On the Intellectual Power of the Nation

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Abstract. This paper firstly presents the concept of intellectual power at the national level. It holds that the intellectual power, for a nation, a government, a group, a team or individual, should not only embody political wisdom, political acumen, strategic and tactical intelligence, leadership ability, decision-making ability and comprehensive ability, but also have the ability to deal with different situation and to execute the plan. Based on this, the paper further proposes that the comprehensive strength of a country involves hard power, soft power and intellectual power. This paper, especially, points out that the intellectual power is independent. It does not belong to soft power, and it is materialized into "people". Also, the paper discusses the role and significance of intellectual power, which emphasizes that the effective use of intellectual power can make hard power and soft power develop quickly and keep a country in its property. The intellectual power, the hard power and the soft power are not only interdependent, but also interact with each other.

Introduction

In 1990, Joseph Nye, a professor of Harvard University, put forward the concept of "soft power" in his book and other papers. Joseph Nye points out that the comprehensive national power of a country includes not only the "hard power" represented by the economy, science and technology, military power, but also the soft power embodied in the cultural and ideological attraction"[1]. "Soft power" is an important part of national comprehensive strength, especially referring to the invisible influence of a country on the attraction of political system, the appeal of cultural value and the affinity of national image. "Soft power" mainly includes the following contents: The first is the cultural attraction and appeal; The second is the attractiveness of ideological and political values; The third is the foreign policy and moral legitimacy; The fourth is the affinity when dealing with countries; The fifth is the attractiveness of the development path and institutional model; The sixth is the orientation for making system of international standards and controlling capabilities. The seventh is the appreciation and recognition of the world people on a country's international image. Therefore, soft power does not include intellectual power in the content of the seven elements. In terms of national strategic decision, intellectual power is also the main component of the national comprehensive strength. In other words, hard power and soft power form the overall strength of the country. This is the "dualism" of comprehensive national strength. The third one is “intellectual power". Hard power, soft power and intellectual power consist of the overall strength of the country, which is the trialistic theory of national comprehensive strength. The hard power and soft power have been discussed a lot. So, this paper will focus on the study of the national "intellectual power".

The Concept of Intellectual Power

All things are constantly changing. And during the process, there must be something which promote the change to happen just as there are positive and negative, and zero connects positive and negative. In terms of matter, although there are crystals and noncrystals, there must be a quasicrystal. The transition between solid and gaseous state is liquid. Similarly, there are hard power and soft power, it needs intellectual power to use the hard power and develop soft power. In short, the intellectual power is the one of human mind.
This paper puts forward the concept of "intellectual power", and considers that the concept of "intellectual power" is the concentrated embodiment of political wisdom, political acumen and strategic wisdom, tactical intelligence, leadership, decision-making ability and comprehensive ability of a country, a group, or an individual. It demonstrates the ability to make decisions and implement them when dealing with all kinds of problems and conducting affairs, that is "the power of thought". The materialization of intellectual power is "people". People are the most important. Without people, there is no intellectual power. However, the intellectual power depends on the wisdom of the people, experience, the ability of the people and the corresponding authority rather than the number of people. Therefore, the strategies, judgments and recommendations for the think tank also require the judgment ability and the authority of the decision maker.

Intellectual power is different from soft power.

Firstly, let’s look at the connotation and extension of soft power. The contents of seven aspects of soft power have been discussed in the preface. According to Joseph Nye's view, the connotation of soft power is embodied in the "attraction" of culture, the "image power" of the country, the diplomatic "proposal" and the "persuasion" and "control" in the world". The purpose is to obtain the approval and recognition from other countries. Zhang Yiping believes that soft power is a power that can be transformed into assimilation, with the power to make other countries willing to do what it expects. He believes that the definition of soft power can be summed up as: The ability to attract others rather than force them to achieve what you want [2]. The concept of intellectual power in this paper, which does not belong to the intension and extension of soft power, is also not the material strength of hard power.

The fundamental difference between intellectual power and soft power is that the intellectual power refers to the wisdom of human beings, which can be either an individual or a group or a team. Whatever the good system and decisions are requires the wisdom of the people to carry out and reflects people’s ability and thoughts. In terms of intension and extension of the hard power and soft power, the intellectual power and soft power can not be equated. Similarly, to use hard power and to develop soft power depend on the intellectual power. Therefore, the intellectual power is the power of people’s thoughts.

For a country, it is quite necessary to establish intelligence power to apply hard power and soft power. This can make the comprehensive strength of the country develop effectively and sustainably, and can further enhance the country's hard power and soft power.

For a country, it must have hard power and soft power, but the driving force and control of these two strengths is the intellectual power.

The Main Function of Intellectual Power

**The Proper Use of Intellectual Power Can Make Great Achievements in National Construction.**

Based on the actual situation of the country, superb wisdom with deeply forward-looking and strategic vision can guide the construction of a country in various fields. For example, the national five-year-plan and the medium-and-long -term development plan are the concrete embodiment of the intellectual power, and the formulation and implementation of these goals require wisdom. For regions or places, the government needs to study the problems of long-term development of local economy and make in-depth research and judgment on the environment change and the future trend of development in order to seek new thought which can be used as reference to make policies. "Two bombs and one satellite" is a typical example. The decision, the plan and the research process of the first atomic bomb and hydrogen bomb of China fully illustrate the correct use of our leaders’ intellectual power. The tough decision and the authoritative willpower showed the tactics and wisdom of the leader’s. Until now this wise decision has had a significant impact. If we had not made up our minds to do it, would we still be able to make it today? Will others permit you to do again?
**Intellectual Power Can Optimize Hard Power.**

There is a solution to every problem. However, some solutions are good, but some may be not. Based on hard power and soft power, the strong intellectual power can assess all kinds of things and make the corresponding policy or programme of action or plan or strategy to promote the national hard power and soft power to play best. Intellectual power can not only dominant the scale and direction of hard power, but also help to promote the extension of soft power, so that the country's hard power and soft power can be optimized. Intellectual power can be independent of hard power and can even play an important role in the absence of hard power. In the early 50s of last century, the new China was just founded and everything was waiting to be done. The output value of the national economy was not high, there were only few countries in the world to establish diplomatic relations with China. It can be said that both the hard power and soft power of China were very weak. As far as hard and soft power, Chinese were not prepared to be involved into the war to resist U.S. aggression and aid Korea. However, the leaders represented by Mao Zedong fully demonstrated strong intellectual power, they resolutely decided to send troops to aid Korea and eventually forced the US-led United Nations Command to truce. Imagine if there was no this war and now The Yalu River could have been a US military base, our people would never have a peaceful life.

**Intellectual Power Cannot Only Reinforce The Country's Hard Power And Soft Power, But Also Keep Them Developing Sustainably.**

The improvement of a country’s comprehensive strength needs wisdom to keep the sustainable development of both hard power and soft power. Without the effective intellectual power, both the hard power and soft power will be weakened. Mao Zedong said “Policy and strategy is the life of the Chinese Communist Party” [3]. What policy will be made and what strategy will be taken depend on the wisdom of the people. If policies and strategies can be made in the way as Lao Tzu pointed out in “Tao Te Ching”, that is, “Highest good is like water benefits all things without striving for fame”[4], they will embody the great wisdom. The use of wisdom will be very helpful in seeking solutions to problems, which can be well illustrated in “The Art of War” such as “subduing the enemy without fighting” [5]. All these explain the importance of intellectual power.

Lack of intellectual power, or with a poor use of intellectual power, even if there is a solid foundation for both hard power and soft power, a country will easily take great risks. In 2003, because of the improper use of intellectual power, there were some faults in the policies of both the U.S. and Britain. For example, based on the strong hard power and soft power, they sent troops to Iraq and overthrew the Saddam regime. From the analysis of present situation, the U.S. didn’t get what they expected. Because Iraq has been in the turbulent times, and the people’s life and their property cannot be protected. In turn, the good use of intellectual power can make a country enjoy a long-term prosperity. The achievements of reform and opening policy designed by Deng Xiaoping and his administration well illustrate the excellent political wisdom, which brings our country prosperity. Our economic aggregate has taken the second in the world within only 40 years.

**Strengthening the Construction and Effective use of Intellectual Power Can Make the Policies, Laws and Regulations Formulated by the State More Scientific, Systematic and Reasonable.**

Policy is the action plan and behavior basis for the government or the social public authority to reach a certain goal in a certain historical period. Under normal circumstances, the policy is made by the "minority" or "elite". When they are on behalf of the public planning and formulation of public policy, they need to apply the wisdom to make the policies and regulations, planning and more scientific, systematic and reasonable.

**Proper Use of Intellectual Power Can Make us Have a Greater Say in Global Policymaking.**

It is more important to use political wisdom and diplomatic wisdom, in addition to soft power, to get a greater say, to implement the will of the state and to be accepted by other countries.

China is the second largest economy in the world. Although the contribution to world economic growth is growing, in terms of the global voice, China is still in a weak position. In the field of
international opinion, all kinds of fallacy have been spread, such as "the theory of Chinese threat" and "the theory of China collapse". This reflects the western discourse hegemony. Reflecting on ourselves, the reason is that we have not been aware of the importance of international communication and we have not worked so hard to promote our values and our cultural traditions from the strategic perspectives of international communication. In the international environment, China should protect their own interests and eliminate the misunderstanding of the international community, only in this way can we make the attitude of the international community towards our country in a more positive way. It is necessary to improve the power of international discourse. Therefore, in the promotion of the image of the country as well as the initiative to master the dissemination of information and other aspects, we also need a high degree of wisdom. Study on how to take the initiative to seek more international say, how to set up issues in international affairs, how to do more close to the way of thinking habits of foreign people show the development and progress of China and our values. It is needed to use our values to suppress those hostile values, and let the world understand China through our words, rather than through the words of the west to destroy China.

**Intellectual Power is Also Conducive to Mobilize All Aspects of Positive Factors to Eliminate the Adverse Factors.**

Everything is not a layer of the same. Both good or bad and advantages or disadvantages, the key to change the disadvantage is to correctly understand the subjective and objective conditions, to find out the positive factors from the negative factors, so as to find a solution to the problem'. It will turn negative factors into favorable ones and open up a new way. For instance, there are favorable and unfavorable factors in China's economic construction. The disadvantage is that the world economic recovery is still unstable and has uncertain factors, and emerging economies at home and abroad are facing new difficulties and challenges. The global economic structure is in the deep change, international competition becomes more intense. The factors to support the development of our country are also undergoing profound changes. It is in a difficult period for structural adjustment and growth speed. The favorable factors are: "our country is still in the development period of strategic opportunities, industrialization and urbanization, and regional development has great room for maneuver. In the next period of time, maintaining the rapid growth of China's economy has the foundation and conditions."[6] These need to mobilize the positive factors of intelligence, to eliminate the adverse factors, so that China's economy can continue to develop.

**Dialectical Relationship Among Intellectual Power, Hard Power and Soft Power**

Comprehensive national power consists of hard power, soft power and intellectual power. The relationship among them is interdependent, interactive and independent of each other.

The hard power is visible and tangible material strength. It is also the material fundamental of national construction and development. Moreover, it is the tangible carrier and materialized form of soft power. Solid hard power can promote the expansion of the country's soft power. At the same time, hard power can lay the material foundation for the proper use of intellectual power. China has reached the second economic aggregate of the whole world, this is a sign of strong hard power. Only on the basis of the hard power with the strong economy, can our country have the economic ability to set up Confucius Institute in foreign countries, so as to enhance the understanding of our policy and political system in the world, which, in turn, upgrade our soft power. With a strong foundation of hard power, we can develop education and construct more think tanks to improve the educational level and the quality of the whole nation. All of these also promote the development of intellectual power.

Soft power, as a significant part of comprehensive national power, emanates invisible influence by the appeal of political system and policy, the charism of cultural values and the affinity of the national image. It profoundly affects people's views on international relations and the role of China in international affairs. Soft power is an invisible extension of hard power, which can promote the improvement of the quality of the people, enhance the recognition and understanding of the policies and policies in the world, and promote China's economic construction and the further strengthening
of China's hard power. Soft power provides the basis of intangible assets such as culture and institution. At the same time, it also provides historical reference for the application of intellectual power.

Intellectual power isn't the same as hard power which is the visible material wealth, nor the soft power which is the intangible assets of the culture and system. Intellectual power means the power of "human", and it is wisdom. In the comprehensive strength of country, it is the most important strength, which determines if the development of hard power and soft one can effectively extend. The embodiment of intellectual power can be a strategy, a policy, a plan or an idea. A great wisdom can be even embodied in a word. This wisdom is better than millions of fortune and thousands of armies. Deng Xiaoping said, “Development is the only way to go”. He drew this scientific conclusion based on the careful analysis of the development of China and the world by standing in the forefront of the times. Development itself is a scientific concept with rich connotation. The cognition of human beings has changed from the concept of growth to the one of development, which is a historic turning point. This strategic thinking is an effective reflection of the great wisdom.

Intellectual power is the performance of human intelligence. It refers to human’s thinking activities. The assessment criteria for intellectual power do not focus on the numbers of people, but on the wisdom embodied through the ability of thinking, decision-making and judging.

In the period of the Agrarian Revolution War, according to the specific circumstances, Mao Zedong put forward the proposition of surrounding the cities from the countryside to win the final victory of the revolution. This proposition embodied Mao Zedong's foresight in political wisdom and strategic wisdom, which well illustrate the application of intellectual power.

**Conclusion**

The above words are a brief discussion of the country's intellectual power. This paper puts forward the concept of intellectual power, which is about the factor of "human", the power of human thought, the wisdom of human beings and the power of the decision-making. The overall strength of the country should be composed of three parts: hard power, soft power and intellectual power. There are dialectical relationship among hard power, soft power and intellectual power. It shows that the intellectual power is more important than hard power and soft power. It can make a business flourishing, but also bring companies to be closed down. It can make the government's functional departments to play a greater efficiency role. It can help a country make progress and improve the happiness of citizens. Therefore, in the trialistic theory of the country's comprehensive strength, the construction and application of intellectual power is crucial, which government should pay attention to, especially in the current complexed domestic and international environment.

**Reference**


