

SUMMARIES

Greater BRICS Cooperation and the Global South: Cooperation, Governance and Transformation

Editor's note: In October 2024, the first summit of BRICS will be held in Kazan, Russia. This is an event of global significance in the development of the BRICS cooperation mechanism. With Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the UAE, Iran, and Ethiopia becoming full members of the BRICS mechanism, the expansion of BRICS. The experience accumulated during the development of the BRICS mechanism and the existing problems that need to be summarized not only in practice, but also explored theoretically. In particular, the historic expansion of the BRICS mechanism has not only made it more inclusive, but also added to its complexity, bringing to the fore the issue of “seeking common ground while reserving differences” within the BRICS mechanism. To this end, under the theme of “BRICS + and the Global South: Cooperation, Governance and Transformation”, we invited some experts to contribute to an in-depth discussion of this issue.

The Struggle for Order behind the Ukrainian Crisis and the Changing Order in the Post-Crisis Era

Ruan Jianping and He Shiyu

The Russia-Ukraine conflict is not only a geopolitical rivalry between Russia and the U. S. -led West, but also a rivalry between the two sides around the international order. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the U. S. hegemonic order expanded rapidly across the globe and attempted to form a geopolitical structure, an economic division of labor, and a corresponding rule of values dominated by the U. S., thereby anchoring other countries in a peripheral zone of mutual checks and balances. Reflections on the liberal reforms of the 1990s and revitalization efforts since the new century have led to increasingly sharp contradictions between Russia and the U. S. hegemonic order, mainly in the form of a conflict of interests over economic development, a geopolitical conflict over the competition for power, and a conflict of perceptions over the norms of the order. In the face of the strategic superiority and collective rejection of the United States and the West, Russia's need to push for a change in the international

order has become more urgent. To this end, Russia has taken the criticism of the shortcomings and hypocrisy of the United States' hegemonic order as its strategic focus, and is actively promoting its vision of a multipolar world order, drawing on the security concerns of the countries of the Global South and the need for autonomous development. And out of the need to maintain its own hegemony, the U. S. is also accelerating the adjustment of its foreign policy of the liberal international order, regaining its ideology and camp confrontation, and attempting to form an orderly containment of forces such as China and Russia. Whatever the final outcome of the Russian–Ukrainian conflict, it will exacerbate the complexity of the changes in the international order and the acrimony of the struggle in the future. Of course, the competition between the United States and the Western world and Russia over the international order will objectively provide a new historical opportunity for the global South to build a fairer and more reasonable new international order, and in the long run will help to bring all parties back to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

Key Words: Ukraine Crisis, Hegemonic Order, International Order, Russia, U. S.

State Governance in Ukraine: Foundational Conditions, Policy Options and the State of the Nation

Zhao Huirong

The ineffectiveness of governance in Ukraine is closely related to its national infrastructure, policy choices and the state of the nation. The fundamentals of Ukrainian state governance combine strengths and weaknesses, determining the country's exposure to regional separatist tendencies and ethnic divisions, economic and defense vulnerabilities, and disagreements and contradictions with Russia. To address these issues, the ideal policy choices should be oriented towards maximizing the public interest, appropriately managing the relationship between the central and local levels, constructing an inclusive national identity, pursuing an ethnocultural policy that embraces pluralism, fostering sustainable economic development and advancing national defense on that basis, and upholding a foreign policy that is peaceful, neutral and balanced. However, the realities of Ukraine's policy choices since independence have drifted away from the ideal scenario, mainly in terms of political radicalization and geopolitization, monolithic historical narratives and ethnocultural policies, oligarchic economy, lagging defense capacity building, and polarization of foreign policy. Such policy choices deviate from the public interest maximization orientation, leading to a

state in a chronic state of crisis or quasi-crisis, while the poor state of the country has a backlash effect on policy choices, contributing to the short-term and dependent character of policy choices and forming a vicious circle with the state of the state.

Key Words: Ukraine, State Governance, Infrastructural Conditions, Policy Options, State of the Nation

**The Cognitive-Domain Confrontation in the Russian-Ukrainian Conflict:
Means, Impact and Implications** **Chu Zhaofeng and Zhu Pengjin**

Since the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Russia and the United States have been fiercely competing for cognitive fields beyond physical space, presenting new forms and characteristics of war in the digital age. Relying on information technology and the advantages of voice channels, the two sides create and disseminate specific information; utilize the echo chamber effect to repeatedly strengthen the audience's cognition; then immerse in emotional contagion and value inculcation to trigger emotional resonance, and guide the target group's emotion, will, stance, attitude, ideology, etc. to change for their own benefit; and finally, utilize the international authority to enhance the cognition of legitimacy and expand the international recognition. Utilizing the advantages of technological platforms and digital media hegemony in their hands, the United States and other Western countries have launched an all-dimensional, all-area, all-the-time cognitive suppression of Russia, while at the same time highly linking up with ground military operations in support of Ukraine, which has become one of the most important factors delaying Russia's special military operations. China's cognitive offensive and defensive capabilities should be upgraded in terms of changes in mindset, platform force building, development of emerging technologies, and value system shaping, in order to steadily respond to the cognitive warfare schemes of the United States and other Western countries.

Key Words: Russian - Ukrainian Conflict, Cognitive-Domain Confrontation, Cognitive Warfare, Hybrid War

The Logic of the Usage of Historical Narrative in the State's Foreign Policy Behavior-The Case of the Narrative Controversy Arising from the Russian - Ukrainian Conflict **Zhang Yanjun**

Narratives are cognitive structures of a constructivist nature and are viewed as interpreting past experiences in light of real needs. In a given political context,

historical narratives establish a causal link between collective memory and foreign policy behavior, and policymakers use narrative themes and narrative templates familiar to members of the memory community to provide legitimacy and mobilizing power for their proposed policy ideas and diplomatic behavior. These historical narratives should be understood not only as narratives of the past but also of the future. Taking the narrative controversy over the Russian–Ukrainian conflict as an example, this paper focuses on the logic of historical narratives in the foreign policy behavior of Russia and Ukraine, and shows how different narratives around the same issue have become the tools of propaganda and agitation for both sides, and how they have become the focus of controversy as the pretext for foreign policy behavior. The complexity of the Russian–Ukrainian conflict lies in the fact that it is not only a conflict and confrontation between Russia and the West, but also a matter of different interpretations of history by Russia and Ukraine and the reshaping of their respective views of history, which has led to the formation of obvious narrative biases in the memories of the two countries in the context of geo–interests and security dilemmas, as well as in the construction of identities and the reshaping of identities, and has thus formed the crux of the Russian–Ukrainian conflict, which is unable to come to an end at the present time. The profound differences between the Russian and Ukrainian leaders after 2014 reflect the huge differences between different communities of memory and the narrative tools they employ, not so much in terms of their positions on historical issues, but rather on current realpolitik issues. The analysis of the mechanisms of historical narratives and the discussion of their relationship with foreign policy could provide additional ideas for the study of the same type of problem.

Key Words: Historical Narrative, Collective Memory, Foreign Policy, Russian–Ukrainian Conflict

The Evolution and Directions of the EU Climate Security Agenda in the Context of Climate Geopolitical Competition and Cooperation **Zhou Yijiang**

Abstract: At present, the geographical nature of the climate change issue is becoming more and more prominent, and its impact on international order is constantly increasing. Major countries and regions have formulated strategies and policies to deal with climate–related challenges in order to ensure their own security and competitiveness in the context of climate geopolitical competition and cooperation. For decades, the EU has laid weigh upon the link between climate change and security, and has been

actively committed to integrating climate security into relevant policy areas. EU's climate security concepts and policies have accumulated considerable influence at the international level. Analyzing and interpreting the EU's climate security policy is of great practical significance for the construction of China's climate security governance system and influence in global security governance norm. Based on the relevant policy documents issued by the EU over the past two decades, this article summarizes the development of its agenda in different stages, and finds that in recent years, the EU has accelerated the agenda in an increasingly complex situation, especially reflected in climate security actions in the defense field. In view of the cross-issue characteristics of climate security itself, the EU has carried out actions in the three policy areas of foreign affairs, development and defense, using relevant policy tools to deal with the security challenges posed by risks related to climate change, and has made certain progress at the level of EU institutions and member states. In the future, the EU will continue to promote the climate security agenda at the bilateral and multilateral levels, committed to the realization of its climate goals and leadership. In the face of this trend, China can establish a climate security strategy that is in line with my country's development and climate governance goals, and actively carry out relevant dialogues under the Global Security Initiative and the Global Development Initiative to explore cooperation to address climate risks.

Key Words: Climate Security, European Union, Climate Politics, Global Climate Security Governance, Global Security Initiative