Interactions and Game-Play——A Preliminary Study of Stakeholder Relationships in Hydraulic Construction

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Abstract

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The Qiantang River is famous for its strong tidal bore, which attract numerous visitors from home and abroad. Historically, the tidal bore was defended and governed as a natural disaster, and this led to a long-term project to contain the Qiantang River. At different times in history, different strategies have been adopted to combat the tidal bore.  We will first take a look at the complex dynamic among higher authorities, the local governments, and grassroots communities manifested in their different attitudes and reactions towards the strategy of "governing the river by reclaiming” that was implemented in the late 1960s.  Then we will turn to a similar case of multilateral tension, negotiation, and game play that is still unfolding at the present, revolving around what to do about the cultural heritage value of the Qiantang River's ancient seawalls and tidal landscapes. Through these two case studies, this article hopes to explore the positions, perspectives and goals of different stakeholders in the historical context of the time, the interactions and game play among them, and the common goals that were eventually reached and achieved.