

Individual Thoughts of Contemporary Nationalism

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Abstract

Chinese nationalism is a product of the collision and exchange between China and the West in the process of world modernization. Its rise and development are closely related to China historical environment as well as social and political conditions. By analyzing the historical background of the formation of Chinese nationalism and the historical division of contemporary Chinese nationalism, we can better understand the development of nationalism in China at present.

Keywords

Nationalism; Social ideological trend; Historical evolution.

1. Introduction

The trade war between China and the United States also involved Huawei enterprises in the war. The United States completely blocked Huawei 5G technology, making “nationalism” a hot word on the Internet for a while. Today, the era of globalization, the color of nationalism has not faded with the progress of The Times. It is still one of the most powerful political and social forces in the world since modern times, and it is still the basis of the world's ideological trend. Everyone belongs to a people. Looking back at the history of mankind, nationalism is an unavoidable topic. It came from the depths of history and profoundly influenced the course of world history. Nationalism originated in the West and came into being in modern Europe. It emerged with the rise of western nation-states and was branded with distinct bourgeois ideology. After the middle of the 20th century, the world in a wave of anti-colonialism, some people in colonial and semi-colonial country to get rid of the colonial rule in the western powers, to achieve national independence and liberation, have also raised the nationalist banner, anti-colonial external, internal solidarity, and in the fifties and sixties of the 20th century. At the same time, it also caused violent disputes and brought about the renewal and change of the international order. Nationalism is a phenomenon in a specific historical period and a modern political trend of thought (Huang 2018).

Chinese nationalism is a product of the collision and communication between China and the West in the process of world modernization. Its rise and development are closely related to Chinese historical environment as well as social and political conditions. The history of the emergence and evolution of Chinese nationalism is the history of the Chinese nation's struggle for liberation and independence and its great rejuvenation. It is also the history of the Chinese nation's standing among the nations of the world, its march toward modernization and its march toward the world.

2. The multi-dimensional Perspective of Nationalism

As a political trend of thought, nationalism originated in the modern West and developed with the changes of times and environment. For hundreds of years, with the emergence of nation-state, the colonial expansion of capitalism, and the conflicts between nation-states, the political trend of nationalism has spread to the whole world, which has had a profound and significant impact on the construction of modern consciousness, the shaping of modern economic and

political order, and even the formation of modern world situation(Li et al.2021). In the process of the development of a country and a nation, nationalism will show different features through different perspectives. In terms of its form of expression, it can be expressed as a kind of national psychology, national consciousness or national emotion. When it is expressed as a kind of political ideology and combined with social movement, it can form a strong social effect. From the perspective of its main body, externally, it can refer to the nationalism directed against other countries with the whole country as a whole, while internally, it can refer to the nationalism of a single nation within a country, such as local nationalism and national separatism. From the point of view of the radical degree of nationalism, it can be just a kind of moderate national consciousness or national emotion, or an extreme concept and behavior of the supremacy of national interests. In terms of its social role, nationalism is also a double-edged sword. It can awaken the consciousness of the oppressed nations demanding liberation and independence, and also cause militarism, imperialism, racial superiority and war crimes.

3. The Background of the Formation of Nationalism in China

Modern meanings of nationalism are unique cultural phenomena in the western world, guiding the modern countries' political construction. The development of Chinese nationalism is rather a cultural reaction to the invasion of imperial powers, a pursuit of national equality and liberation, and an exploration of the new model of peaceful coexistence of all ethnic groups (Yan 2020).The term “nationalism” was first introduced into China by students studying in industrialized countries such as Europe, America and Japan during the late Qing Dynasty's Reform and westernization Movement. The formation of Chinese nationalism has profound historical background and social root. First of all, the profound national crisis and passive opening up in modern China are the historical background of the formation of Chinese nationalism.Usurp the role of the middle of the 19th century to the middle kingdom, the Qing government and to pursue interests by hook or by crook of western colonial countries many times after the battle, was forced to open the doors, isolation of China at that time, culture, science and technology, system and so on various aspects is very backward and corrupt, any life throughout the country by western powers, the country into a national crisis.In 1912, the provisional government of the Republic of China was established, and “the republic of five nationalities” and “the equality of five nationalities” were established as the basic principles for dealing with ethnic relations.In this way, equality among the han, Manchu, Mongolian, Hui, Tibetan and other ethnic groups was established by law, and the fundamental nature of the unified multi-ethnic state of the Republic of China was guaranteed(Guo et al.2016). The primary purpose of promoting the republic of the five ethnic groups is to promote the Unity of the Chinese nation to save the nation and save the nation, thus Chinese nationalism was born.

Secondly, Chinese traditional nationalism and western modern nationalism are the ideological sources of Chinese nationalism.On the one hand, the invasion of western makes traditional “globalism” as the core of the nationalism thought transformation to modernization, cause the change of Chinese ideology, along with the increase in external exchanges and deepen the understanding of Western and Chinese not only realize that China is a member of the world, the Chinese nation is the world of ethnic group, and produced a strong national sense of crisis and suffering consciousness, the sense of crisis and suffering consciousness strengthened our cohesion and centripetal force must unite to save the nation in peril.On the other hand, a large number of western nationalist theories have been introduced into China.For example, Rousseau's theory of natural human rights, Spencer's social Darwinism, Boren's theory of political science, and Locke and Hegel's nationalistic thought.

Finally, the arduous exploration and heroic struggle of advanced intellectuals and revolutionary patriots in modern China are the key factors for the formation of Chinese nationalism. Liang

Qichao was a representative figure who introduced western modern nationalism to China. He believed that, "today, only one of our nationalist policies is to resist the national imperialism of foreign powers to avoid the disaster and save lives" (Liang 1989). He believed that if the nations of the world could abide by the principles of nationalism, there would be no aggression or oppression under heaven. Later, more Chinese intellectuals began to introduce and publicize western modern nationalism. The bourgeois revolutionaries represented by Sun Yat-sen and Zhang Taiyan not only actively introduced western nationalist thought, but also put forward a more specific direction of Chinese nationalist struggle, that is, "anti-Manchuism", which means overthrowing the Qing Dynasty. They believed that China's backwardness and national crisis in modern times originated from the corrupt authoritarian regime. Therefore, only by replacing it with the democratic regime of the Han nationality can we save the national crisis and realize the prosperity of China. In the nationalism of the bourgeois revolutionaries, they not only combined the opposition to the rule of the Qing Dynasty with the opposition to imperialist aggression and the opposition to feudal autocracy, but also with the establishment of modern nation-states. There was a fierce debate between constitutionalists and revolutionaries over what kind of country to build. The former advocated "anti-Manchuism" and establishing a single Han nationality state, while the latter advocated "co-Manchuism" and establishing a multi-nationality state including manchu. In the course of controversy, both sides constantly absorb some correct views of the other side and correct some wrong views of their own, and finally reach a basic agreement. The establishment of an independent, democratic and multi-ethnic country became the consensus of the revolutionaries and constitutionalists and was established, which also marked the final formation of modern Chinese nationalism (Zheng et al. 2007).

4. The Evolution of Nationalism in Contemporary China

From the macro historical point of view, modern Chinese nationalism has been coexisting with cosmopolitanism since its birth (Chen 2021). The evolution of contemporary Chinese nationalism can be divided into two stages.

The first stage was around 1949 to 1989, during which Chinese nationalism took on two tendencies. First, in the 30 years after the founding of new China, nationalism, which had been an important part of the practical struggle program and ideology, began to recede, and its role became obscure (Shen et al. 2015). After the founding of New China, under the guidance of the theory of Marxism, nationalism gradually lost its living space, and the growth of national contradictions in China made people regard nationalism as a derogatory term. Patriotism is strongly advocated and propagated by the Party and the government, thus replacing nationalism as the banner of rallying social forces and mobilizing the people to unite and struggle. Second, the tendency of national confidence and national pride from strong to weak. After the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, the Chinese nation, which had endured humiliation and humiliation since 1840, stood on its own feet among the nations of the world. However, due to the blockade imposed by western imperialism and the mistakes made by the Chinese government, China's social and economic development was slow and the people's material and cultural living standards could not be improved for a long time. After the reform and opening up, in sharp contrast with the West, the National self-confidence and pride of the Chinese people have been somewhat weakened.

The second stage was from the 1990s to the present. During this period, Chinese nationalism resurfaced, was widely discussed in academic circles, on the Internet and among the public, and had an increasingly far-reaching influence. With the deepening of reform and opening up, the enhancement of comprehensive national strength and the improvement of international status, the National confidence and pride of the Chinese people have been constantly restored and

enhanced, and nationalist activities triggered by international conflicts have occurred from time to time. The nationalist sentiments of the Chinese people, especially the young people, are easily ignited. There are three main reasons for the increasing rise of nationalism since the 1990s. First, due to the drastic changes in the Eastern Soviet Union and the shrinking of the socialist camp, in order to resist the western forces, people had to resort to nationalism in terms of ideology, and nationalism quickly turned from a small discussion in the field of ideology and theory to an emotional upsurge of the public. Second, the containment and hostility of the West against the rise of China strengthened the national identity and cohesion of the Chinese people. The political, economic, diplomatic and military frictions and collisions between China and the West have made the Chinese people sorely aware that only the unity of the Chinese nation can make the Chinese nation prosperous and strong, and only the prosperous and strong Chinese nation can win real respect and equal treatment in the international community. Third, with the diversified development of social organizations, the social division of labor tends to be refined, thus promoting the popularization of education and the promotion of science, which leaves room for the revival of nationalism. "The popularization of education has raised the cultural level of the whole society and laid a solid foundation for the unification of traditional cultural cognition. The promotion of science has promoted people's rational thinking, resulting in the disenchantment of the old ideology, and the attachment of the soul and spiritual sustention have gradually turned to many people, which leaves a space for the dissemination of nationalism properly (Li 2012). During this period, the value orientation of Chinese nationalism changed fundamentally. The Chinese people changed from blindly worshipping and trying to copy western civilization to carrying forward the fine tradition of the Chinese nation and learning from the advanced experience of the West, so as to compete and get along equally with other nations in the world and achieve common prosperity. Therefore, the mainstream of contemporary Chinese nationalism is nationalism with patriotism as the core.

5. Conclusion

From "Yinhe Incident" of 1993 to the American bombing of the Chinese embassy in Yugoslavia of 1999, the 2001 incident, the United States to Taiwan and Tibet of China and the United States continued interference, Koizumi visited Yasukuni Shrine, and then to 2017 South Korea deployed sad, sino-us trade war in 2019, the series of events makes the Chinese people's nationalist sentiment is heavily influenced by the stimulus, people patriotic feelings were at an all-time high. But Chinese nationalism will neither disappear nor expand indefinitely.

First, whether existing in the form of social consciousness, ideological trend or social movement, contemporary Chinese nationalism will not disappear within the global scope for a long time. This is because the conditions for the existence of nationalism will exist for a long time to come. Contemporary Chinese nationalism will not expand without limit. The ideological role of nationalism must be combined with other ideologies, especially with the dominant ideology of the state, and the appearance and attributes of the ideology attached to it must be used to manifest itself. Marxism is the dominant ideology in Chinese society, and nationalism, as an ideology, will be regulated by Marxism.

Second, contemporary Chinese nationalism should have its own core value. The patriotism spirit of contemporary Chinese nationalism contains at least is commendable, but nationalism, patriotism is not enough, if we are in the interior of the nationalist build up a kind of value system of being accepted to be all things to all people, such as the reflection to the globalization, the study of a new model to the modernization of China to seek the balance of efficiency and fairness and to resist western discourse hegemony, it will be in China.

China is now in an era of peaceful rise and great rejuvenation, and this era is bound to be an era with the Chinese dream. A rising nation must have high national spirit and strong national

cohesion. It is in this sense that nationalism has the function of political integration and cohesion which is difficult to replace by other ideologies.

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