

## The Governance of Mass Incidents under the Background of Social Transition in China Based on the Theory of Political Stability

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### Abstract

At present, China is in the crucial period of modernizing development. It appears not only a golden opportunity for development, but also obvious contradiction and mass incidents during this period. Government how to realize the self-improvement of political system, to implement self-enhancement of government's ability, as the leading role of disposing mass incidents, is the key to effective governance of China's mass incidents. The theory of political stability of Huntington, based on the construction of powerful government, provides a good reference for the governance of China's mass incidents, that in order to keep balance relatively between the demand of public political participation and the political institutionalization levels.

**Key words:** The theory political stability; Mass incidents; governance

### 1. Introduction

At present, China is in the crucial period of modernizing development. It appears not only a golden opportunity for development, but also obvious contradiction and mass incidents during this period. From the governance level, it is undoubtedly that the government management plays a leading role of disposing of mass incidents. Therefore, government how to realize the self-improvement of political system, to implement self-enhancement of government's ability is the key to effective governance of China's mass incidents. Huntington's theory of political stability, based on the construction of powerful government, provides a good reference for the governance of China's mass incidents.

### 2. The key points of the theory of political stability

Huntington systematically expounded the theory of political stability. He believes that modernity promises stability, but the modernization breeds the unrest. Huntington used three groups of formula to explaining: social mobilization ÷ economic development = social decadence; social decadence ÷ mobility chance = political participation; Political

participation ÷ political institutionalization = political upheaval. It means a country in the process of modernization with the rapid development of economy has greatly increased the people's pursuit and expectation, accordingly promoting the improvement of the social mobilization, and desires tend to be greater than the satisfied ability that the society can provide, thus it easy to arise the sense of social decadence (that is the social frustration). In this case, if the society cannot provide sufficient mobility opportunities, the government cannot provide sufficient political institutionalization to ensure that the expansion of political participation, it will inevitably lead to political unrest.

Huntington believes that there must be a powerful government to solve the problem of political stability in the process of the modernization, and the powerful government should have the ability to balance political participation and political institutionalization of the government. Huntington's solution to the political stability is to take the political institutionalization as the core, and the improvement of the political institutionalization lays in the political modernization, which realizes the rationalization of

authority, the separation of structure, the expansion of political participation[1]. The Huntington's theory provides important significance for China which is a developing country with strong vitality and adaptability and for the analysis of China's mass incidents.

### **3. The cause analysis of mass incidents under the background of China's social transition**

#### **3.1The analysis based on the perspective of economic development: the interest differentiation and the social mobilization strengthen by the game**

Huntington's theory of political stability believes that both economic development and social mobilization are the two major factors which affect political stability. Economic development improves the social life of people; social mobilization enhances the new desires and needs of people when it brings new things and new ways of life at the same time. When the growth of social ability to satisfy the desire can not keep up with the growth of desire, it tends to create the gap between the desire and the hope that will cause social decadency and discontent, and become the source of political unrest [1] (P41).

Firstly, the different group of interests to intensify the contradiction. There are profound changes in the China's social class currently, the game of group interests become a routine social phenomenon with the advent of different interest groups and different interests. Over the years, the China's mass incidents appear interests collectivized feature, which is the manifestation of this social problem. For example, the events of rubber famers of MengLian, Yunnan in 2008, the events of furniture business owners of Jiangxi in 2009, etc.

The second is the gap between rich and poor lead to social instability. The report from World Bank shows

that 20% of China's highest income average revenue and 20% of the lowest income population average income has amounted to 10.7 times, China has become one of the countries which gap of residents' income is larger [2]. Excessive income gap result in relative poverty and the gap between rich and poor, often leads to intensified social conflicts, this is the important reason for the frequent mass incidents in China at present. At present, the society is widespread with psychological of "hate rich", such as the conflict between Luxury Gold Color and Diors.

The three is the social pressure from vulnerable groups who are marginalized. The gap between rich and poor will inevitably bring some social groups to be weak and marginalized. Scholars estimated that the population of vulnerable groups is about 140 million - 180 million, account for about 11% - 14% of the total population in China [3] (P89). Vulnerable groups easy to arise the sense of deprivation, injustice and dissatisfaction; it is easy to become a hotbed of mass incidents.

#### **3.2The analysis based on the perspective of social transformation: the weakening authority of traditional politics result from social transformation**

Huntington's theory of political stability believes that the social and economic change will not only split the traditional society and political groups, but also destroys the loyalty to traditional authority. The new values, for example alienation and decadent destruction, come from modernization tend to destroy the old foundation of social and the authority. [1] (P27-28).

On the one hand, the decline of national control which results from social transformation led to a decline in the identity of national authority of social members. The cultural pluralism caused by the

differentiation of social structure result in a decline in the influence of national mainstream ideology [4]. On the other hand, the power rent-seeking and corruption occur frequently and dilute the positive image of traditional political authority, leading to the deficiency of government authority, especially the basic level government. There is the common tendency of "social anger" that exist in mass incidents currently,, this phenomenon fully shows that the authority of traditional politics gradually weakened by social transformation, and the social members dissatisfied with local government, and the mentality of social public are extremely vulnerable, all of that are the causes of mass incidents. [5]. Such as: the event of WenganGuizhou event happened in 2008, the event of Longnan, Gansu hubei and the event of Shishou happened in 2009, the event of Qidong Jiangsu happened in 2012, etc.

### **3.3 The analysis based on the perspective of administrative capacity: the administrative "vacuum" caused by the lagged political reform**

The Huntington's theory of political stability believes that it is easy to cause some defect or overlapping phenomenon of political function. The "defect" or "weakening" of political function cause the state of "political vacuum" in some area, and likely to result in the disorder of social life; The differentiation of political structure also brought the difficulty of coordination, increase the social costs, reduce the efficiency of government's work, become the hidden trouble of the social stability [8].

In terms of the current transition period of China, due to the reform of political system lags behind, the administrative system has not completely rationalized. The function of the government reveals a strong sense of planned economy; there is a phenomenon of "dislocation, offside, absent", and the

problems that exist in administration of "inaction, illegal action, lazy" at the same time. This is a cause of some mass incidents, on the other hand, that also can make the delayed reaction of government in the prevention and treatment of mass incidents.

### **3.4The analysis based on the perspective of political ecology change: the crisis of political involvement result from political mobility.**

Huntington's theory of political stability believes that the social decadence should be eased by increasing the opportunities of social mobility. The people will participate in politics to find and meet the expectation when the social mobility frustrated. But for many developing countries, due to its political institutionalization level is not high enough that can't provide legal expression and communication channels for political participation, can not effectively absorb the new social forces into the existing political system, therefore, excessive political participation tend to cause political instability.

At present, Chinese society is in the state of highly mobilization. On the one hand, due to the specific national conditions, the channel of citizen's political involvement is too single, the role of social "safety valve" is difficult to play; On the other hand, owing to the weak legal awareness of the common people, they seldom express their interests by legal form or means, it lead to that the existing system and the judicial relief way is difficult to play a role. Because the channel of the vulnerable group's appeal is too narrow, and many obstacles exists the communication with government departments, it is difficult to release the "edge complex" through institutionalized participation. When the interests of the disadvantaged people blocked, it tend to get

involved in conflict and confrontation, likely to cause mass incidents in certain situations [5](P103).

#### **4. Revelation to the governance of China's mass incidents from political stability theory**

##### **4.1 To strengthen the ability of government development, cracking the contradiction between the supply of material culture and the demands of people.**

In terms of current situation of China, the social productivity is less developed, the development of social production still can't meet people's increasing material and cultural needs, this is the principal contradiction in China at present, and is the contradictions among the people, and even the total root of mass incidents [5] (P40). The primary problem in China still is a problem of how to develop, only to promote the sustainable and healthy development of economy, and then solidify the material basis for the prosperous nation, happy life, harmonious and stable society. Therefore, we must insist on the major strategic judgment that development is still the key to solve the problem of our country, taking economic construction as the center, promote that the relations of production suit with productivity, and the superstructure suit with economic base, promote the sustainable and healthy development of economic and social [9].

##### **4.2 To strengthen the ability of government redistribution, cracking the contradiction of the polarization between the rich and the poor and fairness and justice**

To deepen the reform of the system of income distribution, raise the proportion of labor remuneration in primary distribution; improve the compensation mechanism of capital, knowledge, technology, management and so on which is determined by the factors of market; Perfect

mechanism of redistribution and adjustment, the main means such as tax, social security and transfer payments; standardize the order of income distribution, improve the mechanism of income distribution and system of policy and control, to form the distribution pattern of olive shape gradually. [9]To adapt to the requirement of the socialist market with economy development, adhere to the basic, multi-level and full cover, sustainable policy, in order to enhance fairness, mobility, sustainability, to build the security system completely that covered the urban and rural [10].To correctly handle the relationship between the government and society, market, make efforts to shape the image of the authoritative government. Government should strengthen the self building and self-discipline, and intensify the institutional anti-corruption, build an honest government, correct power, squeeze the space of power rent-seeking, promote fair competition in the market.

##### **4.3 To strengthen the ability of government emergency management, breaking the contradictions caused by diversified social development and lagging administrative ability**

As the main body of emergency management, government should strive to improve the ability of risk warning, scientific decision-making, coordinating, and the ability to disposal and work with the mass according to law, actively explore new ways of prevention and disposal of mass incidents [5] (P241). To adhere to the principle of prevention first, actively explore the system and mechanism which prevent and treat mass incidents effectively and scientifically; to establish and improve the emergency plan and special plans for the governments at all levels, in order to ensure accurate warning, scientific decision-making and effective disposal and correct

assessment. To address the problems such as the lack of government's authority, out of control of social management of basic government and other issues. On the one hand, it should reshape the authority of basic government. On the other hand, it should strengthen the construction the government's ability when emergent.

#### **4.4 To strengthen the openness of the political system, cracking the contradiction between the demand of political involvement and imbalances of the institutionalized level**

To develop the socialist democratic politics, improve the democratic system, enrich the democratic forms, and expand the citizen's political involvement from different levels in various fields orderly. To perfect the mechanism of National People's Congress, expand orderly the involvement of citizens in the legislative way. To build a deliberative democratic system, this has reasonable program and complete link. Broadening the negotiation channel through which the state, Chinese people's political consultative conference organization and party groups, grassroots organizations, social organizations negotiate. To develop the democracy at the grassroots level, improve the mechanisms such as of the grassroots election, deliberation, openness, report and accountability. To reform the systems to prevent and resolve social contradiction, establish a mechanism for smooth and orderly aspirations, psychological intervention, conflict mediation, safeguards the rights and interests, and then the problem can be reflected, contradictions can be resolved, rights can be guaranteed. To reform the system of letters and improve the mechanism of in situ to resolve the reasonable demands in time, establish an end system for law-related complaint involving lawsuit in accordance with the law. To activate the social

organization, play the role of social organizations in the orderly political involvement; actively cultivate the spirit of citizenship and the consciousness about rule of law, in order to realize the good governance of government and social self-regulation, the benign interaction between inhabitant autonomy. [4]

#### **5. Conclusion**

Huntington's theory of political stability is the revelation of the governance of mass incidents in China, in order to achieve political stability in the process of China's modernization, must build a powerful government, establish the political authority, promote sustained and rapid economic development, promote social equity and justice, and dissolve the social crisis. Especially to enhance the level of political institutionalization and to keep the demand of political involvement and the levels of political institutionalization in relatively balance, to guide the political involvement of citizens orderly on the basis of cultivating civic spirit and consciousness about the rule of law.

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