

Beijing Forum 2019 The Changing World Order (III)

On the morning of November 3, 2019, the fourth and first half of fifth session of panel “the changing world order” was held in the lecture hall of King Abdulaziz public library-Peking university branch at PKU, two session was moderated by Professor Pang Zhongying from Ocean University of China and Professor Jorge Hein from Boston University respectively.

Mr. Sean M. Lynn-Jones from Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard University, presented a speech titled “After American Hegemony, What?” He define American hegemony as a period after collapse of Soviet Union and until Trump administration. His observation is that US primacy has come to an end, but China, because of its internal weakness, will not be its sole successor. In terms of future trajectory of global order, Lynn-Jones asserted, first, structure factor will facilitate a more tense US-China security rivalry, to some extent, US and China has fallen into Thucydides’ trap; second, China will seek regional hegemony by military power, and usher some kind of cold war between US and China; third, rise of other powers in particular India will shape the image of great power competition, and help realizing a real multilateral world; fourth, US-China confrontation may leads to military skirmish and possibly escalate to nuclear warfare.

Second presentation was given by Professor Wang Yong, from School of International Studies, PKU, and his topic is “the political economy of US-China Trade Conflict: Background, Negotiations and Consequences”. He named current moment of US-China relations a defining moment, it decides the trajectory of this bilateral relations, and the whole world has huge stake involved. He noted four factors behind the current trade war, a. Globalization and widening gap between the rich and poor; b. great power competition, including conflict of developing model; c. the change of Chinese foreign policy. Wang said, Trump blames China for misbehaving in trade, but China is only the scapegoat of US’s failed domestic policy. The trade war has profoundly change world in various ways: a. decoupling is taking place, b. China basing and political polarization in US, c. the direction of globalization is shifted, and the global economy is divided up, d. emergence of two separate international supply chain, e. China’s emphasis shifts to non-US regions, Asia Pacific, BRI partners, African, Latin America and Europe, f. opportunities and challenges to China and the regional and

global order.

The third instructor was Professor Xinyuan Dai from University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. In her presentation titled “Challenges to International Institutional Order”. She proposed two definition of international order, first as equilibrium support by power distributions; second is as system of rules, norms and international institutions. She shared two interesting findings, first state commitment to binding international institutional orders (IIO) are not rising rapidly as we expected after the cold war; second, US as the anchor of most IIO are not a very active participant. In terms of threats to current IIO, compared to China, US is the NO.1 threat because it is retreating from many important IIOs like UNESCO, and it has paralyzed WTO. The reason why the current IIO meet some many challenges is that IIO is too slow to be updated with the redistribution of global power.

The fourth speech was given by Mr. Sun Henry Hong, Visiting Professor from Business School at University of Chester, Sun analyzed Trump’s bid in 2020: a political marketing perspective-from the art of deal to art of media. Sun raised the idea of Model of political marketing and apply it to analyze 2020 US general election. His conclusion is: a. In 2020 election, economic consideration is the most important factor, the US economy is growing, therefore history and Moody’s Models shown greater probability for Trump’s win in 2020; b. impeachment and random events are double-edged weapons for Populism; c. modern politicians could learn from Sun Tzu and use the Art of Media – Strategy & Tactics to utilize populism.

After a short break, four scholars discussed the “China Solution” and its Implications, moderated by Professor Jorge Heine.

Professor Jia Qingguo from School of International Studies at PKU, gave speech titled “Challenges and Opportunities: Where to is the World Order?” Current international order is initiated and sustained by US after the WW2. In 1945, US inherited and strengthen the wartime military alliance, created UN and other international institutions. US is the largest contributor to current international order while it benefit from it the most. US will still be the global hegemon in foreseeable future, but a. Trump retreats from international commitment; b. redistribution of power globally; c. India and Russia and other countries’ grievance, will accelerate the transformation of international order. Jia is optimistic about the sustainability of current world order, although it is

western-centric and delegitimized by US unilateralism but it is still the best international system in history. Most countries have stakes in current system, America will back on track to maintain the current system, and it will be reformed and become fairer and more democratic in the future.

Second presentation was given by Fantu Cheru, Emeritus Professor from American University, and his topic is “the World at a Brink? The Rise of Nativism and the Assault on multilateralism; What Role for China and the BRICS in Global Governance Reform?” Firstly, Cheru said on behalf of Africa, liberal international order is equally bad as colonialism. Cheru believed that BRICS, with Chinese leadership, could break the bottleneck of global governance reform and benefit Africa in one way or another. China is constructively engaging with current international institutions instead of replacing them by participating in G20 and WTO and push for reform in adjustment of IMF voting power. China is huge contributor and advocator of south-south cooperation, the formation of BRICS has enlarged its influence. China initiated new financial institutions such as New Development Bank, support intra-BRICS technological cooperation. Lastly, Cheru said the emerging of China, India, Turkey provide alternative choice for Africa.

Pang Zhongying, Professor from Institute of Marine Development at Ocean University of China, gave speech on “China and the International Order since 1945: the Evolution and Future.” His main point is the current world order is still there. Liberal world order is a mission unfinished because developing countries are deprived of voting power. It could evolve to liberal world order without hegemon. On the future of China and world order, Pang said a. China is a main player in reforming the world order; b. the relationship between China and world order is a big puzzle and it could only be solved through constructive interaction between China and the world; c. China has a responsibility to be a contributor to world security.

The last presentation was given by Professor Zhang Qingmin from School of International Studies, PKU, titled “China’s Policy toward International Order: Changer, Follower, or Maker?” Zhang first focused on the development of the concept of global governance in China from the perspectives of issues, platforms, and specific systems, and emphasized China's understanding and expression of global governance. He pointed out that China is not part of the international order after World War2, but China is an important member of the international structure. In addition, he also said that we should listen more to the voices of developing countries, such as African countries and Latin American countries, and pay attention to their views on China's participation in global governance.