

The Exploration and Enlightenment of the American Representative Democratic Crisis

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Keywords: Congress, Democratic crisis, US congress, The system of the national people's congress

Abstract: The representative system was the earliest city-state republican system in ancient Greece, after thousands of years of development and evolution increasingly mature, the United States representative system is a typical representative. The establishment of the American representative political system has laid the foundation for promoting the prosperity of the United States and safeguarding the democratic rights of the American people. However, there is undeniable that in recent years, the US representative system has seen frequent expressions of public opinion and the decisions made by representative agencies are very different from the people's demands. Therefore, contemporary China should actively learn from the experience and lessons of American representative system and promote the continuous development of the National People's Congress system.

1. Introduction

1.1 Meaning and Origin of the Representative System

Representative System is a political system with Parliament as the center of national political life, where elected representatives making legislation and decisions through discussion or debate. The representative system originated in ancient Greece. The modern representative system originated in the UK. The growth of the bourgeoisie gradually transformed the British Parliament into the highest legislature of the country. This system was quickly emulated by other countries, the concrete forms of implementation of the representative system are different in the world today, the United States is a typical presidential Republican system.

1.2 Specific Practice of the American Representative System

The representative of modern western countries is the parliamentary system of Britain and the United States, among which the American "separation of powers" parliamentary system is the most representative. The state power of the United States consists of legislative, administrative and judicial parts, corresponding to the United States Congress, the President of the United States, and the federal courts. The United States Congress is the highest legislature of the United States, consisting of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The House of Representatives had 435

states, and non-voting representatives from Washington, D. C., Puerto Rico, Guam, and others. The House is generally considered more partisan than the Senate. Many of the American lawmakers have tried to use the Senate (initially elected by the state legislature) as checks and balances in the House (directly elected citizens), so the “advice and consent” power is only exercised by the Senate alone. And senators are directly elected by state voters from 50, or 100 states. The Senate is generally regarded as more prudent than the House; fewer seats and longer terms are less susceptible to public opinion than the House. The United States Congress enjoys legislative power, supervision power, human power, impeachment power, among which legislative and representative power are the two most important duties stipulated by law.

1.3 The Democratic Crisis of American Representation in Recent Years

In recent years, the American representative system has frequently encountered crises and challenges in the process of operation. People's doubts about the representative system and group events caused by it emerge one after another. These situations are mainly as follows:

A. From the perspective of upper society, leadership elections or parliamentary turnout in the countries and regions of the Western countries and other countries have been declining in recent years. Over the past few decades, western developed democracies have been declining in regional and local elections, and voter turnout was only around 20-30% by 2016. In addition, the number of major political parties in Western countries has fallen sharply in recent years, and the people increasingly distrust politicians.” People are nervous about hearing people joke that they are” politicians. “[1]. In addition, the United States and other western countries of party checks and balances gradually evolved into “veto politics”, democracy, republican governance between the two party ideas and program differences, the two parties in dealing with some major bill often because of their own party interests and mutual constraints, mutual compromise, the negative impact is ultimately borne by the vast majority of ordinary Americans.

B. In terms of social marginal groups, group events in western countries have intensified in recent years, such as the Occupy Wall Street Movement. On September 17, 2011, thousands of angry people gathered in New York in an attempt to capture Wall Street and have a long confrontation with the authorities. The demonstrators had the intention to oppose American political power and money transactions, political disputes and social injustice, which deeply reflects the huge estrangement between the American elite and the general public and the lack of popular nature of the American representative system. Like others, such as the French “Yellow vest” protest movement, and these group events were caused by fierce conflicts of interests between the ruling class and the general public.

2. The Causes of the Us Representative Democracy Crisis

The problems faced by the Western representative system represented by the United States cannot be ignored. In part, the American representative system had reached the point where it had to be reformed. The reasons for the American representative democracy crisis are:

2.1 The Essence of the American Representative System Determines That It is a Tool of Bourgeois Rule

The essence of American representation is to uphold bourgeois rule. The US Congress is a place for major interest groups to compete. Any party gaining a greater voice in Parliament by political contributions and other means will give it a greater reward[2]. In the early stage of capitalist development, in order to prevent any form of economic and political monopoly, many countries

accepted and implemented the parliamentary system, and the parliamentary power was extremely expanded. Entering the imperialist period, in order to strengthen control over the monopoly field, monopoly groups control state power, thus advocating the role of government and weakening parliamentary power. The great bourgeoisie, combined with the political elite, transformed its economic and social resources into political power through a series of means, and excluded the general public from the core of state power. In contrast to the representative democracy in western countries, the socialist representative system in china “can effectively avoid state power from serving only a part of the people”[3]. Comrade Deng Xiaoping once said, “ The organizational form of our political power is the unicameral system of the National People's Congress.If the policy is not wrong, this system will help to run all national undertakings well and reduce national internal struggle. “[4].

2.2 The American Representative System is Increasingly Kidnapped by Money and Reduced to Monetary Democracy

In elections under Western representative democracy, it is difficult for candidates to win elections by their personal talent and charm alone, and they must have enough financial resources. Their election funding is wide, both funded by their party and the consortium, families and voters behind them[5].In 2010, the U. S. Supreme Court lifted corporate or individual limit limits to political contributions. In such a political environment, interest groups are able to “tailor” public policies through politicians to obtain more capital benefits, while the interests of ordinary people are increasingly damaged.

2.3 The Us Representative System Has Become “Veto Politics” and the Legitimacy of Voting Has Gradually Lost

The purpose of the US parliamentary system is designed with good intentions, but in reality there is often a lack of communication and cooperation between the government and parliament, causing major national decision-making mistakes and inefficiency. The power competition between the government and Parliament runs through representative democracy. The separation of powers always accompanies the game between different powers. This contradiction can be temporarily alleviated, but it cannot be fundamentally solved. In addition, representative democracy in the United States values democratic elections, taking “one person, one vote” and multi-party competition as the only measure of democracy. Voters can exercise the “one person, one vote” right, but they have no direct say in deciding candidates and government members. Therefore, such a national political system will inevitably leading figures elected often do not represent the real public opinion, and the real interests of the people cannot be guaranteed through ballot politics.

3. Thinking and Enlightenment of the American Representative Democratic Crisis

History is the best textbook, and different manifestations of representative systems between China and the United States in recent years make people wonder: what problems arise with American representative democracy and what can be used for reference. This paper discusses this issue from the following aspects:

3.1 The Practice of the Representative System Should Restrict Capital and Prevent Capital from Kidnapping the State and the People

Joseph Steiglitz, author of American Truth, said, “ The American electoral system has changed

from one person, one vote to one dollar, one vote. American democracy is no longer owned, governed and enjoyed by the people, but 1% owned, 1% governed and 1% enjoyed. In 2010, the Supreme Court of the US lifted the limit of corporate consortia and individual political contributions to election candidates, and then election funding and donations have increased significantly, showing the close relationship between American political elections and money[6]. Thus, the American democratic system has gone away from its original intention. Today, with China's rapid development, we should not only make good use of the power of capital to meet the needs of the people for a better life, but also regulate and control capital, prevent capital forces from interfering in the general elections of people's congresses at all levels and erode state officials.

3.2 Adhering the Leadership of the Party is the Fundamental Political Guarantee for China's National People's Congress System

The model of the two parties under the United States has prevented to some extent the ruling party or political figures from trampling on the law. However, in the actual process of operation, mutual supervision between the two parties often evolves into vicious fighting between political parties. The struggle between the two parties is often not out of the righteousness of the state but of the interests of political parties, which greatly corrupt the political atmosphere of the country. In China, the Communist Party of China founded people's congresses at all levels. The system of people's congresses was founded and developed by the Party to lead the people in light of the actual situation of China. Therefore, the leadership of the Party is the “anchor” for adhering to the system of people's congresses. General Secretary Xi Jinping has pointed out that “The fundamental feature of socialism with Chinese characteristics is the leadership of the Party, and its biggest advantage is also the Party leadership.”[7]. In the future development of the system of people's congresses, we must further adhere to the strong leadership of the Party and implement the Party's principles and policies through the system of people's congresses. Every year, the NPC and its Standing Committee shall report to the CPC Central Committee on its meetings and state activities related to the work of the National People's Congress, and the work of the Leading Party Members' Group of the Standing Committee. At the same time, the Party should also support state power organs in carrying out their work in accordance with the law, so as to effectively strengthen the role of the people's congresses.

3.3 Further Enhancing the Ability of Deputies to the Npc is a Long-Term Task of China's Representative System

American lawmakers are members elected by the people to represent public opinion at federal and state levels. Most of the American lawmakers are full-time legislators and have their own fixed offices. They regularly visit their own districts to understand public opinion, and handle relevant affairs in parliamentary organs in normal times. Full-time lawmakers can give full play to their abundance of time and professionalism to reflect the demands and opinions of voters into major national decisions. However, full-time lawmakers live in high positions and under the influence of the financiers behind them, they gradually break away from the bottom people, safeguard the interests of the great bourgeoisie and capitalists by giving advice and exercising their voting rights to Parliament. Deputies to the National People's Congress are part-time deputies and intermediaries between the Party and the state with the people. In order to ensure that deputies to the NPC are competent for relevant work and avoid being divorced from the masses, we must do it:

A. Further improve the constituent structure of the NPC deputies. According to statistics, among the deputies to the NPC, official representatives account for about 85% of the total number[8]. Such a high proportion of officials can easily lead to NPC meetings becoming a continuation of government work meetings. In recent years, the proportion of leading cadres of deputies to China's

NPC has gradually reduced in the election of officials, and increased the proportion of workers and representatives from the grass-roots level and the front line of production and operation. This will help the NPC deputies to have a timely and comprehensive understanding of the people's demands.

B. Improves the ability of deputies to perform their duties, and keeps close ties between deputies and the people. In the election process of NPC deputies, we should pay attention to the political tendency, moral ethics, cultural level and physical health of the candidates. In recent years, the quality of deputies to the NPC has been improving, among the deputies to the Seventh National People's Congress, only 56% have college diploma or above. By the time of the 11th National People's Congress, the number of deputies with a college degree or above had accounted for more than 92% of the total number. In addition, after the election of NPC deputies, people's congresses at all levels and their standing committees should also conduct regular training and assessment of NPC deputies to ensure that the deputies remain in touch with the electoral units and accept the supervision of the electors.

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