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U.S. Politics, Economy and Diplomacy

| Re-discussion of "Dahl's Question": Economic Inequality and | |
|---|-----|
| the Redistribution Dilemma in the United States | |
| Lin Hong ····· | (9) |

The United States in the 21st century has two distinct faces: high development and extreme inequality. This provides meaning for the continued discussion of Robert Dahl's question on "who is really ruling." In the 20th century, the United States experienced two peaks of economic inequality. Between the two peaks, a radical redistribution policy brought the United States into the ranks of the welfare state. The policy also narrowed the gap between the rich and the poor, creating a "middle-class America." However, since the beginning of the 21st century, economic inequality in the United States has been unprecedentedly severe. Wealth became highly concentrated, and income gaps widened.

It is difficult to correct inequality through redistribution. On the one hand, there is a huge pay gap between corporate executives and ordinary workers. It is extremely controversial when it comes to either cutting the executives' pay or raising the minimum wage. On the other hand, decisions such as raising the progressive income tax rate and reducing or exempting corporate taxes are a game of interest. They reflect the difficult balance between economic growth and distributive justice. Based on factors such as the value of freedom, capital logic, and party interests, the redistribution mechanism in the United States fails to play its due role in correcting inequality. It instead encourages the wealthy to dominate the political process by controlling wealth.

The U.S. Electoral College System: Historical Evolution, System Flaws and Reforms Zhang Yeliang The electoral college system is one of the fundamental and the most important electoral systems in the U.S., and it is also the most controversial

one. Although the electoral college system was originally a compromise between the Federalist and the Anti-Federalists and between the small and the large states during the Constitutional Convention of 1787, federal and state laws as well as party systems and party activities also have enormously influenced its formation and operation. Together they form the current electoral college system. The electoral college system has many built-in political and systemic flaws, and therefore there have been constant calls to abolish or reform it since the system was created. Hampered by the complex process of passing and ratification of a constitutional amendment and fierce partisan conflict, the efforts to abolish or reform the electoral college system have failed. The controversy over the U. S. electoral college system will continue for a long time into the future.

An Analysis of Donald Trump Administration's Nuclear Policy

He Oisong (59)

The Donald Trump administration saw international politics through the prism of great power geopolitical rivalry, especially military rivalry, and considered the nuclear forces of China and Russia to be the "Number One Threat" to U.S. national and nuclear security. The Trump administration made major adjustments to U.S. nuclear policies, increasing the role and status of nuclear weapons in national security, abandoning international non-proliferation obligations, and implementing "Tailored Nuclear Deterrence" for specific countries. The nuclear policy pursued by the Trump administration has not changed the reliance of the United States on nuclear weapons to ensure American hegemony, extending security guarantees to allies through nuclear weapons, and selectively implementing non-proliferation, which has greatly contributed to a nuclear arms race and stimulated nuclear proliferation, while lowering the threshold for the use of nuclear weapons. This is a breach of and provocation to international strategic stability. To that end, the international community has waged a struggle to reduce the risk of the use of nuclear weapons. The international nuclear posture will remain grim for the foreseeable future.

The Trump Administration's Reinventing Strategy for the International System

Wang Jinguo and Cao Jialu (94)

After the 1941 Pearl Harbor attack, the United States began to break away from the tradition of isolationism, change its attitude of not participating in world affairs, and actively participate in the construction of hegemony and international discourse power. Up to now, American hegemony has not been left behind. The construction of an international system is a key

factor for U.S. hegemony. Since President Trump was elected, the United States has successively withdrawn from the Paris climate agreement and the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement. Its "withdrawal from diplomacy" has aroused widespread concerns and discussions around the world. On the surface, this kind of withdrawal by the United States from the international system will affect the global leadership of the United States to a certain extent, and its cost is also very high. However, through in-depth analysis, we find that, in fact, for the United States, this is actually a means of institutional checks and balances, that is, a strategy of reshaping the international system. A series of "exit diplomacy" acts by Trump is a way to maintain American hegemony at low cost by reshaping the international system. Trump makes full use of withdrawal or threats to withdraw from the international system to expand American power and influence, rather than simply considering economic factors. After dynamically weighing the relationship between cost and benefit, Trump adopted appropriate opposition to the international system, which not only reduced U.S. costs, but also maintained the hegemony of the United States.

Studies on the Cold War History

Rereading George F. Kennan's "Long Telegram"

Zhang Xiaoming (117)

Telegram No. 511 of the U. S. Embassy in Moscow, or the "Long Telegram", sent to the U. S. State Department by George F. Kennan on February 22, 1946, is one of the most important documents in the study of the Cold War and U. S. foreign policy after the end of World War II. It is important to note that the telegram has some obvious flaws to which researchers need to pay attention. In addition, there have long been some misunderstandings or misreadings of the telegram in academia, including calling it an 8,000-word telegram, interpreting the "logic of force" as the logic of military force, and so on. This author wishes to clarify these misunderstandings or misreadings regarding George F. Kennan's "Long Telegram".

China-U. S. Relations History

The Transmutation of the Chinese People's Feelings toward America and the Failure of the Operation Working with the United States during the Boxer Uprising

Open Door Notes during the Boxer uprising. Owing to the past impression of the United States, the Qing Government took a skeptical attitude towards the first Open Door Note. Until the issue of the second Open Door Note when the Eight-Power Allied Forces approached Beijing, the American Government restated the Open Door Policy which gave the Chinese people hope. Chinese local governors' feelings toward America were heightened and they initiated calling on America to help China. Then the American government tried to mediate the conflict between the Qing Government and foreign powers. But it failed, which made the Chinese people give up enthusiasm for America again. The Boxer uprising was a key turning point in the history of the Chinese people's feelings toward America. From then on, love and hate were intertwined between the Chinese and Americans.

Special Column In Memory of Professor Ezra F. Vogel

| Ezra Vogel: the Man, the Scholar, and the Legend | |
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