

The Rise of Populism in America and Its Impact on Foreign Policy

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Abstract. Populism is a social trend sweeping across developed countries in Europe and America. Its emergence has divided society into two hostile groups. Trump marked the second stage of populism, which also became a mainstream political force. Whether it is the domestic economy, class policies, immigration policies, or foreign relations policies, extreme changes have been proposed. This paper explores the origins of populism from the 19th century. The purpose of writing is to analyze the starting point, outbreak process, and outbreak of left-wing and right-wing populism. The situation of American populism and its impact on foreign policy from different aspects are sorted out. This paper analyzes and presents that populism is divided into two basic forms of action: ideology and political discourse. Through the analysis of cases and research objects, it is found that the two have jointly promoted the transformation of diplomatic constitution. Based on the understanding of the nature of populism, three strong preferences of populism are analyzed.

Keywords: Populism, foreign policy, ideology, political discourse.

1. Introduction

The rise of populism in the United States has led to instability in foreign policy, which will have a certain impact on the international community. Therefore, a better understanding of the development laws and policy status of American populism can provide effective responses to the impact of future American populism. At the same time, it is also conducive to a more rational understanding of the face of American society and a better understanding of the changes in American order.

In Trump's presidential campaign, he gained public support and achieved unexpected results with his anti-social elite populist style. Driven by populism, Trump adjusted the United States policy. The emergence of populism mostly occurred during periods of economic crisis, and many participants were white people from the lower middle class of society.

This article believes that the impact of populism on foreign policy may bring some serious problems and risks to American politics. The article will analyze for five aspects and answer these core questions: How did populism erupt? What is the process like? What has the impact of populism led to a shift in US foreign policy? How did Trump change his foreign policy? How can the ideological and political discourse of populism's impact on foreign policy be explained?

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The first part of the essay is about an introduction of the questions. The second part begins with the main text, introducing the early, mid-term, and recent developments of American populism and providing a detailed account of the outbreak of left and right populist movements. First, populism was introduced, which was an anti-corruption elitism that believed that ordinary people were the same. The focus will be on analyzing the right-wing populism in the United States represented by Trump. The Chadang movement that emerged after right-wing populism was introduced, and the source of populism's power was analyzed. Sort out the influence of diplomatism.

The third part studies the changes in US foreign policy under the influence of populism. Further analysis of Trump's ideology. Trump considers America first, mainly targeting policies in Europe and China. Trump's Europe policy prioritizes protecting national security and interests, strongly demands that Europe increase military spending, and highlights a transactional diplomatic style. The reasons for targeting Europe's foreign policy are analyzed. The article analyzes how China policy has put pressure on China's domestic affairs, reduced trade, and accelerated many important decisions to decouple from China, and analyzes the reasons behind this.

In the fourth part, the paper mainly presents two major forms of populism's influence on foreign policy. The thin ideology in ideology is a substantive feature of populism, and based on this, more analysis is conducted on the characteristics of populist ideology. Next is political discourse, where populism emphasizes its attributes as a political tool and analyzes its narrative strategy and influence.

The fifth part is a summary of the entire text, summarizing the impact of populism in the United States.

2. The American Wave of Populism

2.1. The Cause of Populism

Populism is a strong ideological trend currently sweeping Europe and America, which is a term created to resemble the People's Party. The core of populism is to divide the people into two opposing and hostile groups, one being ordinary people with no background, and the other being corrupt social elites who betray ordinary people [1]. Populism claims that they represent the people and opposes social elites under the banner of the people.

American populism was the starting point of the Jackson movement. Andrew Jackson was an ordinary person who, through his own efforts, ran for the presidency of the United States in 1828, becoming the first civilian president in American history. After taking office, Jackson expanded his presidential power and arranged many plans to prevent ordinary people from obstructing economic development opportunities. His system facilitated populists, liberals, and nationalists. Implementing policies such as white supremacy, they all carry a strong populist atmosphere [2]. These policies have broken the elite rule policy in the United States and increased the enthusiasm of the people to participate in politics.

At the end of the 19th century, under the pressure of the Industrial Revolution, the American economy saw a sharp increase in agricultural production and a continuous decrease in prices, which put enormous pressure on the economy of farmers. People spontaneously established anti-monopoly protests, and their demands gradually increased. Eventually, they wanted to establish their own party, challenge the other two parties in the United States, and launch the People's Party. The final vote did not achieve their goals, but they have a certain level of strength and can launch a certain resistance in American politics. In the end, the two major parties reorganized, and the People's Party began implementing reforms, while the Republican Party changed to a conservative faction.

2.2. The Development Process of the Populist Movement

In the mid-20th century, although populism had not yet fully emerged, there were three populist movements that had a significant impact on the United States. The Great Depression that emerged in the United States in the 20th century led to the collapse of many industries, resulting in a large number of people losing their jobs. Under the influence of inflation, farmers were also greatly affected. The economic and social order in the United States is chaotic, and the wealth gap is gradually widening, which is also one of the reasons for the emergence of populism. In the 1960s, the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union caused many social movements, which provided an environment for the subsequent outbreak of populist movements. In the 1990s, economic globalization caused many changes in international policies, and a large amount of labor was transferred from Europe and America to China, obtaining a large amount of cheap labor. This led to a large number of unemployment and industrial bankruptcies in the United States, and a large number

of social problems began to erupt, laying the foundation for the emergence of new liberalism. This has stimulated an increase in the wealth gap among the people, and public dissatisfaction with it has led to the resurgence of populism [3].

In these three movements, some representative figures emerged, these populist leaders incited public sentiment, emphasized wealth distribution, and supported the supremacy of white interests. Such policy views can cater to the views and tastes of the public. Many presidential campaigns use these policies to package themselves, gain more public support, gain more votes, and try to gain more appeal.

2.3. The Populist Movement Erupted on the Left and Right Sides

After Obama's campaign to become the President of the United States, the increase in government taxes caused a lot of dissatisfaction, and strong resistance led to the outbreak of populism on the left and right.

Right wing populism is a conservatism that spreads from local to national levels. It represents the needs of many American people, with the interests of the middle and lower classes as the main focus, and confronts the elite class, rejecting the government's acceptance and assistance of external culture. Compared to the right-wing movement, the left-wing movement has a wider scope, not only targeting socio-economic issues, but also including women's issues, anti-war issues, protests against climate change, etc. It lacks a clear core and is more about venting emotions, without implementation and effective results.

Right wing populism erupted during the 2008 US economic crisis as a party called the Tea Party Movement, which opposed Obama's tax policies because they would lead to more American unemployment [4]. The Tea Party movement opposes the diversification and globalization of the United States, emphasizing that the country should prioritize the interests of its people and national security. In addition, the rise of immigrants from Latin America and Asia in recent years has also led to an increase in employment difficulties for white Americans in the United States. The diverse culture has caused dissatisfaction among many white Americans, and the number of people opposing diversity and immigration is gradually increasing. These dissatisfactions have become the main force of right-wing populism.

3. A Shift in US Foreign Policy under the Influence of Populism

3.1. Trump's Policy on Europe

Trump emphasized the policy of prioritizing US interests and made some changes to his policy towards Europe. More treaties were requested to provide the United States with more security guarantees. Trump has a skeptical attitude towards European military cooperation and has called on EU countries to increase military spending. He believed that the United States had consumed too many resources and shouldered too much burden in the military, so he made a strong demand, hoping that European countries could increase military spending, and included the demand in the US National Security Strategy Report [5].

In addition, Trump takes a vague stance in European integration. Supporting European integration was originally important for the United States, but Trump openly supported Brexit throughout the process. Supporting Brexit perfectly aligns with his political philosophy of opposing globalization. Trump believes that Brexit can restore national sovereignty and independence. For countries, priority should be given to their own interests rather than being limited by international organizations. In addition, after Brexit, the UK will have more freedom to engage in trade negotiations with the United States, thereby achieving negotiations that are more beneficial to the United States.

3.2. Trump's Policy on China

In the 2017 US National Strategy Report, it was explicitly stated that the relationship between the US and China is competitive. The United States believes that China poses a certain threat to the

United States at all levels. Trump publicly announced that his policy towards China will change, and he will adopt strategies to suppress China. The Trump administration has held a hostile attitude towards China from extensive conversations [6].

In the past few decades, the volume of trade in the United States has gradually declined, and economic friction has arisen among major economic powers. However, after disputes arise, the WTO, as an international organization responsible for managing trade rules, will take action to resolve trade disputes. However, the intense dispute between China and the United States has had a significant impact on their relationship. And the US government led by Trump changed its economic situation by adopting a US priority policy. Decoupling from China is not only due to the economic aspect, but also due to the isolationist political ideology of the United States, which advocates that the country should prioritize its own interests and oppose the establishment of external alliances. This ideology influences the foreign policy of the United States. The foreign policy of the United States is based on unilateralism and trade protectionism. Trump once criticized the WTO for lifting special treatment for China and changing the definition of developing countries. If no changes are made, the United States will take unilateral action. Sanctions and blockades are imposed on Chinese technology companies, and their investments are restricted. After the outbreak and worsening impact of the epidemic, Trump attributed the blame to China and imposed entry restrictions on over a thousand Chinese researchers, as well as visa restrictions on some researchers.

The unilateralist policy towards Europe and the tough resistance against China are both extended due to populism, with the premise of prioritizing the interests of the United States and its own country, protecting the interests of the people.

4. The Influence of Populism on Foreign Policy

4.1. Ideology

The ideology of populism, as mentioned earlier, is divided into two types: pure people and corrupt elites, emphasizing the sovereignty of the people and believing that politics should serve the people.

Populism is referred to as "thin ideology", while capitalism and socialism are referred to as "thick ideology" [7]. There is a significant difference between the two, which makes populism easy to exist in various environmental situations. The proposition of the impact of populism on diplomacy has two opposing ideas. On the one hand, it is a broader understanding. The vast majority of populism, as mentioned earlier, is characterized by anti-immigration and anti-globalization, and its value will have a significant impact on foreign policy. On the other hand, it illustrates the fragility of populism, believing that it can only serve specific countries and is constrained by the national context.

The "thin ideology" of populism is divided into three main preferences for intervening in foreign policy. Firstly, populism carries its own sense of self superiority, which makes it easy to identify all factors that pose a threat to itself and tends to seek enemies and adopt policy solutions. Not just diplomatic objects, any other culture, faith, or class can become enemies of the people. Populists view the immigrant population in the United States as competitors, posing a threat to the employment of local people, and advocating for strengthened control and restrictions on immigration policies. Treating political and social elites as enemies, believing that they cannot represent the people, and should abandon their power and achieve democratization. Globalization is also seen as an enemy, as it has led to an increase in wealth inequality and unemployment. Secondly, there is anti-transnational ideology, as pure people have a strong hostility towards corrupt elites due to populist ideology. They believe that multinational corporations and international organizations can all be products of elitism obtained through cross-border cooperation, and their combined efforts have caused harm and harm to the people. Finally, there is anti-globalization.

4.2. Political Discourse

On the one hand, populism excels at using discourse to "re politicize" society and increase political practice for its own rights. By narrating the corruption of social elites to incite public emotions and

provoke people's anger. Established the opposition between elites and the people. Populists also use their words to win more domestic supporters, gain more power, and thus have a certain position in social and political circles. Foreign policy can weaken the credibility of opponents, enhance one's own status, and provide benefits to specific groups rather than the interests of the entire country or the international community.

On the other hand, populism has led to a negative tendency in the diplomatic atmosphere. The idea of populism is that the people are oppressed in various aspects and face unfairness, often adopting measures such as anti-globalization and anti-immigration. And the list of opponents is still increasing. These words have fueled a sense of tension among the people in the face of political oppression. Populism is not only a foreign policy aimed at safeguarding its own interests, but also plays an important role in expressing resistance. Regardless of the outcome, it will express its thoughts and opinions as a victim.

5. Conclusion

This article analyzes the causes, development process, and recent developments of the rise of populism in the United States. Analyze the consequences of Trump's populism and the impact it has on foreign policy. The United States should not only consider the interests of its own people, but also ensure its relations with its allies and maintain international relations and the need for stability. While addressing domestic issues is more important, it is also important for the United States to play a leading role in promoting international cooperation and addressing global challenges. For example, the problems facing the world, such as climate change and terrorism, require the world to face them together. The United States can continue to play a leadership role in promoting international activities and jointly solving problems. The origin of populism lies in the dissatisfaction of the local middle- and lower-class people. The government can improve people's academic performance through training and education and improve social security and economic balance measures through other policies. By pursuing inclusive economic policies and reaffirming international commitments, the United States can attempt to ensure global stability while promoting domestic prosperity and navigating the complexities of populism. This will promote economic inclusiveness, reduce social inequality, reduce people's dissatisfaction, and alleviate the rapid rise of populism.

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