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Re-Starting of the “Sunan Model”

Over thirty years after Mr. Fei Xiaotong proposed the “**Sunan Model**”, Southern Jiangsu has become one of the most economically developed regions in China. Compared with OECD member countries, Southern Jiangsu shared similar economic indicators in terms of infrastructure, living environment and public services, which presents to the world a picture of a modernized society. Measured by “Urban Construction” and “Human Development”, most counties and cities in Southern Jiangsu are no longer systematically out of step with modern cities in the West. However, when we get close to people's daily life, social interactions, and particularly touch their behavioral orientation and values at a deeper level, we find that the living situation and mental state of the people in Southern Jiangsu still have a rural character, which is very different from the modern urban people written by sociologists.

If Southern Jiangsu is positioned as a modernized society, then it is also transformed from the rural society, a modernized society with roots in the rural area and rural characteristics diffused in it. Therefore, from the perspective of social form, especially the urban-rural relations, Southern Jiangsu is embarking on a path of modernization with Chinese characteristics. This report will explore the significance of the embryonic modernization model in Southern Jiangsu and try to analyze its causes from the perspectives of culture, institutions and policies.