

SUMMARIES

Political Analysis on Putin's Constitutional Amendment

Pang Dapeng

On January 15, 2020, Russian President Putin officially proposed to amend the Constitution in his State of the Union address. The constitutional amendment is a political move fully deliberated and carefully designed by the ruling class. It is closely related to the stable but worrying domestic situation since Putin returned to power in 2018, and it aims at solving Russia's "2024 problem." From the proposal to the implementation, the Russian legislature has completed all the legal procedures for constitutional amendment in just two months, which shows that Russia's social consensus on Putin's long-term governance. The content of this constitutional amendment is very rich. It not only involves the division of authority between the legislative, administrative and judicial institutions, but also indicates that Russia may take major actions within the CIS in the future to realize the reintegration of this region. Nevertheless, the corona virus has disturbed Putin's plan. The prospects of Putin's strategy will be closely related to the uncertainty of world politics in the post-epidemic era.

Key Words: Constitutional Amendment, Russian Politics, Political System, Presidential Power, Eurasian Integration

The Image of Russia in the Western Countries: Historical Evolution and Present Position

Xu Xiangmei

In the long history, Russia has always been different to the Western countries, and its national image has also been changing periodically along with its relations with Western groups. Generally speaking, since the Crimea crisis in 2014, Russia's image in the West has deteriorated sharply. It has been recognized as "revisionist state", "global threat", "authoritarian state", "aggressor in post-Soviet space" and "the initiator of the new cold war". There are many factors that influence the shaping of national image, including politics, media, leader's image, ideology, history and "soft power." From a practical point of view, Russia still lacks a unified organization, strategy, and coordination mechanism in shaping its national image. However, Russia recognizes itself as a nation-state with a unique way of development. It does not seek to integrate into Western society with its democratic values, and positions itself as a power between the East and the West.

Key Words: Russia, National Image, Western Media, US-Russia Relations

The Russophobia of the West: From Historical Psychology to Political Psychology **Sun Fang**

The Russophobia is a historical and psychological phenomenon that has existed in Western society for a long time. It is affected by many factors such as religion, culture, politics, and history, and is constantly changing. In the Middle Ages, the core issue of Russophobia is religious differences. In modern times, the West uses civilization as a yardstick to examine the authoritarian Russia. Since the 19th century, with the rising of the Russian empire, the Russophobia of the West manifests strong political color, gradually evolving from religious and cultural issues to political issues. The Russophobia is not only a measure of European self-identification, but also a mirror for Russians to examine themselves. In recent years, as the relations between Russia and the Western countries become tense, Western media reports on the negative images of Russia and its people are extremely frequent. Russian leaders and government officials have also publicly stated on many occasions that there is a Russophobia in the West. The existence of Russophobia shows the attitude of the Western world towards Russia, and it is a deeper influencing factor in the relations between the two sides.

Key Words: Russophobia, West, Ideology, Historical Psychology

The Coronavirus Pandemic from the Perspective of Russia: China's role, US – China Competition, and Russia's Choice

Qu Wenyi and Glimbitsky

The sudden outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic has radically impacted China and its relations with the world. The US-China relations have become the main theme that affects world stability and the formation of a new pattern. In the US-China strategic game, the third party cannot be ignored. By reviewing the articles and reports published by Russian media and think tanks, this article conducts an empirical study on how Russians view China's role in the pandemic, the US-China frictions, and Russia's choice in the context of intensified competition between China and the US. The main conclusions are as follows: Russian society has been positive about China's anti-epidemic measures, and some experts have also revealed the unique role of China's institutional model and cultural traditions; the media reports on the cause of the outbreak in Wuhan are rational; the evaluation of the dispute between the US and China over the origin and spread of the virus is relatively negative; when comparing the anti-epidemic performance of China and the US and interpreting the anti-epidemic friction, Russian media generally attributes it to great power competition, and believes that the trend of

China's rise and the US' weakening is strengthened which has stimulated the intensification of US-China conflicts and even caused bipolar confrontation; regarding Russia's positioning issue, in the context of intensified US-China conflicts, the consensus among Russian intellectuals is not to choose sides, they expect to maintain friendly with China, and at the same time strive to improve its relations with the US in order to obtain larger international space for domestic development. The Russian elites have proposed that Russia should become an independent third pole to play a balancing role. Based on the empirical analysis of the "Russian perspective", this article proposes some suggestions on China's foreign exchanges in the post-epidemic era.

Key Words: Coronavirus Pandemic, Russian Perspective, China's Role, US-China Competition, Russia's Choice

The Health Status of Central Asian Countries and Relevant Cooperation with China from the Perspective of Global Health Governance

Qiu Zenghui and Jiang Yi

The "Health Silk Road" is a global health governance plan with Chinese wisdom. It establishes an international health cooperation platform which aims to promote the sharing of health outcomes and development of governance practice. As an important hub connecting the Eurasia, Central Asia is of strategic significance. The health of this region has an important impact on global health. However, there are four serious health problems in this region. Moreover, after the outbreak of the pandemic, these countries are hit severely. The number of confirmed cases is gradually increasing, which poses a great threat to the health of the people in this region. In terms of the low level of economic development in Central Asia, an effective strategy to solve these issues is to strengthen international cooperation. In this regard, the health cooperation between China and Central Asian countries is very necessary and the two sides have clear cooperation goals, strong cooperation willingness, preliminary cooperation foundation and high health background similarities in economic, cultural, health and environmental aspects. In the future, the two sides could focus on infectious disease prevention and control, chronic disease management, maternal and child health, etc. China's successful experience can also be passed on to Central Asian countries to improve the overall health of the people and thus build a community with a healthy future for mankind.

Key Words: Global Health Governance, "Health Silk Road", Central Asian Health Cooperation

Analysis of the Emotional Factors for Russia Intervention in the Conflict within the CIS**Yang Lei and Liu Yuzhe**

Since the disintegration of the Soviet Union, Russia has repeatedly intervened in conflicts in the CIS region, but there are certain differences in terms of its intervention measures and results. According to the traditional views of international politics, the situational pressure is the first and foremost factor to influence political behavior. This is reflected in the different ways Russia intervenes in the Crimea and Udon states. In terms of political psychology, emotions have a driving effect on political behavior and shape political behavior under the influence of situational pressure. Russia mainly has senses of attachment and insecurity towards the CIS. Thus its intervention behavior is differentiated in terms of different periods, regions, as well as socio-political backgrounds. Specifically, when the situational pressure remains constant, when Russia has strong senses of attachment and insecurity towards the CIS region, it restores to military intervention; when the sense of attachment is only moderately strong, and the sense of insecurity is strong, Russia also tends to use military forces but its behavior is restrained by the situational pressure. When the sense of attachment is only moderately strong, and the sense of insecurity is weak, it tends to mediate; when the sense of attachment is weak and the sense of insecurity is strong, it is also inclined to mediate; And when both senses are weak, and the motivation to intervene is insufficient, it chooses to shelve it. In the case of Russian intervention in the conflicts in Naka and Georgia, the mechanism of emotional influence on Russian intervention has been verified.

Key Words: Russian Diplomacy, Commonwealth of Independent States, Conflict, Political Sentiment, Political Intervention

Prospects of Digital Economic Cooperation within the SCO: An Analysis Based on the Endowment Effect of Member States**Xiao Bin**

The digital economy has become a new driving force for the development of world economy. Facing the considerable “digital dividend”, all the member states of the SCO recognize the development of the digital economy as a driving force for national economic growth and have reached a vision for consultation and cooperation under the framework of the SCO. However, the strong willingness to cooperate does not necessarily lead to the substantial achievements of digital economic cooperation. This paper discusses the prospects of digital economy within the SCO based on the endowment effects. We believe that the factors conducive to the SCO’s digital economy cooperation are not active, and

the following issues need to bear notice: First, narrow the gap of these countries in digital economy through inclusive growth. The second is to avoid the negative impact of the “spaghetti bowl effect”; the third is to balance the monopoly of U. S. -funded companies on digital platforms; the fourth is to solve the problem of low-level policy environment; The fifth is to properly handle the relations between China, Russia and India and form the key synergy of the “Digital Economy Community” of SCO.

Key Words: Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Digital Economic Cooperation, Endowment Effect

The “Late” Modern States: Retrospective Analysis on the Demarcation of the Central Asian Hinterland

Dan Yang and Pan Zhiping

The evolution of land boundary in Central Asia can be divided into stages of ancient tribal border, Tsarist colonial border, Soviet administrative border, and modern sovereign border. The so-called “lateness” means that compared to modern states (nation-states) in Europe in the 18th century, the sovereign role that “borders” should play in Central Asia only started from 1990s. After the disintegration of Soviet Union, the territory of Central Asia was forced to break up, and the newly independent countries were faced with the problem of upgrading the identity of regional ethnic groups to the consciousness of nation states. Land boundary conflicts were particularly prominent in the hinterland of Central Asia, and disputes among the three states and six states in Fergana Basin occurred frequently. Optimistically, the disputes over the border issues have not risen to the international level. The settlement of the boundary issue relies on the transition from the “Soviet Administrative Boundary” to the “Modern Sovereign Border” and the rational establishment of border management systems. At the end of the 20th century, the leaders of the five countries called for promoting the construction of modern states. These countries has worked to explore the realistic path of demarcation negotiations and contractual demarcation, thereby yielding good results.

Key Words: Central Asia, Land Boundary, Modern States