

# Research on the Political Participation System of College Students

## Based on the Theory of Complex Adaptive System

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**Abstract:** In the process of democratic politics, the introduction of complex adaptive system theory provides a new perspective and inspiration for the study of political participation of college students. At present, college students' political participation system showing positive political participation consciousness and passive political participation behavior coexist, diverse political participation and inefficiency of political participation in the process of coexistence, ideal of political participation desire and utilitarian political participation motivation coexist, and individual imbalance contradiction adaptability characteristic. Based on analyzing the contradiction of College Students' political participation, this paper applies complex adaptive system theory to guide college students political participation system research, and tries to explore the construction of college students' political participation system of three-dimensional development model, from four aspects of university, government, society and college students.

### Introduction

Political participation is not only the core of modern democratic politics, but also the only way to political modernization. With the deepening reform of socialist political economy, political participation is a way of expression and realization of civil and political rights; more and more people accept and use it. college students are the backbone of youth, their political participation directly influence to China socialist democratic politics construction. In recent years, the contradiction between the political participation of college students adaptability system appears in the democratic political process has its complexity, are also based on this, we start from the contradiction between the adaptability of college students' political participation system, to explore the complex adaptive system theory based on the college students' political participation system feasibility countermeasures.

### The contradictory characteristics of the political participation system of college students

***The active political participation consciousness and the negative political participation behavior coexist*** Political participation of ordinary citizens to participate in political life through various legal means, and the influence of the political system, operation mode, economic development degree of operating rules and policies of the process <sup>[1]</sup>. The political participation and level of citizens in a country are closely related. The establishment of the socialist market economy provides realistic soil for college students' political participation consciousness, construction the socialist political civilization provides the system guarantee, at the same time for the political participation of college students awareness of the great achievements in economic and social development also encouraged college students' enthusiasm for political participation, political participation of college students awareness of the overall increase. The specific performance of college party activists generally

improve the college students' social practice, such as youth volunteer activities in depth. But in contrast, the political participation behavior of college students are showing a negative cold Desert characteristics. Although the students awareness of political participation has increased, but low level of political participation behavior is more, there is sense of participation without participation behavior, constitute the active political participation consciousness and negative political participation behavior of the coexistence of the characteristics of the conflict.

***The diversification of the political participation and the low efficiency of the political participation process coexist*** With the college students' political participation consciousness is generally high, the way of political participation of university students also showed a variety of features. From participation transition to automatic participation, by institutional participation in the transition to non institutional participation, participation by emotional type transition to rational participation. The scope and breadth of participation also covers any previous stage. Relates to all aspects of social life. With the use of mobile phone, Internet and other new media means, which makes possible the political participation of college students on the one hand to expand whenever and wherever possible, the students' political participation scope, on the other hand is to some extent limit the depth of the political participation of college students, leading to more stay in college students' political participation the low level of duplication, reduce the effectiveness of college students' political participation process.

***The ideal of political participation desire and utilitarian political participation motivation coexist*** College students are young highly educated groups. With their subjective consciousness and enhance civic awareness of college students of political participation requirements is also more and more desire and motivation many students have strong expertise to participate in politics, management and decision-making, participation in public affairs, part of the social changes as their rights and interests, therefore, hope that through the ways of political participation to their political ideals and aspirations into practice, to influence the social and political life and social recognition and attention but <sup>[2]</sup>. The social political system is a complex system, political participation is a complex process involving multiple interests.

***The imbalance of political participation*** With the deepening of reform and opening-up and the popularization of higher education, college students are no longer as isolated groups in existence, but as an important member of the socialist democratic political construction in Universities in the process of socialization. Correspondingly, college students' political participation status although presents certain group characteristics, but also imbued with individuality the distinctive features of the embodied in the political participation of college students in the process of inter individual imbalance. Some of them are keen on political expression and political engagement, while others such as political apathy; some actively participate in political activities, and some even after political mobilization is still negative in some countries and to participate; the interests of the people, and only for self-interest involved. This led directly to the college students' political participation system has more than three contradictory characteristics.

### **College students' political participation system is a complex adaptive system**

The theory of complex adaptive system (CAS) as the third generation system concept was first proposed by Professor Holland in 1994, which includes macro and micro two aspects. The macro aspects: between subject and subject system through interaction with the environment show differentiation, evolution process, the emergence of complex lead to differentiation, appear diversity. The micro aspect, has the adaptive ability, active subjects follow the stimulus response model of the interaction with the environment in the body, can timely adjust their behavior rules in the objective environment, in order to show the ability to adapt to <sup>[3]</sup>. In the core of complex adaptive system

theory the subject's adaptability makes the complexity of the system, and the contradiction between adaptive characteristics of college students' political participation system has created a complex system of college students' political participation, both the mechanism is similar. Therefore, we are able to guide the research on the system of university students' political participation with the complex adaptive system theory.

***College students' political participation system is a natural and orderly adaptation system*** From the view of system structure, college students' political participation system consists of several subsystems, which includes political voting system, the system of political elections, political association, political expression system, political contact system, political apathy system, although the subsystems are relatively independent, but interrelated and influence each other, constitute the system of political participation of the whole overall, the formation characteristics of college students' political participation system. Among them, the overall characteristics of political participation system is not equal to the simple summation of each subsystem, and some changes of the individual subsystems does not necessarily affect the overall characteristics of the political participation system. However, there are some natural regulation mechanism between college students' political participation and the overall system subsystems, each subsystem in a certain time and space natural orderly self-organization, self-learning, adaptive, constitute the overall system existence state, in order to cope with the evolution and changes of the external environment.

***College students' political participation system is an open system which is far from the thermal equilibrium*** From the input and output of the system, the system of college students' political participation is a continuous input of information and energy, and process large amounts of information and energy output of the system is also showing the situation of opening in the continuous input and output of information and energy in this process. In this process, along with the continuous change the old and new information and energy, the main system of (Agent) - college students in active gradually adapt to this change and growth. In essence, the changing and growing body is far from equilibrium, which is the college students' political participation system as the vitality of complex adaptive. Specifically, with the accelerated establishment and the process of political civilization of socialist market economic system, as the product of political participation in the democratic era have gradually been recognized and affirmed, the political participation of college students The unprecedented expansion of the field, political participation showed a trend of diversification, which reflects the openness of the system of political participation. In the open system, as the main body of the students continue to adapt to each other, in communication and feedback in continuous learning or experience, to continuously improve the ability and efficiency of political participation, which reflects the characteristics of political participation system far from thermal equilibrium.

***The political participation of college students in the system presents a non-linear correlation*** From the internal point of view, college students' political participation system is composed from different regions, different nationalities, different disciplines, different age students individual, they formed different political participation system through the nonlinear interaction between the various subsystems also showed a nonlinear correlation. Among them, group characteristics not system presents the individual characteristics the simple summation, between different subsystems influence also is not a sum of arithmetic interaction between individuals, but you can be sure that the change of individual and the subsystem of system to produce certain effect, this effect follows the stimulus response model. Living in a certain political culture in the system of college students continuously from the political life of the stimulus, and react according to their own experience, adopt the corresponding political participation, the political participation. Fruit may be successful, that is, to achieve desired political participation goal, may also be failure, which did not reach the expected goal of political participation so as to affect college students as the main body of the

modification to participate in their own political attitudes, beliefs and behaviors. So, this kind of "stimulus - response" model, it also follows the rules of the nonlinear. Then college students political participation within the system why shows a nonlinear relationship? This is because as political participation of the agents in the system of college students own initiative and ability to adapt, on the other hand has also been some random factors of influence.

***The evolution of the system of political participation of college students is affected by the unexpected events*** From the development of the evolution of the system, college students' political participation system is a blend of macro and micro, complex adaptive system order and nonlinear intertwined, its evolution is from complex to simple "collapse" trend, there are also from simple to complex "emergence" trend. In this process, have important influence of unexpected events on the evolution of college students' political participation system. Firstly, the randomness of political participation system external environmental signals brings students sudden evolution of political participation; secondly, as the main body of the system of university students face random stimulus brought a sudden reaction of political participation; thirdly, political participation system to adapt itself the rules governed by random factors. Therefore, in the event of an emergency stimulus, although the system does not require the evolution of clear goals, but its evolution direction is determined.

### **The Enlightenment of the theory of complex adaptive system to the political participation of college students**

***Colleges and universities should actively explore the political participation of college students in nonlinear Education*** Within the complex adaptive system and the nonlinear relationship of college students' political participation system decided to actively explore nonlinear education to colleges and universities, to improve the quality and ability of political participation of college students. First, strengthen the combination of theory and Practice for the guidance of college students' political participation. Therefore, we should strengthen the combination of the ideological and political theory course teaching and social practice of college students, not only armed with rich theory of political participation of University And mind, but also with the colorful practice to strengthen college students' political participation theory accomplishment and level. Second, to awaken students participation awareness. Nonlinear education of the second starting point is not as a whole is the sum of the parts, the initial system in a tiny change or disturbance can lead to great changes in the whole system disproportionately. That is to say, the political participation system in college students' individual automatically participate in the enhanced awareness will probably bring the optimization and integration of the system of the college students' political participation. Therefore, if the university can explore a variety of incentive measures to arouse students' automatic participation consciousness, will get twice the result with half the effort.

***The government should strengthen the policy guidance of the political participation of college students*** College students' political participation system is the natural order to adapt to the system, the system has certain natural adjustment mechanism, in response to changes in the external environment. This provides inspiration for the role of government in the political participation of college students in the system of Government: not too much intervention to control the political participation of college students, but college students political participation the system of guiding people. The government should create a good policy environment for political participation in service college students, many students listen to the opinions and suggestions of the state policies and regulations, timely introduction of relevant policies and regulations for the development of college students, to enable students to clear their occupation career development direction, especially with the support of the government and the effective protection for the system college students' employment and social integration.

***The community should work together to create an open environment for political participation of college students*** As an open system far from equilibrium, input and output motion of political participation in the time between the system and its environment with information and energy for college students, which means a good social environment is the objective conditions of college students' political participation system of benign operation. At the same time, with the enhancement of the socialization degree of college students, college students' political participation in society the influence of college students and the social reaction of political participation is more and more frequent, plays an increasingly important role in the political life of the country. Marx thought that students of political participation, rights can never go beyond the social economical structure and economic structure is restricted by the cultural development. "[4] political participation as citizens. Political rights with each person's independent stakeholders, and every citizen's self interests and are influenced by social interest structure Control. Therefore, the socialist democratic political system reform deepening and expansion of citizens' orderly political participation channels, for college students' political participated in the creation of a good open social environment. In addition, the society must make full use of a variety of ways and means to promote college students of good deeds, to stimulate the political identity of college students, to enable students to achieve the unity of self value and social value in the ideal and practice of political participation, which in turn further promote the process of China's socialist democratic politics construction.

***The main body of university students should strengthen their rational political participation ability*** From the current situation of college students' political participation Chinese, mobilized participation and passive participation accounted for a large proportion, automatic participation is obviously insufficient, and this is a complex adaptive system on the subject: college students' consciousness and ability of political participation. The rational political participation ability of college students is based on the knowledge of political theory. Only by giving full play to the ability of rational political participation of college students, it can be beneficial to the development of the law of social history. Therefore, on one hand the students to learn how to use the dialectical materialism and historical materialism the position of the complexity perspective to understand political participation system, develop a rational political thinking habit; on the other hand, college students should be dialectical materialism and historical materialism methodology to guide its political participation practice, and continuously improve the ability and level of participation in politics.

## Conclusion

The theory of complex adaptive system for college students' political participation research provides a new perspective, and it also helps to optimize the adaptability of college students' political participation system. As a complex adaptive system, college students' political participation system good operation requires the nonlinear education in colleges and universities to explore, government policy guidance, social environment construction and college students' rational participation ability raise. Through these four aspects to cooperate with each other, we can improve the overall level of college students' political participation system.

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