

Beijing Forum 2019 The Changing World Order (II)

On the afternoon of November 2, 2019, the second and the third session of panel “the changing world order” was held in the lecture hall of King Abdulaziz public library-Peking university branch at PKU, scholars from PKU, King’s College London, Foreign Affairs University of China, Korea University and Taihe Institute delivered speeches on various topics. The two session was moderated by Professor Su Changhe from Fudan University and Professor Zhang Haibin from PKU respectively.

Professor Wang Zhengyi from School of International Studies, PKU, presented a speech on rethinking the East Asian regional identity. He spoke about the rise of China and his reflection on East Asian identity. He mentioned that there are three research paths in the academic world for regionalization and the regional development. The first is the international institutional approach. The second is from the perspective of the relations between powers. And the third is to discuss the regional integration from the perspective of social construction. Correspondingly, in East Asia, different countries have also established four different views on regional identity. Combined with relevant data, Professor Wang Zhengyi focused on the achievements of ASEAN countries in organizing regional cooperation. He stressed that for all economic powers, East Asia is still full of opportunities.

Professor Liu Haifang, Professor Wang’s colleague, shared his insights as an Africa expert by giving a speech titled “Africa and the Making of the Post-Western World Order”. She mentioned that Africa was once on the edge of the world. After long-term changes and development, Africa has gradually developed to be an increasingly important role. She pointed out that the role of Africa and its development can be considered from different angles and dimensions. Taking the specific African country, Ethiopia, as an example, Professor Liu Haifang talked about Ethiopia's thinking about the current new world order, including how to better participate in international negotiations, how to make decisions under the background of the international community, how to take responsibility for itself and how to show its strength on the international stage. In addition, she said that Africa is not just a recipient country but a big market. How should the world view Africa?

How should the road in Africa go? All of this requires us to invest more energy and pay more attention to it from a broader perspective.

The third instructor was Professor Funmi Olonisakin from Security, Leadership & Development at King's College London. In her presentation titled "How Relevant Are Global Powers to the Evolving Perspectives of Peace and Security in Africa". She proposed three very important phenomena. First, Africa's demographic structure is very young. The existing political system does not provide sufficient political participation opportunities for young people. Second, a large number of young people influence politics in different ways in different countries. In the countries of Algeria and Tunisia, young people promote domestic and international peace. Young people from other countries have provoked political instability and even extremism and terrorism. Thirdly, African integration should be in line with African realities and focus on solving African problems. Fourth, foreign countries should strengthen their research on African issues. In their interaction with Africa, they must respect African reality and stop interfering in African internal affairs.

The fourth speech was given by Professor Sunhyuk Kim from Korea University, Kim analyzed regionalization in Northeast Asia and Peace-Building in the Korean peninsula, Kim believes that the theory and experience of regional integration in Europe cannot be directly transplanted to Asia. But from which we can find out that regional integration is a consumer of international security rather than a contributor before it is fully established. For example, in the same region, the opposing military alliance system brings more threats than protection to security. He believes that the premise of establishing regional integration on the Korean peninsula is to reach an effective mechanism for maintaining peace, that is, to reach a peace agreement. But this is currently facing two problems. First, the United States and North Korea are currently deadlocked on the issue of denuclearization and peace agreements. Second, there are still disputes about which countries should be signatories to the peace agreement. Professor Kim believes that North Korea has a strong willingness to reach a peace agreement, and South Korea has always been a positive promoter. The core of the problem lies in how the mediation of the US-DPRK conflict is resolved. This requires the two sides to sign the road map for peace and work together to promote it as planned.

The last speaker is Mr. Zheng Ruolin, Senior Researcher from Taihe Institute, his topic is "the Forming Four Power Plates and Three Major Conflicts of the World Pattern". He believes that the

latest feature of the world's unprecedented changes in the past century is that the world is forming four major power sectors and three major conflicts. Among them, the first major power sector is western multinational financial capital that supports globalization. The second largest power sector is the local industrial capital in western countries that opposes globalization. The third largest power sector is the Islamic world. The fourth largest power sector is emerging forces represented by China. On the issue of conflict, he believes that the most fundamental conflict is not actually between China and the West, but inside the Western world.

After a short break, three scholars discussed the interplay between technological revolution and international world order.

Professor Wu Xihong, School of Electronics Engineering and Computer Science at PKU, gave speech titled “the Research Status of Artificial Intelligence and its Development Trend as well as its impact on society”. AI is expected to profoundly change the world economy landscape, it will create new source of economic growth but at the same time may threaten vulnerable labor forces. Wu shared several showcases of his teams’ research, in which robots shows potential of assisting human in researching, collecting information or even replacing humans as telephone operators etc. Massive utilization of AI means a, human-like robots will be involved in human activity, b, human can be relieved from just surviving but master their own destiny. At the same time, transforming nature and collect resource from nature, sustain and improve human’s well-being is still the main task of human.

Second presentation was given by Qi Haotian, assistant Professor from School of International Studies, PKU, and his topic is “China Technological Transitions and Global Governance”, which specifically includes the transformation of the global governance paradigm, the impact and role of technology in governance, and competition in the security field as well as conflict control. Hao emphasized that the change of science and technology has never been non-political. When talking about the possible impact of artificial intelligence, he pointed out that the black box status of artificial intelligence is a problem that needs to be carefully considered at present. In addition, technology can also lead to bias and may be maliciously attacked. It will bring many pragmatic problems for international governance such as privacy protection, accountability, transparency and security. In particular, he pointed out that technology can play a role in the military field, but it also has limitations. To solve these problems and limitations, both technical means and policy and

political means are needed.

Jia Zifang, Assistant Professor from Foreign Affairs University of China, gave speech on “Scientific and Technological Revolution and International Order: A Research Agenda“, he started with the impact of new technologies, new concepts, and technology on international relations and its research methods, argued the liberal world order has come to an end because the US cannot afford to sustain the current system and it may or may not shift to an multilayer and multilateral world order. This process may take decades, and technological revolution together with other factor will play important roles. And in this process, China, with a strong leadership and capability of extract and distributing resource, will enjoy asymmetrical advantages in competition with US. China has invested in 5G network and other innovation programs and infrastructure while AT&T, Verizon are reluctant to do so. Therefore, China as a strong state has an upper hand in R&D competition which leads to materials strength and it will decide the outcome great power rivalry.

The spokesperson and other participating scholars further discussed issues such as IR theories, regional studies, as well as industrial capital, financial capital, and construction of international organizations.