

Influence of Epidemic Situation on International Pattern and China's Countermeasures

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ABSTRACT. 2020 is a thrilling year from the beginning. When the world's "unprecedented change in a hundred years" is superimposed with the impact of the epidemic, besides the impact on the global economic development, the world politics and international pattern will also be greatly affected. It not only strengthens some emerging trends in the international situation and aggravates various existing contradictions in international relations, but also brings more uncertain factors to the international environment and makes the world face more risks and challenges. With the development of the epidemic, more and more experts and scholars have predicted the development of the international pattern and judged the direction of the global order. Therefore, China needs to have a global perspective and adapt itself to the evolution of international competition pattern with an open attitude and positive actions. On the one hand, accelerate the process of economic integration in the Asia-Pacific region; On the other hand, it leads economic growth by expanding domestic demand and independent innovation.

KEYWORDS: Epidemic situation, International pattern, Impact, Countermeasures

1. Introduction

The COVID-19 epidemic, which has swept the world, has spread rapidly and spread widely, and its prevention and control is unprecedented since the end of World War II. It is also very rare in the history of human struggle against viruses for thousands of years. The international pattern refers to a stable structural state and power contrast situation formed by the major countries, regions or organizations in the world in a certain historical period from their own interests in mutual restraint, mutual influence and interaction [1]. From a global perspective, the pneumonia epidemic in COVID-19 has obviously had a very significant impact and damage on China's national economy and social life. However, from the perspective of the whole economic development trend, the impact of the epidemic is staged, and this stage will not last. The epidemic aggravates the decline of America's status at the image level, that is, the political and psychological level. Today, it is impossible to regard America as the undisputed world leader. The reputation of the United States has been extremely heavy blow [2]. On the whole, the COVID-19 epidemic is the catalyst for the unprecedented changes in the past century, which not only strengthens some trends that have already appeared in the international situation and aggravates various existing contradictions in international relations, but also brings more uncertain factors to the international environment, and makes the world face more risks and challenges. The world has entered a more turbulent and uncertain period.

2. Influence of Epidemic Situation on International Pattern

2.1 *The International Pattern Has Been Reshuffled*

Epidemic situation has greatly reshuffled the international pattern. For hundreds of years (especially in modern times), Europe has been the global geopolitical center, which once concentrated the world's major economic, political and military powers, and was also the global industrial and logistics center. However, in the face of this world war, which is not a "man-to-man" war, the fragility of Europe and the European Union is obvious, which leads to a new "reshuffle" of the international pattern. On the one hand, there are more than one million confirmed cases of pneumonia in COVID-19 in Europe, accounting for nearly half of the confirmed cases in the world. Large European countries such as Spain, Italy, Germany, France, Britain and other countries all have more than 100,000 confirmed cases. The most direct impact of the epidemic is that the normal state of personal and social life is interrupted, the running track of economy and politics is disrupted, and the existing balance of international relations is broken. In addition, some companies pay more attention to protecting the safety of their own industrial chains and supply chains, and need to seek a balance between safety and economic benefits. In the process of global anti-epidemic, we see the surging trend of

anti-globalization. Nowadays, the outbreak of the epidemic has caused leftist political forces all over the world to call for “supply chain return”, which seems determined to decouple from the whole world. If the United States lost only the war outside its own country in the past, now the whole world has seen that they lost the war against the epidemic in their own country. This is also the inevitable fate of the American “all-powerful” image [3-4]. Some scholars believe that the epidemic has changed the development direction of human history, but some scholars believe that the epidemic has accelerated or delayed historical development, rather than reshaping history [5]. It can be seen that under the background of the global epidemic situation, the “reshuffle” of the international pattern is increasingly intensified.

2.2. The international pattern and international order will change in favor of non-Western countries and Asia-Pacific countries

Under the global epidemic situation, the international pattern and order will change and develop in favor of non-Western countries and Asia-Pacific countries. On the one hand, western countries such as the United States and Europe have become the “hardest hit areas” of pneumonia in COVID-19, and their economies are difficult to get rid of difficulties in the short term, while most non-western countries and developing countries are relatively less affected. On the other hand, in the face of the pneumonia epidemic in COVID-19, the United States and Europe and other western countries have gone their own way and lacked of effective cooperation. To restore the normal track of economic and political operation, it is necessary to recuperate, strengthen resilience, adjust the policy agenda and fill the shortcomings of the system. Therefore, international cooperation may take geographical and geopolitical factors into account more. Enterprises from various countries that invest overseas may focus their operations closer to their home countries. Needless to say, the United States has fewer and fewer means for diplomacy and high military operations. The United States has no means to launch the kind of active foreign policy that they pursued in the second half of the 20th century. The domestic and international performance of the world's major powers in resisting the epidemic and the effect of economic recovery after the epidemic will directly determine their new international status, which will lead to new changes in regional and world economic, political and international security patterns. This not only makes American hawks more worried that America's hegemonic position in the world will be replaced by other countries, but also makes President Trump lose the most powerful economic trump card for re-election. In comparison, the United Nations is still trying its best to ensure the smooth progress of important work through various measures. During the epidemic, the United Nations and its affiliated institutions played an important role, and its international influence will be further enhanced in the future. Just as human society will eventually put the COVID-19 epidemic under normal control, we also need to find a sustainable way to rebalance the world pattern.

2.3 The Game between China and the United States is Becoming Increasingly Hot

In recent years, the game between China and the United States has become more and more fierce, especially after the outbreak of the epidemic situation. On the one hand, the epidemic situation has made the international geopolitical situation more severe, and the strategic competition among big countries has become more intense, especially the game between China and the United States has become increasingly hot. On the other hand, facing the severe situation caused by the epidemic, the European countries that claim to be the most integrated have failed to keep watch and help each other. When Italy, Spain, Austria and other countries became the hardest hit areas, the EU failed to shoulder its due obligations, which had a negative impact on European unity and European integration. To restore the normal track of economic and political operation, it is necessary to recuperate, strengthen resilience, adjust the policy agenda and fill the shortcomings of the system. The United States, Europe and Japan pay more and more attention to security issues, and consider more economic issues, science and technology issues and national security issues. At the same time, the strategic game between China and the United States will continue to intensify. Trump's trade protectionism policy is bound to increase, and attacks against multilateralism will intensify. Strengthening cooperation and coordination between China and the United States is of irreplaceable significance for controlling the global epidemic and stabilizing the global economic and social development. Unfortunately, under the influence of the wrong orientation of American policy towards China, the epidemic situation has not only failed to promote the cooperation between China and the United States, but has made bilateral relations go further and further towards vicious competition. The unemployment rate in the United States has been rising and the economy has been hit hard [6]. Is 2020 really the year of American collapse? At present, it is difficult to determine, but the decline of the United States is the general trend. Despite the increasingly fierce Sino-US game, it is undeniable that Americans are increasingly tired of trying to save the decline of hegemony by sanctions, threats, ostentation of force and pressure by force, and the profound process of the decline of the United States has been unstoppable.

2.4 Great Power Competition and Multipolarization Are Accelerating

On the basis of the economic reset of globalization, it corresponds to the impact of the epidemic on international

relations and world politics, and the competition and multipolarization of big countries are accelerating. Returning to realism, improving comprehensive strength and pursuing influence range will be the keynote of international relations and competition among major powers in the coming period. The end of the “Cold War”, the rise of East Asian countries in 1980s, the global financial crisis in 2008, and so on, all these events have subtly adjusted and changed the international order [7]. If Iraq is the starting point for the “unipolar world” to come to an end, then the COVID-19 epidemic has drawn the end for this process. The epidemic will put an end to the funeral of American “new global hegemony” before the third decade of the 21st century [8]. In recent years, the call to reform and rebuild the global governance system and enhance the global governance capacity is growing. But on the whole, it has little effect. At the root, protectionism, unilateralism, nationalism and populism are the biggest obstacles, and “American priority” is the biggest obstacle. China has successfully curbed the further spread of the epidemic by playing its institutional and industrial chain advantages, which not only made an important contribution to the global war against the epidemic, but also enhanced the confidence of all countries in the world in overcoming the epidemic. The epidemic has exposed the problems existing in the public health and epidemic prevention system in the United States and many western countries. Under this background, with the accelerated development of big country competition and multipolarization, the self-confidence and complacency built up by the western liberal democratic system in terms of national governance ability for many years have been severely damaged, and the “final conclusion of history” represented by the western development road has been further ended by history.

3. China's Coping Strategies under the Influence of Epidemic Situation

3.1. Stabilize production, stabilize foreign trade, stabilize orders, and increase policy support for foreign trade

On the premise of strictly preventing and controlling epidemic situation, we should give great policy support to foreign trade. According to the influence degree of global value chain, industrial chain and supply chain links, priority should be given to resuming work in an orderly manner, so as to restore the key production and manufacturing capabilities of enterprises, ensure the supply chain safety of raw materials and core parts production, and give key support to its weak links. According to the development and impact of the epidemic situation, we should further increase fiscal and tax support, moderately adjust the level of fiscal deficit, adjust the structure of fiscal expenditure, increase structural tax reduction, and extend the period of reduction or holdover of social insurance premiums in proportion to reduce some administrative fees. China's economic fundamentals still have considerable room for manoeuvre, resilience and growth, which is very worthy of recognition. With the efforts of industrialization and urbanization to further promote high-quality development, the potential of China's economy should be fully stimulated. Therefore, on the one hand, by improving the level of urbanization, we can create consumption demand, drive investment growth and promote economic service, and realize the benign interaction between economic development and sustained expansion of domestic demand. On the other hand, speeding up the reform of household registration system will transform migrant workers from “urban population” in statistical sense to consumers with undifferentiated citizenship. Appropriately increase the amount of business guarantee loans, increase the proportion of discount interest funds of the central government for business guarantee loans in areas seriously affected by the epidemic, and lower the threshold for small and medium-sized enterprises and self-employed individuals to apply for business guarantee loans. At present, China Development Bank and Export-Import Bank have indicated that they intend to issue special bonds for epidemic prevention and emergency financing, and should continue to push policy banks to take similar measures in the future.

3.2 Establish a New Strategy of Global Economic Cycle

After China's economic development has entered the “new normal”, to achieve sustainable economic development, it is very important to explore and formulate new strategies for China's economic development according to the new changes in the international economic structure. On the one hand, China should further deepen its economic reform in an all-round way, continue to tap the institutional potential, and demand dividends from the reform. On the other hand, China should set out from the new characteristics of the new period and construct a new strategy of global economic circulation. We will promote all-round and three-dimensional diplomacy, properly handle relations among all parties, and expand and deepen the convergence of interests with various countries. China's international strategy should focus on economy, which does not mean that China will naturally become a world power without economic development. Single economic development can only produce natural influence, but because of the lack of national development goals, it will have a negative impact on the outside world. China should actively participate in international exchanges and cooperation, especially promote regional economic cooperation and international cooperation among Asian emerging market countries, such as actively participating in the Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership Agreement (TPP) and strengthening economic cooperation with neighboring countries; With the continuous close global exchanges and contacts, peace has become a trend, and any behavior that harms global peace and stability will inevitably be strongly opposed by people. We believe that the time has come for China to promote the adjustment of

China's economic structure and industrial layout through the further construction of the international opening pattern. This is a historic opportunity period of win-win cooperation, which we must seize.

3.3 Continue to Strengthen Economic Cooperation with Developed Countries

Great power relations have always been the core and focus of foreign relations. The handling of relations between big countries is directly related to the stability and development of countries. In history, large-scale wars were mostly initiated by big countries, and in foreign political, economic, trade and cultural exchanges, big country exchanges have occupied an important part. International organizations and conferences help the international community to develop in the direction of order, democratization and standardization. At present, some big countries often use international organizations and conferences to serve their own political goals and economic interests. China has also participated in many international organizations and conferences, but it is still passive and weak on the whole. Efforts should be made to improve the concepts and methods of public diplomacy, and to create a public diplomacy discourse system with Chinese national characteristics and conforming to international rules. Ideological strength is the cornerstone of constructing the status of a great power. The world increasingly needs a Chinese-style public diplomacy that understands and is better at explaining China clearly. In view of the intention of the United States and other developed countries to pass on responsibilities and risks to China through "global economic rebalancing", instead of responding passively, China should actively participate in relevant international coordination and resolve pressure by gaining more right to speak and make rules. Win strategic initiative; By strengthening economic cooperation and ties with countries all over the world, developing countries will be enhanced in their strategic position in the G20, and the overall strength of Asian countries including China and other developing countries will be enhanced to promote the sustainable development of the world economy.

3.4 Enrich the content of foreign exchanges according to the new changes in the pattern of international relations

The traditional political and military forces, as well as the current economy, science and technology, culture, national system, values and other factors are all influencing the formation of the new pattern of international relations. Actively participate in and promote the solution of global and international hot issues. Global issues and international hot issues are contradictions and difficulties that mankind faces together. The process of solving these problems is a duel between countries, especially big countries, and a process in which countries exert their influence and talents and show their strength and status. At the policy level, China should actively promote the rationalization and improvement of the international monetary system, accelerate the internationalization of RMB, strengthen regional cooperation in currency, strengthen the international coordination of various economic policies and mechanisms, and promote the improvement of international mechanisms to promote balanced global development. Developed countries should be more actively invited to participate in the construction of AIIB, and jointly promote the improvement of global infrastructure and interconnection and development. Facing the rich and diverse influencing factors, if we want to make our country invincible in the competition and at the same time effectively safeguard our national interests, we need to enrich our diplomatic content and enrich our diplomatic foundation in the changing pattern of international relations. At the same time, it creates conditions for promoting the coordinated development of China's own economy and striving for initiative and even leading power in the reshaping of the international division of labor system.

4. Conclusion

In a word, after the epidemic, the relationship between China and the world becomes more complicated, there will be more uncertain factors in the world economic, political and security situation, and the risks and challenges faced by China will be greater. In this regard, we should "adhere to the bottom line thinking, and make ideological and work preparations for dealing with changes in the external environment for a long time.". Facing the current situation, China needs to maintain extraordinary strategic strength, see clearly the development trend at home and abroad, conform to the historical trend, do its own thing well, and actively promote the construction of a community of human destiny. On the one hand, countries should prepare and reserve the necessary materials to deal with non-traditional security threats at any time; On the other hand, countries should not only adjust the economic system, political system, security system and national mentality in a timely manner, but also promote the reform and optimization of relevant international mechanisms and international organizations, so as to adapt them to the huge needs of the continuous development and progress of human society. The globalized world will not disappear, but it will become something else to a great extent. Like any over-development trend, globalism will be restricted by people's objective needs, because the latter has better realized the advantages and disadvantages of this theory. We will not bid farewell to the globalized world, but will live in it in another way.

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