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Articles

Cooperation Against Human Trafficking: Case Study of Cambodia-Vietnam Border Point

Do Thi Thanh Binh ^{a, *}, Bui Nam Khanh ^a

^a Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Abstract

After its border with China, Cambodia is Vietnam's second key borderline for human trafficking with neighboring countries. Human trafficking is seriously affecting people's lives and security on the Vietnam-Cambodia border. Vietnamese authorities have discovered and destroyed many cross-border trafficking lines. However, human trafficking activities have become increasingly complex, with foreign elements and transnational activities. Collaborative activities against human trafficking between Vietnam and Cambodia have contributed to reducing these crimes in the border areas of the two countries. This article discusses the cooperation process between Vietnam and Cambodia against human trafficking on the border between 2009 and 2019. It describes the situation of human trafficking and the characteristics of crime groups on the Vietnam-Cambodia border. It reviews the results of cooperation between the two countries on this issue. The article discusses proposing some solutions to improve cooperation effectiveness in the coming time. The article concludes that cooperation between Vietnam and Cambodia against human trafficking will be strengthened but requires more efforts of the two countries' authorities.

Keywords: border crime, border security, human trafficking, protections against, Vietnam-Cambodia cooperation.

1. Introduction

Crime of trafficking in people is a social problem, complicated and tends to increase on a global. According to United Nations estimates, each year around 800,000 to 1,000,000 people worldwide are trafficked, so about 3,000 people are traded in one day, and about 510 human trafficking lines around the world (152 countries have trafficked victims), and profits from human trafficking are about 150 billion dollars per year (ILO, 2017). In Vietnam, an average of 900 people are traded each year, over 90 percent of human trafficking in border areas (Dan, 2018). To effectively combat human trafficking, Vietnam has strengthened international cooperation in combating human trafficking with neighboring countries, including Cambodia. In 2009, during a visit to Cambodia by Vietnam's Minister of Public Security Le Hong Anh, the Ministry of Public Security of Vietnam and the Ministry of the Interior of Cambodia signed a cooperation plan for the 2009–2010 period. In order to implement cooperation plans, the functional forces of Vietnam and Cambodia have implemented many activities to coordinate and organize the detection and arrest of

* Corresponding author

E-mail addresses: dobinhvn@gmail.com (D.T. Thanh Binh), vickism.vn@gmail.com (B. Nam Khanh)

objects, destroying many lines and organizing crime human trafficking transnational. However, for many different reasons, the types of crimes in the Vietnam-Cambodia border area have not been prevented and repelled. Their activities are increasingly more sophisticated (Tuan, 2011). The coordination between the authorities in the two countries in this area also reveals many limitations that need to be overcome, especially in information sharing (Khanh, 2018). Therefore, Vietnam and Cambodia need strengthen coordination and improve efficiency combat human trafficking, contributing to maintaining stability, peace and friendship on the border.

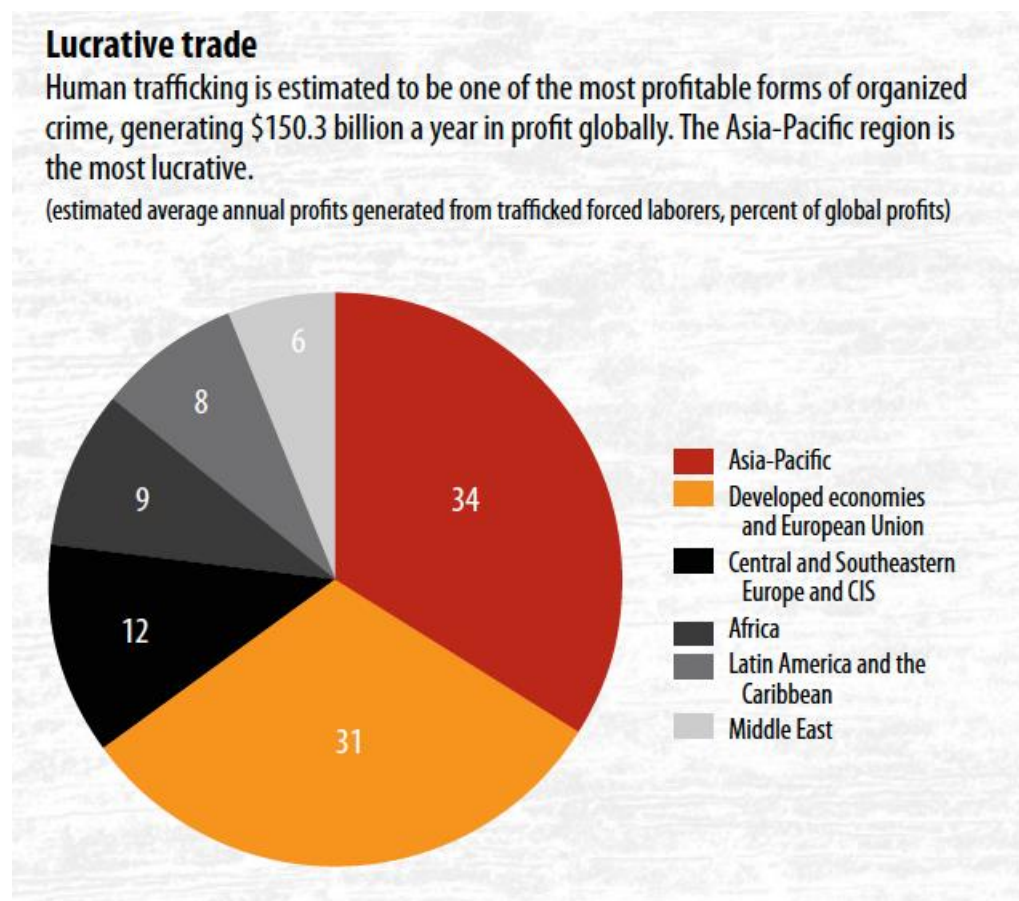


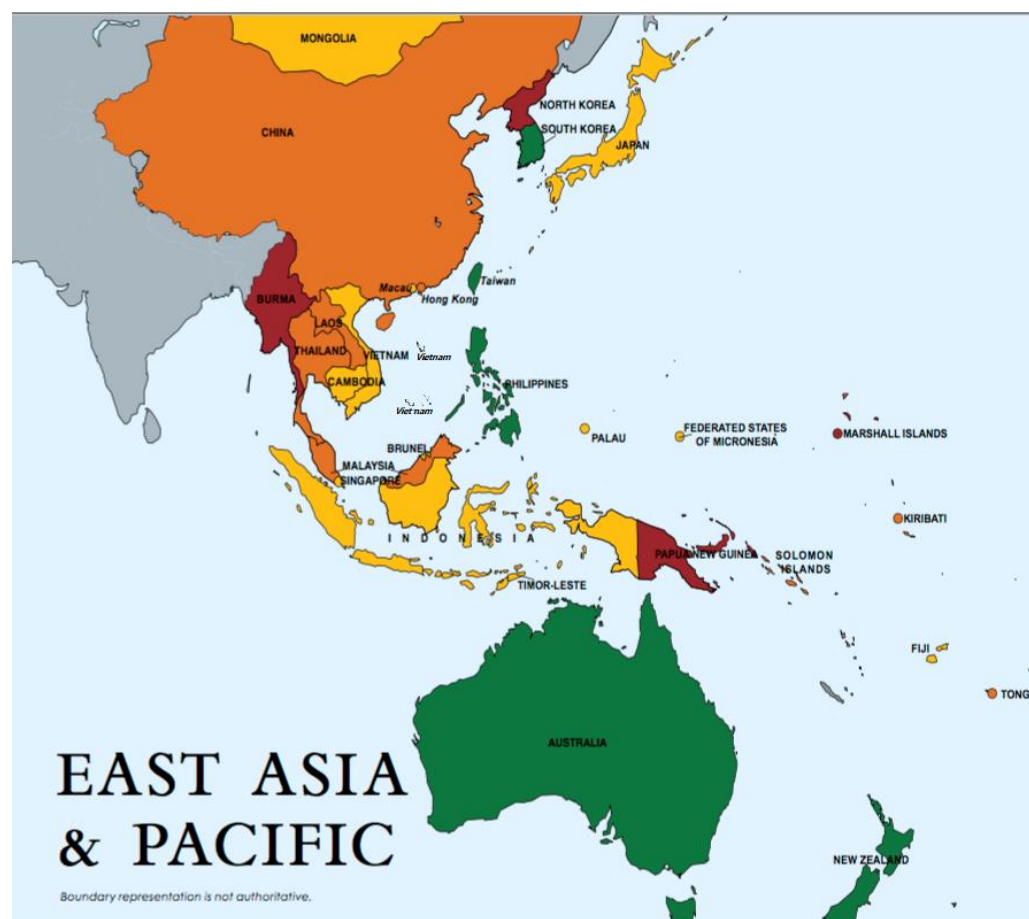
Fig. 1. Results of human trafficking in the world in 2015

Sources: International Labour Organization (ILO); The Economics of Forced Labor

Characteristics of the Vietnam-Cambodia border for human trafficking

Vietnam-Cambodia border was formed along with a series of changes in the history of the two countries. The process of establishment of Vietnam-Cambodia border line lasted nearly 300 years, from 16th to 18th centuries (Liem, 2017). Vietnam and Cambodia have the border lines of 1,137 kms from Indochina T-Junction to Kien Giang province of Vietnam and Kampot province of Cambodia. This border passes through 31 districts and towns, 102 villages and sub-districts in ten provinces in the Central Highlands and Southwest of Vietnam (including: Kon Tum, Gia Lai, Dak Lak, Dak Nong, Binh Phuoc, Tay Ninh, Long An, Dong Thap, An Giang, Kien Giang) and adjacent to 80 villages and sub-districts of nine provinces of Cambodia (including: Ratanakiri, Monduliri, Kratié, Tbong Khmum, Svay Rieng, Prey Veng, Kandal, Takéo, and KamPot). The Vietnam-Cambodia border passes through two types of terrain characterized by plains and mountains with more than 585 km of border lines following rivers and streams. There are border sections in the flood season that cannot determine the border, especially the section from Long An province to Kien Giang province (opposite from Svay Rieng to KamPot). So it's easy to get back and forth across the border. There are about 60 pairs of border checkpoint on the Vietnam-Cambodia border, including: 10 pairs of international border checkpoint, 19 pairs of national border checkpoint. Additionally, there are dozens of quotas opened by the two sides (Khanh, 2018). Traffic here is

quite diverse including roads and waterways. Along with inter-provincial roads and trails, interlocking canals convenient for people to travel. Due to the above natural characteristics, the exchange between the two countries on the border line is very convenient, creating many benefits in economic and trade cooperation, but also causing certain difficulties for border management and against crime in border areas.



TIER PLACEMENTS

■ TIER 1 ■ TIER 2 ■ TIER 2 WATCH LIST ■ TIER 3

YEAR	PROSECUTIONS	CONVICTIONS	VICTIMS IDENTIFIED	NEW OR AMENDED LEGISLATION
2009	357 (113)	256 (72)	5,238	3
2010	427 (53)	177 (9)	2,597	0
2011	2,127 (55)	978 (55)	8,454 (3,140)	4
2012	1,682 (115)	1,251 (103)	8,521 (1,804)	4
2013	2,460 (188)	1,271 (39)	7,886 (1,077)	3
2014	1,938 (88)	969 (16)	6,349 (1,084)	3
2015	3,281 (193)	1,730 (130)	13,990 (3,533)	10

Fig 2. Map of Southeast Asia on combating trafficking in persons
Sources: US Department of State; Trafficking in Persons Report

On the Vietnamese border, there are nine ethnic groups living in the ethnic group of the Rhade, Jarais, Bahnar, Mnong, Gie Trieng, Stieng, Khmer, Chams and the Kinh people's (Tinh, 2017). In the Tay Ninh province to Kien Giang province, mainly the Kinh, Chinese Vietnamese and Khmer together residing. The Cambodian border from Tbong Khmum province to KamPot province is mainly inhabited by the Khmer and the Chinese Cambodian (Khanh, 2018). The rest of the population living on the vast plateau in the north of the country consists of many ethnic groups

belong to two major groups such as the Austronesia (Mon-Khmer) and the Malayo-Polynesian, with ethnic groups such as the Phnong, Khmer Loeu, Stieng, Jarais and the Montagnard (Khanh, Binh, 2018). Residents on both sides of the border have their own characteristics of culture, customs and religion and often have ethnic relations with the other side of the border, especially the Khmer people. The Khmer in Vietnam and Cambodia are the same ethnic group, ethnic culture between these two groups have many similarities such as language, writing, belief and religion. The difference between these two groups can also be recognized through dialects or some customary habits influenced by Vietnamese and Chinese people, such as costumes, and lifestyle. Historically, the Khmer people on both sides of the border and Vietnamese in the locality were soon united. During the war of resistance against the French invasion at the end of the 19th and early 20th centuries, in the Insurgency of Truong Quyen (Truong Dinh's son) and some other uprising along the border there were numerous participation of the Khmer and ethnic groups on both sides of the border (An, 2010). For centuries, between the two ethnic groups of the Kinh, Khmer and other ethnic groups along both sides of the border, there has been exchange and association in many aspects such as economy and culture.

Poverty, low income and cognitive disparities are problematic here. In 2006, the poverty rate of the Central Highlands averaged 23 percent of the total households, of which 30 percent in Kon Tum, 25 percent in Gia Lai, Dak Lak and Dak Nong (Nhung, 2010). By 2016, the poverty rate of the Central Highlands averages 17.14 percent of the total households compared to the national average of 9.88 percent (Thi, 2016). The educational level is generally low, the illiteracy rate in the border communes is quite high. For example, Kon Tum, Gia Lai and An Giang provinces have a high proportion of ethnic minority people over the age of 15 who cannot read or writing accounts for about 22 percent of the population (Nhung, 2010). A large part of the people have not yet fully and correctly recognized the guidelines and policies of the Party and laws of the State, and lack of awareness of protecting territorial sovereignty and national borders. And the participation in the protection of security and order in the border areas of people are still limited and even violates the law and infringes on the border in many forms, different levels. The grassroots political system in some localities is not strong enough, not really grasping the situation of the area, leading to being passive and embarrassing in population management, handling arising problems, especially illegally crossing, smuggling, human trafficking, smuggle drugs...

People living in the Vietnam-Cambodia border area are mainly influenced by indigenous folk beliefs and some major religions exist for a long time such as Buddhism and Christianity. In the Southwest region of Vietnam, the majority of the remaining Buddhists are Protestants, Muslims and some other religions. Particularly, the Khmer community lives in the districts and towns of Cambodia-Vietnam border, the rate of Buddhism is higher than that of the Khmer community living in other areas and greatly influenced by Buddhism in Cambodia (of the 1.2 million the Khmer in Vietnam, about 90.9 percent are Buddhist. In the Khmer community living along the border line adjacent to Cambodia, about 92 percent Buddhists). In fact, in the days of festivals in Cambodia, Khmer people in Vietnam cross the border very much, especially on the occasion of Chol Chnam Thmay, Ok om bok, Phchum Ben, Um Tuk... In addition, the task force to against and prevent crime very thin, equipment and technical facilities is insufficient and not synchronized, so the border inspection and control work still face many difficulties. People in border areas live scatteredly, have low social awareness, lack of legal knowledge, and lack of vigilance so they can become victims of human trafficking. Economic development in border areas, especially tourism development projects and entertainment services such as dance halls and casinos in the provinces bordering Vietnam-Cambodia, entails the need to recruit many employees, especially women. This is a condition for the development of human trafficking. Information from officials such as the Ministry of Public Security, Vietnam Border Guard Command, over 90 percent of trafficked victims are women and children. It is often concentrated in rural and mountainous areas, especially in deep-lying, remote and border areas. The main cause of the victim's fall into the trap of trafficking is due to poor economic life, low intellectual standards and lack of knowledge.

Human trafficking on the Vietnam-Cambodia border

Vietnam is primarily a source country for women and children trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor. Women and children are trafficked to the People's Republic of China (P.R.C), Cambodia, Thailand, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Taiwan, and Macau for sexual exploitation. Vietnamese women are trafficked to the P.R.C., Taiwan, and the Republic of Korea via

fraudulent or misrepresented marriages for commercial exploitation or forced labor. The government stepped up prosecutions and strengthened cross-border cooperation on sex trafficking with Cambodia, P.R.C, and Thailand to rescue victims and arrest traffickers Vietnam collaborated with law enforcement from Cambodia, the P.R.C, and Laos to rescue victims and arrest traffickers suspected of sex trafficking (US Department States, 2004).

Recently, functional forces of Vietnam and Cambodia have discovered and destroyed many organized human trafficking lines, operating both inland and border lines. The situation of cross-border human trafficking is very complicated, occurring in most localities across the country. Crime of trafficking in people in Vietnam and Cambodia takes place increasingly complicated in both the number of cases, the number of objects and the nature, tricks and scope and location of operation. According to the report of the Ministry of Public Security of Vietnam, in five years (2012–2017), there are more than 3,090 victims of trafficking and suspicion of being trafficked, of which mainly women and children (accounting for over 90 percent). Investigation agencies have prosecuted 1,021 cases and 2,035 accused, accounting for over 97 percent of the reported and denunciation information received and processed (Dung, 2019), in which 90 percent of human trafficking cases in border areas (Dan, 2018). The conference to summarize attack, suppress human trafficking crimes between Cambodia-Laos-Vietnam in 2018 held in Vietnam on March 26, 2019 evaluated:

'In 2018, Vietnamese authorities discovered 211 cases, 276 objects, 386 victims and prosecuting 200 cases, 261 accused of crimes on human trafficking. People's Procuracies at all levels have prosecuted 109 cases, 194 accused. People's Courts at all levels accept the proceedings according to the first-instance procedures of 130 cases, 233 defendants are committing human trafficking; the number of cases of trafficking abroad is about 80 percent' (Linh, 2019).

The situation of human trafficking on the Vietnam-Cambodia border line is quite complicated. The gangs of trafficking criminals on the Vietnam-Cambodia border have a close connection with each other, forming a transnational line with a closed process from the selection, deception, transportation, trading and exploitation. The victims, mainly Vietnamese women, were tricked into selling to Cambodia to take to a third country to force illegal marriage, prostitution, forced labor, and hiring; children are exploited for labor in service business establishments, construction sites and mining industry. Recently, the authorities of the two countries also discovered that some foreign women and children were illegally sent to Vietnam to Cambodia to sell to other countries; status of trafficking in men for forced labor, infant trading. And Cambodian, Chinese and Vietnamese hook up to form lines and organizations to trick Cambodian women into Vietnam, through Quang Ninh province or Lao Cai province to sell to Chinese (Thai, 2016).

Table 1. Results of cooperation in prevention of human trafficking between Vietnam and Cambodia (2015–2019)

Year	Nationwide in Vietnam			Vietnam-Cambodia border			Vietnam-Cambodia Cooperation		
	Cases	Objects	Victims	Cases	Objects	Victims	Cases	Objects	Victims
2015	407	489	1.000	62	121	232	07	18	23
2016	354	463	927	48	92	201	10	26	27
2017	376	568	965	51	112	169	11	19	38
2018	211	276	386	36	51	88	16	33	62
2019	318	475	687	45	69	128	17	34	71
Total	1.666	2.271	3.965	242	394	818	61	130	221

On the Vietnam-Cambodia border, from 2012 to 2018, the authorities have discovered about 300 human trafficking cases, accounting for more than 20 percent of the total number of human trafficking cases on the border line, ranking second after the Chinese border (Tuan, 2018). According to the Table 1, between 2015 and 2019, Vietnam and Cambodia cooperated in destroying 61 cases, arresting 130 subjects, rescuing 221 victims of human trafficking. This accounts for 25.2 percent of the cases, 33 percent of the subjects and 27 percent of the victims destroyed by the Vietnamese authorities in 10 provinces bordering Cambodia. The functional forces have investigated and determined 17 routes (inter-provincial and district) and service points in the border areas regularly attracting about 300-500 Vietnamese and Cambodian women prostitution

shows signs of trafficking (Dao, 2018); 21 routes, 49 localities appeared 70 spots, 56 casinos and 36 chickens school regularly attracting Vietnamese people to gamble, forced labor, loan interest (Binh, Khanh, 2018). Victims of human trafficking cases through Cambodia are mainly women and children and concentrated in the provinces of the Central Highlands, Binh Phuoc, Tay Ninh, Long An, Dong Thap, An Giang and Kien Giang... These victims who fall into the trap of trafficking in trafficking will be forced to work as prostitutes in hairdressers, disguised massage or labor exploitation in service businesses, construction sites and mineral exploitation industrial zone. It is noteworthy that Vietnamese people were tricked into selling to Cambodia to take to a third country to force illegal marriages, prostitution, forced labor, and hiring (VNA, 2016). In addition, some foreign women and children were illegally sent to Vietnam to Cambodia to sell to other countries and to buy men for forced labor and sale of babies (Cuong, 2018). These criminal gangs have a close connection with each other, forming a transnational line with a closed process from selection, deception, transportation, transaction and exploitation.

In recent years, functional forces have discovered that Cambodian, Chinese and Vietnamese people link to form lines and organizations to deceive Cambodian women into Vietnam, through Quang Ninh or Lao Cai to sell to Chinese. For example, on September 16, 2016, after receiving news from the Cambodian Embassy in Vietnam, Quang Ninh Police and Border Guard forces coordinated patrol, administrative control and detection, rescuing three Cambodian women who are subjected by Le Thi Van (born in 1985, residing in Thuan Thanh hamlet, Tan Tien commune, Dam Doi district, Ca Mau province) in room 401 – Thien Huong hotel (zone 2, Ka Long ward, Mong Cai city, Quang Ninh). Through Van's testimony, on September 9, 2016, Van was hired by a woman named Thuy (unknown background) to bring three Cambodian women from Ho Chi Minh City to Mong Cai city, Quang Ninh province give to Chinese named Hoang Tai Toan (born in 1974, residing in Dong Hung, Guangxi, China) (Thai, 2016). Mr Vo Tan Dung, Captain of the Preventive and Fight against Social Evils Team on human trafficking in Tay Ninh Province said:

"The methods and tricks of the subjects are becoming more sophisticated, professional and discreet. The latest method of human trafficking crimes today is not to directly organize recruiting and sending to foreign countries to sell. Accordingly, after searching, selecting women, subjects taking photos and sending messages to foreigners to see the selection. Selected women will be instructed to fly by air to Hanoi capital or directly to China, while the subjects will not be accompanied directly by the victim. Another sophisticated trick is that female subjects often take advantage of social networks to make friends and get acquainted with women in the provinces, especially in rural areas. After a period of familiarity, these subjects seduced the victim to go home to play, then cheated to sell to foreign countries" (Phuong, 2018).

International cooperation – the most effective solution to combat human trafficking

Cooperation in propagating and disseminating laws to prevent and combat human trafficking. The cooperation agreement documents between Vietnam and Cambodia in this area have provisions on dissemination of laws, exchange of related legal documents to against human trafficking across borders between two parties. Recently, the dissemination of laws on prevention and control of human trafficking has been paid attention by the governments of the two countries. Thereby, helping the functional forces of the two sides fully aware of the nature, requirements and tasks of international cooperation in the against human trafficking between Vietnam and Cambodia. However, the dissemination of laws still has many shortcomings, so the signed documents only exist in the form. In fact, the fact that some documents signed but did not organize dissemination, propaganda and did not instruct the implementation, so the functional forces and officials working in the field did not know the contents of the documents so they were very embarrassed when having international cooperation requirements in the against human trafficking.

Cooperation in negotiating, signing and organizing the implementation of multilateral and bilateral international treaties. Negotiating, signing and organizing the implementation of international treaties relating to the prevention of human trafficking between Vietnam and Cambodia is an important form of international cooperation. Since 1997, the Ministry of Home Affairs, now the Ministry of Public Security of Vietnam and the Interior of Cambodia have signed a bilateral agreement on cooperation in fighting and combating crimes in general, including fighting against human trafficking. In October 2005, the Government of Vietnam and Cambodia signed a bilateral cooperation agreement, working together to eliminate trafficking in young women and

help trafficked victims. These are important legal bases for the authorities of the two countries to work together to fight in this field. Up to now, the State and ministries, functional branches and localities of the two countries have negotiated and signed many bilateral cooperation documents on crime prevention and combat, including crimes on human trafficking (Agreement on prevention and combat of human trafficking between Vietnam and Cambodia in 2005; Agreement to amend and supplement Vietnam-Cambodia Bilateral Cooperation Agreement on human trafficking prevention and control in 2012; Agreement on extradition between Vietnam and Cambodia in 2013). However, the reality of organizing the implementation of these treaties is very much inadequate and inadequate, especially the transformation of the contents of international treaties into internal laws that are very slow to implement; assigning and assigning specific responsibilities to each agency and force in coordination work has not been specified; less review of lessons learned has been done so there is still a situation of signing cooperation documents but not paying attention to organizing implementation...

Cooperation in providing and exchanging information on human trafficking. Functional forces of the two countries have proactively developed a mechanism for cooperation and exchange of struggle experiences, as well as information on how and tricks of human trafficking crimes in each country and new types of trafficking crimes arising, and experience of detecting, and preventing... Through INTERPOL Office, Criminal Police Department, Criminal Police Force of the Police of the provinces sharing the border with Cambodia, exchanging information, serving the struggle against trafficking in human trafficking on border areas, especially information for detecting crimes and cooperating in wanted, tracing and extraditing offenses committed. Trafficking prevention agencies of the two countries have conducted regular meetings and briefings, especially the police of the provinces and districts on both sides of the border quite regularly (Khanh, Binh, 2018). The exchange content is about information related to criminal activity, including crime of human trafficking, and coordinate in the investigation and verification to collect information, documents of cases, and objects...

Over the past time, on the common border, the two countries have established five pairs of Cross-border Liaison Offices (BLO) in Tay Ninh and An Giang provinces (Quang, 2018). The BLO have done a good role as a contact point, exchanging information on the prevention and combat of human trafficking between Vietnam and Cambodia, being a direct contact point and implementing the collection and evaluation of the situation crime in border areas, promptly advise the leaders of the two countries in directing functional forces to implement coordinated activities to improve the effectiveness of the prevention and combat of human trafficking. However, the process of coordinating information exchange and coordination to solve some cases is still slow, the efficiency is not high. The mechanism of co-operation is still rigid according to administrative procedures, especially in coordination of resolving urgent and important cases, thus failing to meet the requirements and not fully promoting the conditions of both sides. The coordination of information exchange, experience in prevention and combat of human trafficking among border provinces has not been conducted regularly. The conferences and regular and irregular briefings between the two countries' forces have a place, and the level is not deep, the content is not specific and formal, so the effectiveness is still low.

Cooperation in the training and retraining of staff working in crime prevention and control. Through the signed agreements, protocols, agreements, cooperation activities in training and retraining of staff working in crime prevention and fighting between Cambodia and Vietnam are taking place actively. The two countries joined the cooperation in conducting training programs on criminal investigation, human resources, informing each other about the annual training schedule as well as planning, visiting, surveying and giving exchange managers, training and management models, training parties. However, training cooperation activities between Vietnam and Cambodia are not commensurate with the potential and needs of both parties. The number of training staff is not much, not yet trained in professional skills to against human trafficking crimes. Most training classes are organized by Vietnam, the Cambodian side is very little.

Cooperate in implementing measures to prevent, investigate and arrest criminals. At the five years preliminary meeting of the Agreement on amendments and supplements to the Vietnam-Cambodia Bilateral Cooperation Agreement on the prevention and control of human trafficking (2012) in the period of 2012–2017, the two governments have evaluate:

"The Ministry of Public Security of Vietnam and the Interior of Cambodia and the Ministry of Security of Laos organized a conference on the implementation of fighting and suppressing

trafficking crimes on three border lines, detecting nine cases and arresting ten subjects, and rescued ten trafficked victims. Verification and determination of repatriation were concentrated by the two countries, whereby the Vietnamese government received nearly 20 requests to verify victims from Cambodia, received and returned 192 victims of which 77 victims were Cambodia returns..." (Viet, 2017).

At the conference, the authorities of the two countries assessed the results of cooperation between the two countries' authorities in human trafficking prevention and control, which are not commensurate with the potentials, relations between the two countries and still exist the number of issues to be overcome such as the situation of criminals involved in trafficking in the two countries is still complicated. There are many objects with new tricks but the results of the struggle are still low. Cooperation in information exchange, investigation between, transferring human trafficking crimes between the two countries is still slow or many cases are deadlocked and prolonged, and lack of documents guiding the implementation of the bilateral cooperation agreement on criminal extradition between Vietnam and Cambodia.

Cooperation in training and retraining of cadres engaged in crime prevention and fighting. Through signed agreements, Cambodia and Vietnam conduct cooperation in training and retraining cadres in 03 forms such as formal training, short-term supplementary and staff training. The training courses for officials between the two sides mainly focused on the contents of training general knowledge about the Police force (system, structure, development path ... of the police force) ; update crimes and criminal activities in the world, region and border of the two countries on operation methods and tricks ...; experience in combating crime prevention; leadership, command and management of the Crime Prevention and Combat Police; using information technology in the prevention and combat against me of violations on the border line; professional measures of the police force in the fields related to the fight against crime ... According to data from the International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Public Security of Vietnam, Vietnam annually trains 100 candidates for Law enforcement in Cambodia with levels such as PhD, Master, bachelor degree (Lam, 2018: 3). According to data from the Ministry of Defense, there are currently 20 regular establishments and schools of the Vietnam People's Army participating in training Cambodian army personnel and winning 250 scholarships for the Cambodian Army each year (Nhan, 2017: 89). However, the training cooperation activities between Vietnam and Cambodia are not commensurate with the potential and needs of both sides; the number of training is not high, not professionally trained in the fight against transnational organized crime. And the majority of the training classes are organized by Vietnam, while the Cambodian side is very few.

In the coming time, it is forecasted that human trafficking situation will still be complicated, with many potential causes such as taking advantage of illegal migrants, labor export, marriage and adoption of weak children foreign elements; taking advantage of loopholes in state management, social management on order and security and lightness of the people; the coordination between Vietnamese and Cambodian authorities in many localities is still lacking and incomplete; the equipping of means for fighting crimes by border localities is still limited due to the lack of funding... crime of trafficking in people on the Vietnam-Cambodia border will increase activities. In addition, taking advantage of the open-door policy, international integration, prioritizing socio-economic development in border areas, as well as the terrain of the provinces on the borderline of Vietnam-Cambodia difficult to control, human trafficking will constantly expand the area and scope of activities, especially in connection with criminals on the border between Vietnam-Laos and Vietnam-China makes the crime situation human trafficking here is more complicated... The above situation requires Vietnamese and Cambodian authorities to further improve the effectiveness of coordination in prevention of human trafficking, contributing to building a peaceful, friendly, stable and development. In which, Vietnam and Cambodia need focus on some solutions as follows:

Firstly, effectively implement legal documents on cooperation in preventing and combating human trafficking between Vietnam and Cambodia. Both need to conduct preliminary and final reviews of signed documents; promote the dissemination and propagation of signed documents (published in the press, through radio and television newspapers...) to raise the awareness of people and officials involved in related cooperation between Vietnam and Cambodia in preventing human trafficking, and assigned and decentralized in implementing the signed documents between Vietnam and Cambodia. Vietnam and Cambodia strengthen inspection and guidance of units and localities to implement international treaties on prevention and combat of human trafficking

crimes. In addition, the authorities of the two countries should continue to develop agreements, and memorandums of cooperation in the against crimes including human trafficking.

Secondly, border guard forces of the two sides coordinate well to patrol and protect border lines. The two parties coordinate to control cross-border activities in accordance with the laws of each country. For the management of entry and exit, security of border gates need to coordinate smoothly, facilitate the circulation across the border, when there are unexpected situations, the two sides actively exchange information and coordinate work together quickly. When there are human trafficking cases, it is necessary to actively coordinate to check the handling of crimes and conduct criminal extradition in accordance with the agreements signed by both parties. The two sides should strengthen the coordination relationship between the police, customs, border guards on the Vietnam-Cambodia border line in preventing and combating human trafficking crimes in border areas and border gates. Both regularly conduct briefings to summarize, summarize and propose the direction of cooperation in preventing and combating crimes on human trafficking in the coming time. The Government and Vietnamese functional forces should strengthen Cambodia in training, staff training, funding support, means of detecting and investigating human trafficking crimes. In addition, the two sides need to strengthen cooperation with Laos, countries in the Mekong Sub-region, ASEAN countries to strengthen cooperation in prevention and control of human trafficking.

3. Conclusion

In the coming time, cross-border trafficking in Vietnam continues to have complicated developments. Due to the high profits from human trafficking, along with the advantage of Vietnam's open integration policy, complex and dangerous terrain in the border areas makes it difficult for patrol and control of agencies. Therefore, traffickers have increased their activities, formed lines and become increasingly active. In order to improve the effectiveness of the prevention of human trafficking in border areas, Vietnam-Cambodia needs to strengthen further cooperation in the fight against human trafficking, which focuses on key areas in the General Action Plan for the implementation of the Agreement on prevention and control of human trafficking and victim assistance between Vietnam and Cambodia in the period of 2017–2020, including: coordination mechanism for the implementation of the Agreement; prevention of human trafficking; verify, identify, receive and protect and repatriate victims; coordinate in investigating and handling human trafficking; supervise and evaluate the coordination of the implementation of the Agreement; study, propose, amend and supplement the standard process in verifying, identifying and repatriating trafficked victims.

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Main Directions of the Policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the Sphere of Education

Khabiba M. Zhurabekova ^{a, *}

^a Andijan Machine-building institute, Uzbekistan

Abstract

In this article, the author tries to analyze the main reforms in the education system in the Republic of Uzbekistan. In recent years, practical work has been carried out to organize all levels of education in accordance with modern requirements. Also, the author of the article draws attention to the moral education of students, where the issues of moral education are a matter not only of a person, but also of the state as a whole. Issues of moral education, which contribute to the awakening of moral consciousness and self-awareness of the individual, develop the ability to self-control and conscious choice of a moral position, form a young person's self-esteem and personal responsibility, help to form a correct understanding of the purpose and meaning of life. The country pays special attention to preschool education. In a short period of time, that is, in four years, the number of kindergartens in the country has tripled (from 5200 to 14200), and the coverage of children has increased from 28 % to 54 %.

In recent years, a number of decrees and decrees have been adopted on the organization and modernization of all levels of education in accordance with modern requirements. Upbringing exists only in close connection with education. This is because in the process of learning and cognition, not only a person's knowledge increases, but also his spiritual and moral qualities are accelerated. Reforms in the field of education today do not lag behind reforms in other areas in terms of their relevance and practical significance.

Keywords: education, reforms, preschool education, educational work, learning process.

Upbringing takes precedence over education.

Upbringing improves a person.

Herbert Spencer

1. Introduction

As each society successfully moves to the world arena, the role and importance of the moral education of youth grows more and more. These issues become the business of not only each person, but also the state as a whole.

When doing any business, it is important to have moral and ethical guidelines, which should be laid back in school and student years. Education in the country constantly increases attention to the tasks of educating students in the spirit of morality and morality. An effective means of moral education of students, which has a beneficial effect on the effectiveness of all educational work, is ethical education of students, equipping them with the knowledge of the basics of ethics and morality.

* Corresponding author

E-mail addresses: tj2211@inbox.ru (Kh.M. Zhurabekova)

Mastering the basics of moral knowledge is an organic part of modern education of young people, a necessary condition for the formation of a young person's personality in a developed society. The problems of moral education in the modern world are quite relevant. Modern general secondary education cannot be thought of without including knowledge of the fundamentals of ethics in its content. However, the ethical education of young people should not end within the walls of the school; in higher educational institutions it is also necessary to educate students on ethics and morality.

The problem of aesthetic education of students should be solved in three directions: during school hours, outside school hours and when performing the tasks of professional activity. For this, educational standards include a variety of electives and optional courses in the optional part.

Issues of ethics and morality acquire the greatest importance in professions of the "man-to-man" type: doctors, teachers, artists, military men, etc. Professional ethics are codes of conduct that ensure the moral character of those relationships between people that arise from their professional activities.

It has a number of features. On the one hand, it reflects the influence of a specific sphere of human activity. On the other hand, it is inextricably linked with the general theory of morality. Therefore, the emergence of an independent concept of "professional ethics" was due only to the fact that the already existing foundations and laws of ethics had to be introduced into the practice of society so that they would become practical instructions for educating people of moral consciousness. As Zh.Khasanbayev notes that "any activity has a positive effect on the mental, moral, aesthetic, physical and volitional development of the child's personality. Uncontrolled activity can develop one-sidedly or negatively" (Xasanbayev i dr., 2006: 7).

2. Materials and methods

In this article, we have used methods of description, contextual analysis, presentation and comparison. Based on the presentation, there is a generalization and concretization of the concept.

3. Discussion and results

The values that ensure the existence of a person and society are gradually passed from ancestors to generations thanks to national education. The term "national education" is used in a broad and narrow sense. In a broad sense, it is a set of all spiritual influences, actions, deeds, aspirations aimed at the formation of the human personality, ensuring its active participation in industrial and social, cultural, educational life.

National education in this sense. Not only educational work carried out in the family, school, children's and youth organizations, but also the entire social system, its leading ideas, literature, art, cinema, radio, television, media, etc. National education in the broadest sense also includes education and training in this area. In a narrow sense, public education is understood as pedagogical activity aimed at the development of the spiritual development of a particular person, worldview, moral image, aesthetic taste. This is done by family, educational institutions and public organizations.

It is known that upbringing exists only in close connection with education. This is because in the process of learning and cognition, not only a person's knowledge increases, but also his spiritual and moral qualities are accelerated.

Today, large-scale reforms are being carried out in the Republic of Uzbekistan in all areas. In turn, a significant part of these reforms are ongoing reforms in the education system.

In recent years, practical work has been carried out to organize all levels of education in accordance with modern requirements. In particular, reforms and practical measures in the education system are organized along the following lines:

- 1) In the field of preschool education;
- 2) General secondary and secondary specialized education;
- 3) Higher education; 4) postgraduate education; 5) retraining and advanced training. Thus, the beginning of the ongoing reforms, primarily in the field of preschool education and upbringing, shows that today this area is given special attention.

In today's process of globalization, the role and importance of the preschool education system in the life of our society, which is the most important link in the upbringing of children, is incomparable. Attention to this area will create a solid foundation for the country's future development. The legal basis for ongoing reforms in this area is the Law on Preschool Education and Upbringing. This law determines the main directions of state policy in the field of preschool education, state guarantees for preschool education and other similar issues (Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2019).

In addition, it can be said without exaggeration that the creation of the Ministry of Preschool Education for the first time in our country has become one of the key reforms in this area. Also, new modern kindergartens are being built in our large cities, remote areas, villages and auls.

In a short period of time, that is, in four years, the number of kindergartens in the country has tripled (from 5200 to 14200), and the coverage of children has increased from 28 % to 54 %. In recent years, a number of decrees and decrees have been adopted on the organization and modernization of all levels of education in accordance with modern requirements.

In particular, one of the most important documents adopted in the education system was the adoption of a new edition of the Law "On Education". In accordance with this Law, the basic principles, system, types and forms of education are clearly defined ([Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2020](#)).

Also, according to the law, state institutions of higher, secondary specialized, professional education and their branches, as well as organizations of higher, secondary specialized, professional education with state participation and their branches will be created by decision of the President or the Government. It was decided that the creation of non-state educational institutions will be carried out by their founders.

Licenses to non-state educational organizations will be issued by the State Inspectorate for Quality Control of Education. This Act repealed the Education Act and the National Curriculum Act of 29 August 1997. Accordingly, we can say that the adoption and implementation of this Law was one of the most important documents adopted in the field of education.

As President Sh.M. Mirziyoyev, "the more educated our children are at school, the faster the high-tech economy will develop and the more social problems will be solved. Therefore, if I say that the threshold of a new Uzbekistan begins with school, I think that all our people will support this idea" ([Mirziyoyev, 2020](#)).

In addition, a certain part of the reforms in the field of education, of course, are reforms of the higher education system.

In particular, to determine the priorities of the systemic reform of higher education in the Republic of Uzbekistan, to raise the process of teaching highly qualified independent thinking to a qualitatively new level, to modernize higher education, to develop the socio-economic sector based on advanced educational technologies.

The concept for the development of the higher education system in the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030, approved by Decree No. PF-5847, serves as a prelude to new reforms in this area ([Decree, 2019](#)).

It is no secret that today the most prestigious universities in the world are large breeding grounds for science. Today new universities and branches of the world's leading universities are opening. For example, over the past 4 years, 47 new higher educational institutions have been opened in the country, including branches of foreign universities, as a result of which the number of higher educational institutions has reached 125. On the basis of the system of public-private partnership, the activities of non-state higher educational institutions are being established. Having studied the opinion of the population, the forms of correspondence and evening education have been revived, the quotas of admission are increasing. Although the high school graduate enrollment rate has grown from 9 percent in 2020 to 25 percent ([Daryo.uz, 2020](#)).

A mechanism has been created for advanced training and training for teachers of higher educational institutions and scientific institutions abroad. The size of their monthly salary compared to 2018 has grown by an average of 2.5 times. Since this year, 10 higher educational institutions have been transferred to a self-supporting system. According to the decree of the Cabinet of Ministers dated 06.07.2020 "On measures for the phased introduction of the subject" Education "into the practice of secondary general educational institutions" from the new academic year, the subject "Education" was introduced in secondary educational institutions.

A single subject "Education" will combine the subjects "Rules of Conduct", "Sense of the Motherland", "The Idea of National Independence and the Basis of Spirituality" and "History of World Religions", in grades 1-9 from 2020-2021, and in grades 10-11 – from 2021–2022 academic year within the total number of allocated hours ([Norma, 2020](#)).

Researcher Ruziev notes that any research, especially innovative activity, requires a certain material and technical base. In order for an innovative idea to turn into an innovative product, raw materials, various materials, equipment, experimental design devices and other tangible assets will be required ([Ruziev, 2017: 5](#)).

However, the problems of reforming the education system today are associated with the potential of the teaching staff. Research and analysis show that the professional competence of a modern teacher lags behind the requirements of a rapidly developing educational process. This situation shows the relevance of the problems associated with the development of teacher education and the improvement of teacher training in the process of lifelong education (Inoyatov, 2018: 4).

According to B. Abdullaeva, "in order to form views on the implementation of important and urgent tasks and a new approach to the educational process, a teacher must have the following qualities: deep understanding of the essence of modern scientific, cultural, innovative and technological development; the world and man; have a deep and broad understanding of the knowledge system; use computer and other technical teaching aids in the educational process; have an understanding of the Internet and be able to deeply analyze the content of information technology; know the methods of analyzing the effectiveness of pedagogical work; a complete understanding of national culture and values, national idea and national ideology, as well as the essence of economic, spiritual and educational reforms (Abdullaeva, 2018: 11). To increase the innovative potential of the higher education system, it is necessary to change the attitude of society towards higher education, to accept it not only as educational institutions, but also as institutions that collect scientific ideas and create new products, technologies and intangible assets. mechanisms must be put in place to present to the general public their reputation and the results of their work. The transition to the path of innovative development requires not only the training of personnel in various fields, but also high scientific and socio-economic activity of employees employed in the higher education system. The number of employees engaged in research activities in the Republic of Uzbekistan is 36,839 people, of which 64.6 % are scientific and pedagogical personnel of higher educational institutions (Statistical Bulletin, 2016: 83).

So, based on the foregoing, we can say that the reforms in the field of education today in their relevance and practical importance do not lag behind reforms in other areas. Because the continuation of reforms in this area on a larger scale is a requirement of the times.

4. Conclusion

Overcoming the problems that have accumulated over the years in the education system will not be easy. For this, it is necessary first of all to identify the problems associated with the approach to education. In our opinion, the problems with the approach to the system are as follows:

- Ignoring the socio-economic specifics and training needs of the regions;

- Lack of in-depth study of supply and demand in the labor market;

- Incomplete integration of education, science and industry;

- Lack of attention to the commercialization of scientific achievements.

If the problems are not solved in due time, the second problem will arise. The aforementioned flawed teaching approach, in turn, led to the following problems:

- Low enrollment rate in higher education;

- High proportion of non-specialized subjects in current curricula and programs;

- Lack of textbooks;

- Weak implementation of research and innovation activities, a mechanism for the commercialization of scientific developments;

- Violation of the balance in the distribution of personnel by region;

- Increased corruption in the industry.

In many developed countries, education is a business. Education becomes competitive only when it becomes a business. We can also positively assess the entry of the non-governmental and private sectors into the education system in recent years. Now the competition between state and non-state educational institutions ensures the development of the system.

In the field of education, market laws are also beginning to operate. And the laws of the market, you know, are very cruel. Then the result is important. The result will be positive only when a competitive product is created. Competitive products on the educational services market are implemented through the training of qualified personnel. Consequently, the product of the educational services market is human capital.

Human capital is becoming an increasingly valuable resource in the modern economy. Thus, we can say that the educational business is not a seasonal business, but a constantly growing type of business.

Forming the foundations of a scientific worldview in students, the teacher is obliged to transfer the foundations of ethical knowledge. And for this he needs himself to know the theory of general and professional morality. Having knowledge of ethical laws and laws, universal rules and regulations, the teacher becomes a truly great teacher.

That is why in pedagogical universities in matters of training future teachers, the primary tasks are: studying the essence of the moral and ethical aspects of pedagogical communication, professional pedagogical culture and teacher's activities, forming responsibility for fulfilling the teacher's professional tasks in accordance with ethical professional standards.

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Reviews

Reviewing the Challenge of Rising China to the United States' Hegemony from the Neo-Classical Realist Perspective

Linjie Chou Zanadu ^{a, *}^a Petrovskaya Academy of Sciences and Arts, King's College London, London, United Kingdom

*"For a major power, the love of wars will lead it to ash;
Peace without alert will exhaust its strength."*

The method of Sima, Chinese Military Text of the 4th Century BC

Abstract

In this review article, it is, perhaps, permissible to argue that the structure of neoclassical realism is the best analytical tool for understanding the current challenges that China presents to the United States and US led liberal democracies. China's threat to America is argued as a racial fear facilitated by the American mainstream. Firstly, the paper will critically analyze the other main approaches of realism, namely structural realism (defensive and offensive), in order to create a preamble for an in-depth understanding of the so-called potential threats that China presents to the United States. This article will also investigate the extent of China as a 'security threat.' China's military, economic, institutional and soft power are defined in the scope of neoclassical realism. Finally, the article will suggest the reasons why Europe may play a mediation role between the Sino-US competition.

Keywords: China, Sino-US relations, U.S. hegemony, China's Rise.

1. Introduction

Recently, the director of policy of the U.S. state department, Kiron Skinner, remarked that "China is the first time that we will have a great power competitor that is not Caucasian" (Chan, 2019). Skinner further explained, "When we think about the Soviet Union in that competition [the Cold War], in a way, it was a fight within the Western family." Such statements reflect the undermining offensive realism not only from the security level of the American mainstream but also from the cultural-colonial understandings that form a clique on China's rise. The concept of "yellow peril" has its new academic space under the security studies. As Layne (2018) puts it, "the center of gravity, shifting from the Euro-Atlantic world to Asia, has ended the *Pax Americana*." Referring to America and Europe together as the "Euro-Atlantic" certainly enhances the whiteness

* Corresponding author

E-mail addresses: linjie.chou_zanadu@kcl.ac.uk (L. Chou Zanadu)

* The term yellow peril is a racist terminology that describes the people of East Asia and the fear of existential threat to the West. In the 19th century, the term was adopted for the encouragement of Western imperial powers to wage wars against Asia.

of America and naturally its cardinal protector position for the Western civilization, which subsequently makes its hegemonic position unquestionable. It is not surprising considering the Chinese exclusion act in the 1880s, which did not really end until 1965 in America. Thus, American social revulsion for China and Chinese people has a deep ethnocentric root.

Historically, America never had a leisure class that is comparable to the European intellectual and cultural connoisseurs who had a long experience of studying the Chinese fine arts and literature (e.g. *Chinoiserie* movement*), which in turn created fondness for the Chinese culture and mind. The religious and cultural detachment from the painstaking European cultural and philosophical way of life fostered the simple and puritanical focus of America on mere economic and military capability, which is not able to rightfully accommodate cultures and minds of other distant traditions. Sadly, most of the modern scholarship on China related to international relations' issues is conducted by the functionalists. In the Americanized context, China's rise is seen as a threat not only by the traditional establishment but also by the West's own multi-ethnic components that may feel the threat of a homogeneous major power. Albeit the politically correct connotation of the West, homogenous east Asian societies do have advantages of mobilization of beliefs and competitive mental and IQ capacities over the multiethnic melting pot societies (Rushton, 1999). Pointed out by Anastasio and colleagues (Anastasio et al., 2012: 43), ethnic or racial memory of a nation was passed down through heredity (e.g. *das Volk und Blut und Boden*†: blood and soil) that bound the nation and state together. As it was argued by British historian Martin Jacques (2012), China does not see itself as a state in the Westphalian sense, but rather as state based on *Han* nationality. So, Mearsheimer's (2017) prediction that China will not keep its strength in comparison to the United States for the future might be flawed. Here, it is obvious that the ignorance of historical and ethnical factors hindered much of the research endeavor of structural realism. The revitalization of Chinese people, termed by three generations of Chinese communist leaders, also underlines the key reason for the *PaxSinica*. Therefore, for the Chinese regime, America is the most detrimental challenger for its revitalization. China's thirst for rise is the result of psychological resentfulness of China's tragic history of humiliation, namely the opium war and the Japanese invasion during the WWII (Zanadu, 2020). Structural realists, thus, only interpret China's rise from the functional point of view, but rarely on the premise of cultural-societal interplay.

Waltz' (2000) structural realism demonstrates the degree of self-determinism and absorption of the puritanical minds. Waltz's attests that America benefited from possessing a strong nuclear deterrent fit into the offense – a defense theory that believes that a super strong defense protects a nation from offensive threats. A sense of cowboy film becomes the general spirit of the American structural realism. Waltz furthermore contested that structuralists can predict what will happen but not necessarily when it will happen (Waltz, 2000). This leaves a high degree of arbitrary instances in the research approach of structural realism. Thus, neo-classical realism is the most conductive approach for understanding the issue of China since societal relations, strategic culture, and the nature of domestic politics are heavily interwoven with each other (Ripsman, 2011).

The State of Being

Before using the neoclassical realist lens to analyse the U.S-China competition, it is advisable to first provide an overview of the current world affairs and clarify whether we are living in a multipolar, bipolar, or unipolar world. It is true that after the Cold War, the United States' unipolar position was mainly assured by its preponderant power in military and economy. Restated by Mearsheimer (2016), "the USA, in other words, is the sole great power. It has achieved global hegemony, a feat no other country has ever accomplished (p. 68)." However, such unipolar predominance also drove realism to its unpopularity after the 1990s. As Mearsheimer put, "you need a multipolar world to play the great power politics" (2017). Furthermore, as Waltz (2000) argued, after Soviet Union's fall, there is no other eminent power to challenge the United States; so, the unipolar position also fostered much of the global power disequilibrium.

* *Chinoiserie* movement is a form of art style that entered Europe in 18th century. The partial number of European direct experiences of East Asia and their restricted movement created a level of mystification of East Asian cultures.

† Although it is a concept from the Nazi ideology of *Lebensraum*, it illustrates territorial land that connects with the indigenous population.

As we entered the 21st century, the economic progress made by China accompanied by its technological and military power, the potential revitalization of Russia in some areas (e.g. Putin's revitalization of the Russian spirituality), the possible rise of India all contributed to the modern formation of a multipolar world. The international order based on liberal rule is now facing the constant challenges from the rise of China and Russia (Layne, 2018). However, in the list of American foreign policy and strategic consideration, the immediate threat that would rank number one is China with its economic, technological, and coercive diplomatic strength. Thus, in reality, a bipolar constituent is closer to the true state of the world. For example, the traditional structural realism, represented by Mearsheimer, assumes the way for containing China's rise should include offshore balancing and containment of China by its neighbor countries. Otherwise, the structural realism assumes threat to the regional hegemony of the U.S. in the Asian pacific (Mearsheimer, Waltz, 2016; Etzioni, 2015). It is believed that China is now ready to insulate itself and reduce its dependence on rival countries and potential enemies while developing tools for conducting economic statecraft and even, if necessary, for waging economic warfare (Friedberg, 2018). Friedberg furthermore listed "hiding capacities to bide its time", "binding and hedging by using economic incentives," and "shaping and restructuring through coercive approaches" as three major steps for China to challenge the world.

Neoclassical Realism on Sino-U.S. Affairs

In short, neoclassical realism represents an effort to return structural realism to its classical roots (Ripsman, 2011). Classical realism is much more philosophical, reflective, and ethical than the instrumental realism (Weaver, 2015). So, neoclassical realism is a marriage between classical realism and structural realism where the scientific rigor is not be compromised. According to a Canadian scholar Ripsman (2011), the structure of a neoclassical realist analysis for the security problems consists of societal relations, strategic culture, and the nature of domestic politics. However, to make the analysis more relevant to the challenges that China presents, it is reasonable to look into the four pillars suggested by Layne (2018), which are military power, economic power, institutions, and soft power. Does China's rise in fact rise present a threat for America? We can answer this question through the following analyses.

Military Power

China's overall military is still lagging behind that of the United States (Layne, 2018). However, according to Navarro (2015), in some areas, China is increasing its antisatellite weapon capabilities, which poses a threat to the United States. In China, People's Liberation Army (PLA) internally supports the continued rule of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and is willing to obey directives from the top party leaders. The PLA's influence on the assortment of China's highest civilian leaders and ability to shape the domestic political environment is significant (Saunders, 2010). Xi's *China Dream*, under the nationalism rhetoric, succeeded in persuading common people's support for PLA. PLA's strategic culture is its focus on proficiency and willingness to upgrade the military and technical skills of soldiers in order form them to be able to operate more sophisticated equipment and conduct more complicated operations (Kiselycznyk, Saunders, 2010). In recent times, the revisionist approaches in the South China Sea and the deployment of military base in Djibouti* demonstrate China's military ambition. However, defensive realists China's overall military capacities cannot reach the global prominence of that of the U.S. other than being a contender to the U.S. in the Asia-Pacific Region. In addition, China's PLA practically has no field combating experience compared to the American military.

Economic Power

Currently, China is replacing the US and becoming the world's largest creditor country (Layne, 2018). In fact, it is the largest foreign creditor of the United States. Between 2000 and 2017 alone, debt owed from foreign countries to China soared ten-fold from less than \$500 billion to more than \$ 5 trillion (Tan, 2019). Xi Jinping's Belt Road Initiatives (BRI) pushed the domestic

* China's strategic point in Africa due to the favorable location of the horn of Africa and the Indian Ocean. China has invested 590 million USD in this project to further assure the showcase of China's blue water capacities. For more information, please refer to Max Bearak, "In strategic Djibouti, a microcosm of China's growing foothold in Africa," The Washington Post, Last modified Dec. 30th, 2019. [Electronic resource]. URL: https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/in-strategic-djibouti-a-microcosm-of-chinas-growing-foothold-in-africa/2019/12/29/a6e664ea-beab-11e9-a8b0-7ed8a0d5dc5d_story.html

political favoritism for State Owned Enterprises and companies backed by the state interests to pursue mergers and acquisition projects overseas. According to data from the Chinese Ministry of Commerce (MofCom), the total stock of outward foreign direct investment owned by Chinese firms in 2017 was 1.8 trillion USD, sixty-two times the 2002 amount of 29.9 billion USD (Rithmire, 2019). The economic impetus for development beyond its own borders also fostered the Chinese domestic discussion on industrial upgrade from the intensive labor focused industrial focus to technological and AI based economic set-ups.

Institutions

China has erected Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) as a protest to the Brenton Wood system. AIIB is regarded by Ikenberry (2017) as a Chinese external innovation outside the status-quo of international organizational framework. Beijing has made it a primacy to appoint leading figures in international organizations, including the International Telecommunication Union, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and the Food and Agriculture Association (Sheperd, 2020) as its representatives. Inside the U.N., China is also opposing to the enlargement of the security council and trying to further challenge the liberal international order (Ikenberry, Darren, 2017). Much of the Chinese assertiveness on the international stage is motivated by the Chinese dream rooted in the revitalization from the national humiliation nightmare (Zanadu, 2020). Propaganda of nationalism is installed throughout the Chinese society from early years to the formative and higher education systems. Thus, the discourse of China's international strategy is relied on this walk away from being the sick of Asia.

Soft Power

Although China has an ambition to revive its cultural value and popularity in the world, it fails to do so largely due to the shortcomings on the societal, domestic, and strategic level. Its relatively new role in the global affairs and integration may justify such inexperience. The lack of internal political transparency makes China's international image agonizing for many. In recent years, the blackouts of Confucius institutes around the world show the failure of Chinese cultural diplomacy. Furthermore, China's cultural products and entertainment industry cannot rightfully capture the world's attention. There are also barriers to China's soft power legitimacy (Kaylan, 2019). The overall weakness of world's cultural narrative and enactive ability hurt its overall strategy.

Table 1. Four pillars of neoclassical analysis

Scope /Dimension	Societal Relations	Strategic Culture	Domestic politics	Threat to the U.S.
Military Power	PLA decides civilian leadership	Proficiency (know-how) and innovation	Nationalism based civilian support	No
Soft Power	Inexperience in global affairs	Lack of knowledge on soft power and imagery enaction	Lack of political transparency	No
Economic Power	Large foreign currency reserves and primacy of state-owned enterprise	Technology and AI Industry 2.0	Belt and Road Initiative for overseas M&A	Yes
Institutions	Hundred years of humiliation and revitalization of the Chinese nation	Increase China's decisiveness in the IO and push the weight to build its own system	Propaganda of nationalism from early years to the formative and higher educational systems	Yes

3. Conclusion

Historically, Europeans had more experience with China as a civilization, with the appreciation of its culture, philosophy, and arts throughout the centuries. Such experiences enabled Europeans to form civilized dialogues with the Chinese. Chinese intellectuals and elites tend to see Europe as par excellence, to some degree with great admiration, while Americans are just seen as a functional necessity that one has to engage with. A centuries old Chinese proverb says, 'A scholar is always wrong when he is in front of a gunman,' which reflects the Chinese wisdom of confronting the blunt offensive realism.

China can engage with the U.S. only on a functional basis, not as a civilization per say. So, Huntington's credence China-U.S. competition as the clash of civilizations is also rather self-wishful. The United States is merely an extension of the Anglo puritanism and does not fulfill the archaeological criteria of civilization (Childe, 1950). As put by Friedberg (2018), China's post-Mao grand strategy is somehow being portrayed in equivalence with the American version of grand strategy. This is in contrary to Deng Xiaoping's famous analogy of "Cross the river by touching the stones." Even in the current political world, Xi Jinping is still battling the internal political fights with his oppositions in which the future course and direction of China is debated in the domestic political arena. So, China-U.S. competition is maximally a functional systematic struggle in which the magnitude of "the clash of civilizations" is perhaps overly exaggerated.

European Union should play a significant role in balancing the Sino-U.S. clash of interests. This will also provide the beneficial leveraging power for Europe to sustain its own prominence and strategic position. Zanadu (2020) suggested an integrative approach for diplomatic engagement with China, which changes and comforts the resentfulness of China. Such humanistic approach is a natural domain for Europe. In order to bring peace to the world, it is necessary to move the national security issues beyond the functional level and start engaging with civilized dialogues.

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