

## On the State Governance under the Rule of Law Framework of ‘Guan Zi · Political Establishment’

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**Abstract:** Guanzi involves many fields, such as politics, economy, military affairs, diplomacy, culture and so on. This paper analyzes the ideological wisdom of state governance in ‘Guan Zi · Political Establishment’, and sums up the experience of promoting national governance from the perspective of history.

### 1. Introduction

The establishment of government refers to some basic principles governing the country. ‘Guan Zi · Political Establishment’ constructs a blueprint of national governance system under the framework of rule of law, expounds the governance system framework of establishing a legal state and a legal society, puts forward the “Three Basics” of governing the country, the “four solid” of a safe and dangerous country, and the “five things” of a rich country. It has made detailed provisions on national governance and daily life, and has done preventive measures and social enlightenment. The detailed discussion, like the constitution which stipulates the important social relations such as the state and the basic social system, shows that Guan Zi's thought of state governance is comprehensive and advanced. Today, it is still of positive practical significance and worthy of our study and thinking.

### 2. National Governance Thought in ‘Guan Zi · Political Establishment’

#### 2.1 Employment Thought and National Governance

State governance needs a high-quality bureaucratic group. As for the selection and appointment of personnel for national governance, Guan Zi put forward the “Three Basics” of governing the country and the “four solidities” of stabilizing the country, emphasizing the importance of quality construction. In order to achieve less criminal law and clear administration, the monarch should follow the basic principles of morality, merit and official. The essence of a country's security is to employ people. To be able to convince people by virtue, abdicate the position, make clear rewards and punishments, and stick to the foundation of the country are the qualities that officials should possess, which is the fundamental to the national security.

#### 2.2 Accumulate Material Wealth to Strengthen and Enrich People

“Five things” put forward five aspects that affect the country's rich and poor, that is, mountains and forests, water conservancy, agriculture, sideline industry and technology. The essence of governing a country is the happiness of the people and the prosperity of the country. To strengthen

the country and enrich the people is first of all the accumulation of material wealth. Managing mountains and forests, water conservancy, agriculture, sideline industry and technology are the sources of national finance and an important factor affecting the country's rich and poor. Guan Zi believed that five problems should be solved in order to make the country rich. First, we should prevent forest fires and protect natural resources and the environment. Second, to build water conservancy, we should not only build dams to prevent flooding, but also store enough to ensure irrigation needs. Third, we should develop agriculture, adhere to the principle of farming and adjust measures to local conditions. Fourth, we should cultivate sidelines, raise six livestock, and prepare fruits and vegetables. Fifthly, we should pay attention to enrichment and not pursue ostentation.

### **2.3 National System and Social Governance System**

Guan Zi proposed the administrative system and social governance system of a country, set up the ranks of Township, prefecture, city, and squads of five and ten, and the chief executives at all levels, such as Xiangshi, governors, Liwei, youzong, Shizhang and Wuzhang, and stipulated the handling of daily affairs. The responsibilities of Yushi, Sikong, Sitian, Xiangshi and Gongshi were enumerated, and the responsibility system with clear rights and responsibilities was established, and the basic management mode of farming civilized society was constructed. "When a matter is to be brought up, the order must come first" emphasizes the importance of enacting laws and regulations. In addition, it also stipulates the level and expense standard of each level, emphasizes the performance appraisal, and clearly reveals the link between performance and reward and punishment.

### **2.4 Educate the Society to Lay a Common Ideological Foundation**

Accumulating material wealth in order to strengthen the country and enrich the people is the material basis for the establishment of government, and social education is to form a common spirit and values. Guan Zi described the method of ideal society from seven aspects: Enlightenment, discipline, custom, honesty, the way of heaven, success and legal system, which is called "seven views". Through educating the common people and abandoning small profits and sharing the same heart with the king, forming the cohesive force of one heart and one mind, cultivating simple folk customs, being honest and trustworthy, conforming to nature, abandoning miscellaneous thoughts and accomplishing things, we need to make efforts, implement the legal system, and order and prohibit. "Seven Outlooks" embodies the obvious patriotic education, telling everyone to be proud of the country and form a common ideological basis.

### **2.5 Prevention and Awareness of Hardship**

Guan Zi summed up in detail nine aspects of problems that need to be eliminated, including armament, benevolence, life and death view, private school heresy, gang building, gold, jade, wealth, pleasure, employment mechanism, and clever words. Therefore, we should put an end to "nine defeats". It is necessary to maintain conventional armaments, to make decisions on killing and cutting, to have an open-minded view of life and death, to have the mind of the world for the public, to prevent the formation of parties and private interests, to establish a correct concept of money, to advocate hard work, to establish a fair and fair employment mechanism, to educate the people to form a simple and honest folk custom. "Nine defeats" stipulates the scope of speech, to a certain extent, emphasizes the importance of the state to master the mouthpiece and control the direction of public opinion.

## **3. Building a Harmonious Society is the Goal of Governing the Country**

Building a harmonious society is the ideal goal of governing the country embodied in 'Guan Zi·Political Establishment'. "To order is to do, to ban is to stop. What is covered by the Constitution

and popular is just like the heart of every body and the period of politics.” The highest goal of the administration is to carry out and implement the laws and customs as harmoniously as all parts of the human body and the heart. Only by harmony can the country be stable, the government decrees can be implemented, and the society can be in long-term stability.

From the perspective of national management, ‘Guan Zi·Political Establishment’ designed the management mode of national operation, set up districts and officers of Township, prefecture, city, and squads of five and ten, and defined the responsibilities of Yushi, Sikong, Sitian, Xiangshi and Gongshi. This national management mode has constructed the basic management mode of agricultural civilization society, and has played a positive role in strengthening regional jurisdiction, especially grassroots governance and stabilizing the country.

If we want to govern the country well, we must solve the problem of national chaos and security. The first is people-oriented, between legal provisions and people, people-oriented, law as the end. As Guan Zi said, “it is not enough to kill and punish.” In the employment of personnel, we should pay attention to moral conduct, see that the virtuous can give way, to convince people with virtue; reward and punishment are clear, fair and just; appoint people on their merits, and take national interests as the top priority. The second is the creation of people's material wealth and the formation of spiritual enlightenment. National prosperity is the development of basic industries, resources and environment, agriculture and water conservancy, technology and other matters related to people's livelihood. It is important to educate the people to be patriotic and form a common ideological basis. Third, we should prevent and prevent the things that endanger national security and public interests. It reflects that we should pay attention to the direction of public opinion and correct the audio-visual effects on the people's ideas and values.

‘Guan Zi·Political Establishment’ pursues the great goal of building a harmonious society. In order to achieve this goal, the proposition of relevant national governance is worth our serious consideration and reference.

## **4. Important Experience in Strengthening and Improving National Governance**

### **4.1 Adhere to the Selection and Appointment of Talents with Both Political Integrity and Ability**

Selecting and using good people is the primary task of national governance. The Fourth Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China systematically summed up the remarkable advantages of “adhering to both political integrity and ability, selecting and appointing talents, gathering talents from all over the world, and cultivating more and more outstanding talents”. In the selection and appointment of personnel, first of all, we should adhere to the leadership of the party, fully carry forward democracy, and establish the correct guidance of personnel selection. It is necessary to draw lessons from the basic principles of ‘Guan Zi·Political Establishment’ to recognize and employ people, and pay attention to the quality construction of talent team. Only by establishing a high-quality talent team can we contribute wisdom to the modernization of national governance.

### **4.2 Give Full Play to the Role of the Rule of Law in Regulating and Guiding the Whole Society, and Improve the Awareness of the Rule of Law in the Whole Society**

The rule of law is an important symbol of the progress of human civilization. It is an important embodiment of the role of the rule of law in national and social governance to better play the role of the rule of law. We should constantly improve laws and systems and promote the implementation of laws. Promote the whole society to establish a sense of the rule of law, and form a good social atmosphere of advocating, abiding by and defending the law.

### **4.3 Building a Government Governance System with Clear Responsibilities and**

## **Administration According to Law**

At present, China is carrying out all-round and deep-seated social reform. It is an important guarantee for the government to perform its functions in accordance with the law. The ability of government governance is related to social stability and people's happiness. To maintain the order of national governance, we should correctly handle the relationship between the government and the market. The government should give full play to economic, legal and other means to carry out scientific macro-control, constantly enhance the authority of government governance and improve the satisfaction of the people.

### **4.4 Adhere to the Bottom Line Thinking and Enhance the Awareness of Suffering**

At present, in the context of the complex international environment and the arduous task of comprehensively deepening reform, we should persist in taking precautions, stick to the bottom line, and constantly enhance our sense of awe and loyalty to national security. We should continue to carry forward the great spirit of arduous struggle, be alert to danger in times of peace, guard against arrogance and rashness, control and resolve potential crises in a timely manner, and carry out a new great struggle.

## **5. Conclusion**

'Guan Zi-Political Establishment' builds a blueprint of national governance system under the framework of the rule of law, this paper expounds the building of legal system countries, the legal system of social management system architecture, the state governance and daily life have made detailed provisions, and has made the detailed for preventive, civilized society, visible pipe national comprehensive, advanced management ideas, today still has positive practical significance, is worthy for our study.

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