

Study of Great Power Dominance of the International Order Behind Veto: Take China as an Example

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Abstract: A resolution to hold the five permanent Security Council members responsible for wielding the veto was passed by the UN General Assembly at its 76th session. Veto power is undoubtedly a vital part of the exercise of the veto power in international affairs at a time when humanity is facing unprecedented change; Moreover, by exercising their veto power in consultation and coordination of international affairs, the major powers are also contributing to the mitigation and stabilization of international affairs, as well as the establishment of a just and rational international order by promoting the development of a multipolar trend. They share a wide range of common interests and responsibilities on many important issues concerning the survival and growth of humanity, such as maintaining world peace and security, combating international drug trafficking and protecting the living environment of refugees, etc. This article will analyze the above aspects while specifically analyzing the role that great powers can play in promoting the multilateral system and contributing to developing countries, taking China as an example. As argued in this paper, the resolution subtly affirms the function of the UN P5, even though it seems to restrict the P5's veto authority. This paper's goal is to investigate the function of the P5 veto from the perspective of both the P5 and third world countries, as well as to discuss what can be done by developing countries to establish themselves as an emerging force after the postwar period when the big powers dominated international affairs.

Keywords: peace, development, multipolarity, refugee, Chinese practice

1. Introduction

The resolution, which was approved by the UN General Assembly at its 76th session, aims to make the Security Council's fifth permanent member responsible for the exercise of the veto. Taking the macro view, the elimination of the veto power is almost like a reset of the United Nations institution, which will inevitably cause the world landscape to change in the coming years due to the coming of the law of the jungle.

According to the resolution, the General Assembly will automatically convene once a permanent member of the Security Council uses their veto so that everyone can study and comment on the decision.

On the one hand, this resolution is intended to maintain international morality by preventing the abuse of veto power by the immense forces, allowing them to exercise their veto with caution while

simultaneously providing the smaller countries with a more incredible opportunity to speak out internationally.

Meanwhile, it is a disguised affirmation that the great powers continue to dominate the international order today. Looking back at the US-Soviet dichotomy, Professor Wang Xingfang has pointed out that "the exercise of the veto in UN practice highlights the special collaborative relationship between the Soviet Union and the US and the transformation of the international political landscape built on this relationship [1]." Since the end of the Cold War, the dramatic changes in the international landscape and the end of the two-tier system have led to an awakening of the developing countries, which constitute the majority of the international community, to assert their independence, to take the path of solidarity and cooperation, and to seek development in peace and stability through dialogue and cooperation rather than confrontation and conflict. However, hegemony and power politics have not disappeared. The majority of third-world nations' sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity are still being violated by an unjust and unreasonable international order. Following are some of how the major powers have played an increasingly important role in the United Nations.

2. Peacekeeping and Development

According to *Oliver Richmond*, author of *A realist plan for peace*, post-peace victorious states often bring monopolies and hegemony [2]. After the Cold War, the developed Western countries exerted pressure on many developing countries by exporting their political and economic systems, ideologies, and values and interfered in the domestic politics of other nations in the name of "maintaining regional peace and uncertainty" and "combating terrorism," thereby weakening the sovereignty of other countries.

The veto power of the P5 can effectively prevent such hegemony from occurring, which is why it is so important. Its use represents the political attitude of the P5 countries, ensuring that the P5 recognizes resolutions as authoritative and practical and meeting the great powers' needs in negotiating economic and trade exchanges. Countries with the veto can use it against Western countries committing aggressive and unjust wars, opposing violent armed interventions against vulnerable countries, or even sending troops to intervene.

As the Syrian crisis demonstrated a decade ago, on the one hand, negotiations have stopped as a result of numerous vetoes of draft resolutions and even the threat of one, making the Security Council essentially inactive in the face of atrocities [3]. On the other hand, they have shown that effective intervention by major powers, and protection through diplomacy, can be effective in counteracting Western-led interference with a weaker state's internal affairs. For instance, Moscow's intervention in the Western imposition of political legitimacy standards on 'sovereign states' to enforce regime change is seen as Moscow's diplomatic protection of Damascus in the UN Security Council and its continued supply of modern weapons. This could have future repercussions for Russia or other authoritarian members of the Commonwealth of Independent States. In addition to the UN Charter, which gives P5 countries the right to intervene in power politics in times of war, the exercise of the veto is even more helpful in times of peace, as highlighted by the following.

2.1. Guaranteeing Equal Rights for Refugees

Unprecedented numbers of people moved abroad between 2015 and 2017, and there was a wide range of ages, genders, and medical needs. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030, which aim to ensure the health and well-being of everyone, were endorsed by UN member states in September 2015. The UN Charter's principles of equal rights and fairness for everyone are embodied

in the SDGs, as is each country's obligation to use the most up-to-date scientific research in their efforts to advance humankind [4].

Although refugees may seem like a distant topic for us in a peaceful society, with the outbreak of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict today, the issue of refugees has been brought back to the forefront of the general public's mind.

Meanwhile, as the severity of climate change increases, especially with the rising sea level, it is expected that the number of climate refugees forced to flee their homes due to climate change will continue to increase and become an important issue affecting regional and global peace and security. Therefore, to preserve world peace and security, the UN Security Council must propose measures to address the issue of climate refugees to prevent them from becoming a negative factor affecting global peace and security.

Because although there are existing conventions and agreements dealing with climate change, such as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement, these existing frameworks are still relatively loose and ineffective in addressing the urgency of climate change at the level of uniting individual states. Moreover, while the United Nations Environment Program has been able to play some positive roles, its status is still limiting its ability to play a more significant role since its environment fund relies on spontaneous donations, and its funding sources are less stable.

With the expansion of climate refugee groups, when necessary, the UN Security Council will urge countries to set up domestic early-warning mechanisms, improve infrastructure, and set up contingency plans for preventing the expansion of climate refugees, maintaining inter-regional peace, prosperity, and stability. The measures that countries need to take can be but are not limited to: Further formulate practical and effective adaptation plans, enacting domestic laws to ensure that enterprises in countries' dangerous areas such as around dams are required to follow government plans during construction, taking building-level measures, which contributes to take on obligations at the personal and corporate level, etc.

No one becomes a refugee by choice. As a host country, in order to guarantee access to basic needs (food, water and sanitation, health care), it is crucial to first recognize the various degrees of vulnerability and needs of these populations in terms of protection, security, rights, and access to health care. Secondly, policies that ensure universal health coverage and provide services for migrants and refugees, as well as for the host population, must be adopted in order to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

In this regard, China, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council and a significant contributor to UN peacekeeping troops, has insisted on full cooperation with the UNHCR to solve the forced displacement of refugees. In addition to major private companies donating necessary supplies, the Chinese government has demonstrated its humanitarian commitment by assisting hundreds of thousands of displaced people in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East through the "South-South Cooperation" aid fund.

2.2. Rationalizing the Fight against International Drug Trafficking

Drug prohibition has led to the development of a parallel economy controlled by organized crime. Drug trafficking organizations and organized crime groups use violence to defend their markets. Police and occasionally military or paramilitary organizations that fight drug trafficking are a source of violence and insecurity in the areas where drugs are sold and transported. Since the government in Mexico chose to employ military force against drug traffickers in 2006, the number of homicides has increased dramatically to the point where the country's life expectancy has decreased [5].

It is, therefore, a challenge to maintain a lenient anti-drug policy while keeping drug law enforcement in line with the depreciation of abuse.

The major countries should take the lead in preventing the illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking, and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances through international cooperation, as has been the case since the first UNGASS special session and based on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action. This cooperation could be based on the following criteria.

First, insisting on a three-tier control mechanism to reduce the demand for drugs and eliminate the production and processing of illicit narcotics.

Second, a people-centered approach, establishing treatment and rehabilitation measures for drug users while refining the process and strengthening the management of drug use and drug treatment programs.

Third, referring to Germany's Narcotic Drugs Act to implement a lenient anti-drug policy.

3. Promoting the Establishment of a Just and Reasonable International Political Order

Western countries still use their economic and technological advantages to manipulate international economic and trade organizations, monopolize the global market and exploit developing countries through unequal exchange of prices.

However, as the overall strength of third-world countries increases, developing countries, which account for the vast majority of the world's population, have enormous development potential, creating colossal trade and investment opportunities for the world and opening up international markets for new industries. It is worth mentioning that the rise of developing countries will become a vital force in promoting the development of the multipolar trend in the world and will generate a wide range of common interests with other countries in international exchanges and cooperation in areas such as production and investment, financial exchanges, scientific and technological development, human resources training and environmental protection.

For UN powers, the Third World is increasingly becoming a force for economic development and reform of the irrational old international monetary order. These great powers must always embody the principle of equality between large and small countries. They must not engage in great powerism, looking down on backward and emerging countries that have been plundered and exploited by colonialism and imperialism for a long time. In the face of challenges and containment by Western countries, it is all the more important to strengthen solidarity and cooperation with other countries to effectively resist hegemony and foreign interference to defend their sovereignty, independence, and interests.

As a large developing country, China has steadfastly advocated justice for small countries in the UN and other international affairs, allowing the international community to listen to different voices; at the same time, it has respected the differences between different ideologies and dealt with differences and disputes between them through equal and friendly consultations:

3.1. China's View on Global Governance

A Chinese world concept differs from Western nation-states, which always view the world from the perspective of national interests. It emphasizes that specific world public interests exist, whose strength makes it impossible for any country to simultaneously undermine them to the point where they are both "prosperous and destructive" [6]. With the globalization of capital and the globalization of the market, along with the transformation of the capital subject and the manufacturing industry itself, the factors of production have flowed outside the borders of sovereign states, giving rise to a "global capitalism" that transcends the boundaries of national sovereignty. As a result, the economic independence of different sovereign states has been weakened, resulting in highly uneven benefits between them. Especially after the end of the Cold War, with the disintegration of the Soviet Union

and the international order, it had built, the United States and its dominant international order took the international stage, and China became a part of a global order in which all directions are joining [7].

China's philosophy is to adhere to the logic of "Go" instead of pursuing an absolute "zero-sum" game, i.e., in the face of unprecedented century changes, it practices multilateralism that provides satisfactory solutions to problems. The promotion of and leadership of multilateral cooperation will result in a stronger sense of dependence and relevance among countries, thus breaking absolute alliances by creating a situation of "you in me and I in you." Continuing to be open-minded, China will work toward realizing the "beauty and commonwealth" concept of global governance [8].

3.2. Severe Test for Developing Countries' Economic Development

In many parts of the world, the final decades of the 20th century saw a rise in economic and social disparity. In the aftermath of World War II, humanity is amidst an unprecedented period of change.

Many developing countries face severe economic development and human rights protection tests. Take Indonesia, for example. While Indonesia has attracted a large number of investors due to its cheap labor, rising middle class, and abundant natural resources, the sustainability of its economic growth remains a concern [9]. Indonesian GDP shrunk 2.2% in 2020, the worst ever since the 1998 Asian Financial Crisis. Over the past two decades, Indonesia has faced twin challenges of stagnant growth in manufacturing share and high consumption inequality [10].

Not only have social divisions been created in Indonesia alone, but democratic institutions have also been threatened, and economic growth has been severely constrained in Asia. In terms of economic development and social redistribution, East Asian nations went through a phase of "growth with equity," which was then followed by another period of "growth with inequality." Consequently, pursuing a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable domestic economy, coupled with efforts to eradicate extreme poverty, is not just a national goal for Indonesia but shared by all countries in Asia and the Pacific.

The dilemma facing domestic development can be similarly attributed to difficulties in economic restructuring, financial shortages and debt burdens, uncontrolled population growth, increasing poverty, unequal income disparity, political instability, and regional conflicts following their wave of democratization, even though developing countries have chosen different development paths as part of the process of national liberation, and their political systems differ as well.

As the only developing country with veto power among the UN P5, China shares an extensive experience with a wide range of third-world countries subjected to foreign colonial aggression, oppression, and exploitation. In the aftermath of New China's founding, it faced the everyday historical tasks of maintaining sovereign security, improving the living standards of its citizens, and overcoming the oppressive effects of egalitarianism and poverty.

Peter Evans notes, "The success of the East Asian countries forces us to rethink the notion that effective participation in the global economy can be achieved by limiting state intervention in economic affairs. The experience of East Asian countries suggests that broader state intervention may be the best means of successful participation in global markets East Asian countries demonstrate the potential for a positive correlation between a high degree of staleness and the attainment of success in the global economy." Over the past 30 years, the political reform process in China has been gradual. This distinguishes China's reforms from those of the former Soviet Union and Eastern European countries, which were more radical. Looking over China's reform experience, it has divided its reforms into different sequences according to other priorities. Still, their essence is based on guaranteeing the basic order of satisfying capital and business activities, thus responding to the wave of economic globalization, allowing foreign money to come in and domestic capital to flow out [11].

At present, with the globalization of capital and the globalization of markets, along with the transformation of the main body of money and the manufacturing industry itself, the factors of production have moved beyond the borders of sovereign states, giving birth to a "global capitalism" that transcends the boundaries of national sovereignty. Indeed, the required production relations will not be the pursuit and maintenance of "zero-sum" games once the productive forces are no longer used to exploit the weak.

4. Comment on the Impact and Rationalization Path

The resolution has moral implications and does not limit the freedom of the major powers to make resolutions on essential matters in accordance with their respective national conditions and interests.

However, it must also be affirmed that with the collapse of the old colonialist system in Europe after World War II and the rise of the Third World, the trend of democratizing international relations and establishing international order is inevitable [12]. China's rise as the only developing country with veto power among the P5 countries has resulted in a rationalized development path for most developing countries, including the following factors.

4.1. Embracing a Dynamic Approach to Eradicating Poverty and Emphasizing Innovation in Productivity

To alleviate poverty, developing countries should strive to open up new ideas and models for wealth creation, utilizing local resources. The reasons are as follows.

First of all, if all young adults in poor areas flow from rural areas to cities, the problems of older women's industries and children left behind in poor areas will not be resolved fundamentally, and a surplus of labor in cities will undoubtedly make building human resources support for each developing country challenging. Due to the excessive population base, there will also be a long-standing pressure on employment, housing, and education.

Additionally, as illustrated in the Chinese documentary "The Light Chaser," people worldwide are deeply attached to the land under their feet and understand the local resources in a way that allows them to fight poverty on their own and develop local industries. For example, in the story of "Jin Under the Foot," Mi Ligang from Ziyang, Shaanxi Province, works as a pedicurist in the local specialty pedicure industry, and through his hard work, he reaps a good life. It is concluded that developing countries can improve their innovation and incentive mechanisms to enable the poor to use their hard work and wisdom to alleviate poverty.

4.2. Adopting an Open and Win-win Cooperation Model and Attaching Importance to Innovation in Production Relations

In order to enhance economic, infrastructural, and business ties with 65 nations in Asia, Africa, and Europe, China announced the "One Belt, One Road" program in 2013 [13].

At all levels of government, attracting and welcoming foreign investment has gradually been accelerated by adopting complementary and mutually beneficial policies with Asian, African, and European countries. Through joint ventures and cooperation, developing countries can increase trade channels and achieve economic and technical cooperation, facilitating sustained growth of their economies and trades due to their manufacturing, market, and openness advantages.

4.3. Adapting a Fair and Reasonable Governance Model based on China's Experience

For most developing countries, it would be more effective to emphasize primary structural distribution and secondary distribution to achieve fundamental social equity by improving economic structures.

To ensure that the income distribution reform proceeds along the correct path, first, the root causes of the continuously widening income disparity must be addressed, and the government should take action rather than sit on its hands—the widening income gap results from excessive control of resources by public power and unequal market opportunities [14]. Thus, for developing countries, the urgent issue is to regulate income distribution between government and society, followed by redistribution resulting from government transfers. A focus should be placed on deepening market-oriented reforms, developing administrative reforms, fiscal reforms, and political reforms that strengthen the constraints of power. The over-reliance on redistribution of conventional income based on labor remuneration will fail to reach vested interests and negatively impact middle-income families. Institutional innovation needs to be protected and emphasized at the top level of institutional design to achieve a new historical leap.

It must also be noted that the majority of developing countries are currently in the process of expanding domestic demand and establishing a consumption-oriented society, so establishing social policies is undoubtedly the basis for the development of such a society.

While acknowledging the legitimacy of the resolution and the degree of restraint it imposes on the power of the great powers and ensuring that they use their right of denial carefully, the right of the great powers should be respected with the right of veto to defend their rightful place and rights in the international arena.

5. Conclusion

At a time when the world is undergoing a century of unprecedented change, the game between the great powers symbolizes a shift in world power, with implications for social structures, political systems, military power, and the status of individual countries. Defense costs and military security, social and consumer needs, and investment in economic development compete for resources as each country seeks to achieve the three main objectives of providing military security for national interests, meeting the socio-economic needs of the population, and ensuring sustained economic growth.

For the great powers, it is paramount that nations' shared interests are adequately understood and that the existing differences are appropriately managed. As permanent members of the UN Security Council, the major powers should strengthen exchanges and cooperation among themselves in many areas, maintain peace, stability, and prosperity in the world, halt the spread of nuclear and biological weapons, promote the establishment of an open and healthy international trade system, and broaden consensus, thus creating a shared future on many issues that affect the survival and development of humankind.

Third world countries, in particular, have not only profoundly altered the former UN dominance by the big powers but continue to fight together with the UN P5 against the unreasonable and unjust old international economic order, transforming the world landscape in a significant way. Despite their tortuous economic development due to their historical legacy, they have an enormous potential for economic growth after gaining independence. Today, peace and development have become an irresistible trend of the times; despite the difficulties associated with domestic and international economic development, developing nations should actively develop a balanced and inclusive development model and explore their reasonable development paths in light of the rise of China.

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