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Diagnosis and Preventive Measures of Respiratory Diseases in Chickens

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Abstract: Respiratory diseases are a common infectious disease in the process of daily raising chickens. Its prevalence has a certain impact on the growth performance and production performance of chickens, but there are many infectious factors that cause it, and the clinical manifestations can be very serious. It is of great significance for the rational treatment of respiratory diseases, because it can control the spread of disease in time, reduce the economic loss of chicken farm, should implement disease isolation, regular vaccination, maintain good ventilation conditions, to ensure healthy growth. It can improve the disease resistance of chickens and improve the economic benefits of the breeding farm. Is a common poultry disease. Poultry respiratory diseases occasionally outbreak, Newcastle disease, highly infectious, Newcastle disease, light avian flu, mycoplasma disease, rhinitis, nasal chronic bronchitis and other respiratory diseases are not seasonal, the treatment of chicken respiratory diseases is not correct, making countless chicken respiratory diseases in trouble. This paper explores the clinical manifestations and prevention strategies of respiratory diseases in chickens, as chicken farmers face increasing economic losses due to the occurrence of large-scale poultry corpse destruction events.

Keywords: Chicken; respiratory diseases; Differential diagnosis; Prevention and treatment

1. CHICKEN NEW TOWN EPIDEMIC

Chicken respiratory tract disease is the most common infectious disease in poultry. When cough, asthma, runny nose and other symptoms appear, it will lead to poor growth and development of chickens, decreased production capacity, and affect the production efficiency of chickens after the disease. Agricultural chicken aggregation, leading to the occurrence of chicken respiratory tract infection, there are many pathogenic factors, such as excessive feeding, pathogen invasion, bacterial infection, etc., and it is difficult to understand the clinical symptoms of chicken caused by these various factors, can be effectively treated. respiratory disease. In order to control the speed and scope of disease transmission and reduce economic loss, this paper introduces the differential diagnosis and prevention measures of chicken respiratory diseases in detail, providing

constructive guidance and useful reference for farmers.

There are many factors that cause chicken respiratory diseases: viral diseases, mycoplasma, bacteria and fungi, blood parasites, feeding and so on.

Prevention factors, etc. Different pathogens cause different respiratory diseases in chickens, requiring different prevention and control measures.

Respiratory diseases caused by viruses

1.1 Respiratory diseases caused by viral pathogens, namely NDE, with short course, rapid breathing, elevated body temperature, worsening mental status, reduced feed intake, cyanosis of COcomb, pale green feces, reduced laying rate of laying hens, and absence of hens during examination. The original sac was filled with fluid, the small intestine mucosa was ulcerated, the lungs were black and congested, the tracheal mucosa was congested, and part of the reproductive system was also affected., Causes yolk peritonitis, Newcastle disease commonly known as chicken fever or Asian chicken fever. Poultry Newcastle disease is an acute suppurative infectious disease caused by avian Newcastle disease virus infection. Newcastle disease happens every year. Although it can occur through chickens, mostly in cold periods or changeable weather periods, all age chickens are affected, but 20 to 30 days of age chickens are the most susceptible, the highest fatality rate. Sick chickens are mainly manifested as respiratory distress and neurological dysfunction. The main sources of Newcastle disease are sick chickens, infected chickens, their feces, oral mucus, etc., which are kept in the chicken house with sufficient dry temperature and good ventilation system. Chicken production environment, "" to maintain the production environment. To ensure stability, try to control or reduce the external pressure stimulation to the colony. The daily feed for chickens should be fixed to reduce or avoid the discomfort caused by changing the feed at will. It is strictly prohibited to feed moldy and deteriorated feed to raw chickens. According to the needs of different development stages of chickens, to ensure that the nutrition of chickens is comprehensive and balanced. Due to the lack of green feed in spring, vitamins and trace elements can be intentionally added in order to ensure that the intake of nutrition is not lacking. Feces and secretions. Feed, drinking water

equipment, environment, dust and other diseases contaminated by the virus can spread diseases through the gastrointestinal tract and conjunctiva. Viruses can be transmitted through the air and food, and disease can be transmitted through humans, vehicles, animal feed, insects, rodents, and infected birds.

1.2 Clinical symptoms of the chicken

The incubation period of NDV is 3 to 5 days, and the onset time is about 1 week. They stretch their necks, open their mouths to breathe, lose their appetite, develop loose stools, and may eventually die. The effect of the drug treatment is still unclear, and the sick chicken is gradually dehydrated. Autopsy revealed foci of bleeding in the duodenal mucosa, anterior and posterior inguinal lymph nodes, ileum and rectal mucosa.

1.3 Preventive measures

The prevention of the chicken epidemic is an important and complex work, among which the six links of feeding management, epidemic prevention, disinfection and cleaning, vaccination, disease treatment and real-time monitoring are the top priorities. Only the combination of the six links can effectively prevent the chicken epidemic. To improve the overall health index of the farm flocks, Feeders should strengthen the feed management, Improving the poultry house environment, Improve the quality of hygiene, Implement a balanced and reasonable feed nutrition collocation, Exit from the external vehicle, Implement closed feeding management, Promote the separate feeding mode of young chickens and chicks and adult chickens, Fully implement the prevention and control, epidemic prevention and disinfection systems, Avoid the breeding of other bacteria and microorganisms and establish a scientific and reasonable poultry farm vaccination system, According to the chicken breed, the chicken age, Around antibody quality, vaccine type, and degree of disease risk, Targeted for optimal dose matching, Provide effective vaccination routes to a detailed screening, Immune management by adhering to routine immunization during prophylaxis, Timely adjust the immunization schedule according to the epidemic situation and the immunity of the chickens, It can effectively improve the immune capacity of the chicken flock.

2. CHICKEN RHINITIS

Respiratory diseases caused by mycoplasma, bacteria or fungi, hemozoa, etc. Simply introduce the respiratory tract disease caused by mycoplasma, bacteria or fungus, hemoplasma, namely rhinitis. Inhaled laryngotracheitis and respiratory droplets, it is easy to cause infectious rhinitis. After development, it can also cause secondary infections, such as infectious laryngotracheitis. This disease usually has an incubation period, manifested as elevated body temperature, noticed decreased intake, nasal fluid flow, cough, mucus outflow from the mouth, sick

chickens are reluctant to move, rooster swelling, and diarrhea is yellow-green. Avian infectious rhinitis is an acute and chronic respiratory disease caused by *Haemophilus paraflynum* found at autopsy. Chickens can occur at all ages, with old chickens and newborn chicks being particularly susceptible. About a month of chickens have developed a small amount of immunity. Chickens over 1 month were also susceptible, with each individual being susceptible. Different constitution, the clinical symptoms after infection are also different.

2.1 Clinical symptoms

The symptoms of this disease are mainly manifested in the respiratory tract, the symptoms are the initial clear liquid outflow from the nostrils, gradually condensed into a semi-solid dry cough, runny nose, etc. Young chickens are immature and adult hens are immature. Less eggs are laid, the rooster's whiskers often swell, and the secretions condense in the throat and suffocate.

2.2 Preventive measures

This disease is greatly affected by the bad air outside world, so the farmers must strictly control the environmental quality of the chicken house. In winter, the harmful gas in the chicken field can be effectively discharged, and the appropriate heating and ventilation equipment can be reasonably installed to ensure the appropriate temperature and purify the feces in time. Purify the air of the poultry farm and disinfect the chickens. Do even better to reduce the dust in the air. Strengthen the disinfection and cleaning of drinking water equipment. Must implement the prevention and control system, such as changing clothes, bathing, changing shoes, according to the needs of cleaning and disinfection work

Importantly, disinfection must be completed before entering the poultry environment, and chickens must be disinfected immediately after cleaning and disinfecting the poultry environment. The sick chicken area in the poultry breeding environment is a seriously polluted area, so the cleaning and disinfection personnel should pay attention to cleaning and disinfecting the sick chicken area. Therefore, thorough cleaning and disinfection measures are necessary and effective measures to prevent this disease.

3. INFECTIOUS LARYNGOTRACHEITIS IN CHICKENS

Chicken infectious laryngotracheitis is caused by chicken upper respiratory tract infection by infectious laryngotracheitis virus, belongs to type 2 infection. The main symptoms of sick chickens are cough and difficulty breathing. In the early stages of the disease, nuclear inclusions appear in the diseased cells.

3.1 Clinical symptoms

There will be a lot of chickens dying at first. Sick chickens can have a translucent runny nose with

conjunctivitis, followed by a cough and wheezing.3.2
Precautions

4. AND ESCHERICHIA COLI DISEASE IN CHICKENS

In order to prevent and control avian infectious laryngotracheitis, the breeder should disinfect the feeding equipment and feeding environment in time. Pickled chickens should be raised separately and mixed with other chickens. The eders must be strictly managed. When the flock arrives, keep an eye on the flock. If one chicken is infected, prevent other healthy chickens from being infected. To prevent the disease, the farm quarantined the cured chickens, as they need to be detoxification and disinfected. Check-up regularly to prevent disease recurrence. Chickens can produce a strong immunity after natural infection. Regular vaccination is necessary to prevent disease.

Coli disease in chicken is a general term for a class of diseases caused by some pathogenic serotype strains of Escherichia coli. Colerichia coli can occur in the whole year, and any breed of age and sex can be sick, which has a serious impact on the chicken industry. Escherichia coli disease is sensitive to common disinfectants and sensitive to antibiotics and sulfonamides

resistance to drugs.

4.1 Clinical symptoms

The symptom of this disease is diarrhea, and the sick chicken appears in the form of soft stool excretion, and the late mortality rate is very high. If the onset of avian E. coli disease is early, it will die within 2 days, and the disease lives longer, and the chicken will die after about 10 days. The specific symptoms of chicken disease are a drop in body temperature and abdominal swelling. A gentle tap makes a sound, and a gentle shake makes a running sound. The sick chicken developed diarrhea and shortness of breath. The chicks presented with acute sepsis. External adverse factors and other diseases exacerbate the situation of Escherichia coli disease in chickens. The mortality rate and excretion rate of adult chickens increased significantly after infection, which has a significant impact on egg production.

4.2 prophylactico-therapeutic measures

The outbreak of colicacterhia coli in chickens is related to external adverse effects and pathogen infection. In order to prevent this disease, it is necessary to strengthen feeding management and improve the feeding environment of chickens. Doctors in charge of epidemic prevention are doing the work. Carry out the work according to the actual situation of the chicken farm. Epidemic prevention requirements of breeding farms. In order to effectively prevent chicken Escherichia coli, the sanitary disinfection of laying period is strictly implemented. Escherichia coli in chickens can be prevented by drugs, but Escherichia coli in chickens is resistant to drugs. Unless the targeted drugs are

selected, the treatment will not be effective, and the cost of raising chickens will increase. At present, China has developed a vaccine for avian Escherichia coli disease, which is widely used in production.

5. POULTRY CHOLERA

Poultry cholera, also known as avian Pasteuellosis or avian hemorrhagic septicemia, is a disease caused by Pasteurella infection. Avian Pasteellosis presents as septic manifestations, with very high morbidity and mortality, which can be either benign or chronic. Yes, but the incidence is low.

5.1 Clinical symptoms

Avian Pasteulosis can be divided into three types: the most acute, acute and chronic. Death occurred at home on day 2. At present, the most common form of pasteulosis in poultry is the acute form, in which chickens are inattention, crouching, standing, symptoms such as frequent diarrhea, thin excretion, heterochromatic feces, elevated body temperature, dyspnea and so on. Chronic type is not only the cause of chronic attacks, acute attack chickens may also die or recover. The main symptoms are pneumonia, gastroenteritis, respiratory tract inflammation, etc., and they can survive for about 30 days.

5.2 Prevention and control measures to prevent Pasteulosis in poultry include veterinary quarantine personnel, improving and improving the epidemic prevention system in poultry farms, strict prevention and management of Pasteulosis disease in poultry, and doing a good job in the prevention and control of Pasteulosis disease in poultry. When poultry pasteulosis occurs, treatment requires adequate dosage and scientific and reasonable treatment. The eders should continue the medication for 3 days to prevent recurrence of Pasteurella in poultry.

6. SCIENTIFIC FEEDING MANAGEMENT AND STRENGTHEN QUARANTINE WORK

Reasonable control of the density of chickens, to ensure the right amount of exercise. By improving the ventilation of the chicken house, ensure the air circulation in the chicken house, prevent the chicken disease due to the high ammonia concentration in the chicken house, and replace the pad material regularly to prevent the pad material from getting damp and produce chicken disease.toxic gas., turn outside in. Clean the poultry house regularly to prevent fecal parasites and the causes of chicken disease; replace them regularly; adopt scientific and reasonable feeding methods to meet the needs of chickens; conduct regular quarantine of different aged chickens to eliminate sick chickens in time, effectively control the epidemic progress and prevent sick chickens from entering the market. Seriously ill chickens should be treated harmlessly and discarded randomly. To prevent the spread of the disease.

7 SUMMARY

To sum up, the chicken respiratory tract disease has caused certain losses to the poultry industry, and

there are many factors causing this disease. Find the disease in time, effectively control the development of the disease, and give appropriate nutrition. But this is the premise, completes the breeding environment and enclosure health disinfection is the basic measures, vaccination is the primary measures, strengthen the disease detection, is an important measures to ensure the healthy growth of chickens, improve the resistance of chickens only minimize the occurrence of respiratory diseases, to ensure the sustainable development of poultry industry, improve the economic benefits of poultry industry.

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Philosophical Implications of Rule of Law in a Comprehensive Manner from the Perspective of Natural Law

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Abstract: Natural law originated in ancient Greece, through its logical evolution in classical, modern, and contemporary periods, has played a significant role in the development of human history and the advancement of civilization. Starting from the concept of natural philosophy, natural law believes that the inherent laws of things or their natural essence constitute the law, becoming the ultimate goal of substantive law and guiding human society towards truth, goodness, and beauty. This paper makes an examination of its fundamental spirit, offers significant insights for the construction of rule of law in China today.

Keywords: Natural law; Developmental history; Rule of law construction

1. HISTORICAL EXAMINATION AND VALUE PURSUIT OF NATURAL LAW

Natural law is considered the ultimate standard of right and wrong, the exemplar of an upright or nature-conforming life. It provides a potent stimulus for human introspection, a touchstone for existing systems, and a justifiable reason for both conservatism and revolution. The western veneration for the rule of law has its roots in the orthodoxy of such an ethical concept as natural law. Natural law stands as the foundation of jurisprudence and originates from deep-seated ethical demands within human hearts, playing a role in evaluating, guiding, and regulating real legal relationships[1].

Natural law acts as both a measure of justice and its safeguard. In real practice, to test if something or an action is fair and just, comparing it with positive law isn't the only standard. More crucially, it is whether it conforms to nature. That which conforms to nature is, therefore, natural and just, which distinctly sets it apart from substantive law[2]. Generally, substantive law carries the whims of some legislators to some extent. This arbitrary nature is something that cannot be changed with specific operational means. Hence, its justice remains to be further verified.

Natural law is universal and constant, encompassing the ethical value judgment of justice and reflecting people's relentless pursuit of justice. It guides substantive law. Whether in terms of spatial or temporal effect, positive law only applies to specific

people in specific regions and times. For instance, Roman civil law was only applicable to Roman citizens within the Roman Republic. In contrast, natural law transcends time and space, applying universally regardless of race, gender, wealth, or intelligence - true for both now and the future. Under the compassionate gaze of natural law, all real-life disparities are smoothed out. Justice doesn't shift with time or space; it perpetually overlooks human actions[3].

Although Natural Law has experienced ups and downs, it remains evergreen and its underlying concepts and spirit continue uninterrupted to this day. Natural law profoundly influences Western legal thinking and legal culture, culminating in a rule of law concept that places Western jurisprudence paramount. Guided by this principle, laws that align with human development are universally respected and effectively implemented. It can be said that natural law influences or limits the direction and fate of Western rule of law, endowing it with spiritual power[4].

Justice and goodness are moral ethical affiliations in natural law thinking and are also the ethical pursuits in the construction of rule of law and the judicial system in contemporary China. A study of the Western tradition of natural law reveals that law is not just a collection of countless commands and rules but also embodies ethical aspirations from the human heart — justice and goodness. China has a history spanning over five millennia, but rule of law has not been the main theme of social development. The governance by individuals dominated Chinese history for thousands of years. Whether it's the Confucianism that spanned the entire feudal society, the legalist thinking praised during the Qin Dynasty, or the Taoist thinking of the Western Han Dynasty, all are rooted in governance by individuals, indicating a lack of fertile ground for nurturing a rule of law culture in the traditional sense[5]. Since the reforms and opening up, constructing a socialist rule of law society has been prioritized. Establishing the concept of rule of law and realizing governance by law and ethics are our current significant historical missions. Implementing the rule of law in China, a vast territory lacking a traditional rule of law concept, is not something that can be achieved overnight. It is

a grand project involving politics, economy, culture, and other areas, requiring a fundamental shift in mindset. Constructing a rule of law society necessitates robust systemic safeguards. While we should draw from advanced legal systems, we shouldn't merely transplant systems but understand and incorporate the values and notions behind them, else we'll only scratch the surface. Hence, referencing the fundamental ideas behind the Western rule of law tradition, especially natural law, greatly benefits China's rule of law construction[6].

Western natural law doctrine emerged before the advent of modern nation-states. Starting from the concept of natural philosophy, it perceives nature as the law, or the intrinsic laws of things, or their natural essence. This endows natural law with ontological significance, making it the ultimate goal and intrinsic logical requirement of other norms, guiding individuals and societies towards goodness. Laws should align with human nature and ethical demands, which is vividly expressed in the Western attitude towards natural and positive law. In the West, differentiating between natural and positive law is part of their intellectual and cultural tradition. Even though various natural law theories have appeared in Western intellectual history, all natural law scholars advocate a dualism of law, positing that there exists a law in human society that transcends and operates independently of governmental authority, above the enacted laws[7]. This duality indicates that natural law is a priori, possessing eternity and universality, and holds a superior status. This set of supreme, universally valid, and objective legal principles supports and guarantees positive law, validating and ensuring the effectiveness and authority of laws enacted by legislative bodies, courts, and other entities. This principle emphasizes the value, position, and function of law in society while acknowledging the imperfections in positive law and state authority. It posits that authority doesn't inherently grant legitimacy and identifies a dialectical relationship between law, rights, and power, where the foundation and value orientation of law and rights are justice and equality. Consequently, both positive law and state power must adhere to natural law, implying that any social norm is bound by ethical and moral principles[8].

Exploring the value foundation or ethical dimension of human law not only possesses philosophical significance in terms of ultimate pursuit and spiritual care but also carries the practical attribute of social institutional construction. Law can only realize human freedom and equality under the guidance of justice and ethical values. An approach that entirely rejects the ethical values of law is extreme; a legal norm that loses the restraint of justice and ethics, relying solely on coercion, cannot establish a normal and effective legal order. Law is not always in accordance with the objective laws and requirements

of justice. Natural law plays a demonstrative and guiding role before the establishment of laws, and afterward, it serves as a standard of review and judgment. Although it does not participate in specific judicial practices, it evaluates real laws from the higher realm of the human soul and guides human behavior.

2. HISTORICAL REVIEW OF THE RULE OF LAW CONSTRUCTION IN OUR COUNTRY

Traditional Chinese legal concepts and current rule of law concepts are two different notions. Examining our traditional legal concepts helps us identify our shortcomings and promote the construction of the rule of law. "Establishing the rule of law is a prerequisite for China's modernization, and clarifying why ancient Chinese legal studies couldn't turn China into a rule of law society is a precondition for it..." The traditional Chinese legal concept significantly differs from the legal notion under the Western natural law tradition. The deficiencies of our traditional legal concept mainly manifest in:

Firstly, in terms of the essence of law, the traditional Chinese legal concept pays excessive attention to the voluntarism of law while neglecting its objective regularity. From previous discussions, we can see that in Western natural law theory, law is the inherent attribute of things. It is not subject to human will and is an objective law that exists inherently within things. Everything evolves towards its final attribute. The characteristics of natural law set a high standard for evaluating real laws. However, in the consciousness of many Chinese people, they tend to think that the law equates to punishment; "breaking the law" means "going to jail", which is related to the traditional Chinese concept that law is punishment.

In ancient China, the function of law was very singular. It was a means for emperors to rule the people, merely an authoritative command attached to punishment, possessing strong voluntarism. "Shuowen Jiezi" explains that the words 'punishment' and 'law' are interchangeable. In ancient China, the core of the law was punishment, and a private law system never emerged within traditional Chinese legal concepts. Most regulations were mandatory prohibitions or commands, which were not the basis or source of rights but an extension of the emperor's absolute power. This kind of law could not genuinely constrain the emperor, the state, or the government. This emphasis on the subjectivity of law, stressing its instrumental value, overly relied on authority, lacking its independent value. Therefore, it inevitably lost its independent status, let alone the scrutiny and judgment of other matters[9].

From a value perspective, this emphasis on the voluntarism of the law is also an overlooking of the justice of the law. It only values the reality of the law, rarely judging the good and evil of the law from a value perspective. Although traditional China also emphasized the importance of law, the law referred

to here was just the actual law. There was a lack of rational reflection and guidance on the ideal value of the law, leading to a lack of pursuit of ideal values beyond real law with "justice" at its core. In contrast, the Western discussion on natural law centered around "justice" forms an essential feature of its legal thought. It was the pursuit of the ideal value of the law that prompted the revival of natural law after World War II. Influenced by many factors, "stopping chaos" and "managing the masses" became the core values of our traditional legal concept, rather than constructing a just social order. This is a significant reason for the punitive nature of traditional Chinese legal concepts and a vital reason for the long-term lack of healthy development of traditional Chinese legal thinking and systems[10].

Secondly, in terms of the content of the law, the traditional Chinese legal concept prioritizes obligations, emphasizes strict punishment over the well-being of the common people, and overlooks the rights of individuals. Western natural law emphasizes that the law should guarantee and realize human natural rights, playing a fundamental role in recognizing, allocating, maintaining, and safeguarding rights. Roman private law was formed on this basis, creating a comprehensive system. The private legal system in the West after Rome also revolved around the various rights of individual citizens.

Ancient China lacked the concept of individual rights. The relationships between people in society were based on blood or quasi-blood ties. According to Confucian views, one's body and skin come from their parents, so the ethical morality of "filial piety" tied by blood becomes the core of establishing an individual's status in society. The so-called "rulers act as rulers, officials as officials, fathers as fathers, sons as sons" means relationships were defined by blood ties, thus emphasizing an individual's duties. Therefore, traditional Chinese legal concepts lacked rights awareness, emphasizing that law was a tool to maintain the power of the ruling class. The controlling and suppressive functions of the law were extensively manifested, which resulted in the development of a penal system in ancient China and a tendency towards severe punishment.

Of course, acknowledging the flaws in traditional Chinese legal concepts, which have become obstacles to today's rule of law, doesn't mean they had no merits or positive influences. In fact, throughout the history of Chinese thought, many progressive legal thoughts emerged. These thoughts constitute the positive aspects of Chinese culture. For instance, Han Fei's "Law as the Basis", Guanzi's "All Follow the Law", and many thinkers mentioned "Equal Punishment for All" and "Governing by Law". Although these ideas were not dominant and didn't become mainstream in traditional Chinese legal thinking, they influenced the development of legal

concepts to some extent, preventing them from turning extreme.

By the end of the 20th century, China proposed governing the country by law and building a socialist rule of law nation. Subsequently, this strategy was written into the constitution. Undeniably, until the early 21st century, China remained an authoritarian feudal country lacking democratic and rule-of-law traditions and theoretical support. The rule of law awareness among the people was still weak, posing a significant barrier to moving towards a society governed by the rule of law. There are many reasons for this outcome, but the backwardness of traditional Chinese legal thinking is one of the significant factors. In this context, Western natural law thinking provides valuable insights for constructing China's modern rule of law and serves as an essential reference for our rule of law construction. Therefore, studying and drawing from Western natural law ideas, combined with China's local resources, offers special insights into enriching and updating our rule of law concepts and building a society governed by the rule of law.

Justice is the ultimate concern of the law. If the law wishes to gain widespread respect, it must use this ultimate concern as its foundation. Only by doing so can society achieve stability and harmony. Natural law studies and focuses on uncovering those eternal human values that lie behind the law. Influenced by the concept of natural law, the notion that justice is the highest pursuit of the law has become a commonly accepted societal belief. The pursuit of justice has never ceased, touching upon all aspects of social life. Some scholars argue that justice is not just a term exclusive to ethics. Indeed, from the development of natural law, it's evident that the notion of justice originated from the praise of the virtues of heroic figures. The evolution of the form of justice reflects people's understanding of nature and humanity. Justice stems from human rationality, representing an intrinsic moral analysis of the law and the rational ideal of seeking the ultimate good. It is a product of human rational activity, and its value lies in clarifying the purpose and fundamental qualities of the law.

3. THE IMPLICATIONS OF NATURAL LAW FOR CHINA'S RULE OF LAW CONSTRUCTION

China's legal tradition is different from the West. In the West, where the concept of natural law emerged, a dualistic view of law was formed: atop positive law exists a natural law, unswayed by human will, with justice as its main thread. The former is guided by the latter. This metaphysical value embodies humanity's aspiration and pursuit of the "good". China did not adopt this dualistic view but rather embraced a monistic perspective. This singular view can easily lead to the law becoming merely a tool for rulers, overlooking the intrinsic value of the law. The purpose of natural law is societal, not individual,

prioritizing public happiness during its formulation. Laws that only reflect the will of a minority do not meet the standards of justice. Evaluating the law through the lens of natural law not only prevents blind worship of positive law but also constantly raises the bar, pushing the law towards an ideal state. Therefore, promoting the value of justice is crucial in China's rule of law construction[11].

Since the beginning of China's reforms and opening-up, the country has experienced rapid material and cultural development. With the prosperity of the socialist market economy, people's awareness of their rights has significantly increased. At this juncture, the justice objective of Chinese law requires state institutions to be based on public welfare and rational arrangements, ensuring that everyone in society can get what they deserve, enjoy the social rights they are entitled to, and bear the social obligations they should carry. Therefore, the essence of justice lies in the fair distribution of social resources and benefits. If the distribution is unfair, the enthusiasm of social workers will be greatly undermined, detrimental to societal stability and growth. From ancient Greece's distributive justice to Rawls's theory of justice, Western natural law provides a wealth of intellectual resources that China can draw upon. Thus, the construction of China's rule of law concept requires not only legislation but also further exploration of the metaphysical value behind the law [12].

The legitimacy of the origin and source of the law is key to whether the law can achieve a paramount status. From its inception, Western natural law thinking posited that the law is an objective rule not subject to human will. This objective rule is sacred and immutable, which grants the law a transcendent character and attributes from the outset. In Western societies shaped by the spirit of natural law, the law holds a fully independent status[13].

In contrast, in our traditional legal conception, the association of law with punishment implies that the law has a dependent nature, occupying a utilitarian position, and bearing strong subjective willfulness. Indeed, laws require creators and executors, but this doesn't contradict the objectivity and independence of the law. When the state or legislative bodies enact laws, they don't arbitrarily craft them based on personal whims; instead, they are constrained by objective laws and judged by social justice[14]. In China's traditional culture, the law has long been an appendage to politics, with local administrative organs also taking on judicial functions. The law's heavy reliance on politics led to a complete loss of its inherent justice and rationality. Even now, for many people, the law doesn't represent human rationality or a safeguard of rights, but rather a synonym for punishment and suppression. The law lost its essential connection to human reason and justice, becoming merely a method of exercising worldly

power. Meanwhile, Western natural law's emphasis on the objectivity of the law and its wariness of the law's subjectivity is actually a caution against man-made rule. Such caution is precisely what's lacking in traditional Chinese legal thought, where introspection is absent and corruption thrives[15].

4. CONCLUSION

Rule of law is not just governance by law; it demands that the referenced law is "legitimate." Enacting and possessing just laws are the prerequisites and foundation of the rule of law. Without good laws, there is no basis for rule of law. The concept of natural law provides us with a benchmark. If a law merely represents the will of a few, contravenes standards of justice, and tramples upon people's rights, it's not a "good law." It lacks the legitimacy that defines law. People have the right to reject laws that grossly violate morality. The logical premise of natural law is a priori and self-evident, giving it unique abstractness. Throughout different epochs, due to the eternal values natural law seeks, it continually evolves to address society's pressing issues, granting it lasting superiority over other ideologies.

Philosophers have used the theory of natural law to affirm the rationality, legitimacy, and necessity of states and laws, rectifying and limiting the injustices, unfairness, and irrationalities present in current legal and political systems. They promote the establishment of a social and political order aligned with objective laws and human nature - justice and goodness, guiding society and individuals towards righteousness, ensuring societal stability and long-lasting governance. As the ethical value basis of positive law, natural law helps guide humanity in recognizing and realizing its societal value, pursuing a harmonious social order of justice and goodness. Ancient natural law thinking holds significant referential value for today's legislative and judicial practices in China and is crucially instructive for our country's socialist rule of law construction.

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