Research of Way to Get Political Legitimacy in the New Era Reform Period

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Abstract. In the new era, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) faces both opportunity and challenge during its important transition period, in which the political legitimacy is first problem to solve in governing ability construction. It is necessary to investigate source of political legitimacy power in order to meet the challenge better, establish the Party’s authority and strengthen national coherence. Setting, consolidation and improvement of political legitimacy basis can be got by the Party ruling according to law, value guidance, people’s livelihood concern, running strictly and army building for the CCP’s governance capability reinforce.

Introduction

“The main contradictions in Chinese society have been transformed into the one between unbalanced and inadequate development and the People’s ever-growing needs for a better life.” XI Jinping stressed in the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. In recent years, under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), the productivity of China has been developing continuously, with some prominent problems existed, the unfair distribution of income and the widening gap between the rich and the poor [1]. The People’s ever-growing needs include not only the satisfaction of the material, but also the spiritual pursuit of justice, democracy and the legal system. At the same time, a variety of ideological tides have emerged in the new era, impacting the mainstream consciousness of the state, such as the rule of law, freedom, democracy, which has badly challenged the authority in politics and power of the CCP. It is necessary and urgent to analysis and study the CCP’s political legitimacy and future improve the sense of the People’s identity.

Political Legitimacy

Politics is the profound practice and unity of regulation and governance between the state and the People. For the leader of a country, the legitimacy is a central issue in politics. Generally speaking, the political legitimacy of the CCP means the voluntary obedience and support of the People on the basis of rational analysis and perceptual knowledge. It refers the internal relational between the Party and the masses, and express the recognition degree of the People to the leadership of the CCP.

The issue of political legitimacy has been an important focus of rulers since ancient times. Confucius said: People in politics must be justified first, which means that they have to consider political legitimacy enough to make their management orthodox. On the one hand, from the perspective of the object of power, political legitimacy is to make the People produce and adhere to a belief that the current political system and leadership are the most appropriate. On the other hand, from the perspective of subject of the power, political legalization can ensure the long-time interests of country and stabilization of power, which can maintain and consolidate the rulers’ political domination in turn. In the new era, the rule position of the CCP has been stronger, but it still cannot.
relax the attention and vigilance on the issue of political legitimacy. The acquisition of political legitimacy is not a one-off or one-time action. It can be faced with various challenges better only when the political legitimacy is continuously accumulated and innovated, reshaped and stabilized by the CCP [2].

**Source of Political Legitimacy Power**

Marxist political view points out that “the politics is the relationship between class”, while class always comes with power. The regime is a special public power, which also has the general power characteristics. From the perspective of operation, power can be divided into compulsory power, utilitarian power, manipulative power, personality and legitimacy power, which reflect not only the characteristics of the regime, but also the main source of political legitimacy. It is worth noting that the sources do not include coercive methods. Coercive methods may bring yield, but the People’s obey and trust in heart. Trying to get political legitimacy through external forces is counterproductive.

The utilitarian power source of political legitimacy refers the give-and-take relationship between governor and the governed in essence. The People will only recognize the government’s leadership if they really get benefits from them. The operative power source of political legitimacy means the agreement between thoughts and values of the People and prevailing values of rulers by the persuasion of the governed psychology and emotion. The personality power source of political legitimacy refers the People being attracted by the charisma of leaders and full of respect for their management. Finally, legitimacy power is the basis of political legitimacy and is the first condition of power obtaining. The authority of the government must, on the premise of legality, combines with other sources to achieve scientific political domination.

**Way to the Political Legitimacy**

Through the analysis of source of power, it can be concluded that political legitimacy must be gotten based on legitimacy, science, value, and recognition. In order to achieve these foundations, the CCP has to adopt some approach by managing according to law, value guidance, the People’s livelihood concern, running strictly and army building.

**Ruling the Party According to Law**

The ruling status of the CCP is getting by People’s constantly checking, review and selection in law instant of extortion, not itself, but the inevitable result of historical development. The law is the guarantee of effective operation of social mechanism and the foundation of the CCP’s ruling power acquisition. The phenomenon of extra-normal law in Party, which leads the full risk and instability to the CCP, will happen without the restrain and supervision of law. Governing the Party according to law is an inevitable choice to promote the CCP’s political system reform and political legitimacy. To ensure the Party follows laws and regulations and respect the integrity of democratic process without privileges and fraud, can the CCP obtain the political legitimacy which is recognized by the People’s.

**Value Guidance**

Ideological propaganda, as an important support for the political legitimacy of the ruling party, is also one of the techniques of achieving manipulative power. On the one hand, the mainstream ideology of propaganda can provide theoretical support and value guidance for the CCP, on the other hand, its powerful explanation and practice ability can greatly promote the unity of the Party and the People [3]. Since the new era, the socialist core values and Chinese excellent traditional culture become popular. “Carry forward the Chinese culture, realize the Chinese Dream”, put forward by XI, is the main focus, important guiding ideology and ruling idea of the CCP’s value.

“The CCP has to adhere to the socialist core value system”, XI stressed again in the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, “has to improve its dominance in the field of ideology”.
Developing the traditional culture of Chinese is based on traditional value, can better seek the consistency between the ruling party and the People’s understanding of political values. In the new era, foreign thoughts are constantly about invasion, corrupt and assimilation with the development of science and technology. Only by expanding Chinese outstanding culture, stay true to the mission, can give the People newly political and morality value from political legitimacy identification.

People’s Livelihood Concern

Focusing on the People’s livelihood is mainly based on the utilitarian power. People’s welfare and achievement of government are the most intuitive and decisive indicators of the ruling Party. The People will agree with the validity of CCP’s rule, which brings political legitimacy, only when the Party seeks benefits for the People and protects the rights of them. In the new era, the livelihood of the People which is concerned by government not only includes economic development, but all the issues related to the People’s immediate interests, such as politics, education, ecology, health, employment, housing, culture and so on. In the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, XI Jinping said, “to put the People’s yearning for a better life as the goal of CCP, relying on the People to create great history”, “to put the People’s interests in the paramount status”, which means the CCP can only improve its appeal and influence by making achievements in various aspects connected with the People, thus it can acquire, consolidate and enhance political legitimacy better.

Running Strictly

The Party management according to law is a principal pathway to get political legitimacy from the legality aspect, and running strictly is getting it from the CCP’s personality influence aspect. The CCP must improve the quality of party personnel and enhance the Party’s credit and charming to get the approval of the People. There used to be a formal phenomenon, abuse power, embezzle money and engage in corrupt practices in the CCP, resulting unfair feeling and loss to the People, which badly shake the foundation of political legitimacy. The People’s trust in the Party had been reduced, and it had a harsh influence on the social order and the People’s morale. Running the CCP strictly is aimed at strengthening its “personality”, which plays a decisive role in enhancing political legitimacy. In the new era, “clear GUO and XU”, fight against corruption, “micro-corruption control” actions and many other thesis presented in the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China all afford general satisfaction, which improve the CCP’s competence and authority greatly. Therefore, only by adhering to strict the Party’s discipline, changing bad atmosphere inner, can the CCP influence the masses and gain the core of political legitimacy.

Army Building

Coercive power is one of the political powers. However, the political legitimacy has many features without coerciveness, which cannot be a way to getting political authority. Nevertheless, in the new ear, the CCP still has to enhance the combat capability of military, which is under the CCP’s leadership. Combined the Party commands the gun with army building is one of a political legitimacy obtaining way because of external risk faced now. The world situation is complex and changeable with diversified and unstable. Countries are more sensitive to the interest conflicts. Our homeland security and the People’s interest still bear many external threats and challenges, and the legitimacy and validity of national governance must be based on a stable environment. It is necessary to adhere to the military construction and battle effectiveness enhancing for national sovereignty and the People’s security, which can ensure the CCP to create a stable, harmonious external environment under the intense international situation. In a word, strengthening the army construction to destroy the external risk of political legitimacy and to guarantee the People to live and work in peace is an inevitable requirement for the CCP in the new era.

Summary

In the new era, the People will combine their national identity and patriotic sentiment with trust and
support to the CCP only if political organization, system, achievement and value under the leadership of the CCP are accepted. The Party according to law, value guidance, people’s livelihood concern, running strictly and army building for the Party’s governance capability reinforce are the road it must get through to solve the political legitimacy problem.

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References


