

Black Evil Forces and Governing Countermeasures in Rural China

Wenzhao Gu ^{1,a,*}

¹*College of Humanities and Law, Huazhong Agricultural University, No.1, Shizishan Street, Wuhan, China*

a.2318748078@qq.com

**corresponding author*

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Abstract: China is a large agricultural country. The security situation in rural areas directly affects the stability and development of rural society, and is even related to the overall stability of the whole country. However, nowadays, there are endless criminal cases caused by the rampant black evil forces in China's rural areas, which have a serious impact on the stable operation and development of social order. This paper begins with analyzing the serious harm brought by the activities of the rural black evil forces from three aspects of politics, economy and culture. Then it analyzes the causes of the rampant rural black evil forces based on current situation and characteristics of the phenomenon in China's rural areas. Finally, it puts forward ideas and countermeasures to maintain social order in rural areas.

1. Introduction

In the new era, the social structure and public security situation in China's rural areas have undergone profound changes. As atomization occurring in rural areas, many of these places have lost their traditional ability of self-organization. With the continuous urbanization process, China's rural areas have unprecedented interest space and gray chain in the fields of minerals, construction, demolition and so on, expanding the living space of the black evil forces there [1]. Nowadays, there are endless reports about the evil forces in China's rural areas. The case of Liu Yongtian in Liu Village, Luogang District, Guangzhou City, and the case of Liu in Nanchang County, Jiangxi Province, have become typical cases of rural gangs in the past two years. This model is represented by the unique "clan power" in the countryside, and is also closely related to the grassroots administrative personnel.

The security situation in rural areas directly affects the stability of rural society, influencing the development of the whole rural society and the overall stability of the whole country. This paper first analyzes the social harm caused by the activities of the black evil forces in rural areas. Based on current situation and characteristics of the phenomenon in rural areas in China, it analyzes the causes from multiple perspectives, according to which it finally puts forward countermeasures to maintain social order in rural areas.

2. Harm Caused by Activities of Black Evil Forces in Rural Areas

The activities of the black evil forces in rural areas will cause serious harm to the whole society in politics, economy and culture:

(1) Politically: The black evil forces in rural areas will harm the system of democratic autonomy at the grassroots level and hinder the standardization and institutionalization of the process of rural democratic politics. As it's known to all, since the founding of China, rural China have gradually implemented the system of democratic autonomy at the grassroots level with the village committee (neighborhood committee) as the main body. According to Deng Xiaoping, "The reason why our rural reform is effective is that we give farmers more autonomy and mobilize their enthusiasm. 80% of China's population is farmers. Without the enthusiasm of farmers, the country cannot develop" [2]. In reality, however, some black evil forces in rural areas have intervened in village level elections, seized power and openly opposed the grassroots political power, seriously threatening and interfering with the normal management of rural grassroots organizations. This kind of behavior makes the grassroots self-government system be controlled by the leaders of "rural black evil forces" and no longer democratic. The autocratic management carried out by those leaders has greatly hit the enthusiasm of the peasants to participate in the village affairs.

(2) Economically: The black evil forces in rural areas will have a great destructive effect on the development of rural economy. They often control and monopolize the production resources that originally belonged to all villagers, behind which there exist huge economic benefits. Due to this industrial monopoly, the black evil forces make all or most of the interests originally belonging to the collective belong to themselves, and the farmers do not work for themselves but for the "leaders of the black evil forces". This has a great impact on the enthusiasm of farmers' production, and even to a certain extent reduces agricultural output.

(3) Culturally: The black evil forces in rural areas will have a negative impact on the management culture of Chinese villages. Since ancient times, from the implementation of the official positions of "Sanlao", "Youfu" and "Youzhi" in the Qin Dynasty to the implementation of "Baojia" Law in the Song Dynasty, it has been a "binary system" that combines the government dominant regulation based on the law and the aristocratic family's management based on the etiquette. However, the clan force in the village, as a black and evil force, seriously hinders the implementation of the government's legal norms. As a result, the management culture of "binary system" has gradually become an abnormal management culture that the lineage connects with the government and the etiquette substitutes the law, which has brought great hidden trouble to the rural public security.

3. Current Situation and Characteristics of Black Evil Forces in Rural China

At present, the black evil forces in rural China mainly show the following characteristics:

(1) There are many manipulation and support of political power organizations, among which the primary feature is that the village officials involving in the black forces. With the development of market economy and the flow of rural population, the political power organizations in some rural areas tend to be involved in the underworld. And with the change of the standards for identifying them, the concealment of village cadres' involvement in the underworld is stronger, and the identification is more and more difficult [3]. Some of them are especially rampant, directly whitewashing the underworld organizations, and making the leaders of the underworld act as village officers. The typical case is the case of a gangland-related group led by Chen in Chenzhou, Hunan Province [4]. The organization of rural political power involved in the blackout seriously corrodes the rural grassroots political power, destroys the rural political, economic and social environment, and hinders the implementation of the Rural Revitalization Strategy, harming social stability.

(2) Black evil forces and clan forces collude with each other. Since ancient times, the rural community in China has always been a binary power system. The first level is the formal power of

the state. The second level is the clan power in the countryside, which is highly autonomous. The combination of these two forces forms a typical form of the black evil forces. This feature is mainly reflected in the rapid development of some local illegal clan organizations, the fast expansion of clan power, threatening and stealing the village-level regime, and even the phenomena that the grassroots regime is controlled by patriarchal clan and the clan power is greater than local regime. At present, China's rural areas are far less peaceful than they were 20 or 30 years ago. Illegal clan organizations no longer rely on their "etiquette" to persuade people and manage people, but use their force to extract the results of farmers' labor, thus destroying the peaceful and harmonious cultural and social environment in the rural areas.

(3) Economic monopoly leads to some phenomena of involvement in the black evil forces. Some gangs monopolize and control local resources such as mines and ponds, making the outsiders dare not to buy them, so they can buy them at the lowest price and make profits. When some outsiders come to invest, they also illegally collect protection fees through violence. In the case of Zhu's involvement in the black forces in Baiyun District, Zhu and his group forcibly occupied more than 400 mu of mountain land rented by a medical equipment company for illegal operation. They twice ordered Zeng and other people to gather more than 100 people to go to that company and its rented mountain land with sticks and broadswords for "setting up" and force the owner and employees of the company to move away by means of verbal threat and intimidation. When they got the area, they refused to pay any rent to the original owner. In this case, Zhu and his group monopolized the local mountain resources and, in order to seize the interests, threatened the "non-local companies" with violence who came to do business. They even did not purchase with the lowest price, but directly took over it. This is a typical and extreme case. Although this kind of extreme cases do not occupy the majority, but not-extreme low-cost acquisition cases emerge one after another, and have a great impact on the development of rural township enterprises.

4. Reasons for Black Evil Forces in Rural Areas

There are many reasons for the prominent public security problems in rural China. As a kind of negative social phenomenon, its development is influenced and restricted by politics, economy, society, culture and other aspects in a certain space-time scope, and is also a concentrated reflection of various social contradictions and social negative factors [5].

(1) Politically: The reform of the rural system nourishes the phenomenon of rural black evil forces. Since the reform and opening up in 1978, the household-responsibility system has been formed. The state has weakened the control of rural output resources, which become more and more affected and controlled by rural autonomous organizations, making it more profitable to hold important positions in rural areas. The actual power of control of village officials over the village resources with huge economic interests gives them the impetus to obtain illegal economic interests through activities of black evil forces. The insufficient supply of rural social security management system caused by institutional change provides an opportunity for village officials involved in black forces to evade supervision and punishment [6].

(2) Economically: After the reform and opening up in 1978, township enterprises have sprung up. The control of these enterprises has become an effective way to obtain resources. At the same time, the collapse of the planned economy and the significant development of the market economy in the countryside make it easier for the black evil forces to collect money. Then, the "local tyrant", who has already possessed resources and prestige in the countryside, could purchase land and resources at a lower price, and achieve industry monopoly with the superficial behavior of illusory free competition.

(3) Legally: The imperfection of the rural public security system leads to the rampant

phenomenon of rural black evil forces. According to Article 256 of the Chinese Criminal Law, the crime of sabotage of election refers to “an act that, in the election of deputies to the People’s Congress at all levels and leaders of state organs, destroys the election or impairs the free exercise of the right to vote and to be voted by voters and representatives by means of violence, threats, deception, bribery, forgery of election documents, and false reporting of election votes, and serious circumstances”. However, the crime of destroying the election has not restricted the grassroots election system such as village committee and neighborhood committee. As a result, the leaders of the black evil forces and the village committee live in the same filth and package themselves as the important acts in the village committee, which may only violate the civil law or morality, so they have the right and courage to plunder resources.

(4) Culturally: As mentioned before, since ancient times, there has been a rich culture of binary autonomy in China’s rural areas. Among them, the autonomous culture is mainly reflected in the way that aristocratic families and great ethnic groups restrict villages by etiquette, which is equally important to the management of the government. Therefore, there is always a cultural tradition in rural areas, that is, ordinary villagers give in to the management of clan power. With the development of society, the clan forces and the black evil forces gradually collude, so the common villagers’ submission to the clan forces also promotes the development of the black evil forces relying on them. Therefore, it can be concluded that the cultural tradition of clan forces in traditional Chinese rural areas is the catalyst for the growth of the phenomenon of black evil forces.

5. Countermeasures for Black Evil Forces in Rural China

Based on the analysis above, the phenomenon of rural black evil forces can be divided into three types: political power organization manipulation, clan power collusion, and economic monopoly. This paper holds that the root causes of these three kinds of social phenomena are: the lack of political transparency and democratization, the lack of ideological rationalization, the need to break the old clan ideology, and the low degree of economic freedom. In view of these problems, this section proposes the following countermeasures.

(1) Introducing elites from other areas to manage rural communities

The root cause of the collusion between the black evil forces and the rural political power is the localization of the source of the black evil forces. These local officials and clan forces are familiar with each other. So, they are prone to collusion, mutual benefit and even partnership crimes. Although the closeness of rural communities in China is gradually broken, it is still the main reason for the collusion between the local black evil forces and the rural political power. Through the introduction of village cadres from other places, it is possible to speed up the process of breaking the closeness, so as to gradually reduce the phenomenon of local black evil forces.

(2) Establishing policies to encourage population outflow

To encourage the outflow of village population with favorable policies, especially for the young people within clan power, will greatly weaken the local clan power. At the same time, if the outflow of the villagers who are the victims and resources accelerates, the resources controlled by the clan forces and the people who can be harmed will be reduced, leading to the weakening of the clan forces.

(3) Strengthening the construction of spiritual civilization in rural society

As mentioned above, the expansion of clan power is closely related to the patriarchal ideology still existing in rural people’s thoughts, which requires the superior government to strengthen the construction of rural social spiritual civilization, strengthen the education and training of villagers, so that the original patriarchal etiquette ideology can be replaced by the national legal ideology, so as to destroy the control of black evil forces in people’s minds. Especially in the face of the oppression of the clan forces, the villagers should be brave to expose and report, rather than implement the

appeasement culture of unreasonable control over the clan forces from ancient times to the present.

(4) Enhancing direct management and regulation from the higher government

Because the grassroots countryside is easy to cause collusion between officials and businessmen, and the clan power will affect the election, the higher government should strengthen the direct management of the village, especially the supervision of the election of the rural political power organization, so as to weaken the power of rural election and reduce the erosion of the grassroots political power by the rural black evil forces.

(5) Promoting the integration of urban and rural areas

One of the important reasons why the black evil forces in rural areas have great prestige is that the dimension of rural areas is too narrow and easy to control. If we switch this dimension to a larger scale, and make the integration of urban and rural communities, the discourse power of the black evil forces in this integrated complex will be weakened.

(6) Cooperating with the policy of anti-corruption

As mentioned above, the collusion of the black evil forces with politics is a significant feature of the phenomenon of rural gangs. Thus, combining the current policy of rectifying corruption and strictly governing the Party with the rural public security, and encouraging the grassroots villagers to actively report the activities of black evil forces to the superior government, the policy will have the effect of killing two birds with one stone.

(7) Changing economic proportion of original resources

If economic monopoly can also promote the emergence and prevalence of rural black evil forces, one of the means to break this situation will be to guide the development of other industries and reduce the proportion of the original monopoly industries in the rural economy, so as to reduce the influence of black evil forces on the economic level.

(8) Bringing the interference in election of village committee into Chinese Criminal Law

Because the illegal act of interfering in the election of village committee is not included in the scope of criminal law, it encourages the rural black evil forces to whitewash themselves and make themselves become rural cadres, and also gives them courage to intervene or even determine the election results through bribery, violence and other means. If this kind of behavior is included in the criminal law, and is severely punished, it will certainly form a great containment and warning to the black evil forces.

(9) Speeding up the construction of market economy in rural areas

As mentioned above, the transformation of the township economic system indirectly led to the emergence and expansion of the black evil forces. China should speed up rural economic construction, accelerate the formation of a mature market economy system in rural areas, and reduce the phenomenon of rural black evil forces caused by economic factors. Specifically, in terms of agricultural production and management mechanism, we should fasten the optimization and adjustment of agricultural industrial structure, strive to promote the marketization and industrialization of agricultural production, and provide more employment opportunities for farmers. In terms of production management, we should focus on improving agricultural production technology and strive to improve the scale and intensification of agricultural production, creating a good production and living condition for farmers.

6. Conclusion

A good rural public security environment is an important guarantee to promote rural development and stability. However, in recent years, the black evil forces in rural China occur from time to time, which affect the villagers and seriously influence the reform, development and stability of rural areas. At present, public security in rural China has become one of the most serious problems affecting the

rural social stability. Based on a comprehensive analysis of the social harm, characteristics and causes of the activities of the black evil forces in rural areas, this paper puts forward the basic ideas and countermeasures to maintain social order.

In conclusion, the current prevalence of rural black evil forces has three main characteristics and reasons: the manipulation of political power organizations, the threat of clan forces, and the monopoly of resource and economy. In view of these three problems, this paper puts forward the governance countermeasures including introducing management talents from other places, encouraging the outflow of local population, strengthening the construction of spiritual civilization in rural society, strengthening the control of the election of rural political power organizations, and promoting the construction of urban-rural integration.

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