



Analysis on the Connotation and Uniqueness of Think Tank in the New Period

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Abstract. As a key node in the knowledge-policy ecosystem, the development of think tanks not only follows universal laws, but also is deeply influenced by specific political and cultural background. At present, with the deep application of digital technology and the profound adjustment of global governance system, think tanks are facing multiple challenges such as innovation of research methods, transformation of communication mode and intensified international competition. The future development of think tanks will pay more attention to interdisciplinary integration, data-driven decision-making, and the combination of global vision and local practice. For a new type of think tank with China characteristics, it is necessary to vigorously promote the innovation of research methods, the optimization of talent mechanism and the deepening of international cooperation under the premise of adhering to the correct political direction, and constantly improve the quality of policy research, the ability to guide public opinion and the right to speak internationally. The research results can provide theoretical reference for relevant policy makers, think tank practitioners and academic researchers, and help new think tanks with China characteristics to play a greater role in serving the modernization of national governance and participating in the reform of global governance system.

Keywords: New Think Tank, Connotation, Characteristics, Uniqueness.

1 Introduction

Under the background of the profound changes in the global structure and the accelerated modernization of the national governance system and governance capacity, the demand for professional decision support is increasingly prominent. With the in-depth development of economic globalization and increasingly fierce international competition, the public policy issues faced by countries are becoming more and more complicated, and cross-disciplinary and cross-sectoral systemic challenges emerge one after another. At the same time, a new round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation are developing rapidly, and new technologies such as big data and artificial intelligence are reshaping the paradigm of knowledge production and policy research. Under this macro background, as a key hub connecting knowledge and policy, the role positioning and functional value of think tanks have been promoted to

an unprecedented strategic height ^[1]. Especially in the process of promoting the modernization of state governance in China, how to build a think tank system that conforms to the national conditions and has international influence has become a major and urgent issue of the times. It is of great practical significance to study the connotation characteristics, development law and construction path of think tanks deeply and systematically for improving the scientific level of decision-making and strengthening the soft power of the country ^[2].

2 Connotation Analysis of Think Tank

Think tanks, as a professional decision-making support organization connecting knowledge production and policy making, have always played a key role in economic and social development at all times and in all countries. The concept of think tank has experienced the evolution from specific military terms to broad social science concepts. The definition of think tanks in western academic circles has gradually changed from emphasizing the "purity" of organizational forms (such as absolute independence and non-profit) to emphasizing the "effectiveness" of functional objectives (such as policy guidance and influencing decision-making), showing a more inclusive and realistic trend. Representative definitions include "a stable and relatively independent policy research institution" emphasized by Dickson, "an independent organization engaged in multidisciplinary research to influence public policies" simplified by James, and a more inclusive definition by McGonagall, which recognizes the differences in the degree of autonomy of think tanks and emphasizes their core functions of policy-oriented research and empowerment decision-making. The academic definition of think tanks in China is deeply rooted in the local political context and governance needs, forming a unique context that emphasizes "service" and "national strategic orientation". Early research highlighted its position as "intellectual support within the system", while subsequent research refined its two-way connection function as a "hub institution" to integrate academic resources and policy needs. The official document "Opinions on Strengthening the Construction of New Think Tank with China Characteristics" clearly defines the new think tank with China characteristics as a "non-profit research and consulting institution with strategic issues and public policies as the main research objects and serving the scientific, democratic and legal decision-making of the party and government", and establishes the basic principles of adhering to the party's management of think tanks, focusing on the overall situation, reform and innovation, scientific methods and talent-oriented. "China characteristics" is the soul, which requires think tanks to adhere to the party's leadership, base themselves on national conditions and serve the national strategy; "New type" is kinetic energy, which requires think tanks to carry out comprehensive innovation in terms of ideas, organizational forms and operating mechanisms.

Combining Chinese and western perspectives, the new think tank needs a more inclusive and realistic definition. Think tank is an organization mainly engaged in policy-oriented research, analysis and consultation. Through the production and dissemination of knowledge and ideological products, it aims to influence public policy formulation,

guide public opinion and serve social development [3]. Its organizational form, funding source and degree of independence can be diversified. In order to deeply understand this definition, we can interpret it from four dimensions: macroscopically, think tank is a component of national soft power and a carrier of ideological power; On the middle level, think tanks are the key intermediaries connecting knowledge production and policy transformation; Microscopically, think tanks have a unique talent structure and a knowledge production model of "problem-oriented, evidence-supported and interdisciplinary"; At the level of ecosystem, think tank is the key node connecting academic, government, market, media and other multi-subjects, and undertakes the function of knowledge aggregation and integration.

3 The Development Characteristics of China Think Tank

The development of think tanks profoundly reflects the social needs and political ecology of different countries and regions. The evolution of western think tanks can be roughly divided into four stages: first, the germination and exploration stage, represented by Delphi Temple in ancient Greece, medieval monasteries and Renaissance salons, embodies the early form of knowledge serving decision-making; Second, in the stage of formation and initial development, in response to the challenges of industrialization and social complexity, early independent policy research institutions such as Fabian Society in Britain, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in the United States and Brookings Institution were born; The third is the stage of rapid development and functional differentiation. The strategic demand under the background of the Cold War gave birth to modern think tanks such as RAND Corporation, and the research methods were systematic. In the later period, the research focus shifted to a wider field of public policy, and the types of think tanks became increasingly diverse. Fourth, in the stage of reform, innovation and global prosperity, globalization and information technology revolution have promoted the surge in the number of think tanks and expanded their influence. At the same time, they are facing new trends and challenges such as diversification of funding sources, political polarization affecting independence, and information explosion challenging credibility [4].

The evolution of China think tanks has distinct local characteristics: first, in the embryonic stage of ancient times, from Jixia Xuegong in pre-Qin, doctor system in Qin and Han dynasties, admonishing official system in Tang and Song dynasties to the shogunate in Ming and Qing dynasties, a long tradition of assistant administration of think tanks was formed; Second, in the early stage of modern exploration and reform and opening up, the "red think tank" in Yan 'an period took shape. After the founding of New China, an intra-institutional decision-making consultation system represented by the State Council Counselor's Office, China Academy of Sciences and Central Political Research Office was established. Third, in the recovery and growth stage after the reform and opening up, official think tanks flourished, university think tanks rose, and private think tanks began to sprout, which provided important intellectual support for China's reform and opening up; Fourth, in the new era, a new type of think tank with China characteristics is booming. Driven by the top-level design, the construction of

think tank has been promoted to the national strategic level, forming a systematic pattern of coordinated development of various types of think tanks such as party and government departments, Academy of Social Sciences, party schools, universities, military, enterprises and society. It has made remarkable achievements in serving the modernization of national governance, but it also faces challenges such as enhancing originality, improving evaluation mechanism and enhancing international influence ^[5].

The characteristics of think tanks are complex and diverse, so they need to be systematically reconstructed from the four-dimensional analysis framework of "macro-meso-micro-ecosystem". First of all, knowledge production is the core, which shows the double helix structure of professional deep cultivation and forward-looking innovation. Micro-level is embodied in the integrated talent structure, problem-oriented research paradigm and the output form of knowledge translation; The middle level is reflected in the strategic balance between specialization and comprehensiveness and the ability to set the agenda; At the macro level, it is reflected in the national soft power component and strategic early warning function. Secondly, strategic positioning is the key, which is reflected in the dynamic balance between independence and influence. Independence is a relative and dynamic strategic tool, rooted in the professionalism of researchers, subject to the source of funds and governance structure, and has different connotations in different political cultures (the West emphasizes the supervisory role of the "fifth power", while China emphasizes the role of "internal advocate" as an integral part of the governance system). Finally, the ecosystem is the source of vitality, which is embodied in diversified symbiosis and networked cooperation. All kinds of think tanks occupy different niches and have complementary functions, and promote knowledge flow and consensus formation by connecting different communities as key nodes ^[6].

4 Analysis on the Uniqueness of New Think Tanks

As an important intellectual support platform to serve the national strategy and the development of central enterprises, the new think tank of central enterprises is different from university think tanks and social think tanks. Its core characteristics are rooted in the special attributes of central enterprises, and it is a kind of research and consulting institution with the service enterprise as the orientation, strategic issues and innovative development as the main research objects, and the purpose of serving the reform and development of the party and the country, state-owned state-owned enterprises, industries and scientific decision-making of central enterprises ^[7]. The uniqueness of the new think tank of central enterprises is mainly reflected in the following four aspects: why, how to look at it, how to do it and how to do it.

The multiplicity of functional orientation. The new think tanks of central enterprises not only perform the functions of enterprise think tanks, but also perform the functions of industry think tanks and national think tanks. This is determined by the special nature of central enterprises. First of all, as an important pillar of the national economy, central enterprises should improve their core competitiveness and enhance their core functions, and play a supporting role in scientific and technological innovation, industrial control

and security in building a modern industrial system and building a new development pattern, which determines that the think tanks of central enterprises must undertake the important functions of making suggestions and suggestions in national political and economic construction and industrial development; Secondly, as a corporate think tank, the think tank of central enterprises also undertakes the functions of serving the business development of enterprises, coping with market competition, shaping corporate image and taking social responsibility of enterprises.

The distinctiveness of value orientation. As an important part of the new development pattern of new think tanks with China characteristics, the new think tanks of central enterprises shoulder the important functions of new think tanks with China characteristics and promote the construction of national high-quality think tanks. Externally, we should tell the story of China's development, publicize China's ideas, and play the role of China's soft power. Internally, actively carry out domestic and international exchanges and spread ideas to enhance the social influence and reputation of enterprises.

Specificity of service object. On the one hand, central enterprises have a decisive position and irreplaceable role in the market. Facing the current and future international environment and arduous and arduous domestic reform and stability tasks, it is urgent to strengthen the forward-looking thinking and overall planning of major theoretical and practical issues of state-owned assets and state-owned enterprises in the current and future period, and the think tank of central enterprises will do its utmost. On the other hand, from the perspective of industrial influence, central enterprises are mostly in the national strategic field with high technical threshold, significant scale effect and high industrial concentration [2]. "Opinions on Strengthening the Construction of New Think Tank with China Characteristics" [3] points out: "Support state-owned and state-controlled enterprises to set up a new type of think tank closely integrated with Industry-University-Research, focusing on industries, and carry out decision-making consultation and research around the reform of state-owned enterprises, industrial restructuring, industrial development planning, industrial technology direction, industrial policy formulation, and major engineering projects." Relying on the strong strength and influence of the central enterprises' industries, the new think tanks of central enterprises are deeply involved in their own industries, playing an important role in promoting the transformation and upgrading of traditional industries, helping emerging industries to accelerate their development, and serving the new industrialization of the forward-looking layout of future industries.

Innovation of research platform. With the deepening of digitalization and intelligentization, the position of industrial digitalization and intelligentization as the main engine in the new economy has been further consolidated, which has injected a steady stream of power into the development of the new economy. As a pioneer in the transformation of enterprise digitalization and intelligentization, the central enterprises have deployed digitalization and intelligentization in advance. The central enterprise think tank belongs to the central enterprise group, which has caught the fast lane of digital informationization and intelligence, and better empowered the think tank to develop with high quality. At the same time, the central enterprise think tank builds a laboratory, establishes a large model to support the intelligence of the research process, improves

the efficiency of massive data interpretation and results writing, helps researchers focus on core innovation links, and supports the creation of a new think tank platform.

5 Conclusion

Think tank is an indispensable part of modern national governance system and knowledge-policy ecosystem. Its connotation is rich and its extension is broad, and its development path is deeply influenced by the specific political, economic and cultural background. The construction of a new type of think tank with China characteristics is an important strategic measure for the modernization of state governance in the new era. Its development must firmly grasp the soul of "China characteristics" and the essence of "newness", and on the premise of adhering to the leadership of the party and serving the overall situation of the country, continuously promote institutional and institutional innovation, and enhance the research quality, communication efficiency and international discourse power. By building a multi-symbiotic, collaborative and efficient think tank system, China think tank will surely play a more important role in coping with complex challenges, serving scientific decision-making and contributing to China's wisdom.

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