

The Ideology and Significance of the Legalists School and the School of Diplomacy in the Warring States Period

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Abstract: In the Warring States Period, the legalist theory was popular, and the style of reforming the country was permeated in the land of China. The Seven Warring States known as Qin, Qi, Chu, Yan, Han, Wei and Zhao have successively changed their laws and set the foundation for the country. The national strength hovers between the valley and school's doctrines have accelerated the historical process of the Great Unification. The legalists laid a political foundation for the big country, constructed a power framework and formulated a complete policy. On the rule of law, the strategist further opened the gap between the powers of the country. In other words, the rule of law has created conditions for the cross-border family to seek the country and the activity of the latter has intensified the pursuit of the former. This has sparked the civilization to have a depth and breadth thinking of that period, where the need of ideology and research are crucial and necessary. This article will specifically address the background of the legalists, the background of these two generations, their historical facts and major achievements as well as the research into the practical theory that was studied during that period. Then, develop the useful and discard the useless, and apply its core ideas to modern economic and political activities.

1. Research Background, General Situation and Significance

1.1 Research Background

The Warring States Period was an era in which the Chinese nation was born with the origin of civilization. Besides, it was an era in which the achievements of Chinese ideology and culture in 5,000 years were at its peak. The free and unrestrained academic research atmosphere, the frequent changes of high-ranking transposition of a courtier have provided a stage for the thinkers with different opinions and political views. Moreover, the school of Legalism, Confucianism, Mohism, Military, Logicians, Diplomacy and Economist have their own opinions to run the country. Taking Huaxia historical concept as the focus, they spread their own theory and achieved an ideal political status. Thereby, enabling their powerful theory to be the main governance ideology of the country.

However, despite the culture, the schools are all self-contained where not all the ideology of the schools can be applied to the field of governance. In other words, only the theorists who can analyze the basic national conditions and international forms of the countries at that time and then propose the shortcomings of the time can practice their own theories and truly operate on a country. In this process, the decisive role is whether the "potential" work is done accurately, and the successive theories are feasible.

In the modern perspective today, Chinese people prefer Confucianism teaching. However, if we would to restore history to the Warring States period, Confucianism was a school that was not to be seen. The Confucianism who advocated the restoration of the minefield was undergoing a cultural retrogression in the Warring States Period. As an example of the idiom "Wang Gu looks left and right and that it's about it," which explained that the surface is looks bright, but, it is just as the same as eating a cold pork with the community. On the contrary, taking the fundamental interests of the country as the starting point, it advocates that the legalists of the rule of law and the strategists who are based on the current situation are highly considered. The movements that can be dominated by the narrators and the strategists have almost made a series of history in the entire Warring States period, pushing the cause of the Great Unification to the forefront.

The Warring States Period laid the foundation for the entire Chinese civilization. As a piece of history, it has a significance for China. Therefore, under this foundation, we must study the two schools of the Legalist and the Diplomacy. However, if Confucianism is good at studying, then legalists have the rights to say that they are better at governing the country than Confucianism. Moreover, if famous people are good at words, then the diplomatic people can say that they are better at taking advantage of the situation. The legalists laid a political foundation for the big country, constructed a power framework and formulated a complete policy. On the rule of law, the diplomatist further opened the gap between the powers of the country. In other words, the rule of law has created conditions for the cross-border family to seek the country and the activity of the latter has intensified the pursuit of the former. This has sparked the civilization to have a depth and breadth thinking of that period, where the need of ideology and research are crucial and necessary.

1.2 Research on General Situation

Generally viewing as whole by dividing the Warring States period into three stages. This article will analyze the background reason of why the Legalists and the Diplomatists can occupy the mainstream thinking of the international stage. The Warring States period can be divided into three branches, with Tian Chen to ancient battle of Ma Ling Road as the early period of the Warring States, the ancient battle of Ma Ling Road to the battle of Changping as the middle period of the Warring States and the battle of Changping to the Qin Dynasty as the late Warring States Period. In these three stages, although the legalist has always occupied the mainstream position, there have been three waves of national reforms in the past three times. However, specifically because of the needs of certain political reasons, such as the military, the strategist, the planner, etc., therefore, here have been a glorious era of governance. The article will specifically study the background of the legalists, the background between these two generations, its historical facts and major achievements. Then, abandon its core ideologies and apply them to modern economic and political activities.

1.3 Research Significance

The competitive spirit of advocating in the Warring States period was strong and survival. In a rational analysis, such as "rites and music are in ruins, the roofs and tiles are thundering, the high bank is the valley, the deep valley is the tomb", the deep experience of the legalist and the diplomatist. The thought of power as the ideological weapon provided by the "The Great Battle" which provided the spiritual feel of fullness, high spirit, self-confidence and enterprising in that era. Besides, the thought of that era, combined with the spirit of abandonment, corresponded to modern economic and political activities, to deepen the thinking.

2. About Legalists and Diplomats

The theory written by the legalist in the Warring States period were mainly divided into three schools such as law, art, and power. The law school were represented by Shang Yang as a representative figure, the art school were represented by Sheng Buhai while the school of power was represented by Shen Dao. The Legalist School advocates the rule of law to govern the country and set every matter to seek the law and so that every matter has a law. The sorcerers pay attention in using the power of the monarch to dominate the group of sovereigns, such as the technique of "Breaking" and "Unbreakable". The faction advocates the balance of important political positions and creates a "power" by occupying important political positions to make the country develop steadily. The trend of change in the Warring States period originated from Wei state, where Marquess Wen of Wei began to use Li Kui's political reform to change the map and greatly expanded the territory. Subsequently, King Wei of Qi began a reform with the core of rectification and governance while King Dao of Chu used Wu Qi's philosophy to carry out the transformation. In the early days of the Warring States Period, Marquess Zhao of Han began to use "art" as the core of the reforms. At the same time, with the influence of the Six Kingdoms, the Duke Xiao of Qin Dynasty issued a quest for the sage, sending a Wey scholar into Qin using the famous Shang Yang's political reforms, thereby claiming as the first practice of the school of law. After Shang Yang's political reform, East Qin took over Hexi, the West

of Yiqu, North of the clouds and the south to the land of the Hanzhong. Thereby, forming a stronger and powerful country. In the middle of the Warring States period, King Zhao of Yan changed the law and eliminated all Qin's category. Then, in the middle and late period, the King Wuling of Zhao focus on practical and the image of courage to reform, the state of Zhao became the last rising country in the Warring States Period. At the end of the Warring States Period, Han Fei combined the three elements of law, art and power to write the book "Han Feizi". At the end of the Warring States Period and reformation, the Qin State, which has passed through the six generations, was ruined and thereby ending the situation of the wars between the history for spring and autumn. Thus, this has created a new situation of unity whereby the legalists became the mainstream school of the country. Since the reunification of Qin state, the feudal society of China for more than two thousand years has appeared in a separatist state, reunification has always been the mainstream of history. The legalists created the Qin Dynasty as the first unified multi-ethnic centralized state in the history of our country. Its authoritarian system of authoritarianism has been inherited for more than 2,000 years in China and its influence is far-reaching. The unification of Qin allows the people to have a stable environment for production. The Qin Dynasty introduced many measures to eliminate the factors of division, thereby laying a foundation for China's long-term reunification. Thus, this has a huge and far-reaching impact on the development of Chinese history. The Chinese society stands in the forefront of world civilization with a highly developed economy and culture and can resist foreign aggression and maintain the independence of the country effectively. This has an inseparable historical connection with the pioneering work of Qin unification. In terms of the performance of the legalists, it has undoubtedly provided solid theoretical support for the political thoughts of the Chinese nation. Therefore, we must go beyond the traditional historical misunderstanding of "Qin's brutal politics, the deadly dictatorship of Qin", and evaluate the legalists objectively and impartially to lay the foundation for China. Moreover, because the role played by the cornerstone of political theory it a deep-seated theory, the legalist has completed a series of major reforms in the political, military, economic, social and other fields with the spirit of perseverance and reform. The aristocratic economy of the autonomous region has completed the transformation from the free agricultural land economy to the federal state to the central ruling state. Lastly, with the distinctive characteristics of its theory of "unbridled once, strong forever " which portrayed that the legalists stood at the highest level among the hundreds of schools at that time and laid the cornerstone of its theoretical high practice.

The diplomatist entered the historical stage in the middle of the Warring States period. Representative figures such as Su Qin, Zhang Yi, Gong Sun Yan and so on, advocated the use of union, exclusion, intimidation, lure or supplemented by the law of the army to win without fighting. In other words, to obtain the maximum benefit with less damage. Their ingenuity, ideas, means, and strategies were basically the best way to deal with the problems between countries at that time as they were the unique historical stage in the history of the world. After Qin state changed the law to the foundation, King Huiwen of Qin used Zhang Yi as the phase, using a cooperation strategy to make Chu state and Qi state to start a war in Lantian. In the second battle of Hanzhong, the two was defeated after another while the east attacked their broken warehouse. Thus, this lost has made Zhao, Wei and Han state to surrender their land to Qin Dynasty, which greatly accelerated the pace of Qin's unification of the six countries. Then, Su Qin and the six countries unified and proposed a strategy of confrontation against the powerful countries at that time where the six-nation coalition forces attack on Qin Dynasty. Yue Yi, who also used the strategy of cooperation and arranging, was arrested by the five-nation coalition forces in Qin. In the end, Qi state lost the war and General Tian Dan was forced to return. In the middle and late period of the Warring States, the cooperation strategy between states has become another major theme of the times. At a deeper level, the cooperation has provided a breathing space for the powerful transformation of the powers of the countries as well as a major catalyst to break the old era and accelerate the process of unification.

During the war period, the diplomats have transitioned from an early stage to producing an emerging genre by considering the international prospects. This is undertaken through understanding the prospects of other nations, active engagement of diplomacy works and the uses interest as enticement. The diplomats have seized the opportunity to embrace the power achieved during the

period of early transition of the Warring States. As Chinese idiom says, born by the time, move by the inspiration; legalist laid the foundation while diplomats stand based on the legalized state where they greatly accelerated the pace of unification across the country. The diplomats have manipulated the parties' interest through long-term planning and agile working whilst having a concise lobbying ability and therefore have become the center of attraction among the nations. As a result, this has prompted the creation of the solid platform for diplomats. Hence, this has provided adequate support to the unification of the Qin Dynasty.

3. Conclusion: *The Modern Reference Significance of the Legalist School and the Theory of the Diplomats*

As an ideology learner of these two schools in the distant Warring States period, their highly practical characteristics undoubtedly reflected the path we have traveled in our national history and illuminate the path under our feet. Thus, this has left us into a deep thought. The representative of the Legalist School of Law advocates that the law is based on the principle "the etiquette is determined by the time while the order is followed by a significant." In addition, the legislative spirit embodied in the practice of commercial practice has heavily reflected on the importance portrayed by the Legalist School to the principle control and the principle to dominate. Professor Chen Shao Feng from the department of philosophy in Modern Peking University emphasizes the importance of principle leadership in his many books, one of it said that "principles are the most important nature and value we should focus to". In addition, as well as Marxist philosophy stated that "Marxism is not stuck in a rut, it needs to be inherited, enriched and developed continuously" with highly consistency. Some of the ideas of the Legalist School, regarding the distribution and structure of power, can explain the history of the construction of many political parties in the world today. Moreover, after research, it is found that since the Han Wu period, Confucianism became an orthodox. What was staged after the ruling curtain was the frequent activities guided by the ideas of the legal issue and the sorority. Plus, by looping back and forth in a circle, the true legalist school's thoughts are forgotten and no longer the focus of the hard work of the class. Chairman Mao Zedong once gave high praise to the representative of the department by stating that "Shang Yu is the politician who is the best of the country, second to none and the rich. It is an idealist with religious devoutness and enthusiasm. The law of Shang Yu punishes the people to protect the rights of the people. The military is to use the national power and the greed to consume in order to promote the welfare of the people. This sincerity has never had a big policy in China. Shang Yu can be called the first truly thorough reformer in Chinese history. The reform was not limited to the time, but it has affected China for thousands of years." In addition to this, we can see that the practitioners who hold the idea of a strong and powerful country can be said to be the future and there are very few people, as in "The Book of Lord Shang: The First Law" stated that "exceeding the behavior of ordinary people, they are often criticized by the world; people with unique opinions will be laughed at by ordinary people." Such people can be reused and have a stage of practice. Apart from the objective conditions, they must be inseparable from the potential and the technique. This is also full of helplessness. Professor Chen Zhiwu of Yale University in the United States once wrote a famous article entitled "Why are Chinese people hardworking but not rich?". This will be a major issue that China faced in the past few decades. The answer is that the Chinese are diligently hedging the cost of the system, which is used to solve the problem of the cost of the system. Through the study of this article, I believe that the spirit of the legal system is a guidance and many ideas are applicable and highly practical, which also reflects its practical significance.

The view of the diplomacy schools at the national level is mainly through negotiation to achieve the intended purpose. They solve those plans, strategies, tactics, etc. through negotiations, from the state to the personal welfare, regardless of authority, wealth, status, and even love between men and women can be resolved through negotiations. In addition, the main weapons are our tongues by speaking, they can achieve their goals without bleeding or money. Therefore, this method is the most advanced and sensible method. Thus, if this idea is extended to all interactions between people, negotiation is management. Whether if you are dealing with internal contradictions or dealing with

external struggles, the first step is to negotiate, and the final step is negotiation as well. Speaking from the perspective of people, the idea of conspiracy advocated by “Gui Gu Zi” highly summarizes the thinking process of human movement. Based on such a foundation, we attach the importance to obtain effective information through reaction. Then, we can achieve the goal of conspiracy by using the process links such as trying to judge the words and the like, and use the technical means such as smashing, flying tongs and guilt. Lastly, due to the universality’s application and its wide range, the academic is undoubtedly a shortcut in enhancing self-personnel ability. In other words, it can even be said to be immediate. Therefore, it has a systematic and targeted research, which is very helpful for greatly improving self-communication ability and practical ability in a short time.

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