Abstracts

Adjustments and Responses of Global South Value Chains under Trade Tariff Impacts

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Abstract：For a long time，global value chains and their closely intertwined supply chains have served as crucial lenses for understanding shifts in international political – economic structures. Amid intensifying great power competition，heightened geopolitical risks，and accelerated AI – driven transformations，strategic value chains are becoming more prominent while fostering new AI – related value chain formations. The rational construction and optimization of global value chain systems remain essential efforts for "Global South" nations to safeguard their value chain security and interests. During his second term，Trump intensified great power competition through tariff wars aimed at revitalizing domestic industries，boosting fiscal revenue，ensuring national security，and consolidating U. S. dominance. These policies severely disrupted global supply chains. Confronting tariff pressures，Global South countries have prioritized strengthening South – South cooperation to collectively address challenges posed by American protectionist measures. As a global energy hub，the Middle East is accelerating industrial upgrading under evolving value chain dynamics. While enhancing oil and gas production，supply，and exports，it simultaneously pursues energy transition toward renewable energy，advanced manufacturing，and related supporting industries. In Africa，the gathering place of the "Global South"，facing geopolitical competition among major powers，the strengthening of strategic mineral cooperation between the US and Europe with Africa，and new opportunities arising from economic cooperation with China，it is adjusting and reshaping its industrial system to safeguard its development interests through the concept of autonomous equality，thereby promoting its own economic growth and modernization.

Key words：value chain；US tariff war；Global South；Middle East energy supply chain；African industrial chain；Global Governance Initiative

From "Global War on Terror" to "Great Power Competition": Trump and the Second Transformation of U. S. Middle East Strategy After 9/11

Wang Zhen

Abstract: After 9/11 attacks, U. S. Middle East strategy underwent two major transformations. The first strategic transformation occurred immediately after the 9/11 attacks, as the unexpected events prompted the George W. Bush Administration to adjust U. S. Middle East strategy. Influenced by the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the core objectives of U. S. Middle East strategy began to shift toward serving "global counter terrorism" and regional democratic transformation, with the fight against "terrorism" becoming the gravity of U. S. Middle East strategy. After Barack Obama took office, in response to the economic downturn following the financial crisis and the overreach of the global war on terror, the United States began seeking military withdrawal from the region. However, the focus of this change was not on "great power competition" or strategic transformation, but rather on maintaining U. S. global hegemony under the neoliberal order. After Trump took office in 2017, the United States fundamentally adjusted its global strategy, shifting its strategic gravity to "great power competition". To this end, U. S. Middle East strategy also underwent fundamental adjustments and began to serve the so – called "great power strategic competition", which includes U. S. strategic withdrawal from the region, adjustments of regional strategic objectives, and attempts to link/integrate Middle East strategy with other regional strategies (South Asia, Central Asia, etc.). During Biden's presidency, his main policy framework has not fundamentally departed from the Trump's regional strategy. While people maybe more optimistic about the prospects for Trump's regional strategy in his second term, the challenges he faces are also more complex. To date, the gravity of Trump's new term Middle East strategy remains on "great power competition," but it has undergone several adjustments based on the evolving circumstances. For example, on the Palestinian issue, the focus has shifted from promoting Arab – Israeli reconciliation to supporting Israel in consolidating its own security. On some hot – spot conflicts, its policy seeks a balance between tactical intervention and strategic restraint. Trump's adjustments to U. S. Middle East

strategy not only signify a fundamental shift in U. S. regional strategy since the Cold War, but also indicate that external factors shaping the future strategic landscape of the Middle East have undergone significant changes.

Key words: U. S. Middle East Strategy; Trump's diplomatic revolution; great power competition; transformation of strategy

Trends of the Trump's Second-term Policy towards Africa under the Influence of Multidimensional Factors

Liu Zhongwei

Abstract: Since Trump took office, there have been new adjustments and changes in the US policy towards Africa, which have taken place under the conditions of an era of accelerated evolution of changes in a century. On a whole, the changes in the world, in the United States and in Africa have nurtured, influenced and constrained Trump's new policy toward Africa, and these three major changes have participated in shaping the development trends of the White House's Africa policy from three dimensions: the international environment, US domestic politics and African factors. At the global level, the Trump Administration has launched a tariff war against Africa, which weakened U. S. cooperation in the progressive fields with Africa, and strengthened the competitions between major powers in Africa. At the U. S. level, under the changes of Trump's return to the White House, the rise of "isolationism" and "conservatism", and the new cabinet's "businessman rule", the U. S. policy towards Africa has been hit by Trump, and the United States has further closed itself to Africa and cut aid to Africa. At the African level, under the changing situation of Africa's continued improvement in the world's political and economic structure, the enhancement of its strategic autonomy on its own internal development path, and the further integration and self-improvement in foreign relations, Trump's "2. 0" term can not deeply "ignore" Africa. Looking ahead, the U. S. policy towards Africa during Trump's "2. 0" presidency will be characterized by strategic contraction, a shift from aid to commerce, and a strong grasp of great power competition. Under the great changes of era, Trump's "2. 0"

policy towards Africa has gone against the trend of history, which has a great negative impact on Africa's development, US – Africa relations, and international cooperation with Africa.

Key words: U. S. policy towards Africa; Trump Administration; the great change of the world; the great change of the United States; the great change of Africa

"Becoming Maasai": The Historical Evolution of Maasai Ethnic Identity in Kenya

Li Pengtao

Abstract: In the pre – colonial era, ethnic identities in East Africa were highly fluid, with no concept of "ethnic territory" exclusive to a specific group. During the first half of the 19th century, Maasai – speaking pastoralist groups rose to dominance in the Rift Valley. However, the boundaries between them and neighboring agricultural and hunter – gatherer communities remained blurred, and their power dynamics diverged from the European colonizers' simplistic understanding of domination and subordination. After the mid – 19th century, European colonialism reversed the relationship between Maasai – speaking pastoralists and neighboring agricultural groups, gradually marginalizing the Maasai from their position of dominance. This inversion of power relations catalyzed the emergence of modern Maasai ethnic identity. During the colonial era, the racist perceptions and policies of British colonizers politicized ethnicity in Kenyan society. To resist colonial pressures and competition from other ethnic groups, the Maasai community underwent internal consolidation within the framework of the colonial "native reserves" system. By constructing exclusive territorial claims and sharpening cultural boundaries, they institutionalized a modern Maasai ethnic identity. After independence, the Kenyan government perpetuated colonial – era ethnic governance paradigms. Maasai identity continued to evolve in the postcolonial context. After the 1991 multi – party reform, Maasai elites strategically employed narratives of "cultural tradition" to reframe their ethnic image within the global discourse of indigenous rights, positioning the Maasai as quintessential "indigenous" representatives of Kenya. This strategic identity construction served both as a response to globalization and as a mean to secure

advantages in resource allocation within Kenya's ethnopolitical landscape.

Key words：ethnic identity；Kenya；Maasai；colonialism；African indigenous rights movement

Historical Hierarchy of Ethnic Group in Ethiopia and Its Contemporary Consequences

Wang Tao & Huang Shishun

Abstract：The historical hierarchy of ethnic group in Ethiopia has defined the power dynamics between ethnic groups. Its inherent confrontational and zero－sum mindset has profoundly impacted the nation－building process in Ethiopia, serving as a critical perspective for understanding the current ethnic conflicts. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the Solomon Dynasty integrated various groups into a common political space, shaping an ethnic hierarchy centered on the Amhara. The Amhara was the dominant elite, the Tigray was the local elite, the Oromo was the royal subject, and the Somali was the subjugated adversary. In the early 20th century, the hierarchical differences of "elite－subject－adversary" promoted the ethnicization of the identities of various groups. Haile Selassie implemented forced assimilation policies, which triggered resistance from other ethnic groups. The Derg regime accelerated de－ethnicization, but it led to centrifugal ethnic tendencies and ethnic armed groups. After overthrowing the Derg regime, the TPLF achieved institutionalization of ethnic identity as to institutional innovation of ethnic federalism, heightening ethnic autonomy consciousness. However, other ethnic groups were dissatisfied with the long－term monopoly of power by the TPLF. The mentality of inherent antagonism and zero－sum has profoundly impeded national integration, constituting a critical lens for understanding current inter－ethnic conflicts. After Abiy Ahmed came into power in 2018, he fought against ethnic separatist forces, promoted political reforms, advocated for Pan－Ethiopianism and ethnic reconciliation, and worked to eliminate the influence of historical hierarchy of ethnic group.

Key words：nation－building；Ethiopia；historical hierarchy of ethnic group；Amharization；ethnic federalism；Pan－Ethiopianism

The Birth and Evolution of Contemporary African Black Francophone Philosophy

Deng Haochen

Abstract：Contemporary African Black Francophone philosophy is the black thought that uses French as a linguistic vehicle for rational and non – fictional discourse based on Africans' own living experience. Compared to Anglophone black thought, it was born in the particular political and religious context. Its subsequent evolution is inextricably linked to the political realities of Francophone Africa. The *Négritude* movement led by Senghor initially established black subjectivity in terms of culture, but because of its political weakness, it was difficult to stir up the hearts of the African people as Fanon's revolutionary philosophy. Kagame's *ethnophilosophie*, which was rooted in Christian concerns, was once heavily criticised, but it forced the philosophical community to reflect on the definition of philosophy and revealed the collective spiritual world of Africa, which is still alive today in the Anglophone circle. Diop's Afrocentrism, with its historical perspective, has added philosophical and historical depth to Pan – Africanism, and has been expanded by other scholars since the end of the twentieth century. In the new context of the 21st century, the post – colonial thought led by Mbembe has tried to transcend the cognitive shortcomings of the previous trends and to take the initiative to integrate into the world by bidding farewell to the grand narratives, but it still has certain limitations. On a whole, the rich and various philosophical thoughts of African Francophonie deserve the attention of the academia. Grasping its panorama in a critical way will be an important inspiration for the promotion of cultural exchanges and civilisational mutual understanding between China and Africa.

Key words：contemporary African Black Francophone Philosophy；Négritude；Ethnophilosophy；Afrocentricism；Postcolonial Thought

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