

Study on “Three Forces” and Border Security in Northwest of China

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Abstract: The “Three Forces” have a long history in the western of China, and have become the most important factor affecting the security and stability of the western frontier of China. In the process of globalization, the “Three Forces” have shown new characteristics, penetrated into various fields of the society, and threatened the stability of the western frontier society from both internal and external aspects. Under the new strategy of governance to Xinjiang, it is required to pay attention to the threaten of the “Three Forces” to the security of the western frontier, improve the countermeasures against the three forces, ensure the security of the western frontier, and promote the stability and development of overall China.

1. The spread of “three forces” in Xinjiang and its causes.

The influence of the “three forces” on the western frontier of China, especially on Xinjiang province, has existed for a long time. In the late of 19th century, Xinjiang were occupied by the Yakoob regime. He sought the support of the Ottoman Empire. The Osman Empire took the opportunity to promote the spread of “Pan-Islamism” and “Pan-Turkism” in Xinjiang province. Thus, “Pan-Islamism” and “Pan-Turkism” began to spread in Xinjiang. In 1910s, the international power pushed the “Pan-Islamism” and “Pan-Turkism” to Xinjiang province, which caused appearance of the separative power——“The Islamic Republic of East Turkestan”——in Xinjiang. After the “Three districts revolution”, the “East Turkestan” forces scattered as mottled ashes, and part of them hiding in Xinjiang. With the development of globalization, the domestic “East Turkestan” forces cooperated with the international anti-China forces made a series of riots. So far, ethnic separatist forces, terrorist forces and religious extremist forces have threaten the lives and property of people, social stability and national security.

Historical factors. Xinjiang is the intersection of cultures, where Islamic culture, Buddhist culture and Confucian culture meet. In Han Dynasty, the Silk Road promoted various cultures to exchange. Li Jing holds that Xinjiang, especially the Southern part of Xinjiang, experienced the process of Turkification and Islamization since the Tang Dynasty, so it was suitable for the spread of “Pan-Islamism” and “Pan-Turkism”.

Geopolitical factors. Geopolitical factors are important factors affecting the security of a country. The introduction of Islam, the spread of “Pan-Islamism” and “Pan-Turkism” and the spread of “three forces” involve the influence of neighboring countries. Generally speaking, “Pan-Islamism”、 “Pan-Turkism” and “three forces” are not the products of the locality, but are influenced by the forces of the neighboring countries. It was the weakness of the Qing Dynasty's control that led to the penetration of the “Pan-Islamism” and “Pan-Turkism” into Xinjiang, sowing seeds for the spread of the “three forces” in Xinjiang.

Ethical factors. There are 7 trans-border ethnic groups. Hayrat Tohonbay pointed that due to the religious beliefs, customs, geographical connections, and other factors, trans-border ethnic groups are prone to interact. At present, the “Three forces” are using religious identity to win the trust of the ignorant believers and to carry out violent and terrorist incidents.

Economic factors. The imbalance of China's economic development is a major feature of China. The unbalanced development between the East and the west is a significant manifestation of the unbalanced development across the country. It is caused by long history. Although the state has implemented a series of policies to develop the economy of the west of China, the unbalanced

development between the East and the West still exists. Many scholars believe that the unbalanced development between regions weakens the national identity of the ethnic groups in the western of China, affects the ethnic relations, and provides an opportunity for the penetration of "Three forces".

2. The characteristics of "Three forces" in the new era.

Dividing the nation. Under the banner of religion, "Three forces" encouraged religious believers to participate in the movement, threatened social stability and property security by means of violence, and ultimately divided the nation. Wu Pengsen identified the "three forces" as an organization which divide the nation.^[4] Long Qun believes that religious extremism is the banner of the "Three forces", and its essence is splitting up nation.^[5] In short, it aims at splitting up nation.

Members are more younger than before. With the development of Internet, young people of Xinjiang have become the main targets. "Three forces" hand out the information by audio and video materials. Teenagers are the main force of the network. Mobile phones, computers and other communication tools are very popular with teenagers. So it provides a channel for the spread of "Three forces".

"Three forces" have been clothed with religion to hide people's eyes and ears. Under the policy of fully respecting the customs and habits of minorities and protecting legitimate religious activities, the "three forces" take customs and religious activities as the banner to carry out activities, which makes it difficult for administrative departments to identify. In addition, the "three forces" hand out information by computer, mobile phone and other communication terminals which make them difficult to distinguish.

There are a lot of terrorist organizations and religious extremist organizations. Yellow Book of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization :Annual Report on the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (2017) point that terrorist organizations and religious extremist organizations have been formed a certain scale, network links in Central Asia.^[6] At present, there are mainly three types of terrorist organizations and religious extremist organizations recognized by state in Central Asia, which are indigenous organizations in the Central Asian countries, organizations with shelter and support in the whole region, and organizations that are trying to penetrate into the Central Asian countries with a rapidly increasing influence. These terrorist organizations and religious extremist organizations not only are large number, but also have financial exchanges and ideological communication with each other.

The "three forces" result in severe harm. Firstly, there are a lot of people who lose their life in terrorist incidents. Secondly, the terrorist incidents have impact on social and economic. The violence and terror incident has caused serious psychological trauma to the local people. Many businessmen have moved out of Xinjiang because of security consideration, which has caused trauma to the sustainable development of Xinjiang's economy.

3. The threat of "three forces" to the security of the western frontier.

"Three forces" challenge the authority of government and destroy social stability. Social stability refers to the dynamic balance of social order in a certain period. The state has always occupied a certain proportion in the control of social order. Even in the era when social governance is popular, the government is still an important force in social governance. The "three forces" are challenging the authority of the government, trying to disrupt the social order from the aspects of social order and political order, establishing extreme religious and narrow national outlook, and undermining the recognition of the authority of the government in the western frontier of China. Although the "three forces" have a relatively small number of people, they have indeed caused certain damage to social order in ethnic areas where economic development is weak.

"Three forces" destroy the relationships among ethnic groups and influence national unity. Religious forces of overseas preach illegally at home, propagate extreme religious ideas that undermine national unity. They use the name of religion to induce believers to return to the era of

fundamentalist, resist secularization and modernization, and damage the relationships between two ethnic groups. National separatists, under the banner of religion, artificially created contradictions between the minorities and the Han people, and mislead the believers to participation in the smashing and rioting which cause serious harm to the unity of ethnic groups.

Affecting stability of central Asia and endangering national sovereignty. "Pan-Islamism" and "Pan-Turkism" have a long history in central Asia, and have formed a tangled relationship among the countries of central Asia. After the Cold War, "three forces" established a lot of separatist groups and formed a cross-national link. These separatist groups cause fluctuation of social order through explosions, poisoning, rioting and robbing. Those are harmful to personal security and property security and social governance. In addition, the essence of "three forces" is to achieve the goal of establishing political power. Therefore, the "three forces" threatens the national sovereignty of central Asian countries.

4. Countermeasures of "three forces" in all directions.

Promoting regional economic development, enhancing sense of gain and fostering national identity. The development of the western frontier areas is a legacy of history, which provides foundation and space for the penetration of the "three forces". Under the new situation that reform and opening up, the western minority areas have made tremendous progress with the help of a series of preferential policies and other provinces, but there is still a gap between the eastern region and the west region. Therefore, the sense of minorities' acquisition is not strong. To a certain extent, it will weaken the sense of National identity. Therefore, we should focus on the economic development of western frontier, help them to make more progress in economic field, and to let minorities enhance the sense of gain in the economic development.

Pay attention to geopolitical security, strengthening international cooperation, and guarding against "three forces". Geopolitics is an important factor affecting safety of a region. With the establishment of the contract of Westphalia, modern sovereign states strengthened the governance of their respective frontier areas. But the characteristics of cross regional make it difficult for a single country to form an effective governance model. The Shanghai cooperation organization is the product of dealing with this embarrassing situation. But with the development of the global process, especially with the opening of "one belt and one road", the flow of economic and people will increase. Facing these new changes, we need to further refine the cooperation fields, ways and methods among the neighboring countries. Zhang Lizhe pointed that China and Kazakhstan still have shortcomings of narrow cooperation field and imperfect information sharing mechanism in combating violent terrorist forces. Therefore, we should strengthen and refine the cooperation field and cooperation depth.^[7] In addition, with the development of modern communication technology, the communication channels of the "three forces" are becoming more diversified, which also increases damage of geographic factors. So we need to strengthen international cooperation in the governance of border areas.

Innovating the mechanism of social governance, grasping the degree of control, and mobilizing the initiative of governance subjects. Facing the growth of social problems and powerless situation, the government likes to adopt social governance mode. It advocates comprehensive mobilization of social forces to participate in the maintenance of social order. "Three forces" is the most important threat to the stability of social order in the western frontier of China. In the minority areas, religion and rural social organizations have a large proportion in social governance. In addition, with the development of urbanization, community forces have gradually developed and become the spokesman of the government. Therefore, in the current process of social governance, we should rationally arrange power, responsibility and resources to ensure that the community plays a important role in social governance, fully mobilize the vitality of religious organizations, public welfare organizations, and form an active social governance system. In the process of social regulation, we must adhere to the rule of law.

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