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〔特别策划〕 纪念中美建交四十周年

轮回:中美关系与亚太秩序演变(1978~2018) / 牛 军

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SPECIAL COLUMN

In Commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of the Establishment of China-U. S. Diplomatic Relations

Cycle: China-U. S. Relations and the Evolution of the Asia-Pacific Order

Niu Jun (9)

Peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific have lasted for four decades. It began in December 1978 when China and the United States established formal diplomatic relations. Thereafter, the dynamic strategic landscape in the Asia-Pacific arena basically followed the ups and downs of China-U. S. relations amid its moving forward. Examined from a historical perspective, the drastically shifting bilateral relations resulting from the conflict over trade beginning in 2018 has brought about serious consequences, which together with its current evolution, have attracted the attention of the world. The future might bring a new epoch in the Asian-Pacific arena and a more competitive China-U. S. relationship that could evolve into a “new paradigm” and have serious consequences for the future of the Asian-Pacific order.

FOCAL TOPIC: U. S. Midterm Elections and American Politics

The 2018 U. S. Midterm Elections and the Future of Trump Administration's Policy

Diao Daming (26)

In the 2018 U. S. midterm elections, while the GOP expanded its majority in the Senate, the Democratic Party regained control of the House of Representatives, and nearly gained parity in state gubernatorial seats. Basically following the historical law of “Pendulum Effect,” the midterm elections focused on issues of values rather than economic ones. The elections

showed the deep dissatisfaction of some American voters on the direction of the nation in the past two years of the Trump administration, and that the Democrats consolidated a voting base including young people, ethnic minorities and other groups, and successfully expanded support among female voters. The “divided government” formed by the midterm elections will bring greater obstacles to the Trump administration’s domestic policies, but the two parties still have room for compromise and cooperation on issues such as building infrastructure. In the face of domestic pressure, the Trump administration might be eager to satisfy the public in the area of foreign policy although it will still be subject potentially to restrictions by Congressional Democrats. In China policy, a Republican-led White House and a Democratic-led House are likely to complicate current issues and bring greater risks and uncertainties to China-U. S. relations.

“Deconstruction of the Administrative State” : Goal of Trump’s Conservative Domestic Agenda

Zhang Yeliang (48)

“Deconstruction of the administrative state” is one of the three major policy goals of the Trump Administration. Trump has been trying to scale back federal regulations of the last decade and abolish some of the agencies that enforce them, to withdraw or revise those trade pacts that stymie American economic growth and infringe on American sovereignty. Therefore, the Trump administration has been taking a number of steps to control the federal independent regulatory agencies, which have been created over decades. “Deconstruction of the administrative state” is central to the domestic policies of the Trump administration and has been implemented since he took power. It is the key to understanding the Trump administration’s economic, environmental and trade policies. The Trump administration’s “deconstruction of the administrative state” policy has made some progress, but it still faces serious challenges.

Post-modernity and Nostalgia : The Cultural Conflict behind the Trump Phenomenon

Liu Yu (83)

This article argues that cultural conflict is the main dynamic of the Trump phenomenon. To be concrete, this paper addresses two questions: How has the cultural gap emerged in the U. S. ? and why has the cultural tension exploded in the contemporary era? On the first question, this paper argues that the “rights revolution,” much more on the left than on the right, has widened the cultural gap in recent decades. The source of cultural conflicts lies more in accelerating progressivism than in the power of

conservatism. On the second question, this paper argues that the right, in response to the dramatic change in values on the left, resorts to intensifying emotional appeals. Such intensification heightened in the 2010s due to the accumulated effects of policy changes, the liberal tilt of the mainstream culture industry and anticipated future value shifts reflecting demographic changes.

America's Rust Belt and Its Political Implications

Zhang Wenzong (109)

Technological advances, globalization and powerful labor unions contributed to the decline of the U. S. Rust Belt. The weary and disaffected white blue-collar workers in the region, who used to be firm supporters of the Democratic Party, switched to support the Republican candidate Donald J. Trump, an anti-establishment and anti-globalization businessman, in the 2016 presidential election, and sent him to the White House. This important transformation seemed to signify the beginning of party and sectional realignment. To honor his campaign promises, President Trump implemented some policies to revive the Rust Belt, consolidate his political status, and guarantee the GOP's position in a new round of political cycles. However, it is difficult for these policies to yield immediate fruits in the short run. It seems that as the Democratic Party rebuilt the Rust Belt "Blue Wall" in the 2018 midterm election, blue-collar workers will play a vital role in the 2020 presidential election. Therefore, the Democratic and the Republican parties will compete intensely to woo their votes. Against this backdrop, it is easier for the two parties to reach a consensus on trade protectionism. On the whole, the Rust Belt has benefited greatly from the U. S. trade with China. However, by virtue of outsourcing manufacturing jobs, the steel companies and labor unions in the region will push American protectionism against China. The trade conflict between the two countries will have a significant impact on the future of the Rust Belt.

American Diplomacy

A Study on the U. S. Decision-Making System in the U. S. Security Council

Li Nan (127)

The National Security Council is the key institution for U. S. decision-making process on foreign policies. As the United States became a superpower, the National Security Council gradually became a statutory body of the U. S. foreign decision-making process. The president plays a central

role in the National Security Council and is the final decision-maker on foreign policies. At the same time, the National Security Council has been maximized with political, economic, military, and diplomatic resources while trying to avoid conflicts among departments due to various departmental interests in order to ensure the president's control over the whole process. However, in reality, this formal decision-making process still needs to be associated with a large number of informal decision-making procedures as well as personal relationships. It has ultimately formed a three-tiered decision-making system with the president at the core.

American Society

A Comparative Study of Jewish- and Chinese-American Immigrant Women in the Twentieth Century: An Analysis of the *Bintel Brief* and *Dear Diane* Letters

Cai Hong (142)

Jewish and Chinese Americans are two important ethnic groups in American social life. They share many similarities even though as immigrants they have displayed different characteristics, past and present. This article, utilizing assimilation theory and text analysis methodology, examines Jewish- and Chinese-American advice letters in the twentieth century. These letters reflected Jewish- and Chinese-American immigrant women's lives in different ways. This study finds that though the two ethnic groups differed in their time of arrival in America and their ethnic cultures, the Jewish and Chinese immigrant women encountered many similar problems and maintained close relations with their individual cultures in their assimilating to America. Among the most striking similarities are a generation gap, identity crisis, and conflicts in adaptation and assimilation. This is a process that future immigrants will experience as well.

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