

# An Analysis of the Historical Foundation of China's National Governance

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**Abstract:** History and culture are the permanent factors that affect the national attribute of the national governance system. The choice of promoting the modernization of national governance system by inputting reform power from the outside is subject to the general logic of endogenous evolution of China's national governance system. The national root, cultural root and institutional root, which are bred in the long historical process, are the original starting point of this endogenous evolution. Key words: state one; one belt, one road; endogenous evolution; creative transformation.

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The strategy of governing the country of contemporary Chinese leaders inherits the gene of Chinese traditional culture. Contemporary China's national governance is not a simple result of human choice, but also the inevitable result of history. The governance of almost all countries in the world is difficult to cut off the historical ties, which leads to the governance system of any country with distinct national attributes.

## 1. National attribute of national governance system: shaping of historical power

Each country's governance system has its own special country attribute. The special historical, social and cultural conditions have resulted in different international pressure tolerance of each country and the degree of international social interaction. Therefore, the growth path of different ethnic countries, the promotion of governance capacity and the transformation model of the relationship between the state and society are full of distinctive national color. For example, the parliamentary politics conceived in Britain is to solve various problems existing in the "civil society". Citizens reach a solution through consultation, which is quite different from the political system of "domestic priority" in Prussia, resulting in the different foreign relations policies of the two countries later. Japan built up the modern national political system with reference to Prussia. Such a political system design is an important reason for the prevalence of militarism in Germany and Japan. There are also obvious differences among the countries that implement federalism. The United States, Canada and Australia implement

federalism, separate Federalism or parallel federalism. Germany implements "federalism within the state". The reason for this difference is due to the differences in the distribution of domestic political power, class structure and historical conditions of the rise of different countries. The study of the national attribute of the national governance system can help us to explore the differences between the national power structure and the relationship between governments.

## **2."one belt, one road": extension of spatial coordinates of national governance**

Any national governance is carried out in a certain geographical space. Geography is horizontal history and history is vertical geography. There is no national governance that is separated from the geographical space. Therefore, the theory of four elements of state in political science regards territory as one of the most important elements of state.

The American national governance system is closely related to the highly secure geographical structure of the United States. Similarly, the formation of centralization in the feudal dynasty is closely related to China's unique geographical conditions. For example, "China's large rivers from west to East facilitate the spread of crops and technology between coastal areas and inland areas, while the vast areas and relatively flat terrain between the East and the west of China eventually enable the water systems of these two rivers to be connected by canals, thus facilitating the exchange between the North and the south. All these geographical factors contributed to the early cultural and political unity of China. Although the area of Western Europe is similar to that of China, the terrain is relatively uneven, and there is no such integrated river. Therefore, until now, Europe has failed to achieve cultural and political unity. " the governance system created by the comprehensive factors of history, culture and geography has eternal stability, while the internal political structure and external environmental pressure of the country are constantly changing. Although the national governance will make some adjustments based on the changes of these factors, the differences caused by the historical cultural genes are long-term.

### **2.1 East West relationship**

Generally speaking, the terrain of China is "high in the West and low in the East". In the age of cold weapons, the political and military significance of geographical conditions is very important. Relying on geographical advantages, we can control the initiative of controlling the east by the West. The west is strong and the East is weak for political forces. The unity of Qin and Han Dynasties contains considerable fragility, and the gap between the East and the West has not

been completely eliminated. Once there is a chance, this gap will appear. This kind of estrangement appeared in the rebellion of different princes in the early Western Han Dynasty and the rebellion of the same princes in the middle period. The west to East system is aimed at the trend of national governance. From the perspective of China's geographical situation, this kind of confrontation is the advantage of the west, while the East is at a relative disadvantage. In the west, the terrain is relatively high. Facing the East, if we can follow the Chenggao line, we have achieved a very favorable offensive situation. In the East, at most, we can only achieve a better defensive situation. If we lose the Chenggao line, we will lose all the ground. Therefore, in the history of the East-West struggle, the Western victors are the most and the eastern victors are the least.

## 2.2 North South Relations

With the political power moving south and population moving south, the relationship between the north and the South has become the most important spatial basis of national governance.

China's administrative divisions are first set up on the basis of geographical conditions. The natural barriers formed on the basis of mountains and rivers provide natural conditions for the separation of political power. Therefore, we can see that most of the divisions in ancient China were north-south divisions. The reason why the eastern Wu regime can live on the left side of the river is based on the natural danger of the Yangtze River. Shu Kingdom can compete with Wei Shu with its weak power. It is based on the natural danger of the difficulty of Shu Road and the difficulty of going up to the blue sky. The reason why the Southern Song Dynasty regime can be partial to one side is based on the natural danger of Jianghuai. The relationship between the north and the south not only reflected the economic relations at that time, but also showed the tense political relations and distinct cultural relations. Secondly, national and military factors have also strengthened the relationship between the north and the south to a great extent.

When the national problems of the Northern Dynasties have not been solved, the north and the South will be divided; once they are solved, the north and the South will be combined. Once this problem is solved, there will be no ethnic conflicts within the Northern Dynasty, and the potential strong economic and military forces of the Northern Dynasty will be able to play out. This is beyond the resistance of the Southern Dynasty. The relationship between the north and the South presented in military is mainly strong in the north and weak in the south. The third is the North South relationship shaped by economic and immigration factors. Since the Three Kingdoms, the North has been chaotic and the south is quiet, and the migration of population from north to South has strengthened the complexity of China's North-South relations. The migration of Han people to the

South and the regime to the south are the important reasons to attract the migration of population.

### 2.3 Relations between China and the West

"One belt, one road" is a strategic plan with multiple dimensions, multiple connotations and various objectives. It is a concentrated reflection of the concept of national governance from an open and global perspective. From the perspective of the extension of the spatial coordinate of national governance, there is another implication. The strategy of "one belt, one road" has not only integrated the relations between the West and the East since ancient times, but also contained the relationship between South and South China, integrating the marine strategy and the mainland strategy based on the modern state. From the perspective of the relationship between history and reality, this idea is actually to enlarge, expand and deepen the spatial coordinates of national governance, which is a political wisdom with profound historical and global perspectives.

## **3. The historical foundation of China's national governance**

There are inheritance, improvement, endogenous evolution and substantive breakthrough, which is the internal relationship between the contemporary Chinese national governance system and the ancient national governance system. The hard to change factors cast by history, such as unification, centralization, selection of talents and abilities, are like the blood flowing in the blood vessels, which have penetrated into the marrow of Chinese culture and Chinese thinking, and are almost impossible to be removed by any force. This is the historical root of China's national governance.

### 3.1 The national root of China's national governance

The Chinese nation is the Chinese nation. The nature of the Chinese nation is "unity". The design of China's power system is power concentration. The unified leadership of the central government has become the basis of the political system structure of modern countries. The centralized power system can avoid many troubles caused by the division of interests, classes, constituencies, parties, institutions and powers. There is a long tradition of "harmony" in China, but this "harmony" is not to eliminate differences.

### 3.2 The cultural root of China's national governance

China's national governance is shaped by Chinese culture. As a kind of spiritual force formed in the long history, culture breeds four special feelings and unique endowments of China's national governance. Qian Mu, a famous historian, highly praised the cultural soul of China's national governance shaped by history. The long history of China's national governance is the expression of China's cultural value. The homogeneity of Chinese culture is based on the mainstream of the

Chinese civilization Committee. The four generations around must gradually enter the mainstream, which also represents the world, the civilized world. On the other hand, Chinese culture is also spreading and absorbing cultural elements from all over the country, thus becoming a cultural system with both openness and cohesion.

### 3.3 The root of China's national governance system

The root of China's national governance was born in the "abolition of feudalism and establishment of counties" initiated by the Qin Dynasty. If the Western Zhou Dynasty gave birth to the cultural root of China's national governance, then the unified political system of Qin Dynasty gave birth to the root of China's system. With the change of historical situation, the root of this system has constantly bred new branches and leaves, such as the later imperial examination system, the gentry system, and the official separation system, which are all the new system elements derived from the unified tradition of the Qin Dynasty, i.e. the same train, the same book and the same article, and the same line of conduct. These system elements are superimposed together, and constitute the system backbone of China's national governance.

## **4. Endogenous evolution and creative transformation of China's state governance**

China's national governance system has undergone revolutionary transformation and innovation in modern times. However, no matter what kind of transformation and innovation China's national governance system has undergone, it always has the trend of returning to its governance axis.

While thinking about the endogenous evolution of China's national governance, Chinese leaders have never forgotten how to creatively transform the traditional cultural, ideological and institutional resources into the resources of contemporary China's national governance and make them an integral part of the modern system of national governance capability. In China's splendid and long history, national history and culture have accumulated rich experience in governance and administration. As an important cultural force, Neo Confucianism always focuses on how to realize the creative transformation of Chinese tradition. Contemporary Chinese leaders' people-oriented public policies and state governance stress the connection with every citizen and every family. They emphasize the basic role of popular sentiment and public opinion in modern state governance, which is to establish state governance on the basis of solid public opinion. "Democracy" is not an ornament, but a practical "people's livelihood".

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