

Research on the Evolution and Dynamics of the Frontier Area between China and India

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Abstract: The frontier area between China and India has undergone numerous changes from the ancient dynastic state to the modern state. The frontier area between China and India evolves in interaction and is affected by multiple factors. With the close integration of modern countries and the development of peripheral diplomacy, China's "Belt and Road" initiative and trans-Himalayan cooperation, the scope of frontier area tends to be integrated, crossing over the physical frontier area, and moving towards the direction of benign interaction.

1. Introduction

China's frontier research tends to focus on frontier governance, while the western society's attention on frontier mainly focuses on colonial expansion, world partition, power politics and other aspects. In the thinking and context of Chinese people, frontier is always closely connected with history, border, dynasty, nation, culture, administration, national defense and so on. It has obvious characteristics of natural history and national culture, and is static, introverted, defensive, closed and intuitive[1].

In terms of the research on the development pattern of frontier area, most of the research in China is a kind of static observation research, which is not put into the dynamic research. In this regard, western studies can provide references. The frontier is on the edge of a country, which is in the process of change from the perspective of historical process, and the process of change is the process of interaction with the borders of other countries. Lazer, the founder of geopolitics, believed that the country's living space and frontier are dynamic processes. There is a common feature in western scholars' thinking on frontier, that is, they often mention the concepts of "process", "flow", "intersection", "mutual relationship", "interaction", "mutual influence", "mutual connection and penetration", etc. James A. Milward argues that boundaries are not fixed. McLuhan, a well-known expert on media theory, believes that strictly speaking, "the value of frontier is used as an interface, a complex process of continuous change"[2]. The frontier between different worlds, which provides the process of dialogue and interaction, can enrich the world concerned. It is impossible to have that kind of dialogue and interaction within any of these worlds[3]. Most western scholars who study China's frontier also view it from a dynamic process, and study China's frontier from the perspective of interaction rather than one-way or binary opposition. The thinking on the western modern frontier discourse and its concept of 'frontier' must take into account the connection with China's past, present and future border issues, and only in the connection can it be meaningful to think about 'frontier'[4].

2. Materials and Methods

The change of the frontier is mainly reflected in two aspects: first, within the country's established territory or territory, the frontier changes in the scope of expansion and contraction, and gradually from the land frontier to the ocean frontier, and then from the plane frontier to the three-dimensional frontier; the second is to form a superterritorial border on the basis of territorial frontier, and build a soft and overlapping border on the basis of hard and exclusive territorial frontier, leading to the diversification of border forms[5].

Before the concept of frontier was fully established, the change of China's frontier from dynasty to modern times was mainly in the scope. Most of the frontier area between China and India are in Tibet. In dynastic states, the boundaries were vague, unclear, and sketchy. The evolution and definition of the border area between China and India were not clear until the modern times, and the two countries paid more attention to the border area and boundary. India's Governor Kozon once gave a speech in which he said that Britain had no borders, only oceans. Now we have a border between India and China in Tibet. Many scholars believe that the interactions and disputes along the China-India border originated on the "McMahon Line" concocted by the British imperialists during their rule of India. To this end, the British and Indian governments encroached on China's Xinjiang and Tibet. After India became independent, it inherited the British Indian government's idea of "strategic border" and believed that the most economic way to ensure the security of its northern border was to turn Tibet into a "buffer zone" and let China and India disengage. When China liberated Tibet, India's "Tibet buffer zone" goal disappeared. After the establishment of the two countries, the requirements and definition of the frontier were very prominent. The Indian side adopts the position of "no dispute, no negotiation" on the boundary issue. The Nehru government refuses to recognize the fact that there is a dispute on the boundary between China and India, and proposes that all issues between the two countries have been settled in the 1954 agreement between China and India, and refuses to negotiate on the boundary between the two countries. Relations between the two countries reached a high point with the 1954 agreement between China and India.

As for the undecided boundary between China and India, the position of the Chinese government is to take into account the historical situation, current facts and bilateral relations and resolve the issue through consultation with relevant countries at an appropriate time. A military response in October 1962 and the border between China and India spiraled into war. In 1976, China and India resumed ambassadorial relations. The border dispute between China and India and the relationship between China and India have also been relaxed and developed. In 1988, Rajiv Gandhi sought to reopen negotiations on the China-India border. In 1993, the two countries signed the agreement on maintaining peace and tranquility on the line of actual control along the China-India border. In 1996, the two countries signed the agreement on confidence-building measures in the military field on the line of actual control along the China-India border. In 2003 the two countries signed the declaration on principles for relations and comprehensive cooperation between China and India, India clearly acknowledged, and the Tibet Autonomous Region is a part of the People's Republic of China, in 2005 the government of the People's Republic of China and the government of the republic of India for the settlement of the China-India boundary question the political guiding principles for agreement signed, in 2010 China and India jointly issued the joint communique of the People's Republic of China and the republic of India both sides reiterated that will be committed to through peaceful negotiations, an early settlement of the border issue such outstanding differences. We will continue to advance the negotiation process of the special representative on the boundary question and work for a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution from a political and strategic perspective. Pending the settlement of the boundary issue, the two sides will jointly safeguard peace and tranquility in the frontier area in accordance with the agreements signed[6].

At present, the boundary delimitation between China and relevant countries is the main problem that seriously disturbs China's territorial sovereignty. As of 2010, China has completed the delimitation of its land boundaries with 12 of the 14 countries bordering China. The current territorial sovereignty dispute between China and India involves about 125,000 square kilometers of land. Both China and India have made claims to this huge and strategically important border area. China and India have launched several rounds of negotiations on the boundary issue, but so far there has been no substantive solution to the dispute. From the perspective of the transformation of China-India border area from dynasty-state to modern state, it has the following characteristics: first, the scope of border area changes with the change of state capacity, the connotation of border area is adjusted on the basis of the integration of border area, and the appearance of border area is changed in the continuous governance. Second, the borders are becoming clearer. The boundary of the dynastic state was not clear until the modern times. Thirdly, more and more attention has been paid

to the frontier, especially in the face of the invasion of western colonialism, the frontier can serve as an outpost for safeguarding national security, so the emphasis on the frontier has also been strengthened. Finally, to maintain their own frontier area are in the maximum limit to retain the initiative to negotiate for their own frontier area.

3. Results

Affected by state power and governance. In the dynastic era, national unity and division coexist, and unification occupies a dominant position. When the dynasty effectively ruled the frontier, the boundary was relatively clear. When the dynasty's ability to govern the frontier was low and the country was divided, the boundary was relatively vague, and the boundary of the two countries also saw each other. The construction of the frontier is realized by the state's will and power. The construction nature of the frontier, which is formed by the will and power of the state, is reflected not only in the formation of the frontier in Chinese history, but also in the development and evolution of the frontier itself. The extent of the frontier varied with the dynastic and state power. Specifically, when the power of the dynastic state was strong, the territory of the dynastic state was expanded, and the frontier was expanded. When a dynasty is weak or divided, its territory shrinks or is divided, and its frontier is narrowed or divided.

Economics and ecology. On the one hand, economic factors play an important role in the change of border area. From dynastic states to modern times, due to economic and economic development, or based on the needs of complementarity and interconnection, the frontier area will be more integrated, and each side will value the role of its frontier area more. On the other hand, the change of ecology also affects the change of frontier area. The deterioration of ecological environment will lead to the migration, settlement and integration of people from frontier area of one country to frontier area of another country. People may live in the frontier areas where no one lives in another country.

Cultural factors. The so-called frontier is two unequal forms of culture, which come into contact with each other and thus exert mutual influence, causing many ACTS and reactions, forming special forces and developing new ideas from them. It is a natural phenomenon that the contact between two cultures in each frontier society must have its own attempt to develop itself and surpass the other culture[7].In the process of border changes between China and India, whose cultural influence is stronger or whose culture is at an advanced level in a certain period of time will form the attraction of culture. At this time, the border area is a window, and the border area will be open and integrated, leading to vague scope. When the respective cultures are strong or complementary and compatible with each other, communication blocks and conflicts will be formed. In the perspective of frontier area, they are isolated and blocked respectively.

4. Conclusion

The geographic space that the state possesses or controls is the territory of the state. The country's territory is not invariable, it changes with the evolution of the country's political form and the change of the scope of human activities. In the pre-nation-state era, the boundaries of a country were not clearly defined and often changed with the change of national strength [8].There are many reasons for the evolution of the frontier. There are at least three interrelated but independent processes that play an important role: the ecological and economic processes, the cultural processes, and finally the political processes.To sum up, the changes in the frontier area of China and India are mainly influenced by the political, ecological, economic and cultural processes.

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