

Abstracts

Mirroring Hostile Discourses in Conflict: Narratives of Israel and Iran

Zhang Yuan & Xiao Xiunv

Abstract: Hostile discourse is an important dimension for exploring the conflict between Israel and Iran. Since the Iranian Islamic Revolution in 1979, the political discourse between Israel and Iran has changed from moderate to hostile. The hostile discourse between Israel and Iran has led to three types of hostile discourse mirroring mechanisms with low to high coupling degrees, namely, uncoupling, loose coupling, and complete coupling, which correspond to the three images of ideological competitors, degenerating competitors, and implacable enemies. The higher the degree of coupling, the more obvious the mirroring effect of Israel and Iran's confrontation around the 'basic discourse'. In the state of complete coupling, Israel and Iran attack each other through identity 'imitation' and representation 'projection' symbols in the context of 'choice - myth - trauma' narratives, constantly subverting each other's discourse and maintaining their own legitimacy. Although the hostile discourse and confrontational practices of the two countries are not completely consistent and have a certain performative and irrational nature, as the mirror coupling is maintained as a normal state, the mirroring hostile discourse integrated into daily political and social life gradually becomes a reference to one's own situation, inevitably carrying the dimension of real political domination, stimulating and promoting the escalation of conflicts and even military confrontation between Israel and Iran.

Key words: relations among Middle East countries; mirroring hostile discourse; Iran; Israel; mirror coupling

Dilemmas and Pathways to Collaborative Governance in Smart Cities of the Gulf Arab States

Li Zhenjie & Che Xiaomei

Abstract: As a novel urban governance model, multi-agent collaborative governance has increasingly demonstrated its enabling role in smart city governance. In recent

years, against the backdrop of the global new technological revolution, Gulf Arab states have actively explored innovations by applying this cutting – edge concept to their smart city governance practices. Through collaborations among government departments, market entities, social organizations, and citizen participants, these countries have established a basic framework for smart city collaborative governance tailored to their socio – economic characteristics. Key measures include refining top – level designs, constructing multi – stakeholder dialogue platforms, expanding application scenarios for collaborative governance, and enhancing forward – looking planning and strategic deployment. However, given the complexity and challenges inherent in smart city governance, Gulf Arab states continue to face multiple dilemmas in advancing this new collaborative model. These challenges primarily manifest as weak collaborative foundations, insufficient decentralization of power and empowerment, lack of robust guarantee mechanisms, underdeveloped multi – stakeholder ecosystems, and inefficient evaluation and feedback channels. These issues significantly constrain the effectiveness of collaborative governance in the region. To address these challenges, Gulf Arab states must closely align with local realities, integrate advanced governance concepts and technologies, and continuously improve their operational mechanisms for smart city collaborative governance. By doing so, they will gradually develop a distinctive and advantageous collaborative governance system for smart cities. This system will not only provide robust support for the modernization of urban governance in the region but also contribute innovative solutions to the global development of smart cities.

Key words: smart cities; Gulf Arab states; multi – agent collaborative governance; modernization of urban governance

The Approach to High – Quality Development of China – GCC Cross – border E – commerce in the Context of New Quality Productive Forces

Wang Xiaoyu

Abstract: The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries are key partners with China among Global South nations in advancing the digital transformation of trade, with cross – border e – commerce serving as a focal point in the digitalization of China – GCC trade. New quality productive forces, centered on technological

innovation, have become a critical driving force behind the high-quality development of China-GCC cross-border e-commerce. Driven by policy support and multi-sectoral collaboration, China-GCC cross-border e-commerce cooperation has optimized trade structures, enhanced logistics efficiency, stimulated new business models, and advanced localized payment systems. By leveraging cutting-edge technologies to enable end-to-end operations, new quality productive forces will accelerate the quality and efficiency improvements in China-GCC cross-border e-commerce, enhancing its flexibility and resilience in a complex global market environment. In this context, the high-quality development of China-GCC cross-border e-commerce benefits from opportunities like GCC countries' development visions, high consumer demand, demographic dividend, social e-commerce growth, and international capital and technology, while addressing challenges in legal frameworks, logistics, payment systems, market competition, and cultural adaptation. Looking ahead, China and the GCC countries are committed to strengthening digital infrastructure, expanding financial connectivity, optimizing consumer experiences, improving the skills of practitioners, and enhancing platform risk management. These efforts continuously drive cross-border e-commerce toward intelligent upgrades, global expansion, and deeper integration with digital trade, establishing a benchmark for high-quality cross-border e-commerce development among Global South nations.

Key words: cross-border e-commerce; China-GCC cooperation; new quality productive forces; technological empowerment; high-quality development

The Major Powers' Coordination and the Regional Security Autonomy: Progress, Features, and Challenges of the UN Peacekeeping in Africa

Chen Yiyi

Abstract: The United Nations (UN) peacekeeping in Africa is profoundly shaped by the interactions of the security logic of the major powers' coordination and the regional security autonomy. From the United Nations Operation in the Congo (ONUC) under the background of the influence competition between the US and the Soviet Union during the Cold War, to the "multi-dimensional peacekeeping" which constantly enlarges the mandates of peacekeeping during the new era where the

regional securitization is strengthened, and then to the Western major powers' invasion into the peacekeeping which is featured by the security idea of stabilization, and then finally to the significant uncertainty of peacekeeping when China firmly supports peacekeeping, the US holds negative attitude towards peacekeeping, and the tensioned security cooperation relations between the Western major powers, the different phases of the UN peacekeeping in Africa reflect the competition – cooperation ties between the security logic of the major powers' intervention and the African security autonomy. Under this background, the multi – level coordination between the UN and the regional or sub – regional organizations in Africa, the integration of African local conflict management experience and the UN' s global peacekeeping experience, and the peacekeeping mandates that combine the civil and military targets under the interactions between the peacekeeping host countries' facts and major powers' interests, constitute the core features of the UN peacekeeping in Africa. In the future, UN peacekeeping in Africa will still face several challenges, including mixed threats from host countries, the harassing influence of Western values, and intensified competition of interests resulting from the use of AI. As the only Global South country among the permanent members of the UNSC, China proposes security ideas based on its practice, and these ideas are conducive to harmonizing the security logic of major powers' coordination and regional security autonomy, which contribute to solving the aforementioned challenges.

Key words: the United Nations peacekeeping; Africa; major powers' coordination; regional autonomy; Global South

The Support and Value from the “African Consensus” to the UN Multilateralism

Yang Baorong & Fan Kai

Abstract: Multilateralism is the foundation and principle of the formation of global governance, and practicing “true multilateralism” directly relates to the deepening improvement of the global governance system and mechanisms. African countries have long expressed their development concerns and attention to major international issues in a collective manner known as the “African Consensus,” which reflects true multilateralism position. The formation and development of the “African Consensus” has undergone a process from identity construction to the institutionalization of

collective behavior, reflecting Africa independent development and contributing to the progress in international relations. Africa's response to a series of developments with "consensus" reflects the characteristics of the timeliness, independence, practicality, and innovation. The "African Consensus" supports the practice, theory, and trend of UN multilateralism, enriching the theory of UN multilateral. In terms of global governance, the "African Consensus" has promoted multilateral cooperation, not only providing necessary support for African countries to integrate global governance, but also enhancing Africa's participation and voice in international governance. The positive performance of the "African Consensus" in independently addressing the governance deficit, trust deficit, peace deficit and development deficit is of great significance for deepening South-South cooperation and the goal of a community with a shared future for mankind through global common development.

Key words: Pan-Africanism; African Consensus; independent development; UN; Multilateralism; Global South

The Political Economy Analysis of Israel's Settler Colonialism Behavior

Li Huiruo

Abstract: One of the primary causes of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict lies in Israel's establishment of settlements in Palestinian territories, which continuously encroaches on Palestinian living space. Since 1967, Israel's persistent construction of settlements has exhibited the characteristics typical of settler colonialism behavior. However, unlike other colonial regimes that exploit indigenous populations for economic and political gains, Israel's settler-colonial expansion is driven by a coalition of capital monopolists and right-wing religious Zionists under the neoliberal wave. Their coalition has been reshaping the geopolitical landscape through land privatization. In other words, the imperative of capital accumulation constitutes the core driving force behind the sustained expansion of Israeli settler colonialism, wherein capital has acquired power transcending national boundaries in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian issue. To this end, Israel employs tools such as land laws and international economic agreements to erode Palestinian territorial and economic sovereignty, systematically undermining Palestine's capacity for autonomous

development. Thus, the Israeli – Palestinian issue is not merely a territorial dispute but a localized manifestation of global capital dynamics. From the perspective of production of space, the settlements have engendered new class divisions, rendering both Palestinian and Israeli working classes exploited within this monopolistic structure. Only by breaking capital monopolies and restructuring class alliances can a genuine resolution to the Israeli – Palestinian conflict be explored.

Key words: Palestine – Israel issue; settler colonialism; Israeli settlement; religious Zionism; neo – liberalism; privatization

Knowledge Tool and Power Discourse: Israel’s Exclusive Construction of Palestine Maps

Yan Tao

Abstract: Since the 1920s, some Zionist organizations have used maps as a knowledge tool to express the spatial vision of Palestine as the homeland of the Jewish nation. At the same time, the dissemination and promotion of such iconic maps have also aroused emotional resonance among Jews around the world and attracted them to immigrate to Palestine. After Israel’s establishment in 1948, state – led Hebraization of cartography emerged to integrate Jewish historical narratives with modern geographical consciousness. Consequently, thousands of locations and landscapes were renamed in Hebrew, creating “legitimacy” for Jewish collective identity and Israeli nation – building. Essentially, this practice constructed exclusionary spaces privileging Jewish claims while deliberately marginalizing Palestinian presence. Through cartographic representations before and after statehood, Israel shaped Palestinian space as the “Other”, establishing spatial hierarchies of “presence and absence”, “progress and regression”, and “security and terror”. Thus, maps not only facilitated Jewish nation – building but also functioned as power discourse in spatial contestation over Palestine, it has become an important dimension for examining the conflict between Jews and Palestinians.

Key words: the Palestinian – Israeli issue; map; Jew; Israel; Palestine

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