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Abstracts

Global Governance Initiative: China's Solution to the World's "Governance Deficit"

Zeng Xianghong

Abstract: The Global Governance Initiative (GGI) is an innovative solution to address the world's "governance deficit" and also serves as a discourse framework. From the perspective of framing analysis in social movement theory, the GGI examines diagnostic, prognostic, and motivational frames to systematically answer questions such as what dilemmas global governance is currently facing, how to resolve these dilemmas, and how to mobilize the international community to participate in their resolution. Specifically, first, at the diagnostic level, the GGI diagnoses a severe "governance deficit" in global governance, which includes deficits in democracy, order, cooperation, people – centeredness, and effectiveness. Second, at the prognostic level, the GGI strives to promote five framing shifts in global governance: from hierarchy to sovereign equality, from hegemonic maintenance to the international rule of law, from identity politics to multilateralism, from the logic of capital to people – centeredness, and from policy commitments to action orientation. Third, at the motivational level, the GGI seeks to mobilize the international community, particularly the Global South, to actively support and participate in the communication and implementation of the initiative by aligning supply with demand and promoting institutional embeddedness. Despite being a relatively new initiative in the field, the GGI has won extensive support from the international community, especially from countries in the Global South owing to its well – developed and comprehensive components for diagnosis, prescription and mobilization.

Key words: global governance; Global Governance Initiative; governance deficit; China's solution; framing perspective

A Study of the New "Intelligent – Unmanned" Hybrid Warfare Mode: Based on the U. S. – Israeli War against Iran

Ji Shiming & Yu Nanping

Abstract: The new "Intelligent – Unmanned" hybrid warfare mode, which integrates unmanned platforms and artificial intelligence, constitutes a new approach that breaks through the explanatory framework of traditional hybrid warfare theories. In

2026, the United States and Israel jointly launched illegal military strikes against the sovereign state of Iran. This war outlines the realistic contours of the mutual nesting between the new “intelligent – unmanned” hybrid warfare and the geopolitics of the Middle East, serving as an important sample for observing the changes in the forms of warfare in the region. From the four dimensions of ontology, structure, spatiality, and efficacy, the qualitative changes in the form of warfare under new technological conditions can be accurately depicted. The game of computing power and algorithms is reshaping the rules of engagement. The deep coupling of unmanned swarms with proxy networks renders the traditional state – centric logic of deterrence increasingly ineffective, and the balance of power in the Middle East presents a new stratified pattern. The new “Intelligent – Unmanned” hybrid warfare mode is also continuously eroding and impacting peace and stability of the Middle East across three levels: the acceleration of the military AI arms race, the systematic reshaping of deterrence logic, and the significantly increased difficulty of regional security governance. Possible forms of future Middle East conflicts, such as stop – and – go conflict dynamics and the leveraged harassment of chokepoint waterways will also inflict more complex shocks on regional stability. This not only makes it increasingly difficult to define strategic stability in the Middle East by the victory or defeat of a single war or a single ceasefire agreement, but also moves regional stability closer to a state of suspension that can never settle into a stable order.

Key words: intelligent – unmanned hybrid warfare; U. S. – Israeli war against Iran; stability in the Middle East; security governance; proxy politics

Academic Debates, Reflections and Explorations on the Modes of Civilizational Interaction in Academia during the Post – Cold War Period

Zhang Qianhong & Zhang Xiaohang

Abstract: The study of civilizations has been a perennial topic in academia. In the post – Cold War period, scholars have engaged in multidimensional discussions on modes of civilizational interaction, giving rise to three main discursive frameworks. The “Clash of Civilizations”, inheriting the Western tradition of confrontational thinking, is based on the heterogeneity of civilizations and emphasizes that civilizational clash will dominate the development of the international situation, thus sparking a new wave of research on civilization. However, it has been heavily questioned due to its narrow understanding of civilization, subjective interpretation of the roots of conflict, and deviation from international political realities. The “Interaction of Civilizations”, drawing on global history research, emphasizes the

historical continuity of civilizational interaction and advocates a decentralized perspective. However, it has also generated controversy due to the lack of a systematic definition of the concept of interaction, overemphasis on the connections between civilizations, and the tension of multiple narratives. The “Dialogue among Civilizations” advocates for building a consensus on values across civilizations and strives to break free from the constraints of the conflict paradigm through equal and inclusive dialogue. However, it is often criticized due to its underdeveloped theoretical framework, difficulty in achieving expected practical efficacy, and the susceptibility of the dialogue process to political factors. The debate on the modes of civilizational interaction in the post – Cold War period is a strong academic response to the profound changes in the international landscape and reflects the complexity and diversity of civilizational interaction in the period of globalization. In this process, Chinese academia has been committed to constructing a new concept of civilization centered on the theory of “mutual learning among civilizations”, emphasizing the autonomy and symbiosis of different civilizations in equal exchanges, thus contributing Chinese wisdom to civilizational studies in the era of globalization.

Key words: modes of civilizational interaction; clash of civilizations; interaction of civilizations; dialogue among civilizations; mutual learning among civilizations

From Discursive Critique to Intellectual Autonomy: The Formation and Evolution of Africa’s Modernization Knowledge System

Zhang Jingwei & Bi Jiankang

Abstract: The system of knowledge on African modernization is of great significance for African countries in advancing independent development and exploring modernization paths suited to their own national conditions. Knowledge production in Africa had long existed prior to the arrival of Western colonial powers. Since the modern era, under the profound impact of Western colonial expansion and Western modernization, the construction of the African modernization knowledge system has undergone a tortuous process. Since the end of the Second World War, in the course of African states gaining independence and pursuing modernization, the evolution of the African modernization knowledge system has unfolded in three historical stages. It began with reflection on and critique of Western modernization and its knowledge system and historical narratives; then moved, after the end of the Cold War, to the emergence of an autonomous African modernization knowledge system driven by independent modernization practices; and has developed, since the twenty – first century, into a new phase of advancement of this autonomous knowledge system. Since

independence, the development of the African modernization knowledge system has displayed multiple dimensions characterized by ongoing contestation among African historical narratives, modernization discourses, and modernization practices. It has gradually broken through the long – standing discourse framework centered on Western experiences and theories, and has significantly reshaped the Western – dominated paradigm of writing about African modernization. Although this process has been marked by repeated setbacks and twists, Africa has progressively strengthened its leading role and influence in indigenous knowledge production and dissemination, continuously constructing and developing an autonomous African modernization knowledge system. This provides important support for Africa’s independent advancement of modernization and offers significant insights for understanding, analyzing, and promoting the process of colorful global modernization.

Key words: Africa modernization; knowledge production; autonomous knowledge system; Chinese modernization

China – Africa People – to – people Exchanges: Main Characteristics, Current Challenges, and Pathways for Deepening

Zhang Zhongxiang & Wang Kangxu

Abstract: People – to – people exchanges aim to promote connectivity between the hearts and minds of peoples and mutual learning among civilizations. They are an important component of major – country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics in the new era. China – Africa people – to – people exchanges are a crucial component of China – foreign people – to – people exchanges and a vital element of China – Africa cooperation. They possess both a profound historical and cultural foundation and significant contemporary relevance. They are not only an inevitable choice for implementing the Global Civilization Initiative and promoting the transformation and upgrading of China – Africa cooperation, but also empower China – Africa economic and trade cooperation and contribute to the further rise of the Global South. Since entering the new era, China – Africa people – to – people exchanges have achieved fruitful results. Exchanges and cooperation between China and Africa in the fields of culture, education, science and technology, health, media, think tanks, youth, and women have been steadily expanding and producing positive outcomes, demonstrating characteristics such as continuously improving exchange mechanisms, more diverse participating entities, and a greater emphasis on the exchange of governance experience and modernization empowerment. However, the current state of China – Africa people – to – people exchanges remains somewhat disconnected from

the broader and rapid development of China – Africa relations. They face challenges such as imbalances in exchanges, language barriers, and interference and suppression by the United States and the West. Looking ahead, China – Africa people – to – people exchanges can focus on exchanges of experience in governance, youth and people’s livelihoods, and strive to strengthen the application of digital technologies. By improving mechanisms, enhancing the localization and adaptability of exchange content, innovating exchange subjects and methods, and strengthening cooperation in public opinion, we can further lay the foundation of public opinion for China – Africa cooperation, promote the steady and long – term development of China – Africa relations, and drive the further rise of the Global South.

Key words: Global Civilization Initiative; China – Africa people – to – people exchanges; New Era; civilizational exchanges and mutual learning; China – Africa Community with a Shared Future

Inheritance and Dissemination of Chinese in Africa in the Context of Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilizations

Wang Hui & Lu Siyu

Abstract: In the context of exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations, the inheritance and dissemination of Chinese in Africa not only reflect the historical trajectories and spatial expansion of Chinese migration, but also embody the unique path of adaptive development of Chinese civilization on the African continent. As a vital vehicle for Sino – African people – to – people exchange and inter – civilizational dialogue, the Chinese language in Africa has traversed evolutionary phases of emergence, contraction, and resurgence over the past century, exhibiting such core characteristics as dialect – based community differentiation, spatio – temporal developmental divergence, transformation in modes of heritage transmission, the intertwining of language maintenance and dissemination, and the diversification of language functions. The inheritance and dissemination of Chinese rely not only on multiple media, but are also shaped by the combined effects of policy orientation, economic value, community forces, shifts in perceptions, and technological innovation. Confronted with deep – rooted challenges such as the imbalance of the Chinese language ecology in Africa, insufficient capacity for heritage transmission, fractures in cultural identity, and inadequate theoretical innovation, future efforts need to prioritize ecological reconstruction, capacity building for heritage transmission, synergistic development of language functions, and theoretical innovation and dialogue. These efforts are essential for systematically enhancing the

sustainable development of Chinese in Africa and for more effectively serving the deep dialogue and shared evolution between Chinese and African civilizations.

Key words: exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations; China – Africa relations; Chinese inheritance; Chinese dissemination; Chinese schools; Confucius Institutes

Cultural Resilience: Institutional Reconstruction and Contemporary Impacts of African Traditional Leadership from the Perspective of Cultural Resilience

Xu Wei & Xia Ranruo

Abstract: This article systematically examines the historical evolution, institutional reconstruction, and contemporary functions of traditional leadership in sub – Saharan Africa from the perspective of “cultural resilience.” Before European colonial intrusion, traditional leadership constituted an important form of authority within indigenous communities. During the colonial period, it was instrumentalized and reshaped by external colonial powers. After independence, it revived as a form of informal cultural authority and, in some countries, was re – embedded into state governance through legislation. This trajectory demonstrates that traditional institutions can preserve their core functions under external shocks and achieve a certain degree of renewal through adaptive adjustment. In contemporary Africa, the widespread dual – track configuration of “modern state institutions – traditional leadership institutions” reveals both complementarity and structural tension in areas such as cultural identity, local governance, resource management, and conflict mediation. Legislative and practical experiences in South Africa, Ghana, Mozambique, and other countries show that traditional leadership can help compensate for the limited downward reach of state capacity, strengthen social integration, and improve governance effectiveness. At the same time, it is constrained by insufficient representation, blurred boundaries of authority, and limited procedural legitimacy. The African experience highlights the multiple pathways of modernization. In the context of the Global Civilization Initiative, the gradual integration of tradition and modernity through legal interfaces and public – interest constraints can help activate indigenous governance resources and enrich the practical landscape of institutional diversity.

Key words: African political culture; traditional leadership institutions; chieftaincy; dual – track governance; cultural resilience

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