

## Thoughts on Translating Dr. Dezhi Lu's Capital and Collective Sharing Trilogy

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As with most social phenomena, the process and direction of globalization are complex and fluid. Britain's exit from the European Union and the nationalist and protectionist tone of US President Trump's politics are reminders that globalization does not always continue unabated. But the world is still increasingly connected: Data sharing knows few if any borders, shoppers now purchase on new global platforms, international relations are a daily and prominent fixture in the news, and international business travel and tourism grow annually. Individuals and societies will experience greater social, commercial, and political contact throughout humankind's future.

Whether nations become more united or divided on those lines in the coming years is an open question. But perhaps an even more important question is how human connectedness will shape the future of human civilization. In his latest trilogy, Dr. Dezhi Lu has provided insight into the historical, contemporary, and future relationships between people, capital, politics, natural resources, innovation, and human development. Dr. Lu illustrates capital and collective sharing have long existed in Chinese civilization, as well as in Western and other civilizations. The crucial point is, as he indicates, how we utilize features of collective sharing in our civilizations to govern the development of capital for the well-being of majority around the world today. The trilogy often visits East-West relations, particularly as they pertain to the global powers of China and the United States.

Translating Dr. Lu's works from Chinese to English has helped make his ideas available to a larger and more diverse audience. We expect that these thoughtful and engaging texts will stimulate productive philosophical debate with practical implications and developments. Dr. Lu's books are not meant to be easy reads; quite the contrary, they present profound and challenging concepts for policy makers, businesspeople, and readers of all backgrounds.

It is not surprising then that the translation process was trying as well. Many concepts ask us to rethink how society functions, how wealth originates and transmits between people, and how and in what capacity individuals, societies, and nations interact with one another. Concepts such as the spirit of capital, collective sharing, majoritarianism, the "game" between nations, and even the difference between society and civilization are difficult to disentangle and express in one's own native language, let alone to translate into a unique social or political context. China and the US, in particular, operate under contrasting political economies and, therefore, have different social and governance systems in place. Culture, values, and public discourse also vary, and all of these social forces shape language. The resulting nuances create intricacies for any translation project, and these three books have been no exception. However, our team, which is composed of experts in both languages, has met the challenge well, and we have learned much about

both cultures in the process. We are delighted to have been part of helping to share these ideas with a greater population.

The response to Dr. Lu's trilogy has been overwhelmingly positive. Of course, as with any bold philosophical ideas, challenging reviews have emerged as well, particularly on how to implement the concept of collective sharing in reality. The recent approval of President Trump's tax reform, which will decrease the tax burden and increase the disposable wealth of corporations and the wealthy, highlights this challenge. A purely capitalistic perspective would be to allow the additional wealth to flow unfettered, whatever direction that might lead us as a society. Competing models might call for extreme government intervention to avoid exaggerated wealth in the hands of a few altogether. Dr. Lu's vision of a global collective sharing civilization falls somewhere in between. Indeed, corporations and the wealthy have a long history of contributions to philanthropy and societal betterment. Practical challenges will come as nations and groups of nations determine how to facilitate the level of collective sharing needed to reduce income inequality, protect vulnerable populations, and move human development forward as a whole.

For those unfamiliar with Dr. Lu's recent work, the following sections provide summaries of his three books: *Spirit of Capital*, *Capital and Collective Sharing*, and *The Collective Sharing Civilization*.

### **Spirit of Capital: The Power of Coordinated Development**

*Spirit of Capital* draws our focus to the importance of capital and the spirit of capital at a key point in time. Dr. Lu defines the Spirit of Capital as the progressive, virtuous force of capital and argues that the spirit of capital is the power of coordinated development. Humankind now grapples with intractable issues such as growing income inequality, depletion of natural resources and climate change. The ways we choose to respond to these crises moving forward will determine our path, and perhaps our very existence. Emerging threats to human society require us to act cooperatively, and to develop greater awareness of our shared and disparate needs.

Nations might quarrel over how to distribute capital, but capital itself is good for society and social development. Capital is a special type of wealth that creates more wealth that, in turn, can be used to meet society's needs. Moreover, capital creates relationships between investment and labor and, in general, between people. Without capital, society and social development would flounder. It is essential not to disregard the value that capital has for society, as communist perspectives have often done in the past.

Human civilization is at a crossroads—what direction it goes from here depends on whether and how people are able to come together to face challenges such as climate change, diminishing natural resources, and international conflict. Additionally, as income inequality increases, the progress of human development will depend, in no small part, on how people share wealth and resources with one another.

Today's world is better situated than ever for sharing between individuals and societies. Cultures might develop within borders, but now they are more easily shared across borders. Capital flows across borders as well. And the Internet has forever changed how information can be transmitted. The multidirectional flows of people, ideas, and resources enrich the world and allow for greater human progress. Wealth is often at the center of discussions of development because capital is needed to create, to build, to distribute, and to serve the needs of the world's diverse communities. Corporations and the upper classes control more of this important resource, which raises fundamental moral questions about the collective sharing of capital. With right spirit of capital, Dr. Lu argues that capital is the power of coordinated development for human development.

Also fundamental to discussions of a more united and harmonious world are East-West relations. With competing philosophies, contrasting economic and political systems, and different societal priorities, the idea of spirit of capital will be viewed through markedly different lenses in the East and the West. In particular, China and the US appear to be moving in different directions in terms of trade and economic connectedness. To what extent do corporations and the upper classes have a responsibility to share wealth with others, and how much government involvement is warranted to encourage such sharing? How much sharing is needed to achieve sustained progress of human civilization? *Spirit of Capital* addresses the relationship between people, capital, and human civilization, with particular attention to integrating Eastern and Western ideas, values, and economic systems to achieve greater global human development.

### **Capital and Collective Sharing: The Theme of Coordinated Development**

*Capital and Collective Sharing* discusses the important roles of collective sharing in the era of capital and wealth development. Dr. Lu redefines capital in a modern context, explains his rationale for sharing capital, and examines the relationship between capital and social development. It is essential, Dr. Lu argues, to understand that capital is a positive and beneficial social force, and that we must use capital to serve the majority's interests. Collective sharing, he argues, is the key for this to occur, and thus, collective sharing of capital is the theme of coordinated development. This book incorporates economic theory, political philosophy and Dr. Lu's personal experience with business and philanthropy. The discussion, therefore, contains both theoretical and practical components. He touches on classical and modern economics, politics, culture and religion and the ways they have shaped our global society.

Over time, a culture of capital has developed across five stages that mirror the development of human civilization. In today's world, capitalist and socialist countries are dealing with both the positive and challenging effects of capital. These countries have handled people's relationship with capital differently and have often clashed with one another ideologically. Both perspectives would do well to meet in the middle—capitalist frameworks could put more value on regulation, and socialist frameworks could put more value on capital and its accumulation.

Dr. Lu's stance is that modern philanthropy—that is, donations of extensive sums of money, often by entrepreneurs and large corporations—will most effectively drive the sharing of wealth needed by society. Those who have wealth can share through philanthropy. Those who do not have wealth can still serve the social good as well, primarily through personal actions. Fundamentally, sharing is a value that must be embraced by leaders of business, politics, and all sectors of society. Nineteenth-century entrepreneurs began this type of philanthropy in the United States, and in China, first-generation philanthropists grew out of the nation's prosperous economic reforms in the 1970s. Through philanthropy and collective sharing, nations and global society will begin to solve an issue that humankind has fervently sought to address for generations—social inequality. The solution will take dedication and decades but is achievable.

The book also addresses practical ways to implement this ideology. The wealthy should financially contribute to society, while the broader public should promote social good through action. The spirit of capital motivates us to mindfully support our communities. To foster the development of the spirit of capital, we must first develop an awareness of what capital is, how it is earned and spent, and how it impacts society. Lu makes clear that philanthropy is one powerful and essential tool for sustainable development as society becomes increasingly interconnected. Philanthropy in the U.S. and China has experienced rapid innovation and transformation in recent decades, and now more than ever can help us address complex global challenges and unmet social needs. Especially in the aftermath of global financial crises, Lu explains, philanthropy not only redistributes wealth for social good, but also promotes accountability and values-minded leadership across business and financial sectors.

Dr. Lu's discussion extends beyond philanthropy, however. Collective sharing relates not only to monetary donations, but more so to our compassion for our fellow man and the environment. Social resources are shared by families and communities, and natural resources by all of humanity. It is this awareness of collective sharing that Lu is calling for, and that can meaningfully shape modern philanthropic practice.

### **The Collective Sharing Civilization Preface: New Form of Coordinated Development**

The *Collective Sharing Civilization* challenges readers to re-envision the future of humankind. Dr. Lu argues that humans share core values, one of which is collective sharing, and illustrates how human civilization can only progress if we return to our nature. We must embrace, practice and seek togetherness both within and across nations and throughout all parts of society. Individuals, communities, and societies must focus on the whole of civilization and their shared role in developing it. Dr. Lu argues this is new form of coordinated development.

Ideological disagreements, greed, and other impediments certainly can hinder our progress toward the collective sharing goal. However, history should inspire our faith in ourselves. Past civilizations have shown that humans are by nature sharing beings and capable of living this core value. Even today, people immediately return to their true nature and share unselfishly with victims of natural disasters. This past year has seen landslides in Sierra Leone,

monsoons in Bangladesh, and hurricanes in the United States and Caribbean, and after each calamitous moment and the ensuing, longer term carnage, people have shown how natural it is to help their brethren, even if they have never met and will never know them. The flood of local, national, and international aid are reminders of our capacity to improve ourselves and our world.

China has become a living example of Dr. Lu's vision of the collective sharing civilization. China has shed its previous close-mindedness toward capital and opened its markets to the world. And the nation has taken broadened its embrace of global connectedness in its monumental One Belt, One Road Initiative, which uses development and investment projects to connect communities from over sixty countries across four continents.

Additional good news is on the horizon. China is not alone in its efforts to enhance global interconnectedness. Corporations and entrepreneurs from many countries invest outside their home nations. They bring capital across borders and connect people and cultures. And although proponents of globalization and connectedness might initially despair with the nationalistic and protectionist perspectives that have regained prominence with the current US administration, many companies and entrepreneurs use their freedom to disagree and work toward a greater sharing civilization. One of the most prominent Western business minds to take a public stance on this issue is Facebook owner and founder Mark Zuckerberg, who wrote the following in an open manifesto to the world:

Today we are close to taking our next step. Our greatest opportunities are now global—like spreading prosperity and freedom, promoting peace and understanding, lifting people out of poverty, and accelerating science. . . . Our greatest challenges also need global responses—like ending terrorism, fighting climate change, and preventing pandemics. Progress now requires humanity coming together not just as cities or nations, but also as a global community.

In the *Collective Sharing Civilization*, Dr. Lu details the past progress, current challenges, and future direction of human civilization. He shows features of collective sharing has been part of Chinese civilization for ages and how present-day China is taking steps that can be used as a model for future human progress. He also demonstrates the features of collective sharing characteristics have long existed in Western and other civilizations. The knowledge, tools, values, and structure that comprise the collective sharing civilization are explained, and Dr. Lu shares his ideas on how to navigate issues with the economy, politics, technology, culture, ecology and society, and international relations. At its core, this work reminds us that people are social beings that survive and flourish through togetherness, and humankind's future will be brightest if we stay true to that fundamental part of our nature. As translators on these projects, we are delighted to bring this discussion, and surely the spirited debate that will enrich it further, to new and wider audiences.

### Responses to Dr. Lu's Capital and Collective Sharing Trilogy

By translating Dr. Lu's trilogy for English readers, we hope to expand this imperative philosophical discussion to continually improve our approaches to addressing well-being for individuals and humankind as a whole. Indeed, Dr. Lu's work has deeply resonated with numerous opinion leaders in the fields of philanthropy, government and higher education:

### **Spirit of Capital: The Power of Coordinated Development**

"Dr. Lu has successfully connected the individualistic-motivated accumulation of wealth to the inevitable purpose of social responsibility, where the true meaning of wealth beyond materialistic gains could then be realized."

*Dr. Julian Chun-Chung Chow, Professor, University of California, Berkeley*

"Dr. Lu's dialectical understanding of the strength of socialism with its emphasis on the well-being of the majority and the creativity and 'spirit' of capital help him to explore how wealth generated by capital and in the hands of a minority can and should be mobilized for public good."

*Elizabeth D. Knup, Director, Ford Foundation China*

"Dr. Lu Dezhi's book is an important contribution to how we frame discussions about advancing the social good through both philanthropy and investment. As he notes, these systems can and should be linked so that we can use all the tools at our disposal to make positive social change. The vision he articulates can harness significant resources for the future of China and the world."

*Melissa A. Berman, President, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors*

"Dr. Lu makes a strong case that wealth produced from capital should be viewed as a collective good, one with the potential to have positive transformative effects on Chinese society. Realizing this potential requires that the country embrace a culture of social responsibility in which philanthropy plays a prominent part in addressing human problems. Dr. Lu's vision of harnessing wealth as a tool of economic development for social good is an admirable one that all nations should embrace."

*Dr. Francis Barchi, Professor, Rutgers University*

"What Dr. Lu brings to the discussion is an important understanding of capital and how it can connect multiple segments of society to build a stronger social safety net in our communities."

*John Brothers, Founder, Quidoo Consulting*

"After the 2008 global finance crisis, there has been growing concerns whether capitalism is in crisis, especially when we have witnessed increasingly intensified income inequality among different social groups. This book contributed by Dr. Lu is particularly

timely and relevant to the current debates on crisis of capitalism, offering fresh perspectives in analyzing the spirit and operation of capitalism in promoting distribution and social justice that the contemporary society is desperately needed.

*Dr. Ka Ho Joshua Mok, Vice-President, Lingnan University*

“I find Dr. Lu’s book is very insight provoking and stimulating. He develops the ideas of spirit of capital, majority and then examines the interplay between these two concepts. In my opinion, his ideas echo with the western concept of financial capital and human capital. Yet, he articulates such concepts in the contemporary Chinese context. He also attributes the development of spirit of capital with human civilization and I think it is a very innovative idea.”

*Kam-Tong Chan, Professor, Hong Kong Polytechnic University*

“He explicates the importance and positive use of capital, the need to connect its use to the broader public purposes and benefits through what he defines as majoritarianism, and the essential role that private philanthropy can play. He properly points to the need to balance what he calls efficiency, or the unregulated creation of capital, with the equality of all citizens. The essay reflects Chinese cultural views and values but the issues and directions Dr. Lu identifies have international relevance. Growing economic inequality threatens civil order, harmony and security. Market inefficiencies retard economic growth, drive poverty and create conflict. His vision of the spirit of capital and collective sharing as defined in his essay are a way forward to a better future for all.”

*William Waldman, Former Commissioner, N.J. Department of Human Services*

## **Capital and Collective Sharing: The Theme of Coordinated Development**

“Dr. Lu’s new work thoroughly grasps the trends of the world’s major ideology and China’s philanthropic development. Through the innovative discussion that reflects both Chinese and western values, he sets an exemplary benchmark for the development of China’s modern philanthropy as well as the communication between Chinese and western philanthropic cultures.”

*Min-Hsiu Chiang, Dean, College of Social Sciences, National Chengchi University*

“By placing modern philanthropy at the powerful intersection between capital and collective sharing, Dr. Lu’s new book reminds us all that love of humanity is the literal but true meaning of philanthropy. Without trust and recognition of the symbiotic relationship we as humans share, we inevitably limit our potential to effect change. Dr. Lu’s inspiring call to action encourages us all to play our part. I share Dr. Lu’s belief in the importance of orienting our intentions and actions with values and trust at the core; in doing so we commit ourselves to the soul of civilization and the promise of a better tomorrow.”

*Peggy Dulany, Founder & Chair, The Synergos Institute*

“Dr. Lu’s new book develops a theoretical system connecting two key concepts that he has coined, Spirit of Capital and Collective Sharing, with modern philanthropy. Collective Sharing is a positive goal of global social development and an extension of the Spirit of Capital to benefit the majority of society. Modern philanthropy, as it originated in the United States, forges the perfect path from neutral capital to collective sharing with moral integrity. Dr. Lu states that the important trend of Spirit of Capital in the 21st Century involves Collective Sharing both within countries and across countries. He poses a core challenge of global philanthropy.”

*Charles E. Morrison, President, East-West Center*

“Lu’s work is an important look back to the origins of modern philanthropy as practiced by American capitalists in the 19th century, and that he leads his readers to explore ways to develop modern philanthropy in China.

*Elizabeth D. Knup, Director, Ford Foundation China*

“While Dr. Lu reflects Chinese cultural values in his writing, he also identifies issues that have international relevance: for instance, the growing economic inequality that threatens civil order, harmony and security. Pursuing Lu’s vision for the spirit of capital and collective sharing, therefore, might lead to a better future for all.”

*William Waldman, Former Commissioner, N.J. Department of Human Services*

“Dr. Lu discusses the collective sharing of capital as a modern philanthropic effort to advance society, particularly focusing on capitalist societies like the U.S. and China, and discussing its ties to communism, which is ever-present in his native country China. Lu sees modern philanthropy as a concept of collective sharing, and rather than charity or humanitarian work, philanthropy is a means of supporting the whole of society. It is my belief that in addition to the states’ benefit in sharing capital collectively through philanthropy, U.S. relations with China will continue to improve as their political socialism develops towards the concept of majoritarianism (which embraces philanthropy) and the value of capital.”

*Elsie Foster-Dublin, Councilwoman Highland Park, New Jersey*

“Dr. Lu offers an approach to help alleviate a condition that can potentially cause both socialist and capitalist economies to become unstable. Dr. Lu’s discussion regarding capitalist and socialist systems, and the forces that drive them toward collective sharing, especially provocative. “

*Dr. Thomas Tuttle, President of the World Confederation of Productivity Science*

“Dr. Lu aptly describes the historical development and modern applications of capital, and the key role it can play in human development. As capitalist nations place greater value on social welfare, and socialist societies embrace the importance of capital, humanity has and will continue to benefit.”

*Richard L. Edwards, Ph.D., Chancellor Emeritus, Rutgers University--New Brunswick*

### **The Collective Sharing Civilization Preface: New Form of Coordinated Development**

“Dr. Lu’s *The Collective Sharing Civilization* presents a vision for global development that reconciles technology with our innate capacity as humans to find meaning, create shared understanding, and take cooperative action in an increasingly complex world. His nuanced understanding of China’s fundamental role in this new civilization is particularly instructive and insightful. I am deeply grateful to Dr. Lu for encouraging us all to embrace our values as our strongest assets as we all work towards a more sustainable, harmonious world.”

*Peggy Dulany, Founder & Chair, The Synergos Institute*

“Dr. Lu Dezhi’s ‘*The Collective Sharing Civilization*’ is an essential reference point for any serious exploration of the rapidly emerging new frontiers of global philanthropy and co-sharing required in the 21st century. Starting from the Chinese philosophy that ‘the greatest truths are the simplest’, the book makes it clear that the solutions we so urgently seek will not be found using a compass pointing East or West, but rather through concerted collaboration between adept practitioners from all corners of the world. In its reflections on contemporary politics, societies, economies and cultures, it asserts that behind myriad differences there is indeed a simple truth – that when it comes to humanity we are in this together or not at all. It is a book that I enthusiastically recommend to European Philanthropic leaders and readers because it provides an important fresh and comprehensive lens on developments on the world stage that are rapidly unfolding.”

*Dr. Gerard Salole, Chief Executive Officer, European Foundation Centre*

“In his latest book, *On The Collective Sharing Civilization*, Dr. Lu Dezhi artfully presents a new vision for human development fit for our increasingly globalized world. As economies, cultures, and information become more interconnected, and our fates more intertwined, Dr. Lu persuasively and powerfully advocates for greater international collaboration across different political systems and social sectors to address humanity’s biggest problems. This book is a thoughtful reminder that our shared challenges should have shared solutions, and a necessary call to action for the entire global community.”

*Darren Walker, President, Ford Foundation*

“Dr. Lu's book of *The Collective Sharing Civilization* illuminates the solution to the various political, economic, social and environmental conflicts in the post-globalization era. Different civilizations need to creatively integrate, abandon pursuit of selfishness, and to advocate collective sharing for the development of human civilization.”

*Richard L. Edwards, Ph.D., Chancellor Emeritus, Rutgers University--New Brunswick*

“Dr. Lu Dezhi's book *The Collective Sharing Civilization* provides a refreshing outlook on the unique challenges posed by a globalized twenty-first century society. Given recent advances in technology and the resultant interconnected nature of information, cultures, economic markets, and political systems, Dr. Lu constructs a potent argument that urges audiences to embrace collectivism and cooperation over self-centered pursuits. For anyone interested in the mechanics of how global civilizations will adapt to a context of increasing interdependence, Dr. Lu's book is an essential point of reference.”

*Blair Donner, Co-Founder, Rutgers China Care Club*

“Dr. Lu's thoughtful exploration of the potential for our shared future draws on his remarkable learning and experience spanning the public sector, enterprise and philanthropy. We're fortunate that he has shared his journey through the history of ideas and through current systems around the world as he developed his deep conceptual understanding. Both scholarly and pragmatic, his analysis offers a powerful framework for linking values, social good, policy and technology. His assessment of China's past and future role in civilization is fascinating, especially in the context of the global collaboration that he so persuasively advocates. This is an important contribution to the international discourse about the global culture of giving and the path to shared prosperity, well-being and peace.”

*Dr. Melissa A. Berman, President, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors*

“In *The Collective Sharing Civilization*, Dr. Lu Dezhi sets forth a far-seeing vision for global society that challenges nations and peoples everywhere to overcome parochial blinders and embrace a set of universal values and strategies for working together on behalf of humankind as a whole. Not simply a utopian vision, Dr. Lu's analysis is grounded in appreciation of the differences of Eastern and Western philosophies, political systems, economies and histories, and is driven by the urgency of addressing our common contemporary issues such as environmental degradation, income and wealth inequality, and rapid technological change. This volume has the potential to launch a grand debate in which capitalism and socialism are examined for both their strengths and weaknesses so that a transcending synthesis can be developed to underwrite the next stage of human development. Such a sharing is at the root of Dr. Lu's prescription for what ails us as a global community, and he may very well be right. At a time when too many countries around the world seem to be moving towards nationalism, separatism, military aggression and authoritarian rule, Dr. Lu's book may be a hopeful beacon for the future.”

*Dennis R. Young, Professor Emeritus, Georgia State University*

“Dr. Dezhi Lu’s latest book, *The Collective Sharing Civilization* tackles the rise of the civilization where different cultures collectively adopt a common vision of cohabitation in a current world of fragmented beliefs, opinions, principles and values. He clearly pictured that collective sharing is not created by the human understanding of the current world that we live in, but a gift of nature where human can coexist harmoniously in a community despite differing wisdom, vision, philosophy and thinking. This book is a vital tool in understanding today’s predicament in divided views among leaders and countries. To solve this dilemma is to accept all our differences, encourage discussion to achieve harmony and compromise and to accept humanity as a whole to continue emerging an honest and true collective sharing civilization.”

*Elsie Foster-Dublin, Councilwoman Highland Park, New Jersey*

“Dr. Lu Dezhi’s book, *The Collective Sharing Civilization*, is a fundamental work for considering the challenges of the twenty-first century era. Drawing from Eastern history and philosophies, Dr. Lu expertly proposes the idea of civilizations founded on principles of collective sharing as the ideal future direction for humanity in the face of rapid globalization. In his ultimate vision, Dr. Lu shows readers that conflicting interests between civilizations must be mitigated through the rejection of selfishness and superseded by a focus on compromise. Indeed, the new era of innovative technology can aid in making our world more interconnected and ultimately bring humanity closer to a collective sharing civilization, which is the future to overcoming geo-political issues throughout the world.”

*Stanislav Kukhniy, Vice President, Quinnipiac University's Global Affairs Association*