



# A Comparative Study on NPC Standing Committee Party Group and The Western Parliamentary Party Group

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**Abstract.** As core inner-party and parliamentary political operation mechanisms, the Party Group of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress bears distinct institutional attributes rooted in socialist state politics, while the Western Parliamentary party group are formed under multi-party competitive democratic politics. This paper firstly sorts out the organizational structure and operational mechanism of the Party Group of the NPC Standing Committee, then analyzes the institutional composition and political functions of typical the Western Parliamentary party groups, and further conducts comparative research from the perspectives of institutional origin, power attribute, operation logic and value orientation. The study finds that the two systems differ fundamentally in leadership logic, institutional positioning and functional orientation due to different national conditions, political systems and ideological foundations. Clarifying their essential differences is conducive to accurately understanding the operational logic of China's people's congress system and rationally distinguishing the institutional differences between Chinese and the Western Parliamentary political mechanisms, so as to consolidate the institutional confidence of socialist democratic politics with Chinese characteristics.

**Keywords:** NPC Standing Committee; Party Group; Parliamentary.

## 1 Introduction

With the continuous development of comparative politics research, the research on parliamentary internal political organization has gradually become an important research field. The parliamentary political organization represented by party groups is an important carrier to connect political parties and state legislative organs, and directly affects the efficiency of legislative operation and the realization of political will.

In China's people's congress system, the Party Group of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress is a core political leading organization set up in accordance with the Constitution, Party regulations and political operation norms, which undertakes the important mission of realizing the leadership of the Communist Party of China over state power organs. In Western capitalist countries such as Britain, Germany and Canada, parliamentary party groups are the main organizational forms for political parties to carry out political activities in parliaments, and are important tools for

partisan games, interest coordination and legislative promotion under the multi-party system.

There are essential differences in institutional nature, power source, operational objectives and functional scope between the two types of organizational systems. At present, most academic researches focus on the single research of China's people's congress party group system or the Western Parliamentary party group mechanism, and there are relatively few systematic horizontal comparative studies. Based on institutional analysis theory and comparative institutionalism perspective, this paper sorts out the basic operation modes of the two systems, compares their similarities and essential differences, and clarifies the institutional advantages and practical value of China's NPC Standing Committee party group system, so as to enrich the research achievements of socialist democratic politics with Chinese characteristics.

## **2 Organizational Structure and Operational Mechanism of the NPC Standing Committee Party Group**

### **2.1 Institutional Establishment and Organizational Structure**

The Party Group of the NPC Standing Committee is an inner-party leading organization established within the state legislative power organ in accordance with the Regulations on the Work of Communist Party of China Party Groups, which is established on the basis of adhering to the Party's overall leadership and adapting to the operation of the people's congress system.

In terms of hierarchical organization, the Party Group of the NPC Standing Committee implements a unified centralized leadership structure. The main leading persons of the Party group serve as the core person in charge, who are responsible for overall political leadership, work deployment and direction control. The members of the party group are composed of leading party members in the leading bodies of the NPC Standing Committee, forming a stable and unified leading team. Under the unified leadership of the party group, there are corresponding internal working liaison mechanisms, which are connected with the party organizations of all special committees of the NPC and the institution party groups, forming a vertical and horizontal interconnected political leadership network.<sup>[1]</sup>

Different from loose mass organizations, the NPC Standing Committee party group has clear institutional attributes, clear personnel composition standards and standardized appointment and removal procedures. All work activities must be carried out around the central decision-making deployment of the Communist Party of China, and there is no partisan faction division and interest game within the organization.

### **2.2 Core Operational Mechanism**

First, political leadership mechanism. The primary core function of the NPC Standing Committee party group is to implement the Party's line, principles and policies, ensure that all work of the NPC Standing Committee is consistent with the central political

orientation, and guarantee that legislative work, supervision work, deputy work and personnel appointment work always adhere to the correct political direction.

Second, unified decision-making coordination mechanism. The party group uniformly studies and deliberates major work matters involving legislation, people's livelihood supervision, national economic and social development decision-making, unifies ideological understanding within the leading group of the NPC Standing Committee, coordinates the work contradictions among various departments of the people's congress, and avoids scattered decision-making and inefficient work.<sup>[2]</sup>

Third, organizational implementation mechanism. After the party group forms unified opinions and work arrangements, it relies on the organizational system of the people's congress to promote the implementation, links up with administrative, judicial and procuratorial organs, and ensures that the will of the Party and the people is transformed into national laws and effective national governance actions.

Fourth, inner-party supervision and constraint mechanism. The party group undertakes the responsibility of inner-party supervision within the scope of the NPC Standing Committee, standardizes the political behavior and work behavior of party members and leading cadres, adheres to democratic centralism, realizes the combination of democracy and centralization in operation, and ensures the standardized and orderly operation of state power organs.

## **2.3 Basic Operational Principles**

The operation of the NPC Standing Committee party group system always adheres to four basic principles: adhering to the Party's overall leadership, adhering to the people-centered orientation, adhering to democratic centralism, and adhering to acting in accordance with the Constitution and laws. All operational behaviors are based on national public interests and people's fundamental interests, without representing the partial interests of a certain class or a certain interest group, which lays a solid institutional foundation for its stable operation.

# **3 Organizational Structure and Political Functions of The Western Parliamentary Party Group**

## **3.1 Main Organizational Forms and Structural Characteristics**

The Western Parliamentary party groups are universal political organizational forms derived from multi-party competitive politics, which are widely distributed in parliamentary such as the British cabinet the German federal parliamentary and the Canadian bicameral parliamentary.

In terms of organizational setting, the Western Parliamentary party groups are set up corresponding to various political parties in parliament. Each legal political party with parliamentary seats will set up an independent parliamentary party group, with its leaders, whips, internal discussion groups and functional liaison departments<sup>[3]</sup>. In terms of internal structure, parliamentary party groups implement faction-based hierarchical

management. The party group leader is the core spokesperson of the party in parliament, responsible for unifying the parliamentary voting attitude and speech standpoint of party members; the whip is responsible for managing the attendance rate of party members in parliament, unifying voting behavior, and restricting the independent political opinions of individual party members.<sup>[4]</sup>

In terms of personnel composition, the Western Parliamentary party groups are composed of all parliamentarians elected on behalf of the party. The organization is loose in nature, with obvious partisan attributes. Different party groups belong to different political camps, with distinct opposition and confrontational relations, and there is no unified overall leading organization to coordinate all party groups.

## **3.2 Core Political Functions of The Western Parliamentary Party Groups**

### **3.2.1 Legislative Promotion and Interest Expression Function.**

The Western Parliamentary party groups are the main platforms for various political parties to express factional interests. All major legislative bills are firstly discussed, revised and unified in position within each parliamentary party group. Each party group promotes legislative content that is in line with their own party propositions and interest demands, and blocks or delays legislative proposals that are inconsistent with their own interests. Parliamentary legislation often becomes a game result of interest compromise among multiple party groups.<sup>[5]</sup>

### **3.2.2 Parliamentary Struggle and Power Game Function.**

Under the multi-party system, parliamentary party groups are the main carriers of partisan political games. The ruling party group relies on its seat advantage to promote government policies, while the opposition party groups use parliamentary deliberation, inquiry, no-confidence motion and other forms to restrict, supervise and even counter-balance the ruling party's governance behavior. Political confrontation and interest struggle between different party groups run through the whole process of parliamentary operation.

### **3.2.3 Party Member Management and Will Unification Function.**

Parliamentary party groups undertake the management function of party parliamentarians. Through internal discipline constraints, interest distribution and political resource allocation, they unify the political stance, voting tendency and parliamentary speech views of party members, prevent individual parliamentarians from breaking away from the party's position to express opinions independently, and maintain the overall political image and partisan interests of political parties.

### **3.2.4 Government Supervision and Restriction Function.**

In Western democratic systems, opposition parliamentary party groups take political supervision as their core daily function, focusing on supervising the administrative

behavior, fiscal expenditure and policy formulation of the ruling party's government, launching political inquiries and public opinion criticism, restricting the excessive expansion, and realizing the institutional check and balance of state power.

### **3.3 Operational Logic of The Western Parliamentary Party Groups**

The operational core of the Western Parliamentary party groups is based on partisan interests and electoral interests. All organizational behaviors are centered on winning parliamentary seats, seizing ruling power and satisfying the demands of their own voter groups. The operation mode takes political competition as the main line, interest compromise as the means, and winning elections and realizing partisan governance as the ultimate goal, which is fundamentally different from the public interest orientation of China's NPC Standing Committee party group system.

## **4 Comparative Analysis between the Two Systems**

### **4.1 Comparison of Institutional Origins and Theoretical Foundations**

The Party Group System of China's NPC Standing Committee originates from the political system construction practice of socialist countries, takes Marxism-Leninism party building theory and socialist people's sovereignty theory as the core theoretical support, and is produced to adapt to the people's congress system which takes people as the main body. Its institutional root lies in adhering to the unity of the Party's leadership and people's sovereignty, and is an institutional arrangement formed in order to realize the people's fundamental interests.

The Western Parliamentary party group systems originate from bourgeois liberal democratic theory and multi-party competition theory, rooted in the political practice of capitalist society. Their theoretical core is power check and balance and partisan freedom competition, and the institutional origin is to adapt to the interest differentiation and class game under the capitalist system, serving the interest distribution of different social interest groups.

### **4.2 Comparison of Power Sources and Institutional Attributes**

In terms of power source, the power of the NPC Standing Committee party group comes from the leadership position stipulated by China's Constitution and Party regulations, and is derived from the people's sincere support for the ruling party. Its institutional attribute is the inner-party leading organization within state power organs, which belongs to the political leading mechanism of integrating party leadership and state governance.

The power of the Western Parliamentary party groups comes from parliamentary seats obtained through elections and the political authority endowed by party constitutions. Their institutional attribute is a partisan autonomous organization in legislative

organs, which only represents the political will and interest demands of its own political party, without the overall leading authority over state power organs.

#### **4.3 Comparison of Operational Objectives and Service Objects**

The core operation goal of China's NPC Standing Committee party group is to promote national governance modernization, safeguard national unity and social stability, realize the fundamental interests of all Chinese people, take overall social development and people's well-being as the starting point and goal of all work, and there is no partial partisan interest tendency.

The operational goal of the Western Parliamentary party groups is to strive for partisan political interests, expand the party's ruling influence, cater to the demands of specific voter groups and interest groups, and take winning elections and realizing partisan governance as the core goal. The service objects have obvious group selectivity and exclusiveness.

#### **4.4 Comparison of Operational Modes and Internal Relations**

In terms of internal operation, the NPC Standing Committee party group implements democratic centralism, with unified leadership, consistent goals, smooth internal coordination, focusing on unity, unity and efficient implementation, and internal operation is stable and cohesive. There is no internal opposition camp, and all members work together around national development strategies.

The Western Parliamentary party groups are in a state of long-term competition and opposition in parliament. There are fierce conflicts of interests and political viewpoints between different party groups. The internal operation is based on games and compromise. Legislative efficiency is easily affected by partisan struggles, and it is easy to see appear phenomena such as parliamentary deadlock and policy delay.

#### **4.5 Comparison of Functional Orientation and Social Effects**

Functionally, the NPC Standing Committee party group focuses on political leadership, overall coordination and work implementation, effectively connects the Party's decision-making with national legislative governance, and realizes the efficient integration of will formulation and policy implementation, which is conducive to concentrating efforts on accomplishing major tasks and promoting long-term stable national development.

The Western Parliamentary party groups focus on interest expression, power supervision and partisan struggle. Although they have the function of power restriction, they are easy to cause governance fragmentation, frequent policy adjustments and insufficient continuity of long-term development strategies due to excessive partisan competition, which affects the efficiency of national governance.

## 5 Conclusion

The Party Group System of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress and the Western Parliamentary party group systems are political organizational operation mechanisms adapted to their respective national conditions, social systems and political development paths, and there is no absolute distinction between superiority and inferiority, but there are essential differences in institutional essence and operational logic caused by different systems.

The NPC Standing Committee party group system is an important institutional achievement formed in the process of integrating the Party's leadership into the people's congress system. It has distinct advantages of unified leadership, overall planning, being close to the people and efficient implementation, and is an important institutional guarantee for adhering to and improving the system of people's congresses. The Western Parliamentary party group systems are the inevitable institutional products of Western multi-party competitive politics, which adapt to the political operation needs of capitalist society, but also have inherent defects such as partisan strife and governance inefficiency.

In the process of improving China's socialist democratic political system, we should firmly adhere to the existing superior political organizational system, continuously optimize the operational mechanism of the NPC Standing Committee party group, give better play to its leading and coordinating functions, rationally view the institutional characteristics and practical defects of the Western Parliamentary party group systems from the perspective of comparative politics, abandon mechanical copying and blind worship, firmly adhere to the development path of socialist democratic politics with Chinese characteristics, and constantly promote the modernization of the national governance system and governance capacity.

## Disclosure of Interests

The authors have no competing interests to declare that are relevant to the content of this article.

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