnan minority dances also promote the development of cultural and creative industries. The movements, rhythms, costumes and other elements of minority dances can be transformed into cultural products with commercial value. For example, some dance elements have been applied in the fields of clothing design, home decoration and artwork creation, forming unique cultural styles and brands. These cultural products not only satisfy consumers' pursuit of beauty, but also bring great economic benefits to local cultural and creative industries.

However, it should be noted that while pursuing economic value, attention should also be paid to the protection and development of minority dance culture itself. Excessive commercialization leading to cultural distortion and alienation should be avoided, and the original charm and cultural connotation of the dance should be maintained. At the same time, it is also necessary to strengthen the inheritance and innovation of minority dances, so that more people can understand and appreciate these valuable cultural heritage<sup>[2]</sup>.

## **3. The Role of Yunnan Minority Dance in Communication and Exchanges**

"The Belt and Road Initiative emphasizes cultural exchanges and mutual understanding, while minority dances, as one of the treasures of traditional Chinese culture, have unique artistic charm and cultural connotation. By participating in the cultural exchange activities of the Belt and Road Initiative, minority dances can demonstrate the diversity and uniqueness of Chinese traditional culture, and promote cultural understanding and identity among countries along the route. This will not only help to enhance friendship and cooperation among peoples, but also

help to promote the diversity and inclusive development of world culture.

The "Belt and Road" initiative also focuses on economic development and social progress, and ethnic minority dance, as an important part of the cultural industry, has great market potential and economic value. With the economic development and social progress of the countries along the Belt and Road Initiative, people's demand for culture and entertainment is increasing. Minority dances can bring considerable economic and social benefits to the countries along the Belt and Road through market-oriented operation and industrialized development. At the same time, minority dance can also promote the development and upgrading of cultural industries in the countries along the routes through the integration and innovative development of other cultural industries<sup>[5]</sup>.

#### 4. Conclusion

To summarize, Yunnan ethnic minority dance culture has an important value and role under the "Belt and Road" initiative. It is not only an important part and one of the treasures of Chinese traditional culture, but also an important bridge and link to promote cultural exchanges and economic cooperation among countries along the route. By participating in the cultural exchange activities and market operation of the "Belt and Road", minority dances can bring considerable economic and social benefits to the countries along the route, It can also increase the diversity and inclusiveness of world cultures and enhance the friendship and cooperation among the peoples of all countries. Therefore, we should actively inherit and develop Yunnan minority dance culture, promote it to play a greater role in cultural exchanges and cooperation, To make greater efforts to promote traditional Chinese culture, promote cultural exchanges and cooperation between China and foreign countries, and contribute to the building of a community with a shared future for mankind, so as to make the art of Chinese nationalities' dances stand in the forest of the world.

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