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Abstracts

Decoding the “Middle East Question”: China’s Wisdom and Responsibility

Wang Tai & Yang Lijun

Abstract: The question “Where is the Middle East headed?” represents not only a regional dilemma but also a global challenge. To resolve this challenge, it is necessary to clarify the intrinsic relationships between security, development, and path selection. Security serves as the foundation for development, which in turn empowers security; an independent development path is essential for consolidating the achievements of both security and development, as well as ensuring modernization. In addressing the “security question,” China leads with a holistic security concept, promoting peace talks and political solutions to regional conflicts, exemplified by its successful mediation in the normalization of relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran. This has sparked a “reconciliation wave” in the region and enhanced the Middle East’s capacity for self-sustained security governance. Regarding the “development question,” China adopts a people-centered development approach, focusing on infrastructure investment, technological collaboration, and industrial upgrading. This pragmatic cooperation with Middle Eastern nations helps overcome developmental bottlenecks and stimulate endogenous growth, offering Chinese experience for the region’s development. On the “path question,” Chinese modernization, with its inherent advantages and successful practices, provides the Middle East with a new point of reference. Through this exploration, Middle Eastern countries have come to realize that their development path must align with their historical, cultural, and national realities, overcoming dependency on Western models and pursuing strategic autonomy with sustainable development strategies. Amid the accelerating global shifts, as the world faces a serious deficit in public intellectual resources, China’s concepts and practices provide a solution that combines intellectual depth with practical feasibility, offering a response to the “Middle East question” while contributing to the global “world question” with a Chinese solution.

Key words: Xi Jinping Thought on diplomacy; China’s diplomacy in the Middle East; “Middle East Question”; holistic security concept; people’s livelihood; strategic autonomy; modernization path

Reshaping the Middle East Order under the Impact of the “Donroe Doctrine”

Tang Zhichao & Liang Zhiling

Abstract: Amid profound global transformations, the Middle East is undergoing continuous adjustments and intense turbulence, with its regional order facing historic reshaping. Among the many internal and external factors influencing this process, the United States plays a pivotal role in shaping the new order. The Trump administration’s 2025 National Security Strategy highlights its hegemonic diplomacy and coercive peace policies. “Trump 2.0” impacts the region’s geopolitical landscape and ethical norms on five levels—ethical values, ideology, institutional norms, behavioral logic, and policy practices—exacerbating the imbalance, dysfunction, and disorder of the Middle East order, and accelerating the historical evolution toward a “post – American era”. Firstly, under the impact of the “Donroe Doctrine,” the balance of power among regional actors is accelerating its tilt. Regional dynamics are undergoing significant adjustments, with Israel, Turkey, and the Gulf states emerging as the “new triad” of power. Iran and the “Resistance Axis” have been severely weakened, while the configuration of external forces in regional competition presents new characteristics. Secondly, driven by the “chilling effect” of the Donroe Doctrine, the Middle East order is gravitating toward the “law of the jungle,” reinforcing the logic that “might makes right.” National security vulnerabilities in the region have risen markedly, undermining the foundation of regional security cooperation. Thirdly, regional development is becoming more turbulent and uncertain, with the trend toward a multipolar Middle East accelerating. This is manifested in the regional power vacuum, the re – calibration of core regional issues, the restructuring of the regional security architecture, intensified geopolitical competition, the paralysis of multilateral cooperation mechanisms, and the further fragmentation of regional governance. At the same time, some regional countries are seeking greater strategic autonomy, and the process of regional multipolarization is also accelerating.

Key words: Donroe Doctrine; Trump administration; America First; regional development; Middle East order; geopolitics; great power competition

From Colonialism to Nationalism: The Historical Narrative Transformation of Algerian National Identity

Liu Aijiao

Abstract: Algerian national identity constitutes an important cultural foundation of modern nation – state identity and a critical resource for colonialists and nationalists in

constructing historical narratives. Colonizers utilized the reconstruction of Algeria's history and national imagery to compose the colonial narrative with "Orientalization" characteristics, shaping a "dualistic and opposed" social order within colonial societies on this basis. The increasingly prominent social contradictions fueled the sprouting of Algerian nationalism. Nationalists from different class backgrounds, focusing on the practical demands of social equality, independence aspirations, and cultural revival, reflected on the connotations of Algerian national identity within the colonial narratives and proposed diversified nationalist narrative paradigms. These paradigms include the assimilationist narrative, the Messalism narrative and the Islamic reformist narrative, which together constitute a powerful response to the colonialist narrative. The nationalist narratives gradually clarify the subjectivity and uniqueness of the Algerian nation by refuting the colonial narratives, and continuously integrate internal forces through political practice, promoting the successful transformation of historical narratives. This narrative shift from colonialism to nationalism aptly reflects the historical trajectory of Algerian nationalism's development. Following the independence of the nation-state, the historical narrative of national identity continues to pose challenges to nation-building. In the new era of exchanges and mutual learning among multi-civilization, the nationalist narrative still needs to continuously enrich, develop and improve itself to better meet challenges and seize opportunities.

Key words: historical narrative; ethnic identity; Algeria; colonialism; nationalism

From Colonial Legacy to Local Reinvention: The Duality and Transformation of Urban Space in Algiers

Liang Yuhong & Luo Lin

Abstract: The colonial rule imposed a dual structure on the urban space of Algiers, characterized by a clear division between colonial and indigenous spheres. This duality has had a profound and lasting impact on the transformation of Algiers' urban space after independence. During the colonial period, the colonizers constructed a "space of conquest," physically, racially, and culturally shaping segregated spaces that split Algiers into distinctly colonial and indigenous urban forms. After independence, both nationalism and Islamism sought to restructure this inherited spatial order from different indigenous perspectives; however, neither succeeded in dismantling the dual urban structure created by colonial rule. Since the 21st century, the development of economic modernization and globalization has provided new opportunities for the urban development of Algiers. By systematically promoting the

modernization transformation of urban spaces and enhancing the revitalization of traditional urban areas, Algiers is exploring a model of urban spatial development that integrates modernity with tradition. This paradigm of urban spatial transformation in Algiers offers valuable insights for other Global South countries undergoing similar urban transitions.

Key words: urban governance; Algiers; spatial duality; colonialism; nationalism; Islamism

Iran's Strategic Approaches to the Nagorno – Karabakh Conflict and Their Limitations

Fan Fan

Abstract: Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Nagorno – Karabakh conflict emerged as one of the most severe crises in the post – Soviet space. As a neighboring state, Iran engaged in the conflict out of concerns for national security, geopolitical interests, economic considerations, and international image. While consistently upholding the baseline principle of preventing escalation and preserving the status quo, Iran's policy trajectory shifted with changing domestic and external conditions. During the First Karabakh War, it relied on neutral mediation and cautious balancing; after the Second Karabakh War, however, the Azerbaijan – Turkey alignment and its partial convergence with Russia heightened Iran's security anxieties and further narrowed its strategic space. Consequently, Iran's strategy approach gradually shifted toward passive defense. While Iran prevented conflict spillover and maintained relative border stability, it failed to alter regional power shifts, balance bilateral ties, or exclude external actors. The root cause of Iran's declining influence lies in the fact that, under the external pressure of U. S. – Iran confrontation, Tehran lacked both the practical conditions for active involvement in the Nagorno – Karabakh conflict and an effective response to changes in the regional balance of power. Continued involvement by external Powers and the deepening strategic coordination among regional actors may further constrain Iran's room for maneuver. This suggests that Tehran is likely to continue prioritizing border security and strategic prevention over proactive regional shaping. Looking ahead, whether Iran can strike a balance between its global strategy and regional agency—and coordinate its strategic priorities between the Middle East and the South Caucasus—will largely determine its position in the future reconstruction of the regional order.

Key words: Iran's foreign relations; South Caucasus; Nagorno – Karabakh conflict; Russia; Zangezur

China – Africa Cooperation in the Context of Global Governance: Historical Logic and Dialectical Relationships

Li Anshan

Abstract: The world today stands at a critical moment. Resistance from the Global South, turmoil in the West, the decline of the United States, and the rise of China signal a gradual breakdown in current international order, making global governance an urgent imperative. Simultaneously, deep – rooted discrimination against Southern nations persists in the West, where the legacy of colonial rule endures and attempts to perpetuate an unjust global governance order continue. As a vital component of the global governance system, China – Africa cooperation is grounded in profound historical ties and driven by the practical development needs of both sides. It also exerts a positive influence on advancing global governance reform. This is primarily manifested in the following aspects: China offering development experiences such as self – reliance, inclusive poverty reduction, effective governance and sustainable development, while respecting African nations’ autonomy in choosing their own development paths; joint establishment of FOCAC pioneering a new international mechanism —the “equal dialogue model”; adhering to a “people – centered” value orientation, vigorously advancing African infrastructure development; and aligning with the practical development needs of African nations to engage in cooperation in various sectors. China – Africa cooperation should uphold respect for African nations’ autonomy, encourage Chinese enterprises to form communities of shared interests with local populations, strengthen China’s multilateral international cooperation with Africa, deepen mutual learning between Chinese and African civilizations, and take a lead in the reform of global governance system.

Key words: international relations; Western Hegemony; global governance; Global South; China – Africa cooperation

Exploring Practice and Optimization Pathways for China – Africa Cooperation in Commercial Mediation

Liao Yongan & Chang Yun

Abstract: Commercial mediation, as a consensual dispute resolution mechanism characterized by cross – jurisdictional participation, multilateral cooperation, and institutional mutual learning, has increasingly become a focal issue in China – Africa rule of law cooperation and international commercial dispute governance. Its institutional

design, operational practice, enforcement safeguards, and future development pathways are now drawing sustained academic and policy attention. At present, China – Africa commercial mediation is entering a new stage of institutionalization, marked by the accelerated construction of institutional frameworks, the continuous accumulation of professional expertise, and diversified exploration of enforcement models. Against the backdrop of global governance transformation and the upgrading of China – Africa cooperation, growing policy support from both sides, expanding space for alignment with international rules, and the gradual improvement of multilevel cooperation platforms have jointly created new opportunities for the development of China – Africa commercial mediation. At the same time, challenges such as the complexity of coordinating institutional co – construction, insufficient inter – regional mutual trust, and the limited operational effectiveness of joint mediation mechanisms continue to constrain its functional performance. The potential institutional advantages of commercial mediation have yet to be fully translated into effective governance outcomes. In the context of increasingly complex cross – border investment structures and the growing professionalization of dispute types, existing mediation mechanisms reveal more pronounced shortcomings in terms of rule adaptability, organizational coordination, and enforcement assurance. Looking ahead, under the guidance of a global governance vision based on extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits, China and Africa should further promote the development of a more efficient and collaborative commercial mediation system by strengthening mechanisms for rule embedding, consolidating the foundations of institutional trust, and optimizing the operational models of joint mediation. Such efforts would better serve China – Africa economic and trade cooperation and, in turn, enhance both parties’ discursive influence and institutional impact in international commercial dispute governance.

Key words: China – Africa cooperation; commercial mediation; commercial dispute settlement mechanism; global governance

Resolving the Trilemma of Power, Interests, and Ideas: International Contribution of China – Africa Green Development Collaboration to International Climate Governance

Xu Qinyi, Qin Zheng & Wang Jiajia

Abstract: Global climate change stands as one of the most threatening challenges

currently confronting humanity. Simultaneously, the institution of global climate governance is trapped in a trio of dilemmas: the realignment of the international climate political structure, the inadequate efficacy of the existing governance framework, and the geopolitical securitization of climate change. China – Africa green development cooperation is navigating these complex governance challenges and offering a distinctive solution for the international community to address the ‘power – interest – idea’ dilemmas inherent in the global climate governance institution. Firstly, by integrating power resources and strengthening negotiation alliances, China and Africa are actively bolstering the resilience of the global climate governance institution and fostering its evolution amidst the ‘power dilemma’. Secondly, through innovative cooperation models and tangible contributions, China and Africa are enhancing the institution’s performance and tackling the ‘interest dilemma’ of current global climate governance. Thirdly, by collectively addressing green barriers, China and Africa are aiming at resolving the ‘idea dilemma’ led by narrow geopolitical security paradigms. With Trump’s return to power, global climate governance faces a drastically changing landscape, largely weakened expectations for international climate cooperation, and a significant rise of both climate change skepticism and protectionism. China can play a role to bridge the collaboration gap through deepening South – South cooperation, advancing inclusive North – South cooperation, and mobilizing the participation of multiple actors. Together, China and Africa can advance the transformation of global climate governance and jointly build an All – Weather China – Africa Community with a Shared Future for the New Era.

Key words: global climate governance; climate security; China – Africa green development collaboration; Global South; All – Weather China – Africa Community with a Shared Future for the New Era

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