

SUMMARIES

Studies on Central and Eastern Europe in China since Reform and Opening – up : Preliminary Thinking Based on Disciplinary Construction **Xu Gang**

China's academic circles have started researching on Eastern European literature and Eastern European history from long ago, but comprehensive research on Central Eastern European issues from the perspective of international issues or world politics is probably in sync with China's reform and opening up. In terms of the research objects, Central and Eastern European studies since the reform and opening up can be divided into two categories: Eastern Europe in the 1980s and Central and Eastern Europe after the drastic changes. Looking at the systematic and changing trends of research, Central and Eastern European Studies has undergone an asymmetric "N-type" process, namely, "prominent research" from the 1980s to the beginning of the 21st century; "endangered discipline" from 2004 to 2011; "hot topics" since the launch of the China-CEE cooperation in 2012. In this process, its content and focus have continuously changed but the features of policy-orientation, keeping track of the hotspot and imbalanced country-specific studies remain the same. The research institutions and researchers have also gone through three stages: restoration and reestablishing, sudden reduction, and vigorous development. In order to strengthen the discipline construction and enhance the international discourse power, the future Central Eastern European study should focus on the following points: finding gaps between Chinese and foreign academia, summarizing the universality and particularity, clearly defining the region, and shaping China's paradigm on Central Eastern European studies.

Key Words: East Europe, Central and East Europe, The Studies of East Europe, Cooperation between China and East Europe, Discipline Construction

The Impact of US, Russia, India, and Europe's Eurasian Geostrategy on the "Belt and Road" Construction **Li Zhezhou & Liu Cunjing**

The construction of the "Belt and Road" Initiative is a process in which China, as an emerging developing power, constructively participates in reshaping the global order. In this process, there is a certain degree of conflict between the "Belt and Road" Initiative and the interests and strategies of certain countries in the established geopolitical pattern. To this end, this paper attempts to examine the interactions between China's version of "Belt and Road" Initiative and the version of the United States,

Russia, India and Europe, analyzes the geopolitical strategies formulated by these big powers based on their geopolitical and economic interests, the geo-challenges and China's corresponding measures. This paper insists that the "C5 + 1 mechanism", which is originated from Trump's geostrategy to weaken America's international leadership responsibility, does not have a counter geopolitical effect on the "Belt and Road" Initiative. Although the mutual trust between China and Russia has reached unprecedented heights, the potential risks of geopolitical imbalance between the Eurasian Economic Union and the "Belt and Road" can not be ignored. India's "Indo-Pacific Conception" and its "big country dreams" are bound to weaken the positive functions of the "strategic docking" in our expectations. The European version of "Belt and Road" Initiative reflects that the EU attempts to raise its voice in Eurasian through the so-called "sustainable" Asia-Europe connectivity strategy. Due to some internal cognitive differences, the EU still suspects that China schemes to "divide and rule" Europe.

Key Words: "Belt and Road" Initiative, Eurasian Economic Union, "C5 + 1 Mechanism", Indo-Pacific Conception, Euro-Asian Connectivity Strategy

The "Belt and Road" Initiative: Looking from the Northern and Central Eurasia Perspective

Evgeny Vinokurov

Countries in Northern and Central Eurasia, including its largest economies, Russia and Kazakhstan, appreciated the potential positive implications of the "Belt and Road" Initiative. Over the last years, they increasingly embraced various aspects of the BRI, most importantly additional investment and rising volumes of trans-Eurasian transit. The latter, apart from being a lucrative business on its own, should eventually lead to better internal connectivity between inner-Eurasian regions. In this paper, we start with the providing estimates on the volumes of trans-Eurasian transit as a starting point. Then, we provide an analysis of Northern and Central Eurasian states' interests and perceptions on the BRI. We complement this analysis by looking into the real and perceived worries of the involved countries. We conclude by looking into the international economic and institutional capacity which is needed to make the BRI even more valuable for Northern and Central Eurasia.

Key Words: "Belt and Road" initiative, Russia, Central Asia, Eurasian Economic Union, Transport Infrastructure

Free Medical Care in Russia: Development History, Effect Analysis, Dilemma and Future Direction

Tong Wei & Ning Xiaohua

Russia's existing free medical system is mainly derived from the Soviet medical security system. After the fall of the Soviet Union, the social and economic situations

have become more complex and severe. On the one hand, the state's financial burden has become increasingly heavier and thus the free medical system has been unable to be maintained; on the other hand, the original medical system failed to accord with the market-oriented economic system, and the free medical model gradually showed more and more negative effects. Against this background, Russia has carried out a series of reforms on the basis of the Soviet free medical system, wherein the original unlimited free medical services are changed to the current medical system with limited free basic medical services. A medical insurance system combining free compulsory medical insurance and private medical insurance at own expense has been established. In general, these measures have achieved positive results, but problems including the faultiness of the medical mechanism, the funding of medical services, the capabilities of medical services and medical equity do exist. In the future, Russia need to improve its legal system, strengthen the top-level design, increase medical investment, expand sources of medical financing, improve hardware and software facilities, introduce competition mechanisms, and improve the capacity of health services. In this way, it can address the issue of fairness and efficiency in free medical services, and achieve high-quality free medical services for all.

Key Words: Russia, Free Medical Care, Medical Reform, Medical and Health Services

Review of the State-owned Farmland Systems in Central and Eastern European and CIS Transition Countries

He Wei

Many countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States and Central and Eastern Europe have changed their farmland ownership after the transformation, but the reform is not complete and some state-owned farmland has been retained. Land management agencies manage state-owned agricultural land through economic means including renting and selling, in order to form a reasonable-scale agricultural production unit, solve the problems of land fragmentation and dual structure of production units after the transformation of agricultural ownership, improve agricultural production efficiency, and promote the integration of farmer production and modern agricultural development. Some agencies also carry out rural public service functions. In terms of this paper, we argue that separating the farmland ownership, contracting rights and management rights, ensuring the stability of leases, improving the supporting legal system and land transaction system as well as optimizing the market environment could effectively improve the efficiency of state-owned farmland and enhance its sustainability.

Key Words: Central and East Europe, CIS, Farmland Systems, State-owned Farmland, Land Fund

Initiatives, Motivations and Prospects of Kazakhstan's Participation in Global Governance

Qiu Changqing

Since the independence in 1991, Kazakhstan has not only successfully consolidated its national sovereignty, made world-renowned achievements in political, economic, and social development, but also won high praise from the international community in terms of the field of diplomacy. This makes Kazakhstan the most active Central Asian country in the stage of global governance. In the participation of global governance, Kazakhstan has positioned itself as a “powerful and important regional power” and pursued an “all-round pragmatic and balanced” diplomatic strategy centered on consolidating sovereign independence and safeguarding national interests. By establishing “neighborhood diplomacy” based on good-neighborliness region and “distance neighbor diplomacy” based on partnerships, it has acted as “communicators” and “mediators” on international and regional issues and boosted diplomatic relations with major powers and neighboring countries. Kazakhstan has actively promoted the regional integration in Central Asia, widely cooperated with the global and regional international organizations, and proposed various influential initiatives in the areas of nuclear non-proliferation and dialogue between civilizations. In this process, Kazakhstan has been trying to integrate its interests with that of the world, which wins a great opportunity and space for its development, and improves the visibility of Kazakhstan in the international community. As a country with the most successful economic development, the most active diplomacy, and the most significant international influence in Central Asia, the experience of Kazakhstan's participation in global governance is worth learning for developing countries.

Key Words: Kazakhstan, Global Governance, Nazarbayev, Balancing Diplomacy

The Russia – US Commercial Treaty as a Cornerstone of the Early Russia – US Relations and James Buchanan

Li Peng & Tian Tian

In 1832, James Buchanan came to St. Petersburg as the US envoy to Russia and signed the “Trade and Navigation Treaty” with Russia for the first time. Before the treaty, the United States and Russia had been on alert for more than a decade. This treaty was the first official trade treaty in the history of US – Russia relations which has long regulated the US – Russia trade, affected their early diplomatic relations between and even influenced the long-term policy of the US towards Russia. James Buchanan played a special role for this treaty. Based on historical literature, this paper reveals this little-known historical process and the reason lurking behind its evolution.

Key Words: Russia – US Relations, Russia – US Commercial Treaty, James Buchanan