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Wenshan Jia

Chapman University California / Renmin University of China

Abstract

Going forward or going backward? A comparative study of the Xiistic pro-globalization discourse and the Trumpistic anti-globalization discourse

To map out and analyze the current configurations, nature, trends, and implications of the grand discourse about globalization is a scholarly approach to understand where humanity has been heading, what the future destiny humanity will face, and what humanity can do about it. In this paper, I argue that two new global camps are being formed on the global scale like never before along the pro-globalization camp led by Chinese President Xi Jinping's neo-glocalism and the anti-globalization discourse camp led by US President Donald Trump. In this analysis, Xi's discourse represented by his speech defending globalization at Davos Economic Forum on January 17, 2017 and Trump's discourse represented by his Warsaw speech defending (Western) civilization on July 16, 2017 are examined closely.

The following markers of difference between the two are initially discovered:

1. While the former is politically supported by most of the G-20 member countries, all the BRICS & BRICS Plus member countries and intellectually supported by Zhao Tingyang's new philosophical view of the all-under-the heavens (2011), Wenshan Jia's theory of Chi-globalization (2009, 2017), the latter is politically supported by BREXIT and intellectually legitimized by Steve Bannon's economic nationalism which is being disputed and most recently rejected in lieu of a proposal for new colonialism on the part of Western powers proposed by Bruce Gilley (2017).

2. While the former vision is being implemented by the Belt & Road Initiative, the latter is being put into practice by things such as the Charlottesville Incident and the wall-the wall on the US-Mexico border and the wall/war against free trade with countries such as China.
3. While the former sounds multicultural, multilateral, transnational, and inclusive, the latter sounds mono-cultural, unilateral/bilateral, and exclusionist/racist.

It appears that since 2016 with the election of Donald Trump as the US President, especially after the Chinese President's speech at Davos, Switzerland in January, 2017, the US and China have switched positions and the world has been turned upside down. China sounds like yesterday's America whereas the US sounds like yesterday's China. While there are forces both internal and external pressing both China and the US to go back to each one's own yesterday, China's trek on new globalization appears to be both inevitable and growing. In addition, China may eventually piggyback the US on the Belt & Road Initiative in return, just like the US which piggybacked China in the era of America-led globalization during the past several decades. If this occurs, would this pattern fall into the larger historical pattern where civilizations would sometimes succeed one another, inspire one another, or complement one another, eventually enhancing humanity's ability to survive and prosper!?

Email: jia@chapman.edu