

Abstracts

The Shift in Stances of African States on Foreign State Immunity and Chinese Responses

Han Xiuli & Zhang Qifei

Abstract: Since independence, African states, based on the interests of safeguarding national sovereignty and seeking equality and fairness, influenced by the legal systems of the suzerain states, as well as engulfed by the global mainstream trend of restrictive immunity, most of them have shifted from absolute immunity to restrictive immunity. The practices of restrictive immunity in those African states have taken different forms. Some states have enacted domestic law to restrict the immunity of foreign states, some states have adopted judicial practices to restrict the immunity of foreign countries, and more states have joined in international treaties that contain restrictive immunity clauses. As an important aspect of foreign relations, foreign state immunity can make a significant impact on relationships between different states. For China – Africa cooperation, in the context of joint construction of the high – quality “Belt and Road” by both sides, with the increasingly close civil and commercial exchanges between China and African states, the shift of African states to restrictive immunity will have an important impact on China – Africa cooperation, especially will bring certain risks and challenges to Chinese sovereign entities. In view of this, China needs to pay attention to the new trends in the stances and practices of African countries on state immunity, and respond in two dimensions: pre – prevention and post – response, based on the overall climate of maintaining friendly cooperation between China and Africa. Specifically, on the one hand, China should conduct in – depth investigation on the issue of state immunity in African states and actively cooperate with African states in international legislative and judicial dialogue and on state immunity; on the other hand, Chinese state – owned enterprises may choose whether to raise state immunity defenses based on different situations when they are sued in courts of African states, and the Chinese government and its branches should attach importance to and fully utilize the diplomatic opinion mechanism when

filing lawsuits in African courts, thus to make contributions to promoting China – Africa cooperation in the era of great changes.

Key words: state immunity; Africa; absolute state immunity; restrictive state immunity; China – Africa cooperation

Analysis of the Narrative Game between China and the United States in the Middle East under the Background of Great Power Competition

Chen Feiyu

Abstract: In the context of great power competition, the narrative game between China and the United States in the Middle East is influenced by the divergence in their narrative philosophies, disparate perceptions of the Middle Eastern order, and the escalation and spread of Sino – American strategic competition. Consequently, the narrative patterns of China and the United States in the Middle East exhibit distinct forms. The United States primarily adopts a narrative focusing on values, camp – based opposition, and coercion, while China advocates for inclusive, community – oriented, and recognition – based narratives. Guided by different narrative paths, the narrative game between China and the United States in the Middle East has evolved into three levels of intensity: interactive diplomatic game, mirroring dialogical game, and context – building initiative game. Affected by this, there is a potential trend of expanding the differences in the narratives of the two sides and extending the scope of the issues. Countries in the region have responded differently as well. To prevent narrative disputes between China and the United States from escalating their competitive relationship in the Middle East, China needs to rationally deconstruct and expose the United States’ hegemonic narrative logic and construct a Middle East meta – narrative system with Chinese characteristics. This approach will allow China to “tell the Chinese story, and convey the voice of the Chinese nation” in the critical juncture of the unprecedented transformation in the Middle East.

Key words: public opinion; great power competition; China – U. S. relations; Middle East; narrative game

Syria's War Economy: Characteristics, Operating Mechanism and Future Prospects

Li Haipeng

Abstract: The war economy is a key component of the Syrian civil war. Wartime political, military, and security dynamics on both domestic and regional fronts as well as pre-war socio-economic networks jointly shaped the basic configurations of the Syrian war economy, which is characterized by coercive extraction, the strengthening of economic monopoly, expansion of the informal economy, parallel economic fragmentation and interdependence, and growing influences of external factors on Syria's economy. At the micro level, the operation of Syria's war economy is underpinned by economic activities of various actors participating in the combat economy, wartime speculative economy and coping economy. As of 2018, the war economy has impacted indirectly on the duration and trajectories of the Syrian civil war through mechanisms of war financing, competition over economic resources, and feeding the coping economy. Since the end of 2019, multiple factors at home and abroad have triggered grave economic and humanitarian crisis in Syria and significantly reformulated the operating mechanism and characteristics of Syria's war economy, which will have complex and far-reaching impacts on conflict resolution and post-war reconstruction in Syria.

Key words: war economy; Syria; economic crisis; post-war reconstruction

Multidimensional Impacts of Climate Change on Food Security in Africa and Its Governance

Piao Yingji

Abstract: Africa's vulnerability to climate change is among the highest in the world. Climate change and its knock-on effects have caused environmental, economic and social impacts on food security in Africa. In the environmental dimension, climate change induced consequences such as abnormal precipitation patterns, deterioration of land degradation and frequent extreme weather events, have posed systemic threats to agricultural production and compromised food availability in Africa. In terms of the economic dimension, climate change could lead

to economic loss for smallholders, constraint on productive investment, rising food price and disruption of global food trade, thereby undermining the ability of vulnerable groups to access food and the stability of food supplies at the national level. Considering the social dimension, climate change has posed severe threat to human health, deepened poverty and inequality, and exacerbated displacement and violent conflicts, further increasing food security vulnerability in Africa. In the face of daunting dual challenges of climate change and food security, it is urgent to promote climate – resilient food system transformation in Africa. Looking forward, African countries may consider promoting low – carbon based agricultural production methods, shaping climate – resilient agricultural value chains and building social safety nets to withstand climate – related disasters as strategic priorities.

Key words: climate change; African food security; food systems; climate resilience; low – carbon agriculture

North – South Divide and Imbalance Dilemma in Global Energy Governance: Africa – based Research

Zhang Rui

Abstract: The Global South is generally in a weak position in global energy governance. This article uses Africa as a case to explore the prominent North – South differences and bilateral imbalance dilemma in global energy governance. The energy challenges facing the Global South include widespread energy poverty, lagging energy transition, and the great dependence of oil and gas resource countries on the fossil energy industry. Global South and Global North have significant differences in the core concepts and evolutionary directions of energy governance, including different views on energy security, energy transition agendas, just energy transition and the relationship between energy governance and geopolitics. The Global North firmly holds the leading power in the governance process and dominates the natural space, energy choices and resource benefits of the Global South. At the issue level, it manifests itself in fossil energy divestment movements, unrealistic transition plans, transnational exploitation, limited climate finance and sowing discord among countries. The Global South should adhere to the orientation of development,

safeguard the energy sovereignty and development rights, urge the Global North to assume more governance responsibilities, innovate North – South cooperation, and strengthen solidarity and mutual assistance in the Global South.

Key words: global energy governance; Global South; Global North; Africa; energy security; energy transition; politicization of energy issues

Opportunities and Prospects of China – Africa Commercial Space Cooperation from the Perspective of New Quality Productive Forces

Lin Luzhou

Abstract: As one of the emerging industries of strategic importance, aerospace is a significant area of China – Africa cooperation, and commercial aerospace is the key force in forming new quality productive forces. After more than 20 years of development, China – Africa space cooperation, which is highly valued by both sides, has achieved a series of landmark results in the fields of satellite communications, navigation and remote sensing, formed a pattern of national space cooperation leading system construction and commercial space cooperation promoting technology application. With the rise of the Global South, African space market is a core area for the international development of China’s commercial space. China – Africa commercial space cooperation is becoming new quality productive forces with encouraging policies, guarantee of technological progress and traction of market demand, which is an important opportunity to accelerate the high – quality development of China – Africa cooperation. At the same time, there are multiple challenges in China – Africa commercial space cooperation, including insufficient support from the industrial system and technological innovation, mismatch between demand and supply, lack of specific policies, and poor international environment. Therefore, it is necessary to accelerate the formation of new quality productive forces in commercial aerospace by building a modern industrial system, by strengthening applied technological innovation and enhancing connections, so as to provide new impetus for expanding China – Africa cooperation in the new era.

Key words: Xi Jinping Thought on Economy; new quality productive forces; China – Africa cooperation; commercial space

Reshaping Oneself: The Localization Path of African Anthropology

—Analysis of the Development of Anthropology in Ethiopia

Shi Lin

Abstract: African anthropology is an important discipline of Country and Region Studies (CRS). The international academic community has conducted extensive research in this field. In Ethiopia, known as the “Ethnic Museum”, on the one hand, Western scholars have taken the lead in conducting detailed field works and various academic discussions, deepening anthropological understanding of Ethiopian ethnic issues and cultures; on the other hand, Ethiopian scholars are striving to promote the localization process of African anthropological research by cultivating professional talents, conducting home field surveys, and writing indigenous ethnography. The case study of Ethiopia demonstrates the complete process of anthropology from being a “foreign transplant” discipline, to “initial integration” into local Ethiopian society, and gradually seeking “theoretical innovation”. In response to the weak points in China’s African anthropological research, Chinese scholars need to deeply analyze the concept of “African anthropology”, accurately grasp its particularity and foundational nature, strengthen the “looking to recent development” and “looking to Africa” in African anthropological research, and actively absorb the innovative progress made by African scholars in “observing oneself, understanding oneself, and writing oneself”, in order to effectively promote the discipline construction and independent knowledge system exploration of China’s African anthropology.

Key words: Country and Region Studies; autonomous knowledge system; African anthropology; localization; Ethiopia; indigenous ethnography; research on African anthropology in China

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