

Current Foreign Chinese Politics and its Resilience in the Globalized World

Dr. Shafiq-ur-Rehman¹, Nasrullah Khan² *Shahzad Ali Gill³

¹ Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) Near Diplomatic Enclave, (Islamabad, Pakistan)

² Law & Justice Commission of Pakistan (Islamabad, Pakistan)

³ Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) Near Diplomatic Enclave, (Islamabad, Pakistan)

*Email of the corresponding author: shahzadaligill@gmail.com

Abstract

The efficacy of a state's political system, irrespective of its type (democratic or non-democratic, liberal or centralized, presidential or parliamentary and representing common citizens or demonstrating only elite aristocrats etc.), depends upon the basic principle how much responsiveness it shows in serving the interest of the common people. This paper is an attempt to evaluate the resilience of the Chinese Model. The framework for the analysis is the governance, legitimacy and public participation in policy making process. The assessment of the Chinese politics reveals that the Communist Party of China (CPC) is dominating the overall governance. It has been making efforts to endorse rule of law, human rights, free trade, transparency and establishment of lasting relations across the world. The ruling party has created a sense of harmony and uniformity in the functioning of various branches of the government such as the legislature, the executive and the judiciary. The success of Chinese model with such an extreme domination of single party over a period of time denote that the Chinese society has been legitimizing the traditional position of CPC through elections at national as well as provincial levels. It can easily be concluded that the resilience of the Chinese Model is reliant on the performance of the dominant Communist Party.

Keywords: Political System, Communist Party of China, Global Politics, Western Liberal Democracy, Asia-Pacific.

1. Introduction

The credibility and effectiveness of political system of a state can only be judged through its performance and the level of legitimacy it possesses whereas, the traditional parameter for measuring its performance is its association with the values of western liberal democracy. That's why, the comparison between liberal democratic systems and autocratic non-democratic system has been remained at the centre of academic discourse in post-World War II era. However, the globalization and its associated consequences have changed this traditional approach for evaluating the performance of any system and led to a realization that it is immaterial in globalized world to remain engaged in the debates about whether the political system of a state is democratic or non-democratic, liberal or centralized, presidential or parliamentary and representing common citizens or demonstrating only elite aristocrats. Now the rational consideration is that whether the system is serving the interest of ruling groups alone or how much is it beneficial for the common people.

Within this theoretical framework the resilience of Chinese model or Chinese politics with its characteristics such as highly centralized governance, dominance of strong Communist Party (CP) and its mechanism of public participation in decision making process are drawing attention of policy makers and political analysts since its emergence as an independent communist state.

2. Objective of the Study

This paper is an attempt to evaluate the resilience of the Chinese Model. The framework for the analysis is the governance, legitimacy and public participation in policy making process. The paper further intends to answer the question why the Chinese politics has still been a strong source of inspiration for political analysts and its East Asian neighbors?

3. Background

For centuries, China stood as a foremost civilization though in the 19th and early 20th centuries, the country was plagued by civil strife, natural calamity, military conquests and foreign occupation. After the World War II, the

communists under Mao Zedong succeeded in reinstating its dominion and established a new socialist state in line with the principles of Chinese Communism. After 1978, Mao's successor Deng Xiaoping and other leaders emphasized upon the development of market-oriented economy to boost the economic development. These initiatives helped China to come out of isolation and increased its participation in international and global arenas.

The main frame of the state is strengthened by China National People's Congress, State Council (SC) and the President. The Premier, 4 Vice-Premiers and 29 Ministers are the members of the SC. Moreover, there are five State Councilors of SC Commissions. During early 1980s, it was attempted to separate the functions of the state from party to central level. The idea and effort to disengage such functions appeared to be wild as the political leaders of the state were also the heads of their respective parties. The top most structure that holds the power of the state has been National People's Congress (NPC). It evaluates all policy dimensions including the laws and the budget and give approvals accordingly. In China, Standing Committees of the NPC approve nearly all regulations pertaining to the affairs of the state. The Standing Committees have appeared as an effective forum and decreed their position by way of incorporate amendments in laws. The Communist Party of China (CPC), however, has remained a necessity to politics both at the central and provincial levels. During late 1970s, the provinces had been delegated the powers and given independence to promulgate policies in sectors like economy, education and transportation.

Besides very dominant Communist Party (CP), there exist several other small democratic parties in China which participate in the political process of the country but their participation in the political system is limited to the People's Political Consultative Conferences (PPCC). The general governance turns around the CPC and these trivial parties mostly help to endorse the policies of the CP. The CPC has been coagulating its tenet by attempting to decrease dissent by taking initiatives towards advancement of the economy and allowing the true expression of people's grievances.

4. Sustainability of Chinese Policies and Legislation

Every national and provincial election brings overwhelming victory for CPC which has almost legitimized its dominating role in Chinese politics. Since, there does not exist any single opposition political party in the National or Provincial Congresses, the dominance of CPC is indubitable. The Constitution of China has devised a mechanism for management between the CPC and other registered parties. The mechanism to evaluate the affairs and to increase collaboration between parties is based on the PPCC. It convenes its sessions annually in Beijing. China has established relatively high quality but integrated institutions of law and accountability to espouse a system of checks and balances among numerous structures of the state centuries before it was done in other parts of the modern world.

Since the Cultural Rebellion, the Chinese government has been making exertions to endorse rule of law. The political leadership has been aiming to invoke an upgraded legal system so that an oversight may be maintained on use of official authority and preventive measures may be taken for its radical excesses. While pursuing the drive, the NPC established a new constitution for the state in 1982, which tinted and bound the political parties and other state officialdoms to the concept of rule of law. This concept had been further promoted through the constitutional amendment in the year 1999. Since 1979, more than 301 laws and regulations have been publicized. Soon after China's entry to new laws of WTO, most of the issues concerning to economy have been settled. Legal amendment became a government priority in the 1990s and through a set of guidelines, the efforts have been made to renovate the status of certain professionals such as lawyers, judges etc. In the year 1994, the citizens of the state have been empowered through Administrative Procedure Law (APL). These laws provide opportunity to hold officials accountable in case of misuse of authority.

In connection to these steps, the laws pertaining to criminal felony and activities were deliberated and amended. Such reforms had produced significant results. The constitutional amendment of 1999 and several tunings in criminal law have established transparent trial process.

Since late 1960s, the position regarding human rights in China has enriched substantially. However in 2004, the constitutional amendments focused on provision of protection of human rights by the state. An Amnesty International report shows that a number of people were interned on political grounds by the Government. The Chinese Government established relations across the world through its diplomatic wisdom and strategy. During the year 1971, the state of China resurrected with new name "People's Republic of China" and became one of permanent members of United Nations' Security Council (UNSC). Taiwan has cherished the similar status in the UNSC since 1945 and under the One-China Policy it was the condition for the renovation of diplomatic and

economic relations with the west and great powers.

In order to strengthen the economy and ensuring economic development, the government of People's Republic of China has been playing an important role for free trade. New security pacts are being made with its neighbors in Asia-pacific. In the year 2004, an entirely new framework was proposed (East Asia Summit) as a forum to address issues relating to regional security. This forum was inaugurated in 2005 and it includes Australia, New Zealand, ASEAN and India. Moreover, alongside Central Asian Republics and Russia, the People's Republic of China is also a member of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

5. Conclusion

The assessment of the Chinese politics reveals that the CPC is dominating overall governance in China. The policies are initiated at various forums in accordance with the guidelines provided by the party leadership and its strict but comprehensive party control oversees the process of enactment of the policies. The ruling Chinese Communist Party has created a sense of harmony and uniformity in the functioning of various branches of the government such as the legislature, the executive and the judiciary. The success and resilience of Chinese model with such an extreme domination of single party for such a long time reveals that the people and society in China have been legitimizing the traditional position of Communist Party through transmitting their support in favor of its agenda at national as well as provincial levels through elections. Hence, it can easily be concluded that the resilience of the Chinese politics is reliant on the performance of the dominant Communist Party. So, we can say that the strong Communist Party is providing stout basis for the resilience of Chinese model. It is the worth of Chinese Communist Party otherwise the similar kind of experience in Russia has led it towards disintegration in 1989.

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