

"Between Peace and War"

-- A Traditional Security Perspective of International Crisis and Its Management

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Abstract

The study of international crisis management has always been a traditional field of international politics. The definition of crisis, the type of crisis, how to manage the crisis, and the significance of diplomacy are all issues that need to be considered. Regarding the management path of international crises, individual countries can analyze from the perspectives of domestic cognition and foreign strategic behavior. At the same time, various schools of international political theory put forward different methods of crisis management and control according to their own propositions. The management of international crises is of great significance to China's diplomacy. It is the top priority of alleviating doubts, promoting cooperation, and maintaining a peaceful and stable international environment.

Keywords

International crisis management; Traditional security; International political theory; Chinese diplomacy.

1. Introduction

The study of war is a traditional core field of international politics, and it is also a reflection of world politics as an anarchy. At present, with economic development, the destructiveness of wars brought about by nuclear weapons has increased, the proliferation of democracy, the growing trade and economic interdependence between developed countries, the development of international institutions and norms, and the widespread aversion to war, It makes people feel that international war, in contrast to the use of domestic violence, is declining. Is this really the case?

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, the United States, as the only superpower in the world, has successively launched wars against the Gulf, Yugoslavia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Syria and many other countries. It has always launched wars against other countries under the banner of human rights and counter-terrorism. The war of sovereign nations. The nationalist effect of "gathering around the flag" continues to give people support for the war. Regardless of whether it is cautiously optimistic or pessimistic, we should continue the study of war. In the context of the large international environment of peaceful development, of course, we should pay more attention to research and discussion on the international crisis between war and peace. If the process of war and peace is simplified into a spectrum, the international crisis is an important part of transformation that resides in it. If we do not pay attention to the management of international crises, it is reasonable to say that war is imminent and inevitable.

Therefore, the study of international crises and their management is so important. In the following essay, I will roughly divide it into the following parts to expand. The first part is the definition of international crises; the second part is the types of international crises; the third

part is how to manage crises; the fourth part is how to manage international crises in the current context.

2. The Definition of International Crisis

Le Boe defined this high-intensity international crisis in the following three points. 1

First, a country's decision-makers recognize that the actions or threats of another international actor have seriously damaged their country's national interests, bargaining reputation, or ability to maintain political power. The United States' response to Germany's unrestricted submarine warfare in World War I, and the response of Sarajevo and later Russia to Austria-Hungary's declaration of war on Serbia are examples.

Second, policy makers recognize that the actions they take in response to threats, in addition to surrender, will greatly increase the likelihood of war. This perceived risk, the tension between the two sides' need to protect their core interests and the need to avoid war, causes a high degree of mental stress, and it is easy to trigger a war because one party's nerves are broken.

Third, policy makers recognize that they must act in a time-critical situation. Crisis decision-makers are under severe time pressure. Under the background of high risk and short reaction time, crisis decision-making becomes more difficult, which greatly affects the effectiveness of decision-making.

Therefore, based on the definition of international crises, we can clearly understand the difficulty and importance of crisis management.

3. Types of International Crises

The definition of the types of international crises is of course indispensable for international crisis management.

When is a war carefully planned by a country to advance its vital interests by force, and when is it the result of a misjudgment by a country's policymakers?

In his book "Between Peace and War-The Nature of International Crisis", Le Boe defined international crises as three types: the crisis of hostility rationalization, the derivative crisis and the marginal policy crisis, and he answered this question accordingly.

To a certain extent, the hostile rationalization crisis is the careful planning of the decision-makers, that is, the leader of the crisis-initiating party made the decision to fight the war before the crisis began. Therefore, the purpose of the crisis is not to force a settlement, but to find a war. Excuse. 2

We can summarize the criteria for the rationalization of hostility:

1. Use provocative incidents to arouse public opinion;
2. In response to this provocative incident, make an unacceptable request to the other party;
3. Legitimize its own requirements by invoking widely accepted international standards;
4. Publicly deny or downplay their true purpose in confrontation;
5. Rejection of one's own request as a reason for war.

It is not difficult to know from this that most of the hostility rationalization crisis is the use of a certain event, meticulous planning by the decision-maker, pretending to be a victim, and making the international community believe that launching a war against another country is a compelling response to aggressive behavior. So as to obtain a series of political advantages.

Between careful planning and misjudgment is a derivative crisis.

Derivative crisis is a secondary confrontation triggered by a country in the course of preparing or implementing a major conflict. In layman's terms, it is a confrontation with a third party triggered by war initiators when they take major actions to advance their own interests. During

the crisis, the two sides will actively seek reconciliation, but due to pressure at home and abroad, coupled with the existence of major conflicts of national interests, it is difficult to reconcile each other.

Derivative crises unfold in two ways. One way is for the initiator of the crisis to make unacceptable demands from a third party, thereby triggering a crisis between the two, which is similar to the careful planning of the rationalization of hostility; the other way is the crisis caused by the policies of the opponents of the crisis. The situation has seriously affected the interests of the third party, thus triggering a crisis between the two. This approach may be a misjudgment and the result of unconsciousness.

The last type, the fringe policy crisis, is similar to the "game for the timid", and in reality is the most common type of international crisis.

A marginal policy crisis occurs when a country deliberately challenges and tries to force its opponent to give up an important promise that it once made. The goal of the initiator is to challenge this important promise to benefit from extortion and to humiliate the opponent at the same time.

The initiator itself has threats that need to be overcome. At the same time, the initiator believes that the opponent may gradually retreat from the position he promised when challenged. Therefore, this marginal policy is a realistic and feasible way.

The creation of a marginal policy crisis requires two aspects. On the one hand, the initiator of the crisis believes that the opponent is fragile and can use offensive behavior to blackmail or even initiate aggressive behavior provocations to force the other party to make concessions for profit; on the other hand, be threatened. The party's own commitment and deterrence are not in place, which is specifically manifested in: the lack of clear definition of their own commitments, the failure to inform potential opponents of their own commitments, their insufficient strength to defend their commitments, and failure to show their determination to stick to their commitments and bottom line. 3

We have carried out a definition of international crises. It can be known that the occurrence of a crisis, no matter what type of crisis, is the result of the combined effect of subjective and objective factors. Therefore, the management of international crises requires the integration of various factors. , Conduct a comprehensive analysis.

4. The Path to Managing International Crises

The management of international crises is a relatively traditional topic. The ideas of various factions collide and put forward a variety of different propositions. Each of these propositions is reasonable. The most important thing is the need for comprehensive analysis and specific analysis under specific conditions. And adoption.

The author here provides two different dimensions of induction and thinking. One is to classify and take measures from the internal and external politics of the country, and the other is to summarize and organize according to the characteristics of the three major schools of international relations theory.

The first dimension, the so-called internal and external politics of the state, is to analyze separately from the perspective of domestic cognition, consciousness, and external behavior and its response.

First, the analysis from the perspective of domestic cognitive awareness needs to be found in individual thinking. There are countless strategic misjudgments due to misunderstanding and closure of cognition, and the resulting crises and even wars are even more heartbreaking. Therefore, the element of consciousness is very important for international crisis management.

Awareness and cognition are deeply ingrained. Therefore, what we propose are some mitigation measures to minimize misunderstandings to form cognitive closures and create crises.

The first suggestion is to integrate and reform the domestic bureaucratic systems in various countries, allocate workloads reasonably, establish emergency working mechanisms, conduct fine-grained supervision and control of various organizational procedures, prevent "small group thinking", strengthen unity and cooperation, and strengthen Performance evaluation and comprehensive quality evaluation of officials, using information technology to help civilian governments manage foreign policy.

The second suggestion is to maintain the necessary balance between the government and the military, clarify the different responsibilities between the two, perform their duties without crossing boundaries, the government respects the military's rights, the military obeys the leadership of the state, and prevents the military from chaos.

The third suggestion is to maintain an open decision-making environment, collect all kinds of information, comprehensive analysis, and brainstorming to prevent cognitive closure.

The fourth recommendation is to formulate foreign policy and follow limited deterrence and low-cost reconciliation in strategic planning. Don't be aggressive, pay attention to public opinion, adopt it reasonably, control it reasonably, and not be controlled by blind nationalism.

The fifth suggestion is that countries can establish a long-term exchange mechanism, establish a platform, express their opinions, manage differences, and reduce the impact of misperceptions.

Second, the analysis of the country's foreign behavior and its response is mainly from the perspective of grand strategy.

The first strategy is deterrence. Deterrence is a traditional foreign strategy. To achieve deterrence, the top priority is the issue of credibility. To formulate a deterrence strategy, not only requires a certain strength basis as a backing, but also needs to inform potential opponents, clarify the bottom line, and show muscle. These are the necessary conditions for deterrence, but they are not sufficient. In the nuclear age, deterrence needs to be combined with the reality of nuclear weapons, and several conditions must be clarified: the issue of the "nuclear umbrella" of allies, the issue of the quantity and quality of nuclear weapons, and the issue of secondary nuclear deterrence. The ability to strike and nuclear retaliation. 4

In short, deterrence strategy is a traditional field of a country's foreign strategy. While meeting traditional standards, decision-makers need to conduct specific deterrence operations in light of the nuclear era background and specific circumstances. Of course, for coercive strategies that are more powerful and more intense than deterrence, and may lead to escalation of conflicts, we must carefully analyze and implement them carefully.

The second strategy is to increase trust and dispel doubts, which corresponds to the liberal school of international political theory. Increasing trust and dispelling suspicion, as the name suggests, is to increase the sense of trust between countries through a series of actions, thereby reducing differences and suspicions, and alleviating unnecessary cognitive conflicts that may be exacerbated by security dilemmas. 5

For the specific operations of enhancing trust and dispelling doubts, here are a few ways to summarize:

1. Through the establishment of a series of international systems (usually led by a leading power in the world), a system is formed, and an authority is formed under the system mechanism, thereby reducing differences;
2. Take advantage of the growing interdependence between countries, especially in economics and trade, to accelerate the binding of interests, thereby reducing distrust;

3. Establish a long-term communication mechanism between countries to share emergency information, exchange opinions in a timely manner in the face of sudden crisis situations, and alleviate the spiral of hostility that may be caused by cognitive closure.

However, the existence of international anarchy has led to mutual distrust between countries. All our efforts to alleviate mutual suspicion between countries are not absolute and can only play a mitigating role. However, this mitigation is also It is an important part of preventing the occurrence of crises.

The third strategy is diplomatic strategy. Diplomatic strategy sounds so broad that it may cover all foreign strategies. Therefore, here are a few representative suggestions for discussion.

1. Alliance is a kind of diplomatic strategy. United with other countries, especially large countries, can play a free-riding effect, effectively maintain their own security, and to a certain extent converge those unscrupulous "extreme offensive enthusiasts", thereby effectively preventing The subversion of the existing system and the chaos of war caused by it.

2. Mutual benefit is also an important diplomatic strategy. Through a series of economic and trade cooperation with relevant countries to achieve a win-win situation, at least it will help you to be less passive in the international community when facing the pressing of opponents. There is a helper joint. At the same time, reciprocity can also resolve differences and ease conflicts, which is conducive to crisis management and control in the overall situation.

Regarding the formulation of the country's own diplomatic strategy, Mr. Shi Yinhong has repeatedly emphasized one point 6 in his book "Foreign Policy and Historical Lessons-Research and Perspective", that is, to eliminate the absolute tendency of "victoriousism" and to formulate foreign policies. In policy, stay awake all the time, try to collect all kinds of information, be flexible on the basis of adhering to the bottom line of principles, and at the same time maintain the continuity and persistence of foreign policy. Only in this way can we effectively safeguard our country's interests and maintain international peace and development. Environment.

The formulation and implementation of a diplomatic strategy is a major project. It is necessary to calmly analyze and switch between various diplomatic strategies in a timely manner based on the specific situation and environment, focusing on self-interest, and at the same time learning to make concessions and taking into account the reasonable concerns of other countries. If every country's diplomatic strategy can do this, the management of international crises will be much easier.

In the second dimension, the three major schools of international political theory, namely realism, liberalism, and constructivism, have proposed different methods of managing international crises according to their own propositions.

Realism mainly emphasizes the power security crisis management model. Realism believes that the pursuit of power and interest is the goal of the country. The root cause of international crises is the conflict of interests between countries. Realism believes that "power should be used to restrict power." Therefore, the crisis management path proposed by realism can be roughly divided into the following three.

5. Balance of Power Security Concept

In order to maintain international security and alleviate international crises, it is necessary to establish and develop a self-restraint mechanism for the forces of the international community. This mechanism often manifests itself in the form of alliances, strengthening of armaments, or weakening of opponents by several major powers under international anarchy. This balance of power is in a state of equilibrium, either the result of the intentional actions of various countries, or the unconscious result of all parties.

The balance of power is relatively universally accepted by all countries. At least there is no superpower, at least the status quo can be maintained, and at least to a certain extent, it is conducive to the realization of their own interests. Under a balance of power, countries tend to negotiate rather than resort to force.

Of course, the balance of power strategy is essentially a zero-sum game, and the security state it maintains is very fragile. It is a temporary stability in the pursuit of power. In the actual operation, if it is not grasped well, it is easy to fall into a more serious security dilemma.

6. Hegemonic Security Concept

The "hegemonic stability theory" believes that only hegemonic countries can truly effectively control crises, that hegemones have the strength and will to provide public goods, formulate rules, establish and maintain international order, similar to protectors and regulators, and help maintain the stability of the international system. Of course, a necessary condition here is that the existing international structure and international order are beneficial to him, and maintaining existing stability is his core interest.

Hegemonic countries do this for their own hegemony, so this is a kind of negative peace and security, a kind of so-called justice that is extremely unequal.

However, in any case, the existence of a hegemonic state consciously or unconsciously assumes the responsibility of maintaining international stability and security, and as a result, it is at least relatively conducive to international security and crisis management.

7. Deterrence and Security Concept

Deterrence is "carrots and sticks", that is, one party implicitly or explicitly threatens with sanctions or promises compensation to prevent the other party from doing related actions.

Of course, deterrence is suspected of imposing one's will on others. The result may be due to misjudgment or changes in the environment at the time, leading to tension and confrontation in the international community, which is not conducive to crisis management.

How to use deterrence effectively and to a degree requires not only the credibility of deterrence, but also the consideration of the limits of deterrence.

The core of the realistic power and security crisis management model lies in countries with strong political, economic and military strength. Such countries have incomparable advantages in international crisis management, and they have more choices of crisis management methods than their opponents. This, to a certain extent, keeps the crisis situation within a certain range without spreading, but it cannot fundamentally eliminate international crises, especially the preventive function of international crises is even more inadequate.

Unlike realism, which emphasizes the control of power, the liberal school mainly emphasizes ideology, values, laws, rules, morals, etc., and is committed to alleviating security dilemmas and seeking a standardized management model for the world order.

It mainly focuses on domestic and foreign political structures, the role of values and cultural concepts, economic and trade and interdependence, international security systems and various institutional frameworks, etc., to develop perspectives, showing optimism about international politics and determination to control crisis.

The theoretical models of liberal international crisis management mainly include the following two.

8. The Security Concept of the International System

Supporters of the security concept of the international system advocate the establishment of a systematic international system to ensure international security and maintain stability. The set of rules and regulations in the international system can limit the role of actors, regulate their activities, and influence the formation of their expectations. The acceleration of the process of globalization and the increasing number of global problems, as well as the deepening of interdependence between countries, have created conditions for the construction and functioning of a global international system; conversely, through the establishment of international systems and the exertion of influence, countries The degree of interdependence will also increase, which will help increase mutual trust and reduce the possibility of conflict. After the international system is constructed, maintaining stability will become the common interest of all countries and become a kind of inertia.

Through the internalization of international institutional regulations and restrictions on international security mechanisms by actors, when a crisis occurs, the anger among actors will be suppressed due to rational cost considerations or system-forming mitigation mechanisms. This approach is to replace the security of power with the security of the international system.

9. The Concept of Democracy and Security

The central meaning of the expression of the democratic security concept is the "democratic peace theory", that is, due to the restraint of their domestic democratic systems, there will be no wars between democratic countries.

The democratic security concept advocates starting from the domestic political structure and proposing the concepts of "democratization" and democratic peace and democratic politics. They believe that domestic public opinion and the supervision of domestic political institutions have formed constraints on the country's foreign decision-making; coupled with the common sense of mutual respect, compromise, and cooperation among democratic countries, the two factors have played a role in preventing wars between democratic countries.

The essence of this path can be seen from the "democratic and peaceful diplomacy" implemented by the United States after the Cold War. The United States promoted its democratic system to other countries, turning other countries into countries with similar systems, and thus from the domestic political structure. From a different perspective, to transform the hostility of those countries towards the United States and achieve their own goals. As liberalism's answer to international crisis management issues, institutional security has its own advantages. Under the constraints of a series of international institutions, actors, consciously or unconsciously, will restrain their own behaviors, and at least part of the problems caused by misunderstandings can be resolved. The crisis has intensified, and some suspicions and hostility have been relieved. However, in the real society, it is not enough to rely solely on the security path of the system. It is also necessary to rely on political, military, economic and other hard power to achieve the best results.

Compared with realism and liberalism, which are keen to work hard on material capabilities and systems, constructivism, as a school derived from sociological theory, puts forward its own unique crisis management model.

Constructivism focuses on conceptual construction and believes that national interests are not defined by power, but by identity and identity. Therefore, the structure of the international system is not only related to material distribution, but also related to social interaction. . Constructivism further puts forward the concept of "security community", which believes that countries can build a security community through the concepts and cultures that they agree with, thereby alleviating the security dilemma. Through further development, a "security

culture" can be formed, similar to Construct an atmosphere in which mutual trust between countries increases, suspicion declines, and they are in a friendly mode. Under this culture, international relations will become more non-conflict, and crises will respond. Can be relieved. Observing the different attitudes of the United States towards the possession of nuclear weapons or conducting nuclear tests by Israel, Iran and North Korea, we can understand the security of this concept construction more clearly, because the United States and Israel have constructed friendly cultural models and concepts, so the United States is in Israel. On the issue of substantial nuclear-secure countries, the attitude is acquiescence, but at the same time, the United States, Iran, and North Korea have conceptually constructed hostile perceptions. Therefore, the United States firmly opposes the possession of nuclear weapons by Iran and North Korea.

Conceptual security does provide a feasible path for international crisis management, but it cannot be ruled out that differential treatment at the level of conceptual security is inevitable. Due to the natural existence of civilization or institutional and historical differences, attention is paid to concept management. In an international crisis, we must always pay attention to this "double-edged sword."

The various international crisis management approaches we discussed above have actually not departed from the traditional security framework. After the end of the Cold War, the concept of security is undergoing tremendous changes. Non-state and non-military factors that affect security are gradually increasing. Security is no longer simply understood as national security and military security. Security issues have emerged as globalization and social security issues. The trend of globalization and humanization.

Similarly, in the post-Cold War international crisis management, we must fully consider the impact of non-traditional security factors and change the traditional crisis management model. However, political and military factors accompany each other. Under this interweaving of traditional and non-traditional, we must do a good job in international crisis management, we must comprehensively analyze the specific circumstances and conduct specific operations to test our flexibility and adaptability. At the same time, it should be noted that various paths in academic theory may be practically infeasible, and the gap between academic theory and concrete practice should be grasped properly.

10. Implications for China's Diplomacy

After conducting many analyses on the international crisis and its management, we need to return to ourselves and think about how our country conducts international crisis management in the current international context.

The world has changed drastically and is still undergoing drastic changes. Undercurrents are surging under the general stability of the world. The options for national policies of various countries have shrunk. The world economy, geopolitics, and popular trends are holding the times forward. China is in it and needs to pay more attention to foreign policy and act cautiously. , Pay attention to crisis control and the formulation of grand strategies.

If we can make a summary of China's international crisis management measures based on the above, it would be a good discussion.

First, I think the key point is to control public opinion, make good use of nationalist creeds to serve the country's development and diplomacy. At the same time, it is necessary to guard against the arrogance of "victoriousism". In the face of any foreign affairs, it is necessary to formulate policies based on a clear understanding. Safeguard our interests, safeguard the prosperity, stability and development of the world.

Second, the formulation of a diplomatic strategy must be continuous and form an overall diplomatic thinking and action system. At the same time, when facing specific situations, it must be adjusted flexibly on the basis of the bottom line to demonstrate "smart power."

Third, properly manage neighboring diplomacy. China's neighboring security environment is complicated. Adhering to the "Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence", building a "strategic partnership" system, and seeking a stable surrounding environment are the external environmental foundations for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Fourth, pay attention to the game with the United States and the "new type of relationship between major powers." The United States is the only superpower in the world today. We must face challenges and be brave enough to defend our interests. At the same time, we need to act cautiously and deal with US affairs with a correct attitude.

Fifth, whether it is a territorial issue or a development issue, we must adhere to the bottom line thinking, and we must not waver in the face of national interests. Persevering in strategic pressure and gaining space for our strategic development, of course, taking into account the reasonable concerns of other countries is our diplomatic principle all the time.

Sixth, to be the defender and advocate of multilateral mechanisms, to go global, bring in, insist on dialogue and exchanges, resolve disputes, strengthen cooperation, adhere to the "Belt and Road" strategy, and demonstrate China's role in the world. It is our soft power and influence. An important way to improve.

Seventh, vigorously develop our partnership network, make more friends and do more good deeds. The people of the world see it. The people of the world recognize China, praise China, and accept China. This is a huge cost and is extremely important for the future of our country. The project needs to be done consistently.

The management and control of international crises is part of diplomacy. Diplomacy is the focus of a country's policy. Of course, the management of international crises is a grand strategy that concerns the well-being of hundreds of millions of people.

The history of human development is a history of blood and tears. Generations of people have been thrown into wars, leaving tragedies and ruins, and beginning to rebuild. If we want to say that human society has any new consciousness and new innovations in the development of thousands of years, in addition to the social changes driven by new technologies, the awareness of international crises and even war prevention must have a place.

As the famous international political scholar Karl Deutz said: "In our time, studying international relations is tantamount to exploring the survival of mankind. Assuming that human civilization is destroyed in the next thirty years, the cause will not be famine or plague. It's foreign policy and international relations. We have ways to deal with famine and plague, but so far, we have been unable to do anything about the weapons we have made and the behavior of the nation-state."

Research on the management of international crises is not only a requirement for maintaining world peace and stability, but also closely related to the future development of our country.

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