

Analysis of New Changes in Contemporary American Democracy

Peng Cheng¹, Wang Xiaoxue², Zhou Zheng³

¹College of Politics and Public Administration, China University of Political Science and Law, Doctoral Student, Beijing, 100088, China

²College of Marxism, China University of Political Science and Law, Master Student, Beijing, 100088, China

³College of Politics and Public Administration, China University of Political Science and Law, Beijing, 100088, China

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Abstract: With the continuous changes in the current international situation, new changes have taken place in the traditional democratic thoughts in the United States. Especially since Donald Trump took office as President, the revival of populism, the emergence of anti-globalization thoughts, and the phenomenon of political polarization have been evolving. It has a certain influence on the development of democratic politics in the United States. Under these influences, how to take more effective measures to promote the continuous development of the United States as a whole in the new development and changes of democracy in the United States has become an important phenomenon topic for contemporary political scientists to discuss and study. In view of this, this article makes an in-depth study and analysis of the new changes in American democracy. First of all, this paper discusses the concept and characteristics of American democracy. Secondly, this paper makes an in-depth analysis of the changes of contemporary American democracy and its influence on American democracy. Finally, this paper puts forward corresponding countermeasures to the new development and changes of contemporary American democracy in order to better promote the development of American democracy and maintain the peaceful, harmonious and orderly development of the world.

1. Introduction

With the continuous development of the world, the trend of multi-cultural thoughts is surging forward, including the democratic thoughts of European and American countries. With the accelerating development of global integration, democratic thoughts have been gradually promoted and developed, and have become one of the important thoughts that affect the mainstream trend of world development. However, since Donald Trump took office, there have been some new changes in the democratic ideology in the United States. Many policies of Trump show that the populist ideology in the United States is gradually rising. Since Trump took office, various policies adopted, such as the “US first” policy, the “Containment of China” policy, the “Indian Ocean Pacific Strategy” and so on, have expanded the populist ideology to a certain extent, affected the development and progress of the democratic ideology in the United States, and have caused a certain impact on the development of global integration. Under such circumstances, China, which takes “the great rejuvenation of the Chinese dream” as its main development goal, should properly adjust its national development strategy, effectively deal with the rise of populist ideas, correctly learn from and draw lessons from American democratic ideas, implement the great development strategy of “the community of human destiny” and “sustainable development” and build a better international development environment.

2. Relevant Theories of Democratic Thought

2.1 The Concept of American Democracy

American democracy is also called American democracy. It is a complex of politics, ideology and culture. It is a comprehensive political system. Specifically, American democracy refers to the democratic system established on the basis of American politics, society and economy, which is embodied in many aspects. From the aspect of legal system, democracy in the United States is to ensure that American citizens can enjoy the basic rights of fairness and justice, including democracy, freedom, equality and other rights, and to carry out national governance and social development on this basis. From the perspective of citizens, American democracy is to guarantee citizens' personal freedom and resolutely oppose the government's use of administrative power to interfere with citizens' personal freedom, including freedom of speech, freedom of belief, freedom of political stance, etc. In terms of political system, democracy in the United States implements a basic political system of three powers, namely, the separation of legislative power, executive power and judicial power, thus realizing mutual checks and balances, mutual supervision and mutual development among the three powers. In terms of economic system, American democracy adopts a free market system, that is, opposes government intervention in the market economy and makes full use of market regulation to stabilize the development of the market. In terms of electoral system, American democracy emphasizes the full protection and exertion of citizens' individual voting rights. In terms of important positions such as governor and federal president, it adopts the system of nationwide elections in the region, which fully embodies the democratic and free political system of the United States. In terms of cultural values, citizens under American democracy believe that citizens have the right to full freedom and can fully express their views according to their wishes. And citizens believe that the state and the government are public servants. The state government must fully respect and protect the basic rights of taxpayers and serve them. The American social and cultural atmosphere established on this basis can well embody the basic ideas of American democracy.

2.2 The Characteristics of American Democracy

2.2.1 Significant Comprehensiveness

Through the concept of American democracy, we can see that American democracy is a comprehensive political system, which is embodied in politics, society, economy, law and other aspects, and is composed of various system systems in the United States. Including the legal system, political system, economic system, civil rights and other basic rights, from the presidential election to the freedom of speech of individual citizens, involving all aspects of the operation of the entire United States and even the mainstream culture of American society, all reveal the core ideas of American democracy. Not only does American democracy itself have obvious comprehensive characteristics, but its process of export also has strong comprehensive characteristics, including military pressure, cultural export, economic promotion and other aspects, which are coordinated systematically in many aspects.

2.2.2 Strong Output

Every country and nation in the world has its own cultural ideology and system. However, in the world, successful and superior political systems include American democracy and socialist system with Chinese characteristics. However, socialism with Chinese characteristics is a political system established on the basis of socialist ideology and specifically aimed at China's development and national conditions. Its reproducibility and output are relatively low. Although democracy in the United States was established in combination with the national conditions of the United States, its replicability is relatively high and easy to be accepted by a wider group. For example, in the election of the country's top leaders, socialism with Chinese characteristics adopts elite election of top leaders, while democracy in the United States adopts national election, which more strongly

reflects citizens' right to vote and is more easily accepted and recognized by citizens in other countries and regions. This situation is also reflected in many aspects. Therefore, American democracy has been learned and used for reference by many other countries, and American citizens also have a strong sense of superiority over their own democratic system and widely support the export and promotion of American democracy to other countries and regions.

2.2.3 Strong Hegemony

U.S. citizens and political classes generally believe that U.S. democracy is a superior political system, and the development of every country in the world must establish a democratic political system in the United States, and the democratic system in the United States must be popularized to the whole world. Coupled with the fact that the United States is the only superpower in the world, its citizens and political class generally believe that the success of its democratic system has contributed to the United States becoming a world superpower. As a result, the United States has gradually implemented a political system that enforces American democracy in many countries and regions around the world. However, not all countries can really implement the democratic system of the United States. Under such circumstances, the United States will overthrow the regime that does not cooperate with the country through a series of means, such as promoting the national military coup to establish a pro-U.S. government and other means, while for the government that cannot be overthrown, it will take strong military threats, highlighting the hegemonic ideology of American democracy and even causing greater military, political and social unrest to some countries and regions.

3. New Changes in American Democracy and Its Impact on America

3.1 New Changes in American Democracy

Since Donald Trump became US president, many national policies under US democracy have undergone great changes. President Trump has proposed a “US first” strategy that is very different from previous presidents, and has adopted a number of national policy changes that are more practical to “US first”. The international obligations assumed by the United States have continuously shrunk, and international cooperation has also undergone gradual changes, greatly affecting the development of the traditional US democratic system. Since President Trump took office, the changes in US policies that can affect US democracy have been reflected in many aspects. This article mainly analyzes the changes in US democracy. Specifically, the changes in US democracy are mainly reflected in the following aspects:

3.1.1 The Proposal of “Indian Ocean Pacific Strategy”

In November 2017, U.S. President Donald Trump formally put forward the strategic idea of “Indian Ocean Pacific Strategy” for the first time in the APEC meeting as president, and made it clear that “Asia Pacific Strategy” should be gradually transformed into “Indian Ocean Pacific Strategy” and “Indian Ocean and Pacific Dream” should be constructed. As the United States withdraws from TPP and the Philippines keeps on making good friends with China, the U.S. Asia-Pacific strategy to contain China is unsustainable. In order to better adopt the containment strategy against China and to demonstrate the U.S. initiative to actively participate in regional affairs, the U.S. Trump administration has proposed the “Indian Ocean Pacific Strategy”, which not only reduces the level of investment in participating in the affairs of countries around the Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean, but also can bring in more countries to jointly contain China. The proposal of “Indian Ocean Pacific Strategy” has two main purposes. The first is to strengthen the geopolitical relationship between the United States and the Indian Ocean-Western Pacific region and to strengthen these countries to bear more of the cost of containment for China. The second is to continue to carry out the US democratic system and use the so-called color revolution and other forms to strengthen the influence of the US democratic system on the countries and societies in these regions, so as to continue to maintain the US global influence and maintain its global

hegemony.

At present, the “Indian Ocean Pacific Strategy” proposed by the Trump administration of the United States is being implemented step by step. Australia, Japan and other countries have expressed strong willingness to participate. India also continues to implement the “two-sided” policy. While conducting joint military exercises with the United States and Japan, it also conducts certain cooperation and exercises with Russia and China. India is one of the key countries in the “Indian Ocean Pacific Strategy” of the United States, and its attitude determines the real implementation of the “Indian Ocean Pacific Strategy”. Therefore, the real formation of the “Indian Ocean Pacific Strategy” still faces great challenges, but it is very likely that a new turn of events will take place under the impetus of the Trump administration to complete a stronger encirclement and containment of China.

3.1.2 Changes in Trade Protection Policies

With the deepening of economic and trade cooperation between China and the United States, the economic interdependence of quality inspection between the United States and China has become higher and higher. The two countries are the largest exporters of trade to each other. The economic interdependence between the two countries is very high. The economic cooperation between the two countries directly affects the development of the U.S. economic market and the promotion and development of the U.S. democratic system. However, in recent years, trump administration has put forward the “U.S. first” strategy, gradually transforming China from a cooperative partnership to an economic competitive relationship in economy, restricting Chinese products from entering the U.S. market in many aspects, and establishing a multi-faceted trade protection barrier system against China. The United States has not only carried out a variety of investigations into China's imports, such as the “double-counter” investigation, the “337” investigation, the “301” investigation, the restriction of Huawei's business in the United States, the technical blockade of China's products, etc., but also raised tariffs on China's imports, causing the import prices of many products imported by the United States from China to rise substantially. Not only that, the U.S. Trump administration has also taken various measures to attract Chinese capital to continue to flow into the United States. For example, it has adopted a policy of raising interest rates to promote the strengthening trend of the United States and promote the gradual return of U.S. manufacturing. At the same time, it also gradually weakens the RMB and increases the pressure of RMB devaluation, which has a negative impact on the internationalization of RMB and realizes the U.S. strategic plan to contain China.

3.1.3 Implementation of the Strategy of Joint Checks and Balances

In recent years, with the continuous development of various countries, many countries in the world have seen great development. With the development of these countries, the governance costs of these countries are also gradually increasing. However, if the United States wants to maintain its hegemonism better, the cost of its input will also increase rapidly. Although the U.S. government has “deep pockets”, the “cost” of hegemony in many regions of the world will increase rapidly together, making the U.S. hegemonism unable to make ends meet and its cost input will gradually exceed the inflow of benefits. Under such circumstances, in the face of the “US first” policy, the U.S. government has used various means to carry out multi-faceted suppression on China. For example, the recent “Five Eyes Alliance” ban on Huawei's products is the U.S.-led and multi-country coalition to contain China. This has not only formed a more powerful “anti-China” force, but also greatly reduced the cost of U.S. hegemonism, allowing the U.S. democracy to once again demonstrate its “superiority” in these alliance countries and to enhance and safeguard the global position and influence of the U.S. democracy.

3.2 The Influence of New Changes in American Democracy on the United States

Since trump took office, the continuous changes in American democracy have had a great impact on the traditional democratic system in the United States. its impact is mainly reflected in the following aspects:

3.2.1 Impact on Its Domestic Economic Market

U.S. stricter investigation measures against China and higher tariff barriers have led to the rising prices of many Chinese products imported by the United States. Many enterprises in the United States, their owners and employees who depend on the supply of cheap and fine goods from China have been greatly affected, further pushing up the inflation rate in the United States. To a certain extent, it has raised the living costs of the American people and the operating costs of enterprises, intensified the living pressure of the American people, and caused the American people to have low emotions and views on the development of the American democratic system.

At the same time, as an economic measure, China has also adopted some corresponding economic measures against the United States, such as drastically reducing soybean imports from the United States. Previously, China was the largest exporter of U.S. soybean products, while the U.S. was also the largest importer of Chinese soybeans. After trump launched a trade war against China, China has greatly raised the import price of U.S. soybeans, raised the cost of China's imports of U.S. soybeans, and reduced the economic scale of U.S. soybean exports to China. many U.S. soybean farmers have experienced sluggish sales after a bumper harvest. many ordinary U.S. soybean farmers have suffered great losses, lowered the expectations of U.S. soybean farmers for the U.S. democratic system, and led to widespread criticism of the development of U.S. democratic system.

3.2.2 Increase Various Pressures on U.s. Military Personnel

According to the consistent practice of the United States, if we want to cooperate with major national strategies, we need the army to cooperate first. Therefore, in order to better realize its “Indian Ocean Pacific Strategy”, the US Trump administration has continuously strengthened its military deployment in the Indian Ocean and South China Sea and other regions, and maintained the military deployment of two aircraft carrier strike teams in the Indian Ocean and Pacific region. However, when the United States strengthens its military deployment in the Indian Ocean and Pacific region, it will virtually increase the working pressure of American military personnel. Moreover, the U.S. military deployment in the Indian Ocean and Pacific region will also lead to an increase in the degree of anti-U.S. and anti-intervention military confrontation in these regions, increasing the possibility of conflict in military deployment. This will virtually increase the possibility of military conflicts in the Indian Ocean and Pacific region and put pressure on the psychological burden of US military personnel. It can be seen that the trump administration's “Indian Ocean Pacific Strategy” has increased the pressure on the U.S. military deployment, which has put great pressure on the work and psychology of U.S. military personnel, and this is also the important reason why U.S. warships have collided many times in recent years. This kind of work pressure and psychological pressure make many military personnel and ordinary people in the United States have doubts about the implementation of the democratic system in the United States. Many people at home and abroad in the United States believe that these practices in the United States are undermining the democratic system in the United States, reducing the prestige of the democratic system in the world and hindering the promotion and development of the democratic system in the world.

3.2.3 The Allies Gradually Recognized the Hegemonic Nature of American Democracy

The gradual hardening of democracy in the United States has put a lot of pressure on many U.S. allies who follow suit. China is the major country in many countries' foreign export trade. The huge development momentum of the Chinese market is the foundation and premise for the development of many countries in the world. For example, the traditional allies of the United States such as the Philippines, Australia, Japan, South Korea and so on all rely heavily on China for their economies. While trump's trade policy towards China has gradually turned to “hostility”, the economic dependence of these traditional allies of the United States on China has been greatly impacted, and the domestic economy has been greatly affected, which has adversely affected the idea of economic freedom and autonomy in the democratic ideology of the United States. moreover, many allies (such as Philippines, Japan, south Korea, etc.) have fully recognized the hegemonic ideology of the

United States. Correspondingly, some countries (such as the Philippines, etc.) have strengthened their economic cooperation with China in order to ensure the continuous and steady development of their own economy, reduced their dependence on the U.S. military and economy, reduced their dependence on the U.S. democratic system, and raised their awareness of the hegemonic nature of U.S. democracy. Moreover, this trend is gradually expanding and spreading, which is not conducive to the promotion and inheritance of U.S. democratic system in the world.

4. Strategies for New Changes in American Democracy

Under the new strategy made by the Trump administration in the United States, American democracy has been impacted and influenced to a certain extent, which is not conducive to the continuation and development of the American democratic system. For this, the United States should adjust the corresponding strategy appropriately to provide a better international environment for the continued development and growth of American democracy in the world.

4.1 Building a New Type of Relations between Major Powers

The new type of relations between big powers is proposed by Chinese leaders. Its core idea is to establish close partnership among big powers. The relations between big powers set an excellent example for other countries. The new type of relations between big powers must be based on non-conflict, non-confrontation, mutual respect and win-win cooperation. In this regard, the leaders of China and the United States (Xi Jinping and Trump) have reached a consensus that building a new type of great power relationship is not only a model for future cooperation between China and the United States, but also a major trend leading the global development. On this basis, through the continuous efforts of China and the United States, national cooperative dialogue mechanisms such as comprehensive economic dialogue, diplomatic security dialogue and law enforcement cyber security dialogue have been established, laying a good foundation for the construction of a new type of major-country relationship between the two countries. However, at present, the new type of major-country relationship between China and the United States is still in the primary stage of development and requires joint efforts by the two countries. In the process of joint efforts between the two countries, the two countries should respect each other and take what they need. For example, China should learn from the excellent experience of the American democratic system, which absorbs and integrates the experience of building socialism with Chinese characteristics, integrates the two, reduces friction, and seeks common ground while reserving differences. It can be seen that the construction of a new type of great power relationship can not only promote the common development of the largest developing countries and the largest developed countries, but also play a positive role as an example for the construction of global state relations. It can also make the political systems of the two countries complement each other and form a more perfect American democratic system and socialist system. At the same time, it can enhance the superiority and reference of American democratic system and socialist system and provide a more excellent national system for the future development of mankind.

4.2 Negotiation to Prevent Various International Conflicts

There are more than 200 countries in the world and the number of ethnic groups is very large. Due to various historical reasons, there are various contradictions, differences and conflicts among these countries, regions and ethnic groups. These contradictions, differences and conflicts exist objectively and cannot be completely eliminated. Therefore, seeking common ground while reserving differences, understanding and consulting each other are the most effective ways to solve these contradictions, differences and conflicts. In the process of the continuous development of Chinese society, Chinese culture continuously absorbs and draws lessons from the excellent cultures of other nations. Only in this way can Chinese culture become the treasure of the world's excellent cultural gardens. Therefore, the democratic system of the United States should also fully learn from its experience. It should not only limit the democratic system of the United States to the territory of the United States, but also to the white population in the United States and even to the

high-level political elites in the United States. Instead, it should adopt a broader mind, absorb and learn from the excellent experiences of other countries' political, cultural and economic systems in the process of continuous promotion and dissemination, and effectively deal with and negotiate various contradictions and conflicts. In this process, the US Trump government should not use aircraft carrier strike teams to threaten other countries and use violent methods to solve various international conflicts, but should make full use of the excellent ideas of the US democratic system, fully respect the national sovereignty of other countries, and on this basis, build a fair consultation mechanism, use the consultation mechanism to continuously deal with various conflicts in the world, and strengthen its international influence in a more harmonious way, thus building a more harmonious international political environment for the continued promotion and development of the US democratic system.

4.3 Give Full Play to the Advantages of the Existing System

In terms of political system, the United States implements a system of separation of legislative power, law enforcement power and judicial power. In terms of political parties, the United States implements a pattern of ruling by both parties. These political systems and models themselves have a strong ability to correct errors. They can supervise and restrict rights and political parties by means of “partition” and “competition”. They can criticize mistakes and urge them to correct them. This error correction mechanism in the American democratic system is precisely the important reason why the American people are proud of the American democratic system, which is called “politically correct”. Therefore, the U.S. government should continue to give full play to the advantages of this system to promote the new development of the U.S. democratic system. At present, the “political correctness” in the United States is becoming extreme, especially in the aspects of race, religion, gender and so on. More conflicts have been formed, making the “political correctness” in the United States democratic system increasingly appear extreme phenomena such as discrimination against blacks, insult to women, and mass exclusion of immigrants. Not only that, the top political elites in the United States are using “political correctness” as a vote-winning tool to attack other political parties in order to gain more votes. And this kind of phenomenon will make the American democratic system unable to give full play to its original advantages. The extreme “political correctness” in the United States will make the American people lose confidence in the American democratic system. At the present stage, the trump administration's strategies of “making America great again” and “giving America priority” are exactly the correction and challenge to the extreme “political correctness”. However, its practice has met with opposition from many political elites and people in the country. In this regard, the trump administration of the United States should vigorously publicize the harm of “politically correct” extremism and the advantages of “politically correct” so that the American public and senior management can fully understand how to use the advantages of “politically correct” to develop the democratic system in the United States. On this basis, the trump government should also pay attention to the reconciliation and alleviation of domestic political contradictions, so that citizens with different political views can express their political views smoothly, so that the top political elites in the United States can find the balance point between different political views, and there is no need to express dissatisfaction with the existing policies by resignation and other overly radical ways, so that the development and changes of the U.S. democratic system in the United States are more harmonious and more beneficial to the public.

4.4 Reduce Military Deployment and Trade Barriers Appropriately

At present, under the continuous development of successive administrations, the Trump administration in the United States has seen many problems that need to be improved, such as increasing pressure on global military deployment and increasing government budget deficits. The development of many countries in the world and the continuous rise of some terrorist organizations have increased the pressure on the U.S. military deployment in the world. For example, the “freedom of navigation” in the South China Sea has been strongly rebounded by China, as has the military deployment in Iran, Afghanistan and other regions. Therefore, the US Trump

administration should appropriately reduce its military deployment in these high-pressure areas. For example, trump recently announced the withdrawal of troops from Syria and nearly all U.S. troops in Syria, while also withdrawing nearly half of the troops in Afghanistan. This approach can reduce the military investment undertaken by the United States for its international obligations, divert more energy and resources into the economic development of the United States itself, and open a new milestone for the truly pragmatic “US first” policy. However, this approach requires the Trump administration to further expand, reduce U.S. spending on global hegemonism, so that more countries can just feel the goodwill from U.S. instead of hegemonism. Only in this way can the democratic system in the United States be more widely recognized.

From a domestic perspective, the United States should effectively reduce its fiscal deficit. At present, the U.S. fiscal deficit has reached a scale of 20 trillion U.S. dollars. Although the United States has long maintained its economic strategy of “reaping” the global economy and maintaining its own economic growth by issuing a large number of treasury bonds, the global trend of the dollar is not optimistic with the rise of internationalization of China's RMB and the de-dollarization adopted by many other countries. The U.S. economic system should be changed to effectively cope with this changing trend, instead of being immersed in the global hegemony of the U.S. dollar. For this, the United States should effectively reduce its fiscal deficit, such as reducing the high military expenditure, increasing the policy support for domestic small and medium-sized enterprises and innovative enterprises, building a better domestic environment for foreign-funded enterprises, reducing trade barriers and trade frictions in international trade, and finding the next economic growth point for the United States to rely on its own market, etc. Through effective changes and effective response to changes in the international economic situation, the domestic economic development momentum of the United States can be enhanced, so that the United States government can better benefit the people, better fulfill its responsibility as a public servant of the people, and finally promote the spread and development of the American democratic system at home and abroad.

5. Conclusion

Nowadays, the world situation has undergone many changes, and the pattern of world pluralism is still taking shape. Under the current pattern of world changes, the democratic system in the United States must also carry out new changes in order to effectively cope with the impact of changes in the world pattern on American democracy. Although the United States has adopted some new policy changes since the trump administration took office, especially the changes in American democracy, which have had certain impacts on the American democratic system, the development and changes in the American democratic system still need to adopt certain strategies. Starting from building a new type of relations between major powers, negotiating to prevent various kinds of international conflicts, giving full play to the advantages of the existing system, appropriately reducing military deployment and trade barriers, etc., it effectively conforms to the development strategy of “giving priority to the United States” and “making the United States great again”, and promotes the sustainable development of the United States democratic system.

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