

Tutorial 11 Sivin & Shen

What did the Scientific Revolution revolutionize?

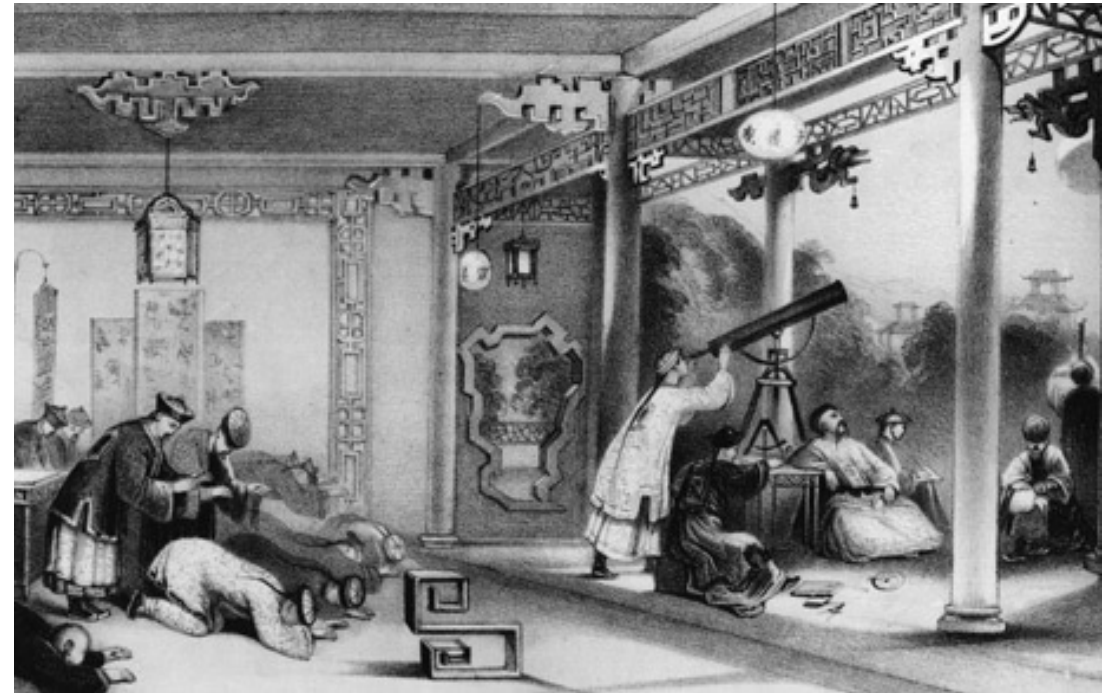
GFN1000 In Dialogue with Nature

Final Quiz

- Time: April 26, Friday, 1:30-2:10 PM
- Venue: TxA 402
- You will be asked to answer 4 (out of 5) short-answer questions within 40 minutes.

Content

- Sivin's Critique on the Needham Question
- Value in Science
- Comparative Cultures
- Scientific Revolution and Eurocentrism



Sivin's Critique on the Needham Question

- What does Sivin argue about the false assumptions in the Needham question? ①
- How does Sivin criticize Needham for arbitrarily identifying necessary conditions or inhibiting factors? Are there any other examples? ②
- Sivin claimed that he failed to find the internal unity of Chinese science. How do you understand “internal unity” (p. 225)? ③
- Give textual evidence from *Brush Talks from Dream Brook* to illustrate how they confirm or challenge Sivin's arguments. ④⑤

Value in Science

- What would be a better question than Needham's according to Sivin? ②
- What are the necessary socio-intellectual changes for a scientific revolution according to Sivin? ③
- How do you understand "knowledge that had no value except truth value"? (p.237) Provide examples of scenarios where other values take precedence over the truth value of knowledge. ④
- Do you think the research on nuclear weapons is value-free? ⑤①

Comparative Cultures

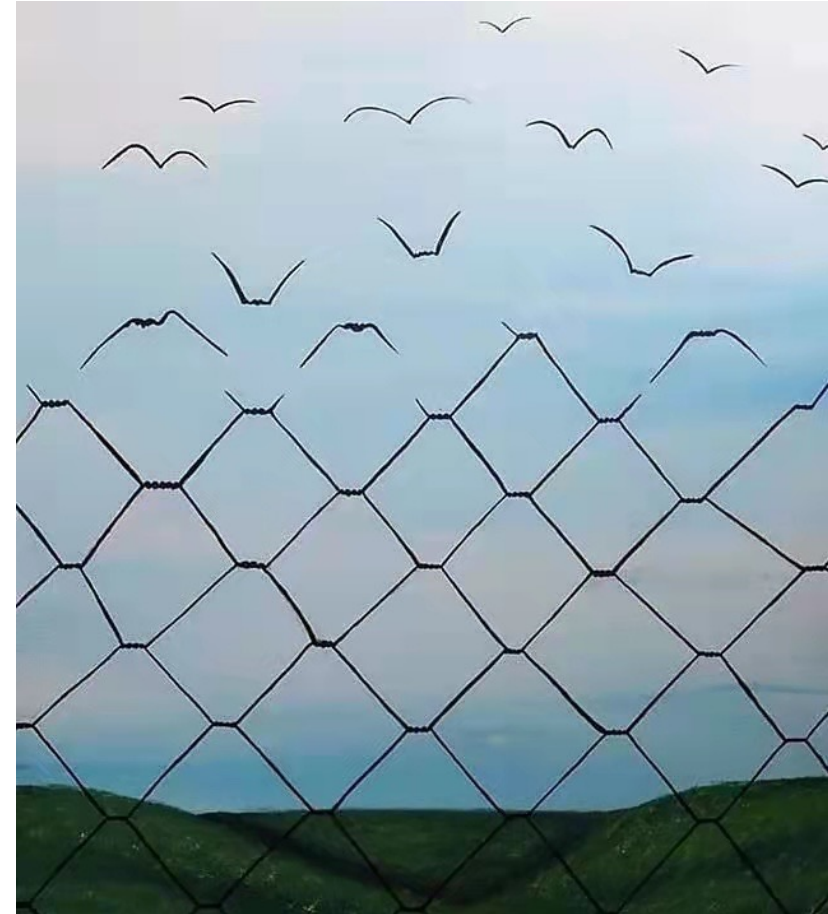
- How is change interpreted differently by Aristotle and in I Ching? ③④
- Which elements of ancient Chinese civilization do you think might have discouraged the development of science? ⑤
- A parallel question raised by Qian Xuesen asks why Chinese universities have failed to nurture talents comparable to Western universities. What is your opinion? ①
- What benefits could non-Western understandings of nature offer if they are no longer "useful" or "scientific" by current standards? ②

Scientific Revolution and Eurocentrism

- Do you think Western civilization is superior to the others, given its role in scientific and technological advancements? ③
- Provide examples showcasing the impacts of Eurocentrism in everyday life. ④
- Can the diffusion of the scientific and industrial revolution by the British to other regions be compared to Plato's allegory of the cave, in which the person tries to lead other people out of the cave? ⑤①
- If given the opportunity to travel back to ancient China, could we find a way to initiate a scientific revolution and save the civilization? ②

Thank You All

- To inspire sometimes, to support often, to accompany always.
- Your insights and enthusiasm have made our shared journey enriching and rewarding.
- I wish you all the best in your finals and in all your future endeavors!



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