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COMPARATIVE POLITICS STUDIES

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理性选择制度主义的国家理论：发生路径、内在逻辑及意义评析 / 马雪松 吴健青

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The State Theory of Rational Choice Institutionalism: Path of Occurrence, Inherent Logic and Significance Analysis

Ma Xuesong, Wu Jianqing

Abstract: The state theory of rational choice institutionalism, as a result of the integration of new institutionalism politics and state studies, constitutes the cutting-edge achievements and key issues in the intersection of political science and economics. The state theory of this school derives theoretical resources from the new institutional economy and comparative political economy, and also draws forward momentum from the the retrieving the state and Marxist state theory. On the basis of the basic concepts of the state, economic essence and analytical framework, rational choice institutionalism uses a variety of analysis models to enrich the state's institutional core, political and economic logic, and internal and external competition relationships. The study of the state of rational choice institutionalism has made significant contributions to the development of school and the theory of the state, but it has insufficient logical thinking and frontier grasp. For this, rational choice institutionalism can look forward to its future trend from grasping the nature of the state and strengthening the institutional logics.

Key words: rational choice institutionalism; state theory; new institutional economy; transaction costs

Between Exit and Voice: The Organizational Logic of Political Legitimacy

Ding Yi

Abstract: The issue of political legitimacy can be understood in a new perspective which is based on the decline and repair of national governance performance and the exit and voice of state's citizens. Firstly, performance legitimacy reveals the fact of governance performance decline in an appreciable way, and in order to make the government realize the fact, people are inclined to signal to government by their various acts of exit and voice. Secondly, the state which is legitimate in institution and procedure often institutionalizes people's right of exit and voice in a legal way, and during this process, government will get some valuable information about the governance performance decline timely, at the same time, the drawback of performance legitimacy in function can be made up effectively. Thirdly, ideology legitimacy is necessary in that in order to avoid the damage to state by its citizens' exercising the right of exit prematurely, ideology supplies a distinct loyalty mechanism which increases the cost of exit choice and helps people form a feeling of political identity. Seen in this light, the so called liberal democratic system is not the only acceptable political legitimacy, and people's democratic system that is based on the mass line is hopeful in the future because it will be a new embodiment of the legitimacy of institution and procedure.

Key words: political legitimacy; exit; voice; loyalty; mass line

The Methodological Construction and Challenges of Comparative Area Studies

Li Guodong

Abstract: Recently, there has been a discussion on "Comparative

Area Studies” in western academic circles, which has promoted the integration of “Area Studies” and “Disciplines” and reshaped the “Area Studies” that had been declining since the Cold War. “Comparative Area Studies” is defined by the interpretation of its methodology, and its types include “intra-regional comparison”, “inter-regional comparison” and “cross-regional comparison”. Its functions are embodied in the three aspects of “representation”, “concept and theory” and “practicality”, which to a certain extent breaks the intellectual limitation of “parochialism”. At present, Comparative Area Studies is faced with the challenges of concept comparability, strategy applicability and idea legitimacy. It needs to deal with these challenges by refinement of concepts, the systematic design for strategies and the intervention of literary studies. For Chinese academic circles, “Comparative Area Studies” can provide some reference and enlightenment in terms of methodology, interdisciplinary consciousness and knowledge orientation.

Key words: Comparative Area Studies; Area Studies; social sciences; orientalism; postcolonialism

The Debate of Route under the Polarization Pattern: The Possible Prospect of American Political Thought in the Post-Trump Era

Pang Jinyou

Abstract: As the divergence, conflict and polarization of American political ecology continue to intensify, reflection, adjustment and reconstruction have become the prominent features of American political thoughts. Compared with liberalism, which pursues a broader subject of rights, a richer connotation of rights and a more progressive image of rights, conservatism advocates more pure values, a more traditional moral bottom line and a more realistic style of order construction, showing obvious non-equivalence polarization.

With the increasing complexity of the international situation, the continuous deterioration of the domestic social and economic situation, and the lingering anxiety and fear, right-wing populism and nationalism are rising and gradually becoming a confluence. Under the double attack of cosmopolitanism and identity doctrine, contemporary citizenship encounters unprecedented difficulties: the outward expansion of world politics dilutes the spiritual core of citizenship politics, while the inward retraction of identity doctrine disintegrates the traditional structure of citizenship. In the post-Trump era, division and polarization are still the main themes of political thoughts. It is inevitable to fine tune the line and turn the position. Realistic politics will still influence the changes of ideological thoughts, and extreme ideological trends may rise.

Key words: post-Trump era; political polarization; liberalism; conservatism; populism

Why Can the Democratic Party of the United States Hold the Dominant Position in the Two-Party Struggle

— From the Perspective of Political Correctness

Zheng Deluo, Zheng Yiping

Abstract: After the civil rights movement, “politically correct” in the United States has gradually become a judge on a language specification, judgment on the ideological and ethical standards of right and wrong, and in the aspect of social policy judgment on whether the scale of the fair and just, over the years, the Democrats will almost “politically correct” as its own ideology. With “political correctness”, the Democratic Party occupies the moral high ground. The reason for this is that “political correctness” requires fairness and pursues justice, conforms to the trend of historical development, grasps the direction of social progress, and advances the political consensus in the United States. In the face of conservative

criticism, “political correctness” dismantled and suppressed conservatism’s claim to defend traditional prudent change, dismantled and utilized the Christian Protestantism as the foundation of conservatism. With the bond of “political correctness”, the Democratic Party has formed a united front against the Republican Party among the people with different economic status and interests in the current United States, firmly grasped the control of public opinion, and obtained an obvious advantage over the Republican Party. The Republican Party will not be able to recover unless it creates its own media, builds new theories that can counter “political correctness”, or runs into a wall when it goes to extremes.

Key words: the Democratic Party of America; political correctness; conservatism; moral high ground; the United Front

Political Development as Governance Capacity: The Historical Origins of Cross-National Variation

Zeng Qinjie

Abstract: The core of political development is to improve national governance capacity, or the government’s ability to provide stability and prosperity for the people. Why explains the substantial variations in governance capabilities between countries? Most of the existing studies use subjective evaluation index to measure governance ability, and often pay attention to explanatory variables that are strongly endogenous, and their causal findings are largely unconvincing. In view of this, this article measures governance capabilities based on objective performance indicators, and attempts to explore how long-running structural factors affect a country’s governance capabilities. Based on empirical analysis of contemporary governance data from countries around the world, the study found state history to be an important source of governance capabilities, as the institutional memory and bureaucratic culture accumulated in premodern society

will subtly affect contemporary governance. Ethnic division greatly hinders the development of governance capabilities. British colonial rule and common law traditions did not bring better governance capabilities to developing countries, while French colonial rule left developing countries with a clear negative legacy. These findings enable us to better understand the historical and cultural roots of contemporary Chinese governance.

Key words: political development; governance capability; state history; social structure

Historical Legacies and the Resilience of Hegemonic-Party Country

— A Qualitative Comparative Analysis of 14 African Countries

Zeng Yang, He Zengke

Abstract: Hegemonic-Party Country is a kind of authoritarian system combining one-party ruling and multiparty-election system, which has widely distribution around the world. Most of the existing researches only focus on the strong polity resilience of hegemonic-party states, but fail to pay attention to the weak polity resilience of some of these countries, which is not conducive to the clarification of the question. Based on the theoretical perspective of historical legacy, this paper also conducts Qualitative Comparative Analysis on the cases of 14 hegemonic-party states, so that the reasons and mechanisms for these countries to maintain the resilience of strong polity can be explained more clearly. These 14 African countries include both “positive cases” with strong polity resilience and “negative cases” with weak polity resilience. The QCA analysis shows that there are two parallel paths or combinations of causes that lead to the resilience of hegemonic-party states. The first path requires a combination of “predominantly Christian religion” and “low natural resource rents”; The second path requires three conditions at the same time:

“centralized colonial rule”, “closed one-party rule” and “high degree of ethnic division”. Combining these two approaches, the core theoretical proposition for hegemonic-party states to maintain the resilience of strong polity is whether these countries have strong state capacity. In addition, the analysis also shows that the quality of initial economic conditions has no substantial effect on the political transformation of hegemonic-party countries.

Key words: hegemonic-party states; resilience of authoritarianism; qualitative comparative analysis; combinations of conditions; state capacity

Party Politics Analysis of the Formation of Competitive Authoritarian Regime: A Case Study of Sub-Saharan Africa

Du Li

Abstract: With the ebb of the third wave of democratization, competitive authoritarian regimes have sprung up all over the world. From the experience of political changes in late-developing countries, the situation of party politics in a country is of great significance to the choice and stability of its regime. Taking 27 countries in sub-Saharan Africa as case samples and using the method of QCA qualitative comparative analysis, this paper finds that from the perspective of party politics, there are three causal explanation mechanisms to explain the reasons for the formation of competitive authoritarian regimes. First, in the “strongman politics” model, political strongmen rely on the cartel party model, use national public power and resources, expand the political advantages of the ruling party, weaken the political opposition, and establish authoritarian rule; second, in the “political party institutionalization” model, the low institutionalized sheltered politics, relying on the political operation of the ruling party, forms a strong social mobilization force and promotes the return of authoritarian rule. Third, in the “party

society” model, a strong party society provides an institutionalized absorption mechanism for the ruling party to maintain political hegemony.

Key words: competitive authoritarianism; party politics; sub-Saharan Africa; qualitative comparative analysis

The Japanese Communist Party's Outlook on Future Society

Men Xiaojun

Abstract: Aiming at the “Renaissance of Scientific Socialism”, the Japanese Communist Party, which has always adhered to an independent theoretical standpoint, regards its outlook on future society as one of the three “theoretical breakthrough points” of Marxism. By analyzing the classic works of Marx, Engels, Lenin, and others, the Japanese Communist Party concluded that people have always misunderstood Marx and Engels’ outlook on future society. In fact, they have never detailed the blueprint for a future society and its plan. What Marx and Engels envisioned is a society of “all-round and free development of individuals”, in which “socialization of the means of production” is the core concept for Marx and Engels to understand the future society. Based on this understanding, in 2004, the 23rd Congress of the Japanese Communist Party formulated the fifth part of the party program, which became the thought pointer and action guide for formulating policy guidelines and analyzing major practical issues. The basic position is also continued by the new party program adopted at the 28th Congress in 2020.

Key words: the Japanese Communist Party; future society; distribution according to labor; socialization of the means of production; *Critique of the Gotha Program*

Research on the Path of Political Transition

— Based on the Perspective of the Relationship between the Ruling Party and the State during the Transition Period

Han YanHong

Abstract: Reviewing on the political transformation histories of various countries all around the world in recent decades, the transformation paths adopted are different. This article mainly studies the influence of the relationship between the ruling party and the state on the national political transformation path during the transformation period. This article believes that there is an important institutional factor that plays an important role in the process of political transformation, that is, the relationship or distance between the ruling party and the country during the transition period. Therefore, to explore the relationship of the distance between the ruling party and the state with the transition path during the transition period, the path of political transformation can be roughly divided into three types: the first type is that the ruling party has the closest relationship with the state, and the political system has produced a radical transformation method, taking the Soviet Union as an example; the second one refers to the ruling party which maintains the relationship with the state at a certain distance, the transformation has always been carried out “within the system”, such as Singapore; the last one is the intermediate state between the ruling party and the state, resulting in a moderate transformation, taking the transformation of the Korean authoritarian regime as an example. This article uses three countries as cases to try to reveal how the relationship between the ruling party and the state affects the path of political transformation.

Key words: Soviet Union; Singapore; South Korea; ruling party; political transformation

Comparative Research on the Dilemma of Contemporary Western Democratic Governance

Qi Chengcheng

Abstract: “ Transition Paradigm ” generally regards democratization as a linear process of political change. Once democratic consolidation is completed through democratic transition, the goal of good governance can be achieved once and for all. But in fact, both emerging democracies and established democracies are facing the dilemma of democratic governance. As far as the reasons for the dilemma of democratic governance are concerned, emerging democracies lack an effective modern state-building and gradual democratic reforms, coupled with improper external intervention, so that they only have democratic forms but no democratic essence. In the established democracies, old and new problems such as the rich and the poor are divided, political polarization, interest group politics, and other issues are intertwined, which leads to the increasingly rigid democratic system and difficulty in timely political reforms. To a certain extent, the difference in the causes of the dilemma of democratic governance determines the differences in coping models between the emerging democracies and established democracies. In order to achieve effective democratic governance, both emerging democracies and established democracies should carry out political reforms in a timely manner according to the development of the times, and constantly improve the efficiency of democratic governance.

Key words: democratic governance; Transition Paradigm; governance dilemma; governance efficiency

Enemy or Friend?

— A Tentative Analysis of the Relationship between Populism and Liberal Democracy

Zhou Chao

Abstract: Since the birth of “populism”, its relationship between liberal democracy has always been under severe contention. How to define this relationship? Populism, is it a friend or an enemy towards liberal democracy? On this topic, western scholars are still on a long journey to reach a conclusion. Mainstream tends to regard populism as an enemy of liberal democracy, for it has been always the preface of authoritarianism or even totalitarianism. Some students, on the contrary, consider populism as a friend of liberal democracy. Populist forces can act as the agent for peripheralized social groups. By expressing such groups’ voices and demands, the operation and function of liberal democracy can be put under investigation for amelioration. The third school defines this relationship as “depending on”, which means under certain circumstance, populism can be a friend of liberal democracy while at others, it can a enemy. In this paper, I’d like to present another judgement. Populism’s effects on liberal democracy can be both beneficial and jeopardizing, but these two effects are not equivalent, a tension exists between them. In general, jeopardizing effects are essential and beneficial effects are superficial. For liberal democracy, Populism’s negative effects cannot be counteracted by its positive effects. To contain and even reverse the spread of populism, democratic establishment has to pinpoint the problems and bring about effective reform.

Key words: populism; liberal democracy; relationship; analysis

The Practical Dilemma and Development Trend of the Post-Brexit Era of Great Britain: Perspective on Northern Ireland's Political System

Li Xiaoyuan

Abstract: The Northern Ireland issue is deeply embedded in major issues at multiple levels, such as the European integration process, the British decentralization reform, and local ethnic conflicts, where is the intersection of multiple fields in social science. Since the beginning of the peace process in 1998, although the institutional building and operation of the democratic politics in Northern Ireland have improved a lot, the construction of political organization are still fragile. While the Northern Ireland administrative committee have resumed operations in 2020, after many years of suspension, the political system of Northern Ireland is facing the biggest threats since 1998, under the clouds from process of "Brexit". External shocks have profoundly affected the operation of the autonomous government and its party building in Northern Ireland, facing the suspension of administrative institutions, political party polarization and fragmentation, and even escalation of local separatism and potential ethnic conflicts.

Unfortunately, the two "black swans", the post-Brexit era and COVID - 19 pandemic, have brought a strong double impact to Northern Ireland, leading to a "security dilemma" in Northern Ireland in terms of external structural changes and its own initiative strategy, which may cause greater political development problems. Besides, the re-emergence and escalation of the Northern Ireland issue will in turn profoundly affect many problems nowadays, such as the British democratic crisis, the negotiations between the UK and Europe, the tendency of global separatism, and the prevention and control of the epidemic.

Key words: the post-Brexit era of Great Britain; Northern Ireland; political institution; ethnic conflict; party polarization and

fragmentation; local separatism

Review of Comparative Political Studies in China (2020)

Zhou Youping, Zhang Lianying

Abstract: In 2020, Chinese comparative politics scholars continue to study in accordance with the paradigm of the West, and at the same time, localization research has achieved further development in all aspects. In the study of theory, reflecting on Western centralism and constructing a localized comparative political theory system is gradually getting better; in the study of methodology, multi-method has received continuous attention, but there has been no major change in the situation of neglecting originality and lack of demand orientation; in the study of comparative politics topics, it shows the characteristics of accelerated evolution of the discourse system, slower development in research methods, focus on macro and meso-level issues.

Key words: localization; political transformation; national construction; party



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