

# Analysis of Foreign Media's Improper Comments on China from the Perspective of International Relations

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**Abstract:** *[Formation of the mentality of insulting China] The formation of the cultural mode of the mentality of insulting China is the struggle made by the western forces suffering from the current international situation and the changes in the international situation in the future, the encirclement and suppression launched by the western anti-China forces against the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, hegemonism and racism, and its formation has historical inevitability. [History and Current Situation of the Psychology of Insulting China] The psychology of insulting China is the product of the development of racial discrimination psychology such as the "Yellow Peril Theory", which was born out of the racist concept of colonialists since modern times and has revived again under the new historical background. [Countermeasures/Suggestions] Strengthen public opinion propaganda, dig deeply into the excellent Chinese culture, and enhance the comprehensive national strength.*

**Keywords:** *Foreign Media's Improper Comments on China, International Relations, Countermeasures*

## 1. The Formation of Cultural Pattern of Humiliating Chinese Psychology

The theory of cultural patterns is of great significance to the development of anthropology. Cultural pattern is the behavior habit, norm concept and value pursuit that the members of a group or a nation abide by together, and then this behavior habit, norm concept and value pursuit is manifested as a civilized style, which has a binding effect on individuals in the social structure. As Benedict said, "When a person in a cultural group grows up and participates in cultural activities, the habits of the group become his habits, the beliefs of the group become his beliefs, and the constraints of the group will become his constraints." [1] The study of the basic personality of a nation or a group is the main content of the study of cultural patterns in cultural anthropology. The basic personality of a nation, namely "national character" or "national character", is the common character of a nation produced in the gestation of a common culture, which is also different from other nations and has its own uniqueness. [2] The cultural pattern of insulting China gradually formed in the history of the West also has its own uniqueness, which shows the arrogance and rudeness of individual groups in the West.

The cultural pattern of insulting China formed by Western countries led by the United States shows great malice, and the reasons for its formation are as follows:

First, the cultural mode of insulting Chinese psychology has strong political factors. The formation of the mentality of insulting China in the West is not only due to the smattering of knowledge and prejudice of some people in the West, but also due to the deliberate guidance of Western political forces. In modern times, China was poor and weak, which left an opportunity for Western countries to invade China. Moreover, the accumulation of technology in the two industrial revolutions and the global colonial expansion made the West arrogant, which gradually transformed into discrimination against other nationalities in the long history. It is worth noting that in recent years, the malicious propaganda of Western media against China has become more and more intense, mainly because Western forces have noticed China's rapid development, and Western political forces are worried that with the rise of China's international influence, their international status will be lost, so it is inevitable to increase the suppression of China. Thus it can be seen that the frequent incidents of insulting China are the struggle of Western forces due to the current international pattern and the changes in the international pattern in the future, the encirclement and suppression of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation by Western forces at the cultural level, and hegemonism and racism. The major western news media have the shadow of western governments behind them, and political forces support the news media and relevant enterprises to maliciously spread insulting remarks against China in order to divert their domestic contradictions and satisfy their narrow political interests. For example, the "Anti-

China Act" of the United States, the Competition Act of 2021, clearly shows the ambition of Western political forces.

Secondly, the formation of the mentality of insulting China has its social environmental factors. Taking the United States as an example, the long-standing backlog of racial discrimination in the United States has provided the soil of social environment for the breeding of insulting Chinese culture. Firstly, during the American War of Independence, the colonists of various countries persecuted the Indians, massacred and enslaved the Indians wantonly, plundered the Indian land, and launched a series of genocidal policies against the Indians; Moreover, the slave trade and the racially discriminatory laws against the black community have kept the black community in an oppressed position for a long time, although the United States has made some progress through the long-term black civil rights movement. But today, blacks are still discriminated against in the United States, and racial discrimination against blacks by whites has become the main problem of racial discrimination in the United States. In this regard, we can get a glimpse of "Freud" and other related events. This kind of abnormal racial discrimination culture in the United States is deeply rooted, even though many well-known civil rights activists such as Martin Luther King have fought one after another, this kind of discrimination that goes deep into the national culture is still difficult to eradicate. In addition, the cultural phenomenon of racial discrimination in the United States has gradually expanded from the domestic to the foreign countries, and in the international arena, it is manifested as discrimination against other countries and nationalities, which is not difficult to understand why the Western countries led by the United States are always happy to insult China.

Third, the mentality of insulting China is the product of the deterioration of the capitalist system. The free development advocated by American democracy has shown various drawbacks so far, and the fermentation of insulting remarks against China is the result of the abnormal development of Western democracy. The unrestrained and unrestrained marketization of the economy has given the bad media an opportunity to ferment. Many American media, in order to attract eyeballs, have made up malicious remarks against China, incited racial discrimination against the Chinese people, and the excessive commercialization of the media has deliberately catered to vulgar remarks and made gimmicks to insult China in order to increase the news heat. For example, the Wall Street Journal, a well-known American media, published "China is the real sick man of East Asia" on February 3, 2020, pointing fingers at China's epidemic situation and speculating maliciously to cater to domestic anti-China sentiment in order to increase the number of subscriptions to the newspaper. Politically, the game and malicious competition among the complicated political forces have made the relevant departments with low administrative efficiency worse, and the political parties have ignored the insulting remarks in order to cater to the so-called political correctness, and even incited discrimination against the Chinese community in order to divert the sharp racial discrimination contradictions between the white people and the black people in China. For example, the anti-Chinese movement in various periods of American history used the momentum of anti-Chinese to reduce the contradictions between different groups in the country. In addition, the acceptance of media speech by the people at the bottom of the United States without discrimination has also contributed to the arrogance of the insulting groups to a certain extent. During the epidemic prevention and control period, the American people refused to wear masks, thought that 5G antennas were hidden in the masks, and even thought that vaccines were part of the "human reduction plan". We can see that the comprehensive quality of the so-called citizens of developed countries is not as high as we imagined, which gives the development of insulting words and deeds to China an opportunity.

## **2. The History and Current Situation of the Incident of Insulting China**

The formation of the mentality of insulting China in the West is not achieved overnight, it has gone through a long period of historical accumulation and tortuous development. This kind of discrimination against Chinese people evolved from discrimination against Asian people. After the Meiji Restoration, modern Japan embarked on the road of capitalism, and its modernization caused great panic to the western world, especially during the Russo-Japanese War, when Japan, as an East Asian country, defeated Czarist Russia, one of the old empires, by its own efforts, which made Russia lose face. Therefore, the public opinion propaganda of the "Yellow Peril Theory" was launched to call on other Western countries to boycott Japan. By the way, it can also recover the decline of Russia's international status and the loss of international dignity caused by the defeat of the war. The so-called "Yellow Peril Theory" is a naked and groundless accusation of the Western world against East Asian countries, a typical example of which is the "Yellow Peril Map" drawn by Hermann Kunax under the order of Kaiser Wilhelm II. With regard to the "Yellow Peril Theory", Japan's Qiao Chuanwensan advocated

that the historical memory of East-West confrontation was of great significance to the formation of the Yellow Peril Theory: It is the fear, hatred, distrust and contempt of the white people for the yellow people. It is the oldest and most complex ethnographic myth in the complex psychology of Western ethnography.[3] Heinz Gollwitzer, a famous German historian, pointed out sharply that "the Yellow Peril theory is an imperialist slogan", "a tool used to fool and incite people", "a means to incite people to do bad things" and "an excuse to defend themselves".[4] This kind of people of color who ignore the facts have become a tool for the colonial expansion of Western forces to alleviate the sense of guilt at the moral level, which echoes the social Darwinian theory and eliminates the psychological barriers of Western colonists to do bad things, so it is obvious that they are hiding their ears and stealing bells, so enslaving and discriminating against other races also have theoretical support and value basis. With the further improvement of Japan's comprehensive national strength and the implementation of Japan's policy of "breaking away from pressure and entering Europe", the interests of Western forces and Japan are gradually tied together. As an East Asian country, Japan has become a "partner" in the colonial camp. When there are interest disputes and the same interests, the "yellow peril theory" against Japan is based on realism. Colonial aggression against other countries has not stopped. The yellow peril theory urgently needs to find a new target.

At the end of the Qing Dynasty and the beginning of the Republic of China, the target of the Yellow Peril theory shifted from Japan to China, especially after the Revolution of 1911, the new government's attitude towards the West became increasingly tough, and the gradual rise of national will in China made the Western forces feel the crisis, so the Yellow Peril theory gradually transformed into racial discrimination against the Chinese people. In 1873, Mikhail Alexandrovich Bakunin, a notorious anarchist in Tsarist Russia, clearly stated in *State System and Anarchy* that with the expansion of the Chinese population base, the Chinese would occupy Russian land and threaten the whole of Russia from the east.[5] This concern was naturally nonsense for China, which was weak at that time, but it also reflected to a large extent the fear of China by Western forces and the theoretical preparations for invading China. It can be said that from modern times to the present, the theory of China threat and the accompanying mentality of insulting China are directly derived from the theory of yellow peril. Taking the United States as an example, there have been many campaigns against Chinese people in the history of the United States, which is closely related to the fermentation of the China threat theory. During the development of the American West, the achievements made by Chinese laborers were very great, but the hard-working and kind-hearted Chinese laborers did not get understanding and respect, but slander and exclusion. In 1950, the relevant departments of California promulgated the Alien Miners Tax Act, which increased the collection of taxes on foreign miners. It is worth noting that most of the foreign miners were Chinese. Since then, California has taken a series of measures to squeeze Chinese workers. From 1950 to 1970, California set up various names. They used all kinds of exorbitant taxes and levies to obtain great financial revenue from the Chinese community, which created unprecedented opportunities for the development of California. In the early western development of the United States, all walks of life were full of Chinese figures, and Chinese contributed a lot to the rise of the western United States.[6] The contributions of the Chinese community are obvious to all, but at the same time, the anti-Chinese sentiment in the United States is also accumulating. The Chinese community is classified as an "inferior nation" by the American elite physically and psychologically. At the same time, because of the discriminatory policies of the United States, the Chinese workers with low prices are in turn accused by the American elite of vicious competition and breaking market rules through low prices. As a result, the federal government of the United States aimed to promulgate a series of Chinese Exclusion Acts in response to the domestic resistance to the Chinese community. In 1882, the United States promulgated the Chinese Exclusion Act, which attempted to deter Chinese from coming to the United States through the procedural difficulties of labor status determination. The enactment of the Chinese Exclusion Act also intensified the hatred of white workers towards Chinese, which directly led to violence against Chinese by white people, while the perpetrators of white violence were rarely punished. Chinese Exclusion Acts have been increasing in the history of the United States, and the policies against Chinese have been increasingly harsh. In 1902, the Chinese Exclusion Act was renewed and made permanent in 1904, and this discriminatory law was not banned until 1943. The United States, which prides itself on the supremacy of human rights, is engaged in one thing on the surface and another behind the scenes. It keeps talking about democracy, freedom, human rights and morality, but what it does is to discriminate against other races and violate human rights. It is really hard to convince the public that the United States is so unashamedly called a "beacon of democracy."

In order to find a legitimate reason for themselves, the anti-Chinese forces are also extremely concerned about public opinion propaganda. In 1913, British writer Saks Romer wrote the novel *The Mysterious Doctor Fu Manchu*, which was insulting to China. At that time, it was in the early days of

the Republic of China, and the gradual awakening of Chinese national consciousness made the West feel an unprecedented sense of crisis. This novel can be said to provide a sharp weapon for the anti-Chinese forces in the West. From 1913 to 1959, Sachs Romer wrote a series of Fu Manchu novels one after another. Fu Manchu, as a Chinese image imagined by the West, represents pure evil, and he is often defeated by the righteous white people, reflecting the clown mentality of the Western forces who whitewash their unconscionable colonial activities and are afraid to admit their immorality. We can guess that the West has been worried about its position being shaken by the rising powers after it gained the right to speak in the world, and the changes in China have made them feel very uneasy. China is the target set by the Western powers to threaten their hegemony. As Alfred Thayer Mahan said, anti-Chinese is "instinctive, intuitive, and contains a premonition of future dangers". China is currently encircling and suppressing. "What kind of civilization will be created under the influence of its power is to a large extent related to the future of the world. "This doomsday complex gradually evolved into a mentality of hatred of China.

During World War II, China made a great contribution to the world's anti-fascist struggle. As a member of the anti-fascist camp, many European and American countries were inconvenient to continue to act in the anti-Chinese movement out of political reality. At this time, the scale of anti-Chinese movement was obviously smaller. After World War II, the bipolar structure was established, and the ideological struggle led by the United States and the Soviet Union became more and more intense. As a member of the socialist camp, New China was inevitably suppressed by the capitalist camp led by the United States. After the founding of the People's Republic of China, the rapid development of China's comprehensive national strength made the anti-Chinese forces feel even more painful. After the War to Resist US Aggression and Aid Korea, the Sino-Indian War, and the self-defense counterattack against Vietnam, Western countries have realized that the awakening lion of the East is different from the weak country that was trampled upon by others in modern times. At this time, there is no doubt that the exclusion of Chinese has been put on the stage again. Nicholas Spekman, a famous American geopolitical scientist, clearly pointed out that if the Eurasian coastal areas surrounding the heartland can be controlled, it will be enough to curb the attempt of the heartland countries to dominate the world, and the geopolitical zone is the stepping stone for the maritime countries to move towards the continent. [7] This shows the sinister intentions of Western countries towards China.

Reform and opening up have raised China's comprehensive national strength to a higher level. Economic globalization has made the world more closely linked. At this time, once excessive anti-China affects the world economic structure, it will damage the interests of the anti-China forces themselves, but we can not let China rise. Where should the Western anti-China forces go? A kind of invasion based on culture, that is, cultural infiltration, provides them with new ideas. From the export of individual heroism values in Hollywood movies to the dissemination of insulting Chinese ideas by major international brands in the form of "squinting eyes" and spoofing Chinese clothing, the world today is full of cultural invasion of China by Western anti-Chinese forces. Although a fly is small, it can also make people sick; although insulting China is mostly a verbal insult, it seriously damages China's international image and the dignity of the Chinese people.

To sum up, we can see that insulting China has a long history, and with the rise of China to form a comeback, in the face of such aggressive words and deeds of insulting China, how should our country deal with it?

Third, in the current world situation, how does China deal with insulting words and deeds?

First, our country should strengthen the propaganda of public opinion. On April 22, 2021, the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee passed the Strategic Competition Act of 2021, which clearly pointed out that the United States allocated \$300 million a year [8] for propaganda against China, which is only an explicit fund. In addition to the efforts of non-governmental organizations and groups, the United States has invested a lot in public opinion propaganda against China. Faced with such a fierce pressure of public opinion, we must not sit idly by and wait for death. At the government level, we should strengthen the efforts to dispel rumors of foreign forces, organize and publicize excellent Chinese culture, so that foreign friends can really feel the charm of Chinese culture, so as to reduce the prejudice of foreigners against Chinese culture and Chinese people. At the non-governmental level, Chinese people can use social media to actively attack insulting remarks against China. In the era of self-media, everyone has a microphone, and everyone should also assume the obligation to safeguard the interests of the motherland. Folk propaganda has great potential, from Li Ziqi, who subscribes to tens of millions overseas and propagandizes China's rural feelings with

practical actions, to the "Hong Kong independence" elements who angrily denounce the separatist country on the streets overseas, the Chinese people have shown great patriotic enthusiasm.

Secondly, our country should pay attention to excavating excellent traditional culture and combine it with the actual situation of the world today. The initiative of "one belt and one road" makes us deeply realize the practical significance of Chinese excellent tradition in today's world. Unlike the zero-sum thinking of individual countries in the world, Chinese culture pays attention to the world outlook and has a sense of overall situation. The community of human destiny we advocate is in line with the idea of great harmony in Chinese culture. At the same time, the majority of young people are also actively promoting our Hanfu culture, Chinese costume culture is continuous, and the revival of Chinese costume is the natural appeal of contemporary young people in the face of growing patriotic enthusiasm. Huafu is not only a kind of clothing, but also a kind of spirit, even a kind of belief. [9] "China has great etiquette, so it is called Xia; it has beautiful dress, so it is called Hua." "We should realize that the excavation of excellent Chinese culture is not a matter of one or two non-hereditary inheritors, but the mission of everyone in the Chinese nation."

Third, the fundamental effort we should make in the face of insulting words and deeds against China is to enhance the comprehensive national strength of the country. In the final analysis, it is because our comprehensive national strength is not strong enough that the Chinese people are treated unfairly in the international community. The great man has clearly pointed out: "Development is the last word." "Despite the pernicious construction of anti-Chinese forces in the world, we can only respond to all changes with no change and deal with all difficulties and obstacles by adhering to the invariable theorem of the development of socialism with Chinese characteristics, so as to continue to increase energy for national rejuvenation in a leisurely manner." Chairman Mao taught us, "In essence, in the long run and strategically, we must truly regard imperialism and all reactionaries as paper tigers." From this point, we should establish our strategic thinking. On the other hand, they are living, iron, real tigers, and they will eat people. From this point on, we establish our strategic thinking and tactical thinking. [10] Share with you.

### 3. Conclusion

In today's international arena, the frequent incidents of insulting China have aroused heated discussions from all walks of life in China. The incidents of insulting China are not a whim of anti-Chinese forces abroad, but an organized and premeditated team action. This paper attempts to explore the motivation and historical development of insulting China from a rational perspective, and provides relevant suggestions on how to deal with the incident of insulting China. However, the suggestions are too broad, and more specific opinions should be added, which can be further improved in future research. In a word, the words and deeds of insulting China are the negation of the whole Chinese civilization and the great contribution made by China to the world. Chinese people should pay enough attention to them and maintain the image of China in practical actions.

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