

## Abstracts

### **From “Fellow Traveler” to “Fatal Enemy” : The Evolution of the Perception of Islamic Extremism in the U. S. Foreign Strategy Community**

*Wang Zhen*

**Abstract:** Since the 1970s, the perception of Islamic extremism in the US foreign strategy community has gone through a complicated evolution, which has changed through different stages and closely related to its global strategy. After the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran, the U. S. foreign strategy community knew very little about the underlying Islamic jihad ideology, with attention limited to Iran and Shiite radical organizations. Out of the need of global Cold War strategy, the United States regarded radical Sunni Islamic forces as “fellow travelers” or “freedom fighters” against the expansion of the Soviet Union. After the Cold War, as these radical Islamic forces challenged the unipolar hegemony of the United States and the neoliberal international system, they turned into “extremists” and “terrorists” in American discourse. After the 9. 11 incident, in the discourse of the global counter – terror war, the US foreign strategy community linked “Islamic extremism” to “terrorism”; hence, the term almost became a synonym of “terrorism” worldwide. Nevertheless, as the United States shifts its emphasis back on major power competition, *threat* of the Islamic extremism is fading in the perception spectrum of US foreign strategy community.

**Key words:** Islamic extremism; the United States; foreign strategy community; the Middle East; strategic perception

### **Local Choices of Sub – Saharan Africa in Tackling Environment and Climate Change**

*Zhang Yonghong & Wang Da*

**Abstract:** In Sub – Saharan Africa, idea of harmonious coexistence of man and nature and the underlying social mechanisms based on indigenous religions, such as “animism”, taboos, the institution of sacred grove, the totem system and the traditional power system, have played fundamental roles in environmental governance, mitigation and adaptation to climate change. The key fields regarding coping with climate change, including agriculture, meteorology, and technical innovation, cannot be separated from indigenous knowledge. In fact, many countries

attach great importance to the use of such knowledge to enhance their adaptability to climate change. Because traditional communities are generally linked by families, villages and tribes, as basic functional units in society. Reshaping the function of such communities and developing community – based adaptation are irreplaceable aspects in response to climate change. In the future, it is a common choice for the Sub – Saharan Africa to tackle climate change through enhancing the utilization efficiency of biomass energy, gradually getting rid of the dependence on firewood and charcoal and building the modern energy system.

**Key words:** climate change; Sub – Saharan Africa; indigenous religions; indigenous knowledge; traditional communities; new energy

### **Connotation, Progress and Challenges of Energy Transition in Africa**

*Zhang Rui*

**Abstract:** Energy transition is the only way for Africa to achieve sustainable development, and also a common evolution of African political, economic, technological, and social systems. African energy transition not only has the universal characteristics of global transformation, but also forms unique connotations based on its development foundation and resource endowments. African energy transition can be summarized as “one core goal and three action priorities”: building a modern low – carbon, economically applicable energy system as the core goal; taking into account both “distributed utilization” and “centralized exploitation” in clean energy development, accelerating the construction of power grids in energy transmission, and promoting the joint development of the energy industry and various modern industries in terms of endogenous driving force as three priorities. At present, the scale of development of clean energy in Africa is constantly expanding, the planning and construction of power grids are continually strengthened, incentive policies and innovative business models keep emerging, and the international community continues to provide assistance. However, there are still many severe challenges, including the institutional, financing and human resources dilemmas in the African energy field, power imbalance in decision – making system and constraints on the hydro power development. As an active participant, builder and contributor in Africa’s energy transition, China should strengthen cooperation in energy infrastructure construction and industrial chain investment, and enhance Africa’s independent development capabilities.

**Key words:** energy transition; carbon neutral; Africa; clean energy; popularization

of electricity; power grid

### **From the Fringe to the Center: An Analysis of Developments of Climate Politics in South Africa**

*Zhao Bin*

**Abstract:** In 1994, South Africa set up the National Climate Change Commission, officially launching the climate political agenda. In 1997 and 2002, South Africa ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol respectively. At COP15 in 2009, South Africa became an important participant in global climate change issues, working with other emerging powers to reshape and influence the global climate governance agenda. With the development of its climate politics, South Africa has carried out climate diplomacy by strengthening interaction with other African countries and emerging economies, participating in global multilateral cooperation mechanisms, and promoting bilateral dialogue and cooperation to express South Africa's political statement and interest demands on climate change. In the post-Paris Agreement era, South Africa needs to cast off predicaments of insufficient policy coordination between cross-sector and climate governance administrative departments, insufficient governance and technical capabilities of public sector, and lack of climate financing and reliable information, strive to improve the mechanism of climate change mitigation, and promote the realization of green and low-carbon development and industry transformation of the domestic economy and society.

**Key words:** global climate governance; Paris Agreement; South Africa; climate politics; green and low-carbon development

### **African Issues of Climate Geopolitical Competition and Cooperation and China – Africa Cooperation**

*Yu Hongyuan & Wang Wanfa*

**Abstract:** The process of global climate governance will profoundly affect geopolitical relations, and geo-competitive and cooperative relations will also shape the direction of cooperation in global climate governance. In the context of geopolitics, Africa's climate issues have become the frontiers of competition and cooperation among major powers. Africa's role in global climate governance has become more complicated, and new changes have emerged with the increase of Africa's autonomy and the influences of competition among major powers. With the

acceleration of the new round of industrial revolution worldwide and the strengthening of global carbon neutrality trends, especially the transformation of economic and social development to a green and low carbon one, the reorganization of the world geopolitical structure, and the transformation of international order, African climate issues in the transition of global climate geo – competition and transformation have the dual logic of Africa’s autonomy and the co – operation of big powers. Under the influence of climate geopolitical competition and cooperation, Africa is becoming a stage for game and competition among major forces, which is mainly reflected in climate leadership, climate program supply and climate capacity building. The key connotation is climate geopolitical competition and cooperation changes. The major powers play a competitive role in Africa’s response to climate change. At the same time, they are intertwined with climate cooperation, focusing on multilateral climate negotiations and multilateral international development cooperation. Under the guidance of the goal of building a closer China – Africa partnership on climate change and a closer China – Africa Community with a Shared Future in the new era, China – Africa climate cooperation should further explore and innovate traditional cooperation methods and improve cooperation efficiency and effectiveness.

**Key words:** climate geopolitical competition and cooperation; Africa; competition among major powers; China – Africa cooperation; China – Africa community with a shared future

### **Historical Interaction between Egypt and the Modern World System in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century**

*Wang Tai & Ren Yu*

**Abstract:** Egypt under the control of Muhammad Ali and his family faced a world of globalization dominated and shaped by the British Empire in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Egypt’s large – scale cotton cultivation and the huge benefits brought about by the American Civil War provided high – quality raw materials for the United Kingdom, and at the same time, Egypt was economically involved in the global market. The excavation and navigation of the Suez Canal in the mid – 19<sup>th</sup> century not only provided unprecedented convenience for Asia, Africa and Europe, but also enabled Egypt to be involved in the rapid development of global trade at that time. By the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Egyptian government’s model of promoting national development through large – scale overseas financial lending came to an end. In 1876, Egypt declared bankruptcy,

and Britain and France began to formally take over Egypt's "finance and construction" power. The three major historical events of cotton planting and its production, the opening of the Suez Canal, and the large-scale overseas financial lending, are the global textile industry, the international transportation industry and the global financial industry dominated by the British in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The essence of development is that Egypt was completely controlled and occupied by British colonialism from economy to politics. These three events were connected, and interlocked. Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Egypt began the abnormal modernization in the process of being included in the modern world system.

**Key words:** Egypt; globalization in the 19<sup>th</sup> century; modern world system; Muhammad Ali

### **Analysis of Origins of Impasse of State Governance in Lebanon**

*Ding Long & Liu Guoxi*

**Abstract:** In recent years, Lebanon's political and economic crises have erupted frequently, and the impasse of the state governance has been deepening. The main reasons for the impasse of Lebanon's governance include: the low level of nation-building and low level of social integration, the power-sharing political system, political patron-client relationships and quasi-rentier economy. The sectarian power sharing governance's system strengthens ethnic identity, reduces political capabilities, and provides space of external interference. The political clientelism distorts the relationship between government and business, leading to inefficient governance, the economic oligarchy and the transaction of power and money. The quasi-rentier economy intensifies political sectarianization, resulting in the hollowing out of the industry and causes economic fragility and dependence. In the short run, international aid is indispensable to solve the economic crisis in Lebanon. However, implementing political and economic reform and exploring the path of independent development are fundamental way out of the governance impasse for Lebanon.

**Key words:** state governance; Lebanon; sectarian power sharing system; patron-client relationships; equasi-rentier economy

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