

Contemporary Populism and International Relationship

-- Does populism reconstruct world politics

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Abstract. The global prevalence of populism has greatly impacted domestic and world politics. In many countries, mainstream political parties have begun to be overstretched in dealing with populist power. As populist concerns gradually become Salient, relevant economic and social decisions may have to adopt compromise policies. This probably has greatly affected the country's foreign policy and has an impact on the system of international relations. In this paper, I will try to widely quote the important arguments of the mainstream school of international relations in the world, based on the system of international relations that has existed and maintained for a certain period (such as globalization, lateralization, etc.). As an entry point, I will use empirical methods to analyze the impact of populist explosions on the current international relations system(globalization, lateralization, etc.) and make some speculations about the future development of the international relations system.

Keywords: Populism, International Relationship, Foreign Policy, World Politics.

1. Introduction

The world system after World War II has shown an unprecedented speed of change. During this period, the world experienced 40 years of intense Cold War, passed the chaotic era of 1989, witnessed the liberal victory marked by the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Eastern European system around 1990, as well as the development and challenges of multilateral relations such as the European Union, NATO and the North American Free Trade Association. Scholars from different schools seem to have different interpretations of major changes in international relations. The neoliberal camp has experienced the growth of interdependence theories such as Cooper's "mutual trade has eased international relations", the complex interdependence system of Keohane and Joseph Nye, and the development of the global governance system. On the other hand, neorealism has undergone major reforms compared with classical realism, which is especially reflected in the fact that after the Vietnam War in the 1970s, neorealism international relations compared economy with military and political power and became an important consideration affecting the international relations system. Neorealists have also developed relatively mature hegemonic stability theory and models related to power and benefit distribution, which have become another feasible framework for analyzing today's world system.

Therefore, in general, today's international relations have experienced globalization for a certain period, and there is a deep relative dependence between countries, which is reflected in many aspects. Economic globalization includes rapid growth in trade, finance and foreign investment by transnational corporations[1]. Market integration and globalization of economic production like this have brought a lot of international competition. The results of the game are mixed, which has brought about domestic economic and public opinion trends in various countries. Complexity and uncertainty. The globalization of finance has allowed a large number of financial derivatives to flow in world markets, which has brought great complexity and instability to the international financial system[1]. In a state of interdependence, national risks have intensified and crises spread faster, which also contributes to the economic situation of countries and subsequent Political dynamics have had an impact.

In recent years, scholars have made a lot of analyses on the issue of globalization fueling populism in various countries. economic explanations have figured prominently in research by economists and political economists[2]. Scholars also proposed that globalization, neoliberalism, technological

change, and so on have generated discontent and divisions among citizens by making life more insecure for the working and middle classes and privileging already highly-educated, urban dwellers over less-educated and rural ones[3]. It is believed that there is a certain connection between increasing globalization and the explosion of populism, through some obvious economic grievance.

Some structuralists also believe that another major reason for the outbreak of populism is the democratic deficit caused by globalization and multilateralism. For example, in multilateral complexes such as the European Union, there is a convergence of strategies and policies. perhaps it will cause that, the policy options that national governments—over which voters do have more direct control—can offer their citizens to have diminished, particularly in the economic sphere[3].

To this end, we can find that globalization and multilateralism persist, fueling the thriving of populism in a substantial degree. The origins of populism are also diverse. In addition to economic conflicts from the demand side, there are also sociocultural conflicts, such as race and immigration. In addition to the structuralist theory of government failure and democratic deficit, there is also the theory that voluntariness regards populism as a political choice and campaign tool. In any case, contemporary populism is in an explosive stage, from the unprecedented regard of race and national interests as an important issue during the Trump and Clinton campaigns in the United States, to trade protectionism in the United States, the principle of American supremacy, and the reduction of the cost of international public goods and the reduction of hegemony. From the rise of Euro-skepticism to populist events such as the Hungarian populist movement and the Italian five-star movement. This article mainly analyzes the populist issues and power brought about by the current form of international relations, analyzes the political trends of major countries and regions, and judges the impact of populism on the political choices and foreign policies of these countries and regions, to predict the future trend of international relations.

Because of the diversity of interpretations of the essence of populism, I will focus on the interpretation of populism brought about by specific international relations, which is more inclined to economics. Because populist examples are diverse in causes and purposes, I will choose two representative examples from the United States and the European Union for analysis.

1.1 EURO

In many countries in Europe, populist parties have won a considerable number of seats in parliament. The topics on which they are based include anti-EU, anti-Islamic, or some parties are against la casta as well as austerity. As a supranational concept, the EU has achieved the convergence of foreign policy by combining sovereignty and some diplomatic and military means. However, the most affected by the prevalence of populism in European countries is the relations within the EU. The prevalence of Euro-skepticism comes from economic and democratic dissatisfaction, and the market integration of the European Union, which has brought many phenomena, such as the free movement of labour within the EU, which has led to competitive pressure on jobs in Western European countries, and economic decision-making in EU countries tend to integrate and slowly form. The top-down management mechanism has shifted the decision-making power of EU countries from legislative bodies to executive bodies[4]. The will and democratic power of their nationals have been unsecured, resulting in a certain degree of democratic deficit, coupled with the arrival of the refugee crisis in 2015 and what happened in 2016. Many terrorist attacks in Europe have attacked the economy, which has given populists a way to grasp the psychology of the people. They have developed xenophobic psychology, created extreme antagonism between natives and foreigners, and nationalist ideological trends, and won a large number of votes. It also occupied a large number of seats.

Populism has gained a greater position in many countries, the ability of mainstream political parties to control politics has declined, referendums are staged frequently, and representative democracy has ushered in greater difficulties. Such as the 2016 Dutch referendum against the agreement between the European Union and the associated countries of Ukraine, the French 2005 referendum on the threat of cheap foreign labour to the local job market, and the referendum of Hungary and Poland against

the EU's assessment policy on solving the refugee problem, etc., all given to the EU. Foreign policy and internal relations have brought instability and affected the situation of international relations inside and outside the EU. Still, there are signposts where populist actors have been active and vocal—both at the national level and in the European Parliament—and where they have directly impacted EU external action. (How Populism Impacts EU Foreign Policy David Cadier, Christian Lequesne), This shows that there is a continuing possibility for populist political parties to interfere in international relations inside and outside the EU through voices in the European Parliament or referendums, and there is a diplomacy alliance, such as Italian interior minister Matteo Salvini, and Hungary's Prime Minister, Viktor Orban, agreed on the EU's immigration policy[5]. It can be seen that populist forces are in the stage of integration and growth, which poses a challenge to the strategy of mainstream political parties to maintain international relations.

Populism and referendums have dealt a more deadly blow to the European Union by the Brexit process. The purpose of Brexit is essentially multi-layered. But what drives it is the populist trend. Citizens support Brexit to vent their dissatisfaction with the EU system and the elite. This has seriously undermined the process of EU integration and fueled the arrogance of European sceptics and anti-EU. Following the great victory of British populist and anti-EU independence, anti-EU populist parties such as Germany, the Netherlands and the Czech Republic are also eager to try. The populist party Germany's third largest party, the German Choice Party, also showed a strong willingness to support the Brexit referendum. So far, the populism caused by the disappearance of identity and the democratic deficit began to be deeply reflected by the EU political elite. As an exemplary product of successful multilateralism, the cohesion and identity of the European Union have been reduced among the general public. Right-wing ideologies such as nation-states have brought challenges to cooperativeism, multilateralism and regional relations. Europe is facing the risk of returning to realistic international relations, that is, split into competing nation-states to a certain extent.

Populism also affects the EU's foreign policy. Populists regard globalization, interdependence, and free trade as scapegoats for employment, welfare, and social and cultural contradictions within the nation-state. In the international context, it is also difficult for the EU to promote neoliberalism. In terms of domestic public opinion, the trend of protectionism and economic nationalism has taken advantage of the rapid spread of populism. Under the pressure of public opinion on elections in various countries, the EU has to slow down the progress in promoting liberal international relations, and the negotiation process with other trading partners such as the United States and Canada has also been greatly affected. It can be seen that the existence of populism is slowly moving the EU's foreign international relations policy from liberalism to unilateralism and nationalism that is more for the sake of the EU itself and the nation-state itself.

1.2 The USA

The current wave of populism in the United States can be traced back to the 1990s. The United States, which has just experienced economic stagflation, has begun to embark on a globalized neoliberal development model. The open world environment has brought about a large transfer of domestic resources through transnational corporations. This has led to a large loss of jobs and a widening gap between the rich and the poor. Populist scholars concerned with economic reasons believe that economic development has created deep differences between the rich and the poor, the elite and the so-called elderly, rural and urban areas, and highly educated and the poor in many societies[6]. Such contradictions are exploited and advocated by populist politicians. American populist ideology grows with complaints about elites, inequality, and competition from emerging countries. Such a rift was well used by U.S. President Trump, who was elected in 2016.

Trump's most populist feature is Trump's propaganda slogan and governance principles - American priority. Such a principle, tailored to solve the problems and divisions brought to the United States by globalization and liberalism, is a direct result of the prevalence of populism in the United States and the rule of populist leaders. Trump is perfectly in line with the psychology of the American people.

He emphasizes "taking back our jobs", "that will be our territory" and "that will be our dreams", which are all important issues in the eyes of the American people. Coupled with Trump's propaganda: "People should be absolutely loyal to the country." These can be regarded as the embodiment of nationalism, which is also a classic product of populism.

Some scholars have pointed out that Trump's American-first ideology is easily reminiscent of far-right ideologies, such as Nazism. The earliest Trump-like slogan was proposed by American William Hearst in 1930, the founder of the U.S. Priority Committee, which was later notorious for a large number of Nazis. The same is true now. As the representative slogan of populist power in the United States, American First has aroused attention, disgust and even anger among countries, political parties, groups and the people around the world [7][8]. This has triggered countries to re-examine their relations with the United States, bringing uncertainty to international relations that are still centred on the United States.

As a pure populist politician, Trump embarked on a nationalist foreign policy on the premise of the United States first. Under Trump, the United States moved away from liberal international relations policies, opposed free trade and advocated fair trade. Because of the principle of American priority, the United States has gradually reduced its spending on external obligations, such as reducing its voluntary contributions to the WHO and launching the more costly Paris UNFCCC. The U.S. economy has gradually moved towards nationalism, emphasizing buying American goods, hiring Americans, and greatly reducing the free flow of capital. It can be seen that during this period, the foreign policy of the United States gradually shifted from multilateralism to unilateralism and from liberalism to nationalism.

As a hegemonic country, the United States plays a pivotal role in the system of international relations. The United States has always been a model country in the Western world. Adhering to liberalism has always been the source of ideological power for the United States to lead the world. New Realist scholars have also proposed in the theory of hegemony and stability that the ability to maintain liberal policies is an important source of hegemony. In recent years, the United States has rejected liberalism and multilateralism, which has also affected the development of neoliberal international relations to a certain extent. The international governance system composed of multilateral organizations such as the United Nations has also ushered in the bottleneck of development. As China, the world's largest exporter, responded to the trade protection policies of the United States out of retaliation, the world's two largest economies abandoned the goal of trade liberalization, which cast a shadow over the world's economic liberalization process.

In this regard, American populism will also bring about the destruction of the American alliance system. Some countries are also brewing some confrontational policies, and the current system of multilateral relations is at risk of collapse [9]. The increased risk of a trade war may also pose challenges to the rules of free trade. The disregard for rules by hegemonic countries has also brought great pressure to global governance in a neoliberal state. The system of international relations may have reached another fork road.

2. Determinants of whether populism affects the international relationship

The core of populism is to construct the opposition between "us" and "them". "We" are generally national concepts, racial concepts, or the majority. The emotional factors that generate hostility include unemployment caused by globalization and competition, or inequality caused by regional integration and freedom. But in the final analysis, the growth of populism is attributed to demand-side and supply-side reasons. The former ones focus on solving the public's resentment and the latter Focus on solving the government's failure[4].

On the surface, populism is a product of democracy, which brings about changes in national foreign policy, leading to changes in international relations, which seems to be an effective response to democratic demands. Populist parties pursue populist-related international relations policies, which can actually be understood as the fulfillment of the promises made during the election campaign, as

long as populist issues remain the focus of national attention (such as during the Islamic terrorism in 2016, issues related to immigration and anti-terrorism, or the period of refugee flows). The problems of refugee disposal, or issues closely related to the pro-populist masses (such as competitive pressure and reduced welfare brought about by globalization), will become the source of the political power of populist political parties, and there will be an inevitable link between populism and corresponding international relations policies. Then the opposition to integration decisions in some EU countries, or the economic nationalist policies of the United States, will be directly related to populism in these countries.

However, there are also some studies showing that In fact, many populist parties are rather disinterested in international politics, and Very few articulate a clear vision or strategy in this regard[10]. Also, More generally, populist parties tend not to adopt similar positions on international affairs[11]. Contrary to the general expectations of populist actors, Jean-Luc Melenchon's France Insoumise (LFI) is in favour of welcoming refugees; Pim Fortuyn of the Netherlands is a supporter of European integration and international free trade agreements, and the Polish Law and Justice Party (PiS) is one of Russia's most critical European political parties[10].

From this, we can see that the political issues of populist parties are still broad and their positions are purposeful, depending on the needs of the public in different countries, which also confirms volunteerism's explanation of the causes of populism---a political tool. The existence of populism affects foreign policy and thus the situation of international relations also depends on whether populist parties regard the issue of international relations as a pending issue, or as a source of prestige and power in elections. For example, during Trump's campaign, unprecedented international relations issues such as anti-Mexico issues were widely applied to campaign materials, which naturally became the focus of the United States and the world.

3. Conclusions

There is no doubt that the greater the power of populism, the greater the uncertainty it brings to the policy of international relations and the international situation. There is a link between radical political positions and significant changes in international relations policies. Globally, many countries have suffered from economic inequality and employment risks caused by globalization and free markets. Populism in these countries is directly related to their nationalist and nationalist positions, because populism from the perspective of public demand has The foundation of public opinion has a certain so-called legitimacy, so the relevant populist policies have been well implemented because they are regarded as the source of the legitimacy of governance. But nowadays, what remains to be resolved is whether populism is truly legitimate, because although populism ignores or even hostiles other ethnic groups, minorities, or rich classes from the perspective of ordinary people. Populism violates their rights and interests. Is this true democracy? In addition, populism tends to undermine neoliberal and multilateral international relations, which, as emerging concepts of international relations in the 20th century, including the United Nations and the WTO, are regarded as the progress of human politics, and have the role of effectively governing the world and dealing with international relations. If anti-liberalism and anti-multilateralism are motivated by public opinion, then populism and multilateralism, who will have absolute legitimacy may be another paradox on this topic.

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