

Comparison Of The Characteristics Of The Development And Construction Of Think Tanks At Home And Abroad

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ABSTRACT. *As China's domestic universities pay more and more attention to think tanks, many scholars begin to study think tanks themselves and their future development. But abroad, the think tanks themselves have been studied much earlier than in China since the second world war. But the research on think tanks is very different at home and abroad. Foreign countries pay more attention to think tanks themselves, while domestic think tanks pay more attention to the development prospects, models and other diverse research. Based on this, this paper tries to summarize the current situation of think tank research at home and abroad.*

KEYWORDS: *Home and abroad, Think tank development, Characteristic*

1. Introduction

In 2013, the report of the Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee proposed to “strengthen the construction of a new type of think tank with Chinese characteristics, and establish and improve the decision-making consultation system”. In January 2015, the Central Government issued the Opinions on Strengthening the Construction of A New Type of Think Tank with Chinese Characteristics, marking that the construction of a new type of think tank with Chinese characteristics was officially promoted as a national strategy. In November 2015, the National High-end Think tank Construction Pilot Program was approved and 25 pilot high-end think tanks were identified, and the construction of a new type of think tank with Chinese characteristics was fully launched.

It can be expected that think tanks will play an increasingly important role in the research and consultation of strategic and policy issues in the scientific and democratic decision-making of the government, and will promote the continuous improvement of the national decision-making consultation system. “Think Tank” was originally translated as “thought”

The earliest authoritative concept of “think tank” in the world is that think tank is a stable and relatively independent policy research institution. Its researchers use scientific research methods to conduct interdisciplinary research on a wide range of

policy issues and provide advice on policy issues closely related to the government, enterprises and the public. It was later defined as: “A think tank is an independent organization engaged in and engaged in multidisciplinary research that seeks to influence public policy. Therefore, think tank is a relatively stable policy research and advisory institution independent of the political system. It is an important participant in the policy process and plays an increasingly important role in the development of modern society. Since the concept of think tank was put forward in the 1940s, it has undergone more than 60 years of development

The technical circles have formed a relatively unified understanding of think tanks: the organization form is a policy research institution, the work content is policy research, the service object is policy makers and the public, the work objective is to influence public policies, and it has the characteristics of independence, non-profit, multi-discipline, multi-professional fields and multi-types. To build a new type of think tank with Chinese characteristics, we need to integrate China's national conditions and learn from the experience of other countries. The specialization and development period of think tanks in European and American countries is relatively long, and the decision-making and consultation mechanism is smooth, which has formed beneficial experience in the construction, management and operation of think tanks, and has important enlightenment significance to the construction of Think tanks in China. This paper focuses on the analysis of the main trends of the development of think tanks in the world, summarizes the distinctive characteristics of the development of world-class think tanks, and on this basis, puts forward Suggestions for the construction and development of new think tanks with Chinese characteristics.

2. Main Trends of International Think Tank Development

2.1 The Number of Global Think Tanks is Increasing Rapidly

In the past few decades, the number of global think tanks has increased rapidly.

The “Think Tank and Civil Society Project” (TTCSP) led by James G. McGann of The University of Pennsylvania [6] started the survey and evaluation of the development status of Global Think tanks in 2007, and published the “Global Go To Think Tank Index Report” every year since 2008. According to the statistical evaluation analysis of the project, from the 1940s, there were 12 new think tanks every year, and from the 1990s, there were 142 new think tanks every year.

Although the growth rate of the number of think tanks has slowed over the past decade, overall, the number of global think tanks has continued to grow steadily. According to the statistics of global Think Tank Evaluation Research Report, the change of global think tank quantity since 2007 is shown in Table 1. In 2014, 6,618 global think tanks entered the system, mainly in North America, Europe and Asia.

Overall, the number of global think tanks has experienced a steady growth since 2007, with an increase of about a few dozen each year. In 2009, the number of think

tanks increased from 5,465 in 2008 to 6,305. This is due to the increase of previously uncounted think tanks, rather than new ones. The same is true for the surge in think-tanks elsewhere. In terms of regional situation, only Latin America and the Caribbean saw a decrease in the number of think tanks in 2013 and 2014 compared with the previous three years, while other regions showed an increase. In the United States and Europe, where the development of think tanks has been very mature, there are dozens of new think tanks each year.

To be specific, regional and national development of global think tanks is uneven. For example, in 2014, North America, Europe, Asia and the three regions accounted for 30%, 27.5%, 16.7% and 74.2% of the global think tanks. The development of think tanks is still dominated by developed countries and regions such as Europe and the United States.

Moreover, some of the new think-tanks are rapidly gaining influence. Emerging think tanks tend to focus on some of the major new issues facing humanity, such as climate change think tanks (such as the Pew Research Center on Global Climate Change), energy think tanks, and quickly gain strategic and policy research and advisory influence. There are also newly established think tanks such as the Center for AmericanProgress, the New America Foundation and the Center for A New American Security, which have a prominent influence on US foreign policy.

2.2 The Dependence of National Government Decision-Making on Think Tanks is Increasingly Deepened.

Important think tanks in various countries, especially those attached to the government, are becoming the policy source point, the designer of policy content, the evaluator of policy effect, the propagator of policy implementation, and the leader and leader of social discourse right of the government. With the professionalization of national decision-making consultation service, the country has increasingly strong demand for thought tanks and talents. Governments need think tanks as they face increasingly complex domestic and international situations

It provides ideological support, but also requires think tanks to provide policy interpretation and innovation points as opinion leaders and opinion elites to improve credibility.

Think tanks are playing a more and more prominent role in the western society, especially in the United States. Whether it's the President, the Cabinet, Congress, the CIA, the Pentagon, the National Security Council, almost any policy and decision will be made directly or indirectly by think tanks indirect effects. Founded in 1989 as the Center for American Progress The policy arm of the Democratic Leadership Council.

2.3 Think Tanks Become Opinion Leaders to Lead and Influence Public Opinion

Structure Internationally renowned think tanks' research reports on international and global challenges, and on the economic and social development of countries around the world, have often become important ideological tools for leading and influencing public opinion. Researching and proposing ideas are the core capabilities of think tanks. The essence of think tanks is a "thinking factory", a place where knowledge, wisdom and ideas are produced. Thoughts and opinions are the first element of think tank survival. Think tanks are good at discovering key issues that affect the development of society, politics, economy, and diplomacy in reality, using new ideas and new theories to make convincing analysis of the problems, and propose solutions to the problems. Disseminate it to the public through a variety of communication channels, guide social thoughts, and then influence the government's decision-making choices. Famous think tanks in the world have risen to become world-class think tanks by virtue of new ideas, new views, and new theories. For example, in 1972, the Club of Rome gained fame with its first research report "The Limits of Growth", which caused the society to worry about the unrestricted growth of human beings that will lead to disasters on the earth, and set off a large debate that lasted for many years. . Lester Brown (1994), Director of the Earth Watch Institute of the United States, published "Who"Come to feed China?" (Who will feed China?) [The report has triggered a long-term discussion of China's population and development issues in the international community.

2.4 The Social Influence of Think Tanks Continues to Expand, Forming an Ideological Industry Phenomenon

Most think tanks try their best to flaunt the objectivity, independence and neutrality of their policy and strategy research. Their purpose is to show the public their research conclusions and Research on the issues they study The objectivity of opinions and policy suggestions is more in line with and close to the reality and the truth, that is, to approach the "truth" of the logic of problems and facts. Therefore, we hope that the public can "rest assured" accept their own views. Therefore, the social influence of think tanks continues to expand.

In western developed countries, from national security, foreign relations and development strategies to pensions, community health and children's lunch, we can hear the voices of think tanks, and all think tanks participate in and even influence decision-making. There are also voices from think tanks on many major international issues. The influence of think tanks on today's western society and even the whole world can be said to be far-reaching. Think tanks have become an important form of social organization.

With the rise of knowledge society and the increasing specialization of knowledge service and knowledge consultation, the role of think tanks in professional decision-making and the phenomenon of think tanks will be further strengthened. It can be said that modern think tanks are increasingly becoming a phenomenon of ideological industry - studying and proposing ideas and influencing public policy debates, promoting government departments to turn ideas and policy ideas into public policy actions, and think tanks have become a strong and lasting

existence in the public policy environment. Moreover, with the continuous improvement of the governance mechanism of think tanks and the good combination of their interpersonal networks, social networks and modern communication networks, think tanks will be more convenient to spread and spread ideas, think tanks with innovative ideas will have a more significant influence in modern society, and think tanks that rely on the production, dissemination and marketing of "ideas" products will survive for a long time.

2.5 The Competition between Think Tanks for International Discourse Power is Intensifying

Important think tanks in the world, in terms of their positioning, strive to build an influential international strategy and policy research machine structure. Some important think tanks have made great efforts to become an important international issue

On the relationship between the establishment of the theory and the researcher, the leader of authoritative discourse on important issues and leaders. Especially in the domestic and global common concern, such as sources, environment, climate change, sustainable development, diplomacy, nuclear weapons on issues such as the rise of a new type of great power, think tanks have actively deployed their forces exhibition research.

Think tanks have become one of the most important issues concerned by famous think tanks set up a special research team to study China's problems. two thousand and six John Thornton, chairman of the Council of the Brookings Institution donated a large sum of money to establish the John Thornton China Center. Along with the research, analysis, dialogue and publishing services, focusing on China's rise and its impact on the United States, China's neighboring countries and even the whole world ring. In addition, China studies is the Carnegie Foundation for international peace.

3. Characteristics of the Development of Foreign First-Class Think Tanks

3.1 Clear Strategic Positioning and Development of Policy Pragmatism Mission.

Think tanks are not academic research institutions. It should be based on academic research, but the goal of think tanks is not academic research, but policy design and policy recommendations. Influence public policy and decision-making is an important historical mission and social responsibility of think tanks. Thus the development goals or missions of think tanks are entirely related to policy-making pragmatism is to influence government decision-making through research results and public policy. If the research results of think tanks can not meet the international standards. The concern of the national government and the public, think tank research is meaningless righteous. Therefore, foreign think tanks have never denied that their goal is to influence

It is completely pragmatism that affects the public policies of international and national governments objective orientation.

3.2 Flaunt the Relative Independence and Objectivity, and Become the Development of Think Tanks

It is the “shadow government” of the Republican Party, and many think tanks are in the “shadow government”. In the miscellaneous network of directors, there are close ties with business circles, political circles, universities, media, etc., but they all label themselves without exception independence. The so-called independence includes stand independence, financial independence

Research independence is the most basic requirement, It is an important factor in the success of us think tanks. The so-called research independence, that is starting from facts, relying on reliable evidence, strict logic and scientific research. To find the real and objective answer to the problem. For the independence of research, members of the society must abide by the following and political activities move the relevant provisions: they can be non partisan and do not exclude them. Based on his views, he provides the government officials and candidates with analysis and suggestions on the policy of Guang Gong and the Communist Party of China. But if the members of the society are candidate's campaign or political organization that provides advice, such as political action committees or political party election committees, they have to use work and they have to show that their actions are just a human behavior, not the brookings Institution.

4. Suggestions on the Construction of New Think Tanks with Chinese Characteristics

As a specialized research and advisory body on policy and strategic issues, think tanks directly target specific decision-makers, especially government departments. The important driving force for the development of think tanks is the demand for policy recommendations from specific decision-makers, especially government departments. Without the policy consultation needs of decision-making users, think tanks have no soil for their own development. Therefore, in order to promote the development of new think tanks with Chinese characteristics, it is necessary to break through and establish institutional and even legal institutional arrangements for government scientific decision-making consultation, and incorporate the research and consultation on various policy issues into the normalized institutional mechanism. Only by constantly expanding the scope and strength of government decision-making consultation and expanding the government's purchase of knowledge services can we provide a good soil for the development of think tanks.

Secondly, it is necessary to create a policy environment for the equal and competitive development of multi type and diversified think tanks. Although there are many policy research and consulting institutions in China, there is no good environment for the development of think tanks. Although the government think

tanks can exert special influence on the decision-making process through internal channels, the scope of policy research and suggestions is limited to the research projects designated by the government, and the use of research results to disseminate and publicize the policy measures taken by the government; they are large but not strong, and the research quality and academic independence need to be improved; they are relatively divorced from the public and lack of social credibility, which has a negative impact on the society. The trend of thought and mainstream values are not strong in leading, lack of external competition and development pressure, and lack of internal driving force. There are many think tanks in Colleges and universities, which are weak, the organization of institutions is relatively loose, and they have greater autonomy in research and suggestions, but lack of practical problem orientation and emphasis on academic nature.

Factors weaken the feasibility of policy recommendations, and the influence of decision-making consultation is limited; think tanks and scholars lack of internal quality control mechanism for research output and release; some researchers emphasize academic freedom and express their opinions at will, which inevitably has bad social impact. Although private independent think tanks can carry out empirical neutral analysis, research and consultation, due to their low status, their development space is very limited, and they are faced with institutional development dilemma in legal status, fund-raising channels, research talent recruitment, policy influence channels, etc. At present, less than 5% of think tanks are considered as private think tanks, so it is difficult to form obvious influence in the short term.

Therefore, the focus of the current development of think tanks is not to invest a lot of money to establish new think tanks, but to eliminate the institutional and systematic obstacles in the development of think tanks, promote the independent and diversified development of think tanks, so as to improve the research quality of think tanks and think tank scholars, and make think tanks' voice spread to the domestic and international decision-making stage. We should encourage and support the development of independent and non-profit think tanks, and allow private think tanks to compete equally and bid for research projects and resources. This can provide a new competitive development force for the development of think tanks with Chinese characteristics, promote the competitive development of various think tanks, and realize the rise of influential new think tanks with Chinese characteristics.

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