The Effectiveness of RMB Internationalization
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ABSTRACT
Due to the 2008 economic crisis, the global economic and monetary system requires new blood. Hence the emergence of alternative currencies is inevitable. Based on this situation, this paper will analyze how Macroeconomic policy would influence Renminbi (RMB) being internationalization. In order to explore the result, this paper took "The Belt and Road Policy" as the main case, and after reviewing the international monetary, the research used the SWOT method to analyze RMB. The paper finally found out that China is the second-biggest economy globally, and China has a strong power to control the exchange of RMB; with that, RMB has laid a solid economic foundation and has the potential to be more internationalized. The internationalization of RMB would give more social benefits to China. However, since the internationalization would take so long, some may consider where the opportunity cost could be so high, which makes the internationalization less valuable. It does not affect the Chinese government continues to push the progress of internationalization of the RMB, but it may need longer than the exception. The implication and suggestions are also discussed at the end of this paper.

Keywords: Renminbi, International relationship, Currency internationalization, The Belt and Road policy, Covid-19.

1. INTRODUCTION

After 2008, the global economic depression leading the new idea of the currency of the internationalization, the international market needed backup selection currency to avoid the multiple dimension risk. The Belt and Road Initiative is a global infrastructure development strategy adopted in 2013 to invest in nearly 70 countries and international organizations [1]. In 2021, China signed 205 cooperation documents with 140 countries and 32 international organizations to achieve economic growth and recovery [2]. China became a huge regional economic trade zone during the eight years, and the US dollar was the first currency option. However, after the 2018 economic crisis, more countries were willing to try different currencies to achieve monetary versatility for reducing risk. Therefore, the Renminbi (RMB) had a chance to become the alternative to the US dollar. For becoming the international currency, the currency must have stability, exchangeability, and liquidity; the Chinese currency, RMB, already satisfy all characters, many scholars and institutions have made corresponding predictions about the internationalization of the RMB, both pessimistic and optimistic. In a pessimistic way, RMB needs a long time to be international; in contrast, Chinese currency already has all three abilities above. Thus, it is hard to predict the intervention at the end of the RMB internationalization.

Since China is not the first country to do internationalization, China could learn a lot of knowledge and experience from the United and European Union. For example, the United has done many things that must happen before exchange rate changes lead to trade balance adjustments. It is now well established that exchange-rate pass-through into import prices is incomplete, variable across types of goods, and lower for the United States than for other industrialized countries. To be adjusted, the story hinges on the dollar's special role as an invoicing currency in international trade [3]. The article presents the internationalization criteria generally used the size of the issuing economy, its degree of trade openness, the choice of anchoring currency of third countries to predict the emergence of the euro as an international currency. Internationalization of the euro can be based more on the development of financial flows...
denominated in this currency. In this perspective, the unification of the eurozone's financial markets as a means of increasing liquidity can create the conditions for the internationalization of the euro [4].

RMB internationalization means RMB would be more welcome to be used in any situation of the international trading, which means the international market are confident and trust RMB. When Chinese currency goes internationalization, it would not only impact the USD, but it would mainly affect other economic centers closer to China, for example, Hong Kong, another international economic center, but has its currency. In this paper, the research target would be RMB, which has stability by government power that can be good or bad; in a good way, if RMB has strong stability, in case the credit of the RMB would be high enough to be used in any market; but since the government fully controls the currency, it would be some kind risk with the regulatory failure or celled government failure. Just all the new things have been invented. The impacts always have both positive and negative effects at the same time. RMB Internationalization is a very famous topic that has been covered by redundant pro-scholar in prediction, in the risky analysis, in policymaking by using market failure and others [5, 6].

Those are all very interesting and valuable questions, and what this paper is going to analyze is how Macroeconomic policy, the Belt and Road Initiative, would influence RMB being internationalization and becoming international monetary? In order to give the best assumption, not all the policies would be helping the RMB internationalization, but a policy like B&R improves the progress positively. The paper proves it with step by step start from the international relationship. In case, here is a focus on the relationship between China and the United after B&R. Years after the Belt and Road Initiative, the US made a trade war with China. Even there is no evidence to prove the correlation. The trade war still may be an indirect production by Belt and Road initiative. For the US government, the B&R would hurt US profit. If Chinese currency can replace the dollars, the purchasing power of US dollars would go down, and since the US is the biggest import country in which the lower purchasing power would hurt the US in the international trading market. Therefore, it is clear why the US government does not appreciate B&R. However, B&R would give a more positive effect globally, even including the US. Those developing countries who received the investment from Chinese B&R and China would

Then the paper analyzes during the pandemic the effect on the policy and indirectly affects the RMB internationalization. In the economy, the global market has been impacted by the pandemic; there are ideas about that the B&R policy would terminate, the reason is the B&R purposes of impressing the RMB could do the Global interconnection. Next, to make the RMB internationalization, the research would know what the situation about the RMB are; thus, to introduce the situation, motivation, and some comparison about RMB. The comparison between the RMB and UDS, what is the impact with the electric-currency and other currency. In the end, since Japan has great recession since 2010 and it recovered very smoothly and with the impact of the pandemic, it is clear to know RMB internationalization could be one solution to help Japan get out from it. And RMB has the authority to compare with E-currency. It would be clear that internationalization is very necessary, and B&R is helping it fully dimensionally. Just like the idea has been mentioned, every time, the new things would impact both sides.

Based on studying the U. S dollar or Euro history of internationalization, The RMB internationalization is also a long way. It must face so many challenges, includes countries’ political relations and global crises. After a comprehensive study of the policy B&R with Chinese characteristics and the response to other international events, it will fill the gap in the world currency development's research framework. No matter whether the RMB finally completes the internationalization process as desired, the continuous update and summary of its research will be the world's Valuable accumulation of economic development research. And B&R is the first step to help RMB cross the boundaries between countries and achieve smooth circulation abroad, which means developing offshore markets. In the meantime, improving international influence power can effectively accelerate this process.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

In the past few centuries, international currencies have represented the history of world economic development. There are many extraordinary reasons behind the emergence of every international currency in various periods. It seemed to have the opportunity to witness the birth of a new alternative international currency. Filardo and others in 2012 discussed what developing countries should learn from the international financial crisis and paper money internationalization since the intensification of the strains in global markets in mid-2007 and how the prospects in Asia and the Pacific region [7]. Since the 2008 economic crisis, the global economic and monetary system requires new blood. Hence the emergence of alternative currencies is inevitable. Rozhentsova Vladimirovna Elena, in 2012 found that the modern global monetary system exists on many flaws [8]. It required an exhaustive revolution for improving the efficiency of the global monetary system [8]. More economists began considering adding
alternative international currencies for dealing existed problems in the system [8]. In the context of the Belt and Road Initiative from 2013-2021, this paper will focus on how the RMB internationalization progressed to push step by step during these 8 years.

2.1. Optimistic and Pessimistic Forecasts

For most difficult forecast things in progress, economists and institutions gave their own opinions and speculations. Optimist views like Eichengreen in 2014 believed the RMB internationalization would complete shortly, and the RMB as an international currency can get a similar status as the US dollar in the global market [9]. On the contrary, Frankel in 2012 emphasized the financial depth played a significant role in international currency, and the RMB need more extended time [10]. Islam and Bashar in 2012 found RMB get enough potential comparing the US dollar to be the world's currency, but this progress could endure a long way [11]. And KPMG China in 2017 analyzed the opportunities, challenges, and implications of international RMB products and services. Given the current financial situation, the current level of capital flow represents an advantage, but considering that the economy and credit cycle are unstable, RMB internationalization should be slower and careful [12].

Even though the rapid Chinese economic development in the past 30 years has laid an excellent economic foundation, but when this paper compared with the history of the rise of other international currencies like the Euro and US dollar, the Renminbi may have to encounter new different various challenges, and rapidly development also exposed many potential problems. RamonaOrăștean in 2013 emphasized the growing shares of the Chinese currency in the global monetary system. Even currency cross-border business has covered more dimensions of private use than before. However, it exists limitations comparing with a real international currency like the euro and US dollar [13]. However, the Chinese government did not cause everyone down. The BRI and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) represent effective solutions when recognizing potential problems. Vigorously promote the development of these plans will gradually fill these gaps like Rhee and Sumulong in 2014 offered their possible solve suggestions, which is extending the trade settlement scheme in the whole Asian region plus a government bond payment and securities settlement system, it may reform the international monetary system and achieve the diversification of settlement currencies [14]. It may not predict how long it will take to perfect it, but based on the current development trend, it will take longer.

2.2. Advantages and Disadvantages of Internationalization

The event itself cannot define absolute success or failure, but there must exist advantages and disadvantages. Peter B Kenen in 2009 argued that even though internationalization and financial liberalization do not have cause and effect, this internationalization progress must stimulate domestic economic development [15]. Zhang & Tao in 2014 showed that even the Chinese government could complete the progress of RMB internationalization, it still unavoidably exists two sides benefits and costs [16]. There are three main benefits and costs. Firstly, internationalization lets exporters get a chance to limit exchange rate risk, extend their currency broadens, and increase market deepens [16]. Second, domestic firms and financial institutions can easily get more financial support from the global financial market [16]. Finally, a larger, more profitable economic sector will rapidly develop, offering better service for other domestic sectors [16]. There are also has three costs. The one is that the domestic monetary policy will change [16]. Second, the foreign holder could affect the currency stability by holding larger [16]. Finally, the new foreign debt will bring new risky for the domestic financial system [16]. Through these analyses, we can make timely adjustments to prevent or eliminate potential crises and considerably improve the efficiency of RMB internationalization. Whether the Chinese government finalizes the Renminbi as an international currency, the attempts and adjustments in the middle will be a valuable experience to be remembered, and the speed of China’s domestic economic development will also increase.

2.3. Conclusion

As a whole, world integration is gradually perfect, and there will occur more global influence events in the future. How to deal with global crisis events reasonably and even reverse the disadvantages to some extent, this ability could be the key questions to accelerate or delay the RMB internationalization. The People’s Bank of China in 2020 answered that in recent years, under trade war and Covid-19, the Chinese government has adopted numerous strategies to jointly keep a sustain positive trend of RMB status include cross-border use, it will gradually achieve the goal of serving the real economy with market force orientation [17]. This precious example further strengthens the determination to complete this study. Like Hyoung-kyu Chey in 2013 said that based on sorting out the comprehensive and systematic review of the literature on international currencies and the RMB internationalization experiment studying, it is an excellent chance to design a better analytical framework for the political economy study [18]. Only the courage to continuously accumulate
experimental experience will provide valuable contributions to the future development of the world economy. After eight years, this paper tries to base on internationalization of the RMB as the object to update and more comprehensive analysis, including all possible promotion factors and potential risk, it will help build a better research framework for the future researcher.

3. METHOD

3.1. Research Design

Renminbi internationalization is one of China's recent important strategies. Applying the most used strategy analysis SWOT for study can combine information on the internal and external environment of the Renminbi for in-depth and comprehensive analysis without precise data support and more specialized analysis tools. It still can give convincible constructive suggestions for development strategies based on the research results.

3.2. Data Collection

According to the latest statistics, the RMB ranks fifth among major international currency payments, which take a market share of 1.76% [19]. And it also ranks fifth in the currency composition of reserve assets held by the member states of the International Monetary Fund, which take a market share of 1.95% [19]. In 2019, it took 4.3% in global foreign exchange transactions [19]. Compared with 2016, RMB increases 0.88% in SDR basket and 0.3% in global foreign exchange transactions [19]. The internationalization of the RMB has reached a new level, where payment currency function has been continuously enhanced, the investment and financing currency function has become to deepen, the reserve currency function has gradually emerged, the pricing currency function has achieved further breakthroughs, and the RMB maintains a stable position in the global monetary system.

3.3. Data Analysis - SWOT

3.3.1. Strength

The value and stability of the Renminbi are affected to a certain extent by China's GDP. The foreign trade volume stability is a key point, the main component of China's GDP. Under epidemic, the BRI still keeps the 1.35 trillion-dollar trade volumes, a year-on-year increase of 0.7%, accounting for 29.1% of China's total foreign trade [20]. And China-Europe express trains increased significantly against the trend, which reached 12406 in 2020, a year-on-year increase of 50% [21].

By 2020, China's GDP had reached more than 14 trillion and was the top 2 economy worldwide [22]. China's economic contribution to the world economic growth rate of more than 20% [22]. Especially in recent years, with the AIIB effect on the BRI, At the end of 2020, it already expends to 103 members. The scale included 79% of the global population and 65% of the global GDP [22]. This increase shows that the real demand for the internationalization of the RMB has laid a solid economic foundation and the process of RMB internationalization.

3.3.2. Weakness

The yuan is still not freely convertible, the construction of an offshore RMB market has just started, the lack of yuan-denominated financial products and variety of settlement, becoming a shortboard for the internationalization of the RMB [23]. The realization of the internationalization of the RMB to rely more on the development of domestic financial markets has a more mature and high degree of openness of capital markets is a necessary condition of the RMB as an international currency. However, there is no one to RMB currency, the ability to national currencies is freely convertible, and the flow of smooth international financial center to support the internationalization of RMB [23].

The economic structure in China is unreasonable. One obvious problem is that real estate accounts for too much of our investment, accounting for 20% at the highest point, especially in Beijing and Shanghai, where real estate investment accounts for a larger proportion, while the United States generally accounts for about 5%. China's economy is deformed [24]. After a large investment in real estate, it has created an industrial structure around real estate. If the real estate market falls, the whole economy may face a great recession. Therefore, the internal investment structure is unreasonable.

Another potential problem is the low total fertility rate, even lower than 1.5 in 2018 [25]. Under this situation, China will lose demographic dividend in about 15 to 25 years [25]. Thus, it might deeply hurt the Chinese GDP growth rate.

If China cannot keep a high GDP growth rate, investors and other countries will lose confidence in China's economy and RMB. Thus, increasing the challenge of RMB internationalization.

3.3.3. opportunity

During the 2008 global economic crisis, the Federal Reserve began to adjust interest rates to deal with risks, but the fluctuation of the US dollar as an international currency will have a huge impact on the world, especially for developing countries. Filardo and Rozhentsova in 2012 mentioned that the global monetary market needs reform to keep efficiency [5, 6].
The emergence of RMB internationalization confirms this trend, thus received from most developing countries' support.

The internationalization of the RMB is still in its infancy, and it is necessary to continue to explore to make up for the disadvantages exposed. The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has created a new platform for the RMB. China initiated the AIIB in 2016 with 57 members, which is the first multilateral financial institution initiated by China [22]. By 2020, it already expanded to 103 members; the scale included 79% of the global population and 65% of the global GDP [22]. Compared with other large international economic organizations, the AIIB is a new international organization that owns a higher vote power in China, which can lay a foundation for further promoting the Renminbi's internationalization.

With around 632 million internet users, China is the fastest growing and largest e-commerce market globally [26]. It is estimated that China's e-commerce sales make up 3.2% of the country's GDP. This is compared to 2.7% in the US [26].

China has rapidly evolved in the e-commerce area in these decades, thus fostering cross-border e-commerce and using RMB as pricing and payment currency. E-commerce provides a more convenient, safe, and efficient way than the traditional business model [25]. The question is, is it for sure that China has advantages in the e-commerce area, but how to popularize Chinese payments apps overseas? If China can take this advantage to provide services focused on countries' cultural traditions and payment patterns along the BRI. In that way, RMB has a great chance for China to increase RMB standing in neighboring countries and eventually become the main currency in the BRI zone. According to the theory, the currency internationalization process includes three stages, including peripheralization, regionalization, and internationalization [28]. If RMB becomes to regional currency, it is very likely to become an international currency. With this advantage, the websites for cross-border e-commerce will turn from the current dollar rates into double currency pricing for the Dollar-RMB prices.

Increasing international influence will increase RMB recognition. After the WHO included the vaccines of Sino Pharma Group and Kexing Company into the emergency use list [29], China has supplied about 100 countries with 500 million doses of vaccines until July 7. It is about 1/6 of global supplied [29]. And in June, during the “Belt and Road” Asia-Pacific Regional International Cooperation High-level Meeting, 29 countries of BRI decided to Co-launch the vaccine partnership initiative. It means the BRI countries begin to cooperate more deeply, not just focusing on the economic part [29]. On July 9, interview, “China supports its own vaccine companies to transfer technology to developing countries and carry out cooperative production,” said Guo Xuejun, Deputy Director-General, Department of International Economics, Ministry of Foreign Affairs [29]. Undoubtedly, it can help more developing countries deepen international relations with China.

3.3.4. Threaten

China has been facing a trade surplus for a long time. China's net capital inflows, foreign assets than liabilities. China's foreign exchange reserves keep raising. In July 2021, the balance of China's state foreign exchange reserves reached $3.23 trillion [30]. Foreign exchange reserves are necessary, while many foreign exchange reserves will increase the money supply of RMB yuan from appreciating too much and domestic inflation. When China cannot fully control the exchange rate of RMB, RMB will lose its chance to raise its international status.

4. RESULT

Figure 1 RMB's share as a global payment's currency and Figure 2. The evolution of RMB’s share as a global payment's currency showed RMB has kept as around fifth to seventh to a long period. However, the RMB has the potential to continue to internationalize [31]. Firstly, China's national economy is strong. Secondly, the exchange rate of RMB is relatively stable and has resistant to risks. The One Belt One Road development has gradually made up for the current problems exposed by the RMB. Although the trade war and the epidemic have impacted this process, the actions and actual results of the Chinese government have proved its ability to resist shocks. And with the help of the epidemic, it has deepened its regionality. The depth of cooperation is not limited to economics and trade. It lays the foundation for gaining more voice and support in large international institutions in the future. When we compare with the history of other international currencies, China's internationalization process may be tested by more global events, and whether it can actively and effectively respond to it every time is of great uncertainty.

Moreover, China's economy has potential problems that cannot be ignored include the real estate industry took too much and accumulated excessive trade surplus and foreign exchange reserves.
5. DISCUSSION

First, China conforms to the basic requirements to promote the Renminbi's internationalization, such as the stable development of GDP, but it also exposes many shortcomings, like international recognition and liquidity. Fortunately, the RMB has many external opportunities and has seized these opportunities. After the impact of the global economic crisis in 2008, the existing international monetary system needs to be changed. The emerging of RMB internationalization is a market-driven product. The rapid development of BRI and the emergence of AIIB have promoted the development of the entire regional economy and exchanges and cooperation between countries. Even in the face of the challenges of large-scale international events, the timely and efficient policy responses and adjustments did not hinder the progress of the process, but with the existing internal and external conditions and exposed problems, it is unrealistic to achieve that RMB gets the same statue of the US dollar soon. However, if the Chinese government takes this to develop the domestic economy, carry out the regional practice, and accumulate more experience, China will be better for pushing RMB internationalization. In the best situation, if there are no other major global events such as war, the RMB will have a chance to be close to the euro.

When we use SWOT as the main tool to study, it gets advantages on intuition and simplicity. However, it also exists unavoidably on limitation, without more accurate data and more specialized analysis tools, so our results also inevitably suffer from insufficient precision defects. At the same time, due to the unpredictable of special situations, our conclusion may be biased.
Compared with other research papers, this paper upgraded in some ways. Firstly, the data is updated to 2020. Then, the new situation under the epidemic situation is analyzed. At last, the deficiencies in China's economic structure (investment) are considered, as well as the downward pressure on the economy brought by the decline in the population and the population aging in China in the future, and those will make the RMB internationalization even harder.

6. CONCLUSION

Under the pandemic, the global economy had a huge impact. It would be extremely hard for RMB to keep internationalization. However, from the analysis by the SWOT model, our group believes the RMB internationalization would be continued. First, except US dollar, the world market needs another currency to be the backup plan. If the US dollar failed, like a credit crisis or great depression, that would be the case. The new international currency would give the global market a back door to avoid the impact of the US dollar in those circumstances. Second, the Chinese economy started going to a weak period, the China GDP still had up rate, but it had been slow down to compare with 2002-2008 period. RMB internationalization would be a solution to resolve the slumping economy, as the Chinese currency has been more and more popular and demand; it would be easy to see that the currency would have more purchase power, which would help the economy boom again. There is some risk of RMB internationalization, but the opportunity is the main effect of RMB internationalization. This paper talks about the opportunity to develop a country, and the RMB internationalization would bring the new consumption way to the Chinese and global customers, such as WeChat wallet or Alipay and any platform by using the RMB as their main currency. In the future, maybe five years, maybe ten years, maybe just tomorrow, but for sure, there would be one day RMB internationalization would be accomplished. When this aim has been achieved, there will be a second booming period for China.

In one word, RMB internationalization is one progress, compared with the country's cut from outside at 1655 to our currency to be international in 2021, China has been through the dark, the Chinese economic Reformed is the first booming and brings our people to get out from the darkness, and the RMB internationalization is believed to be the new signal to become the real strong country economy.

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