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CHINA'S SUI GENERIS PLUS OXYMORON - ITS JUSTIFICATION

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Abstract

In recent years, China's overall performance stood out extraordinarily. The PRC is not only a socialist but also a developing country still it offers financial relief to European countries. None of Beijing's leaders are directly elected by the people, but most of them are proved to be competent. Could this mean "Beijing Consensus" shall take over "Washington Consensus"?

Given China's vast population and its unique geographical environment and historical development, compare to European countries, China is a sui generis. In the traditional Confucianism, benevolence (仁) is to believe the born virtue of human beings, while the Western world roots deeply in the Christian culture of "original sin". As a result rule of virtue in China contrasts the rule of law in the West, harmony vs. contradiction. In China "socialist market economy" and "Three Represents" are typical oxymoron but with great success.

Along with the rise of China since the 1990s, Western politicians and academics have proposed the theory of China collapse, theory of Chinese threat, so as opportunity in China and finally China's responsibility etc. China has become a pill hard for them to swallow. Maybe the concept of cognitive dissonance in line with psychology is an explanation to their attitude.

Still Western values are not to be negated as a whole and it can provide valuable references for China. In view of Confucianism it is very impolite to lecture others who do not deem necessary. Meanwhile, it should be more cautious in judging the mainland affairs in order to avoid misperceptions and unpleasant consequences.

Since the implementation of "socialist market economy" in 1992 there is much more market economy than socialism. Currently, political, social and cultural sectors have lagged behind. Therefore the gap between rich and poor must be reduced efficiently. Nonetheless, the corruption problem remains as another most serious and important issue for the CCP. Without independent anti-corruption authorities, it would be absolutely difficult for them to tackle this problem. For the time being, it has to count on the leadership to set examples to the others.

Furthermore, to promote civic education is also needed to make the citizens and even peasants be more aware of their rights and obligations. This can help stabilizing the society in the long run. Judging from the PRC's performance in the past decades, there is reason to believe that Beijing is in the position to face the domestic and international challenges their own way.

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