

國際安全研究

Journal of International Security Studies

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Abstracts

3 Three Modes of Thinking and Policy Orientation of Cultural Security

Yuejin LIU

[Abstract] Three types of relations are entangled nowadays in dealing with issues concerning national cultural security on both the theoretical and practical levels: 1) the relation between one's own culture and that of other ethnic groups, 2) the relation between advanced and underdeveloped parts of a culture; and 3) the relation between one's ethnic culture and so-called foreign advanced culture as related to the previous two. Accordingly, three modes of thinking are likely adopted in handling issues concerning national cultural security: to antagonize one's own culture with that of other ethnic groups, that is, taking the "me or you" attitude; to absolutize the "advanced" and the "underdeveloped", that is, believing things to be good if not bad, or vice versa; and to identify things ethnic exclusively as advanced, that is, taking the "only-me-good" stance. It is a very demanding job to maintain national culture and at the same time, to pursue cultural development. The relation between ethnicity and advancedness can only be properly handled on a basis of a good understanding of "there is no advanced and underdeveloped discrimination between cultures" and clear demarcation of "which parts of a culture is advanced and which not". In terms of the discrimination of cultures, it is essential to maintain the ethnicity of one culture before one's national cultural security can be safeguarded. In terms of the advancedness of culture, on the other hand, the pursuit of cultural advancedness is necessary for national cultural security. Hence, it is important to improve the public awareness of cultural security, and more essentially, for the government is to have a right cultural security orientation and policy.

[Key Words] cultural security; mode of thinking; policy orientation; national culture; advanced culture; cultural power

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22 The Security Crises of Written Chinese Characters as Seen from the Perspective of Cultural Security

Yukun GAO

[Abstract] One important dimension of China's cultural security is the security of written Chinese characters. The Chinese character system is a key vehicle for Chinese culture, and to ensure the security of Chinese characters means that, 1) they are to be free from threats, both external and internal; 2) they maintain their dominance in Chinese culture, bearing a reasonable level of purity, bringing no inconvenience or harm to people, and 3) no threats are to be imposed by external powers on the Chinese people's right to use them. Currently Chinese characters are suffering potential crises in the domestic media and other fields of their application. There are, however, misunderstandings about the security of Chinese characters and overlooking of their rationality, purity and norm, resulting in the chaos and morbidity of their writing system, and hence the inception of crises for the security of Chinese characters. The excessive use of English abbreviations in the Chinese mass media poses external threats to the security of Chinese characters. The internal threat comes from the following three factors: the dual system of simplified and traditional Chinese characters for mainland and Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan; the growing inability of the Chinese people in their written language; and the abuse of inelegant words. It is of vital importance to confront the potential crises facing the security of Chinese characters, to proactively cope with the issues, and to maintain security, integrity, and stability of the Chinese character system, so as to contribute to the implementation of the overall national security outlook, the maintenance of cultural confidence and resilience, as well as the promotion of cultural soft power of China.

[Key Words] cultural security; security of Chinese characters; Chinese characters; potential crisis; external risk; internal risk

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52 “Shared Security”: Philosophical Tradition, Political Thoughts and Diplomatic Practice

—A Study of the Theoretical Origins of the Chinese School of Non-traditional Security Studies

Zhijiang WEI

[Abstract] In recent years there has been a growing academic interest in the construction of a Chinese school of international relations studies as well as the

international security studies from a Chinese perspective. Undoubtedly, the “shared security” outlook deserves a significant place in this on-going theoretical construction of international security studies with Chinese characteristics. Historically, the outlook has been founded on traditional Chinese philosophy. The concepts of *bao he tai he* (“maintenance of the supreme harmony”) and *xie he wan bang* (“all nations live side by side in perfect harmony”), originating from *The Book of Changes* and its principle of harmony between Yin and Yang and unity of opposites, have laid a cosmological foundation for the “shared security” outlook. The Confucian principle of *zhong shu* (“loyalty and forgiveness”) and its advocacy of *ji yu li er li ren, ji yu da er da ren* (“wishing to be established himself, one should establish others; while wishing to be enlarged himself, one should enlarge others”) is the core of its “cooperation, coexistence, and sharing” security conception. The practice of the Golden Mean serves as its methodological basis. Historically, China’s pacifist diplomatic ideology and the diplomatic practice of “benevolence and good neighborliness” forms its ideological foundation. In East Asia, the practice of shared security can be traced back to a traditional security system characterized by the Suzerain-Vassal System, a security structure which is known for its practice of “the small states serving the great” and “the great states cherishing the small” and reflects the basic principle of coexistence, co-construction, sharing and co-governance. After the founding of the People’s Republic of China in 1949, the Chinese government has been contributing multi-faceted security and diplomatic practices to its “shared security” outlook, among which, its adherence to “the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence” and the foreign policy of “benevolence and good neighborliness” demonstrates its pacifist national security orientation. It further suggests the possibility that the so-called security dilemma and the “Thucydides Trap” can be avoided if the “shared security” conception has its wide recognition. The “co-governance” and “win-win” situation in security can be achieved if the international community follows the principle of “co-existence, non-hostility, mutual respect, benign interaction” within its security environment. There are reasons to believe that the “shared security” outlook, the core of China’s new security concept for Asia proposed by President Xi Jinping, could be one of the guiding ideologies of China’s foreign relations for the foreseeable future. As such, deepening its understanding will be an important task for China’s diplomatic and security policy makers.

[Key Words] shared security; philosophical tradition; political thought; security thought; diplomatic practice

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68 Reconceptualizing the Concept, Monitoring and Governance of the Chinese Food Security System

Xuan LI

[Abstract] Conceptual clarity about food security is fundamental to the determination of a country's food security situation. In China, food security is often simply equated with the quantity of domestic food supply. However, these are two inter-related but different issues. The concept of food security is multi-dimensional and evolving; hence it is not a single-dimensional concept but involves a complex system. From a horizontal perspective, it contains four dimensions, i. e., food availability, food access, food utilization (especially balanced nutrition) and stability; from a vertical perspective, it has macro, meso and micro dimensions. Currently, Chinese food security policy focuses primarily on domestic food supply, which relates to food availability and macro dimension. Other dimensions turn out to be overlooked, such as food access at micro level and nutritional aspects in the food utilization dimension. This article attempts to relate food security in China to Brazil's experience, and especially how the Lula Government addressed the dilemma of co-existence of abundant food supply and the large starving population in Brazil through the "Zero Hunger programme". The author argues that China should establish a concept of a multi-dimensional food security system, with appropriate monitoring indicators and governance structure.

[Key Words] food security; multi-dimensional concept; monitoring indicators; Zero Hunger Program of Brazil; governance

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96 The Evolution and Prospect of the Grain Security of China

Ying ZHANG and Yanghua XU

[Abstract] Grain security, power security and economic security are the three most important dimensions in security in today's world. Grain security, with its strategic significance, is closely bound up with the national economic development, social stability as well as national security. A relatively successful grain security safeguarding system was established since the founding of new China. As a result of the government's adjustments in grain strategy, grain production of China has grown with fluctuations and gone through different phases: the transition from mutual-aid teams to state monopoly of purchase and marketing in the 1950s; the importation of grain in an attempt to ease the grain crisis in the 1960s; the implementation of house

hold contract responsibility system in the 1970s and 1980s; the abolition of agricultural tax and the maintenance of the minimum 1.8 billion mu (a unit of area equal to one fifteenth of a hectare) of farmland from the early 21st century till now. Grain security of China is faced with the structural contradiction of relatively low profits for farmers. To solve the problem, China should increase investment and enhance the infrastructure construction capacity on the national level, promote innovation in agricultural science and technology, make efforts to increase growth potentials for grain production capacity, open up new ways in optimizing agricultural structure, seek new breakthroughs in changing agricultural development modes, and increase farmer's income. Since 2004, the No. 1 documents of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council have been targeted many times at the issues concerning agriculture, the rural country and farmers, putting a lot of emphasis on the importance of grain security, which highlights the key role government plays in coordinating the grain policy as well as the close attention that the CPC Central Committee pays to the grain security. Only when "secure grain and trustworthy grain" is achieved can China realize her goal of reaching the standards of a moderately developed country by mid-21st century.

[Key Words] grain security of China; grain strategy; grain crisis; No. 1 document of the CPC Central Committee; grain production capacity

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114 A Study of the Water Resources Security Relation between China's Neighboring Countries

Zhifei LI

[Abstract] The water resources security relation has become one of the most important constituents in China's external relations, especially in its neighboring relations. There is an asymmetric interdependence relationship and a structure of "low conflict and low cooperation" between China and its neighboring countries, hence a sense of insecurity over the water resources utilization in the region. Consequently, some of the countries have joined the U. S and Japan to form a strategic alliance to contain China, which will inevitably affect China's neighboring relations and security environment. For China, however, its strategic advantage of the water resources could serve as points of diplomatic breakthrough in helping construct a water resources security relation that serves China's overall national strategy. China should seek the opportunity to set rules in water resources, formulate water resources security strategy, establish a profit-sharing and compensation

mechanism, and create new arenas for China's neighboring diplomacy.

[Key Words] water resources; security relationship; strategy for neighboring countries; points of breakthrough

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136 **A Comment on the Water Environment Governance in South Asia**
Jinqian LIU and Lifan LI

[Abstract] In recent years, progress has been made in South Asian countries in the water environment governance. They have upgraded bilateral cooperation and reached consensus on a number of technical schemes, including eco-environmental evaluation and climate warning system, laying a solid foundation for further cooperation in the utilization of water resources. Due to the discrepancy in development and economic strength of these countries, water environment governance is faced with many problems, e. g. the lack of direction and short-term motivation. However, water resources disputes between South Asian countries brings complication to the regional security landscape, harm to the relation among the countries, and growing tension in the region. The presence of the international community in water environment governance in South Asia further aggravates the regional conflicts by bringing in superpower games. The "historical memory" in South Asia makes it hard for the concept of interdependence to take root among the nations, and the "lack of strategic mutual trust" restrains the promotion of friendly relations. The quest for cooperation in water environment governance from the perspective of the "community with shared destiny" is aimed at finding breakthroughs in the mindset of South Asian countries, so as to create conditions for further cooperation in water environment governance. Guided by the concept of the "community with shared destiny", water environment governance in South Asia is conducive to improved relations among the countries, construction of an integrated mechanism, and integrated development of the entire region. Bonded historically, geographically and ethnically, Asian partner countries should make joint efforts in building a more equitable multi-lateral cooperation mechanism in water environment governance, and hence achieve interdependence, integrated development and regional prosperity.

[Key Words] security of water resource; community with shared destiny; water environment governance; sharing; SAARC

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