

The Deterioration of Western Politics Further Harms the World

西方政治劣质化进一步贻害世界

SOURCE

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AUTHOR

Zhang Shuhua 张树华

Director of the Institute of Political Science at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences;
Member, Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference

Not long ago, Denmark's Alliance of Democracies Foundation hosted the fourth so-called "Copenhagen Democracy Summit." This is an out-and-out political farce, but together with the "Global Democracy Summit" planned by the Biden administration and the United Kingdom's expansion of the G7 into a "democratic alliance," it has deepened the impression that the United States and the West are pushing the anti-China agenda under the banner of "democratic values." This also further reveals that the deterioration of Western politics is further harming the international community.

The world of today faces the most precarious and complex political situation of the past three decades since the end of the Cold War. With a lack of trust among major powers, increasing international governance deficits, peace deficits, and development deficits, and with political confrontation, value disputes, and economic sanctions in lieu of what once was dialog and cooperation, "chaos and confrontation" has become the theme of global politics, and the political relations between major powers can be described as incompatible and tense.

Why has the world descended into chaos? What is the root cause? What is wrong with the world? What does the future portend? These are all worrying questions that we must continue to ask.

The Fruits of the Alienation and Deterioration of Western-style Democracy

A generally agreed response is that the source of the serious deterioration of the global political ecosystem after the Cold War lies in the West, especially the systematic decline of Western politics as represented by the United States. More directly, the reason is that Western politics, represented by the United States, is increasingly deteriorating. The Western political camp produces more and more ideological viruses, public opinion gunpowder, and political garbage, causing waves of serious pollution to surge through the global political ecology. Some Western politicians who lack ethics and professional standards continue to lob inferior political products, worsening the environment for international exchanges and cooperation, interfering with the process of globalization, dragging down the development of economic and trade relations, and disrupting global production chains. What's more, this also artificially creates enemies and triggers international conflicts.

In this way, Western democracy, with its alienation and deterioration, has backfired. In recent years, the West has continued to force political transformation in other countries, taking advantage of political expansion, advocating democratic bubbles, inciting street violence, instigating "color revolutions," infringing upon the sovereignty and security of other countries, and spreading clashes of civilizations and instigating a rise in terrorism. Yet, Western political expansion has not only failed to bring democracy and freedom to the

world but has instead overextended itself. Instead of serving as a benefit to the world, the West has instead become a source of global chaos and disorder.

The disease at the root of the disorder in the West lies in the West itself. As early as 2005, former British Prime Minister Blair exclaimed that Western democracy was dead. In recent years, some public opinion survey results have also shown that the opinion on Western-style democracy is that it is a failure. Westerners, especially younger generations, have declining confidence and trust in Western-style democracy year by year, and American confidence in the democratic system has dropped to its lowest point in 20 years. American society has become more torn apart, money politics has distorted public opinion, elections have become a “one-man show” of tycoons and oligarchs, and racial discrimination and the politics of hate have intensified, impacting the very foundation of American politics. More and more scholars have even pointed out that the alienation and deterioration of Western-style democracy has intensified or that it may be submerged by populism or eroded by chauvinism, xenophobia, and fascism.

The 2008 global financial crisis has so far been regarded as a watershed in Western politics, revealing that the West is deeply entrenched in a political dilemma and that it will be difficult for it to survive on its own. At that time, the international financier George Soros wrote in the American media that world history may have entered a “dark period” and that Europe may fall into chaos and conflict. With regards to the political dilemma in the United States, American political scholar [Francis] Fukuyama believes that the bipartisan competition in the United States leads to political polarization, while democratic bubbles lead to political decline. European political observers also believe that a Europe of “over democratization, “democratic degeneration” and “democratic overrun” will fall into such a vicious cycle.

Politics in certain Western countries are now held hostage by the interests of the few, with tycoons and oligarchs in power and politicians in the foreground. Politics often encounter “traffic jams” or “red lights.” The proliferation of political extremism and populism is manifested in the prevalence of xenophobia and isolationism as manifested by political discrimination and religious extremism. Western democracy has deteriorated and gone rotten, and responsibility lies within the Western system itself. American scholar Graham Allison said that the problem in the United States lies in the decline of American democracy, and the decline of the United States is the world’s greatest danger and challenge.

The United States and the West have Wasted a “Period of Historical Opportunity”

Looking back at history, it is precisely because the United States and the West themselves wasted a period of historical opportunity that the world has traveled down such a dark path. The period from the late 1980s to the early 1990s marked the end of the Cold War. Marked by the fall of the Berlin Wall and the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the post-World War II confrontation between the West and the East, the capitalists and socialists, [between] NATO (led by the United States) and the Warsaw Pact (led by the Soviet Union) ended, and the world entered the “post-Cold War Era.” After the collapse and destruction of the Soviet Union during the Cold War, the United States represented the West on the apex of the world, reaping trillions [of dollars] in “Cold War dividends.” At the same time, however, the West seemed to be suffering from “political fanaticism” – on the one hand, it wanted to export democracy to the outside world in a vain attempt to dominate the world; on the other hand, they perceived conflicts and confrontations amongst different civilizations and religious cultures. As a result, the world was once again divided into two camps by Western politicians: Western hegemony, led by the United States, and the non-Western world of suppressed and sanctioned countries. In recent years, some Western think tanks have advocated for a “clash of civilizations,” “new interventionism,” “human rights above sovereignty,” “new limited sovereignty,” and “democratic mission theory.” On the one hand, some Western diplomatic think tanks sing of the “democratic peace theory,” yet, on the other hand, they promote or instigate “controlled chaos,” “offshore balancing,” and “hybrid wars” in non-Western countries with different sets of values. This not only hinders the democratization of international relations, but also poses a serious threat to

world peace. Some strategists in the West frequently draw the line with “democracy and freedom” and even forge a “democratic alliance” in an attempt to evoke a new Cold War.

As a result, over the past 30 years, the world has seen and experienced the Western camp’s wanton export of democracy, instigating religious confrontation, advocating clashes of civilizations, stimulating international terror, launching local wars, instigating “color revolutions,” and infringing on the sovereignty of other countries.

Despite their Scheming, the Outcomes are Poor

In recent years, against the background of declining power and increasing domestic contradictions, the impulse for political hegemony in the United States has evolved into political anxiety and even political madness. This has caused the United States to often do everything possible at the expense of various confrontational and even suicidal political attacks against other countries in order to maintain their hegemony.

As soon as the current U.S. government came to power, it shouted “America is back” and raised the banner of “democratic values” to woo its allies and confront China. American politicians constantly chant “democracy and human rights” and other such slogans in attempt to kill three birds with one stone: to revive domestic morale, revive the wills of old and new allies, and relive the old dream of a disintegrating Soviet Union during the Cold War [and a] bet that [the US] can [now] crush China. However, no matter what kind of strategy the heads of state in the United States concoct, it only exposes their poor acumen, and the result will be detrimental to others, such that the risks are not worth the losses. Not only can it not save its own national fortunes, but the United States will also overextend itself and ultimately harm the world.

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