The Influence of Modi government's Geopolitical Strategy on China's Frontier security

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Abstract: One country's geopolitical strategy is closely related to the frontier security of its neighbors. This paper first expounds the origin of Modi government's geopolitical strategic thought, then analyzes Modi government geopolitical environment, then explains the content and characteristics of Modi government's geopolitical strategy, finally discusses the impact of Modi government's geopolitical strategy on China's frontier security, then puts forward China's countermeasures.

1. Introduction

What is geopolitics? The Black well Encyclopaedia of political Science wrote: Geopolitics studies the state as a three-dimensional phenomenon in order to understand the geography of national power. It examines state behavior in the context of characteristics such as territory, climate, organic and inorganic resources, geographic location, and human characteristics such as population distribution, cultural attributes, economic activity, and political structure. [1]Furthermore, In the practical study of geopolitics, it mainly includes all the issues related to national territory, boundary, rational use and allocation of resources. Therefore, geopolitics has been closely related to frontier security since its birth.

2. The origin of modi government's geopolitical strategic thought

After Modi became prime minister of India, he began to adopt a foreign policy that prioritized neighboring countries (neighbor first). These geopolitical strategic thought can date back to the mauryan dynasty in the third century BC.The founding minister of the maurya dynasty, kautiliya, according to the traditional political thoughts of ancient India wrote Political Affairs, whcih believed that the state was an aggregation composed of the monarch, ministers, countryside, city, Treasury, army and alliance. [2]kautiliya pursued traditional realistic thought, and when he analysed international relations he treated his neighbours as natural enemies.But these countries which directly adjacent to neighboure enemies countries are likely to be their friends.And adjacent to friendly country maybe is a friendly country or the enemy's friendly countries.In a world ruled by the law of fish, the only way for a king to survive was to become a powerful conqueror who would dominate and unify all of India "from mountain to sea".Only empires of great size and power and wothout any instability can curb big fish and foreign invaders.This neighborhood -deterministic ring structure exists typical logic of "geographic deterministic".

After Modi came to office, he is always seeing the 'Neighbours First' as a cornerstone of his foreign policy. In order to secure dominance in South Asia, Modi goverment adopt bilateral diplomacy and a more explicit coalition diplomacy (what might be called 'Acting West', 'Acting East' and 'Acting South'). Especially in east Asia, where New Delhi has moved unprecedentedly close to the United States and to Vietnam, Japan and Australia.It seems that he determined to build a coalition that will strengthen his bargaining hand.These coalition strategy is moving India away from its traditional aversion to alliance-like relationships.[3]Undoubtly, his coalition foreign policy is aimed at China and Pakistan.

3. Modi government geopolitical environment

From the perspective geographically, India is located at the core of the southern part of the Eurasian continent, with the Hindu kush, karakoram and Himalayas in the northwest, the Arabian sea in the west, the bay of Bengal in the east, and Sri Lanka and maldives across the sea in the south.India is not only the 'heart' descrined by mackinder, the 'edge' in spickma''s eyes, but also is Kissinger's important 'chess'.The unique geographical location, transportation channels and abundant resources of the Indian Ocean make it become a stage for great powers to play games. Mahan, the founder of American maritime power theory, who said 'Whoever controls the Indian Ocean, who controls the Asia'. India diplomats K.M panikkar think that 'the future of India does not depend on the land border, but depends on the vast ocean.India's security depends on the Indian Ocean. Without a thoughtful and effective maritime policy of its own, its position in the world has always been tenuous. [4]

From the perspective of external environment, Xi jinping has been put forwad 'One Belt And One Road initiative' since 2013, China has been going deep into the Indian Ocean to strengthen its influence in the Indian Ocean. However, the U.S president Trump proposed 'indo-pacific strategy' in order to balance China's influence in the asia-pacific by wooing India.What's more, Japan, Vietnam and Australia have also made frequent overtures to India.

Considering comprehensively the internal and external geopolitical environment, according to kautiliya's ancient realistic thought, Modi government have developed a unique geopolitical strategy.

4. The content and characteristics of Modi government's geopolitical strategy

4.1 The content of Modi government's geopolitical strategy

4.1.1 Strengthening land power, dominating regional affairs in South Asia

After Modi took office, on one hand, he strenghen to develop economy.On the other hand, he actively carry out neighboring diplomacy.The neighbouring diplomacy could draw small South Asian countries together and expand the economic interests of all parties.At the same time, the neighbouring diplomacy could reshape India's soft power in South Asia and create a favorable surrounding environment for domestic economic development. [5]

Specifically, Modi goverment expand areas of cooperation with neighbour countries through cultural and educational exchanges, connectivity, increased investment, incentives trade and increased aid.Besides, India take advantage of traditional culture, talent, tourism, trade and science and technology to revitalize India's influence. What's more, Modi goverment take use of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and Subregional Cooperation between Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) in order to strengthen institutional cooperation with South Asia and neighboring countries.

4.1.2 Strengthening sea power, Implementing India's Indian Ocean strategy

In 2015, Modi goverment established 'Ensuring maritime security: India's maritime security strategy'. The new maritime strategy emphasis on India will play the role of 'net security provider' around the sea. Therefore, Modi began to implement the strategy of 'Acting East' 'Acting West'and cooperate with the United States in response to trump's indo-pacific strategy. Furthermore, Modi government is actively involved in the South China Sea .First of all, India began to trengthen maritime security cooperation with Vietnam and the Philippines and accelerate oil and gas cooperation with Vietnam in the South China sea. Secondly, Modi government is also call for in accordance with international law to solve disputes in the South China sea peacefully.

4.1.3 Strengthening the great power strategy, building a leading country

In the 2014 Indian general election, modi in his election manifesto proposed to build a "strong, self-reliant and self-confident India"and to gain corresponding status in the international community. In February 2015, modi claimed to lead India to become a "global leading power"rather than a

balancing power.

Specifically, on one hand, Modi goverment strengthen cooperation with the United States, Japan, Britain, France, Russia, China. On the other hand, Modi bring soft power into India's great power strategy will help push India on the road to becoming a comprehensive power.[6]At modi's calling for, the United Nations announced June 21 every year as 'international yoga day'. what's more, Modi government take advantage of overseas Indian to spread India culture.

4.2 The characteristics of Modi government's geopolitical strategy

4.2.1 Through balanced diplomacy, reflecting characteristics of realism

Modi government played the balance of power diplomacy based on Balance of Power Theory' to its fullest. Raja Mohan, a famous Indian commentator, said that Modi's rule heralds the beginning of a third republic and a new foreign policy. In East Asia, India has moved closer to the United States, Japan, Vietnam and Australia with clearer joint diplomacy to balance China and Paksitan's influence in the indo-pacific region [7]. In Eastsouth Asia, Modi government pursue a flexible foreign policy to maximize its self-interest. In Middle East, India is highly dependent on the gulf countries and Iran, and has conducted all-round cooperation with the gulf countries in energy, counter-terrorism, economy and trade and other fields. At the same time, Modi visited to Israel and has begun to tilt the Middle East policy in favor of the Israeli camp , his purpose is maximize India's national interests through balanced diplomacy.

4.2.2 Focusing on India, reflecting characteristics of constructivism

The theory of constructivism emphasizes that "the identity held by a country is the main source of specific national interests, and the unique identity strongly shows a whole set of interest choices and preferences concerning specific behaviors and related actors"[8]Modi put forward 'the neighbouring first' and 'a leading country' is recognition of Indian identity reflecting characteristics of constructivism.

5. The impact of Modi government's geopolitical strategy on China's frontier security

5.1 Affecting China's land frontier security

India generally regards the Hindu kush mountains, the Himalayas, the Arabian sea and the bay of Bengal as its so-called natural boundaries.[9]In order to achieve India's absolute dominance in South Asia and avoid China's involvement in south Asian affairs in order to ensure the security of India's northern frontier, India attempted to turn Tibet into a 'buffer state of autonomy' after India independence. After the founding of the People's Republic of China, China and India failed to reach an agreement on the Tibet issue, which has left a legacy of the china-india border dispute and seriously .

Since have been taking office, modi has continued to secretly support the Dalai separatist forces for Tibetan independence. In March 2017, Dalai visited northeast India. After a month, he visited arunachal pradesh (south Tibet of China) in an attempt to strengthen his role as a religious leader and strengthen tawang's important position in the Tibetan region by donating new temples and preaching, which seriously threatened China's national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

5.2 Affecting China's maritime security

In 2014, Modi called on all parties to abide by the code of conduct in the South China Sea, in which India will become a net security provider. In 2015, Modi government's Indian maritime doctrine designated the South China Sea, East China Sea, Western Pacific and adjacent waters as India's secondary interest zones.India has stepped up military exercises with Vietnam, Japan, South Korea and the Philippines in the south China sea, putting the south China sea to a part of its Indian Ocean strategy.In 2018, India and Vietnam signed a framework agreement to strengthen bilateral cooperation, vowing to build an open and prosperous indo-pacific region while ensuring an efficient and rules-based regional security framework. India has stirred up the South China Sea,

complicating the situation in the South China Sea and seriously threatening China's maritime security and sovereignty integrity.

5.3 Affecting China's non-traditional security

With India's influence growing, its non-traditional security spills over into its neighbors country. Tibet, which is geographically and culturally similar to India, is often the key areas of India's non-traditional security spillovers. Terrorism and extremism in India have penetrated into Chin's Tibet along the Himalayan passageway, and the 'Tibetan independence and' and 'Xinjiang independence' in China have colluded with the 'three forces' in India, which have seriously affected the stability and development of China's border areas.

6. Countermeasures

6.1 Formulating a geopolitical strategy for India

As Sunzi said that "know yourself and your enemy, and you will survive a hundred battles". In order to protect China's frontier security, China must formulate a pratice and objective geopolitical strategy for India.

Firstly, China must clear and definite the goal of geopolitical strategy for India. The primary goal of China's geostrategy towards India is to ensure national sovereignty and territorial integrity. This strategic choice requires China to work to eliminate various sources of conflict that origin of land and maritime boundaries disputes.

Secondly, making objectively assessment of India's geopolitical environment. The geopolitical environment is a constantly changing process. Modi government's environment is also constantly changing. China should adjust its geopolitical strategy accordingly according to the dynamic adjustment of India's geopolitical strategy.

6.2 Using a variety of geostrategic tools

China could make comprehensively use of political, economic, and cultural and other means to achieve China's geopolitical diversification strategic goals.

On one hand, China will continue to deepen the implementation of the One Belt And One Road initiative. The 'One Belt And One Road initiative' is not to occupy India's geopolitical space in South Asia and offset its influence in the region. It is an inclusive globalization development and a political and economic means for China to undertake global governance. China should strengthen BCIM economic corridor construction in order to expand cooperation areas and eliminate the conflict disputes.

On the other hand, China can zealously pursue cultural diplomacy. Modi's cultural soft power strategy has had a significant impact on the cultural security of China's border areas. To continuously enhance the soft power of Chinese culture and enhance the cultural identity of frontier people, so as to cope with the influence of Indian soft power in China's frontier and ensure the cultural security of China's frontier.

6.3 Promoting multilateral mechanisms cooperation between China and India

Multilateral mechanisms are important means of promoting international security but is also the most difficult way to achieve international security because of security dilemma. For the sake of ensuring China's frontier security, China can cooperate with India and solve border dispute by Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).China should promote the connection between the 'One Belt And One Road' initiative and SAARC, enhanceing the capacity of regional integration in South Asia, and give full play to the overall function of regional security cooperation in South Asia.

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