

Shaping International Politics and Order in the 20th Century: Great Power Relations, Cold War, and International Organizations

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Abstract: In the context of economic globalization, the relationship between countries is closer and gradually forms a pattern of common development. At the present stage, the characteristics of great power relations are mainly reflected in the fact that the major powers in the world are in a multi-level balanced relationship, and the great powers are gradually developing into cooperative partners. As our country continues to develop, it is necessary to actively respond to changes in international politics, international order and major country relations, keep pace with the development trends of the international landscape, and promote the sound formation of a new type of major country relations. Based on this, this article analyzes the related contents of international political order, expounds the changes of international relations and international political pattern in the 20th century, introduces the main challenges of current international politics, and puts forward the direction of efforts in building a new pattern of great power relations in our country.

Keywords: International Politics in the 20th Century; International Order; Great Power Relations

1. INTRODUCTION

In the 20th century, great changes took place in world history. During this period, great changes took place in international relations and world political pattern, which had a major impact on international politics and international order in the later period. By focusing on the changes in international relations and political patterns in the 20th century, we can better grasp the context of historical development and clarify the relations among major powers. And can point out the direction for good shaping the international order, also can enable our country to explore a more suitable path of modernization for China's development in the development of the world pattern.

2. OVERVIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ORDER

As for the international political order, it is mainly generated in the historical conceptual framework, and there will be different forms of

existence in different periods. Specifically, it means that according to the corresponding standards and directions, the operation mechanism generated by the interaction between international political actors reflects the status of each subject in the international arena, and also shows the development of each subject, with good stability (Buzan, 2004). In fact, the international political order has obvious characteristics, which are mainly manifested as follows: first, dynamic. Generally speaking, the international political order can show the competitive strength of major powers within the framework of corresponding rules, and also show the results of each country's behavior. By analyzing the history of the development of international relations, it can be seen that after the international political order is formed, it often remains unchanged for a long time and has certain stability. However, if the international political order fails to change in accordance with the relationship between countries under the changing development strength of each country, it will cause great contradictions in the international community. In addition, with the increasing contradictions, the role of the previous order is bound to be weakened. Therefore, for the international political order, it is relatively stable, but it is bound to undergo dynamic changes. Second, hierarchy. In fact, the international political order can be divided into two parts, one is the global order and the other is the regional order. The above two contents belong to different levels and are closely related to each other. The development of regional order will be directly affected by the overall international order. In the international community, due to the strong development strength of some major countries, they tend to be in a key position in the development of regional order, and will also have an impact on the development of the international order. In addition, in a special period of development, the development of the international social order will also be affected by the order of individual regions to a certain extent. Third, order. For each country, orderly relations will be formed through the international political order (Wang & Wang, 2023). The strength of a country determines its position in the world. Generally speaking, the stronger a country is, the higher its international status will be; the weaker its strength is, the lower its international status will be. The position of each country in the world is also the result of the comparison of its development strength. Fourth, standardization. In the international political order, each country needs to have a standardized behavior, only on this basis, can the international political order be more just. International norms of behavior should ensure not only political but also moral and legal norms. In particular, the standardization of international law has a profound impact on the

international political order (Cui & Buzan, 2016).

2.1. Changes in International Relations and International Political Patterns in the 20th Century

In the 20th century, great changes have taken place in international relations, and the international political pattern has experienced development in different periods, as follows:

2.1.1. From the 1920s to before World War II

This historical period produced the Versailles-Washington system. Internationally, countries sign corresponding contracts through international conferences. The landmark events generated by the system are shown in Table 1:

Table 1: Signs of Establishment of the Versailles-Washington System

Time of Day	January to June 1919	From 1921 to 1922
Place	Paris,	Washington
The State	Britain, France, the United States and other victorious countries	The United States, Britain, Japan and other nine countries
Treaty of Agreement	《The Treaty of Versailles》	《Convention of Nine》
The System	The Versailles system	The Washington System

The formation of the Versailles system highlighted the status of imperialism in Africa, Europe and other regions, and formed the corresponding ruling order. Under the Washington system, the contradictions between the United States and Japan were eased, and the status of imperialism in the Pacific and the Far East was highlighted, and the corresponding ruling order was formed.

Under the influence of the Versailles-Washington system, the relationship between various countries tends to be stable, forming a capitalist political situation and producing a new pattern of state relations. However, the system has not really eliminated the contradictions between the countries, so this new pattern can not survive for a long time. Under this new pattern, new contradictions emerged, and the defeated country was plundered by the victor, which aggravated the contradictions between the two sides. Moreover, the uneven distribution of interests among the victors caused contradictions among them. In addition, the division of the colony also made the colonial people have a sense of resistance. After its formation, the system was not ended until the outbreak of the Second World War (Baldwin, 2013).

2.1.2. From the 1950s to the Early 1990s

During this historical period, the bipolar pattern of hegemony between the United States and the Soviet Union emerged, and the formation process of this pattern is shown in Table 2:

Table 2: The Emergence Process of the Bipolar Pattern of US-Soviet Hegemony

Generate Background	Process Of Production	The Impact	End
After World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union were Nearly Equal in Their Struggle for World Dominance.	British Prime Minister Winston Churchill made the "Iron Curtain" speech in 1946, which officially began the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union. In 1947, the Truman Doctrine was introduced, and the pattern of hegemony between the United States and the Soviet Union came into being. And it was further extended in the implementation of the Marshall Plan.	The emergence of this pattern has a great impact on the peace among the countries in the world, and makes the United States and the Soviet Union face great pressure of military expenditure. Aggression against Asian countries has brought disaster to the peoples of the region. The United States and the Soviet Union were equally strong and prevented a new war.	The Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, ending the bipolar rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union.

2.1.3. The International Pattern after the Cold War

After the Cold War, the international pattern gradually developed towards the trend of multi-polarization. The background of this pattern is that after the disintegration of the Soviet Union, Russia's development strength has gradually improved, the economic strength of Western Europe and other countries has gradually increased, and the third world countries, such as China, have achieved rapid development (TU, 2023). During this period, the world presented a development pattern of one super and many strong countries, in which one super refers to the United States, and many strong countries refer to the European Union, Russia, China and other countries. Under the trend of multi-polarization development of the international pattern, the economic strength of a country is a key element. At present, under the trend of multi-polarization

development, peace and development belong to the theme of world development, but the existence of power politics and other problems still hinder the realization of world peace. Under the ever-changing world development pattern, China should pay attention to the cooperation among other countries in the development, constantly improve their own economic level, obtain higher comprehensive national strength, and better face the world competition. We should oppose hegemonism and contribute to world peace (Wang, 2023).

2.1.4. Important International Organizations that Influence the International Situation in Modern Times

First, the Triple Entente and the Triple Alliance. Second, the League of Nations. Third, the Axis group. Fourth, the anti-fascist alliance. Fifth, the United Nations. Sixth, the European Union. Seventh, NATO and the Warsaw Pact. Eighth, APEC. Ninth, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

2.2. Major Challenges in Current International Politics

At present, under the influence of power politics, a more complex international political environment has been produced. Under the power politics, it can restrict the power to some extent, and then form a good international political ecology. However, power politics cannot completely eliminate international conflicts ("High Goals of Sino-Russian relations under the new international conditions," 2023). With the continuous improvement of human rights awareness, the problem of rights conflict is easy to appear, and under the influence of this problem, international disputes become more serious, thus developing into power confrontation. In this process, the following points should be paid attention to: First of all, attention should be paid to the new type of power politics, that is, the power politics that is packaged with rights and looks legal on the surface but is actually illegal. Compared with the previous power politics, this new type of power politics is more hidden and difficult to identify, so it often cannot be effectively suppressed and is more harmful. In addition, under the power conflict, there will be more problems in terms of values that cannot be changed, and when the power confrontation occurs, it will be more intense (Safranchuk & Lukyanov, 2021). Secondly, it should be understood that conflicts of rights are closely related to international law, and at the same time, they also cover ideological aspects (Cui et al., 2023). With the continuous development of power politics, ideology and values

have more and more influence in international relations, and will also affect the acquisition of national interests. In the development of international politics in the past, there is a view that national interests and values do not need to be considered as a whole, and there is no need to look at the relationship between countries from the perspective of ideology. In fact, this view is not scientific and fails to make a correct analysis of international relations from the perspective of reality. In the political environment of rights, basically all issues of national interests are closely related to values. Preventing large conflicts of interest between countries usually requires a comprehensive communication of values among countries (Waltz, 1993). Finally, at present, conflicts of rights have gradually become the main manifestation of international conflicts. When there is a conflict of rights, it does not necessarily change to power confrontation (Zhang & Wang, 2023). Many rights conflicts can be dealt with in many peaceful ways, but for the rights conflicts related to core values, it is usually difficult to reconcile, which is easy to develop into power conflicts. In the future development of great power politics, we need to focus on this issue to avoid the emergence of fierce power conflicts.

2.3. The Direction of Our Country's Efforts in Building a New Pattern of Major-Country Relations

2.3.1. We will Actively Build a New Pattern of Major-Country Relations

After years of development, China's economic level has been constantly improved, and its comprehensive strength has been constantly enhanced. In the construction of the new pattern of major-country relations, China has always held a positive attitude and has the ability to participate in the construction ("Global South" and the construction of global partnership," 2023). In the current global development environment, at a critical juncture of human development, all countries need to understand their responsibilities and missions and work together for human development. At present, as countries continue to develop, the international challenges are more severe. Under the influence of some countries, a cold War has gradually emerged in major-country relations, and forms of confrontation have gradually emerged, even corresponding military confrontation incidents (Lasmar, 2015). Therefore, China's efforts to build a new pattern of major-country relations focus on promoting peaceful development among major countries and maintaining coordinated progress among them. The international pattern will have an impact on the international system and order. By ensuring the stability of the pattern of major-country

relations, the international system can be better developed and the level of global governance can be improved.

2.3.2. We should Build Institutions and Mechanisms for Major-Country Relations Based on Multilateralism

First, we should take multilateralism as an important focus and focus on building a global governance system. We should build on multilateralism and foster more democratic international relations, so that global governance can be conducted more fairly. We should focus on maintaining the current international system, acting in accordance with international law, ensuring the international order and fostering sound international relations. We firmly oppose unilateralism and the tendency to camp against individual countries. Secondly, we should actively build specific organizational mechanisms.

In the world, the role of many multilateral mechanisms supported by China has become increasingly prominent, and the influence of various cooperation mechanisms has also continued to increase (Katzenstein et al., 1998). In international affairs, the status of developing countries is gradually rising and they have more say. Our country takes an active part in the formulation of international security rules, attaches great importance to international security cooperation, and has played a great role in the United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Our country pays attention to the formation of big country relations with its neighboring areas, and actively forms small multilateralism, forming strategic partnership with ASEAN. On the bilateral side, China pays attention to the continuous deepening of the partnership, vigorously builds the partnership network, and gradually expands the coverage. Now our country has established diplomatic relations with more than 100 countries, and has formed corresponding partnership with many other countries (Ikenberry, 2017). Finally, we propose feasible global initiatives. On important international occasions, Chinese leaders have put forward many feasible initiatives, including global security initiatives and global development initiatives, and actively put them into practice (LI & WANG, 2023). The 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China stressed that all countries should form a consensus on the common development of mankind, know each other well, respect other countries' cultures, eliminate conflicts among civilizations through exchanges among civilizations, and jointly meet development challenges.

2.3.3. Strengthen the Root and Peiyuan, Strengthen the Good and Dispel the Evil

First, take on the mission. Our mission and responsibilities are fully demonstrated in various reports. Among them, the report to the 18th CPC National Congress stressed that China adheres to mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence, and intends to form good cooperative relations with other countries. China has actively cultivated sound relations with developed countries, expanded the scope of cooperation, actively responded to existing differences, and finally forged a stable and sound new type of major-country relations. The report to the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China stressed that China should base itself on a global perspective, vigorously develop partnerships, connect interests with other countries, promote sound cooperation among major countries, form a sound framework for major-country relations, and achieve stable and coordinated development (Pokrovskaja, 2009). In the report to the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, it was emphasized that we should pay attention to coordination among major countries, ensure good interaction with other countries, and form a pattern of major-country relations featuring overall stability and peaceful coexistence. It can be seen that in the continuous development of China, its mission responsibility is also in a state of continuous improvement, which has played a great positive energy and been recognized by many countries (Legro, 2016). Second, we should actively build a framework for major-country relations. In recent years, China and Russia have formed a more stable strategic partnership, and the China-Eu partnership has also been advancing, which has defined the direction of our country's relations with other countries, namely mutual respect, cooperative development and peaceful coexistence. Guided by this direction of development, China's relations with many other countries have been deepening. During his visit to China in April 2023, French President Emmanuel Macron said that France adheres to independent diplomacy, opposes confrontation and division, and stands for unity and cooperation to maintain stable major-country relations. During his visit to China, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva pointed out that Brazil is always committed to developing sound partnership with our country and working together to form a just international order (Sakwa, 2023). Third, insist on daring and good at struggle. At the present stage, countries face many challenges in their development, and it is all the more important for our country to be brave

and good at struggle in its major-country relations. (1) To safeguard the core interests of the state. "Core interests are the bottom line that our country adheres to, and we will not trade with any country with them. Do not expect us to swallow the bitter fruit of damaging our sovereignty, security and development interests," it said. (2) Dare to retaliate, and then restrict the behavior of the sanctioner. On some issues of principle, China has strictly imposed sanctions on related mechanisms, which shows China's determination and ability to safeguard national interests and security. (3) Good at fighting. In handling major country relations, China has dared to struggle, thus well safeguarding its dignity and core interests. With good struggle, China has won continuous victories. In fact, struggle is an art, and you need to be good at it if you want to defend your own interests. On the major country relations, our country always pays close attention to the changes in the situation, constantly adjusts the struggle strategy, unites all the forces that can be united, and with the good mobilization of all positive factors, forms a joint force, turning the crisis into a turning point gradually, which highlights our determination and role in the handling of major country relations.

3. CONCLUDING REMARKS

To sum up, the international relations and international political pattern have undergone great changes in the 20th century, from the 1920s to the Versailles-Washington system before World War II, and from the 1950s to the early 1990s, the bipolar pattern of hegemony between the United States and the Soviet Union. At present, the international pattern is gradually developing towards the trend of multi-polarization. Although the international pattern is relatively stable, the power politics is gradually developing towards the trend of power confrontation, which brings great hidden dangers to world peace. At present, mankind is at a critical stage of development. Countries should focus on various influencing factors and actively build a new type of major-country relationship.

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