

Applied Research on World System Theory

Taking the Sino-Japanese Relationship After World War II as an Example*

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Abstract—This paper complements the three-tier structure of "A· Center State", "B· Quasi-surrounding Countries" and "C· Neighboring Countries" from the perspective of the relationship between economic development and democratic development in the world system. The investigation and analysis focus on the history of Sino-Japanese relations after the Second World War. Based on Murakami's "hegemonic system model" and "global capital system and democratic system", the theoretical research results are used as a methodology to compare the economic recovery history of China and Japan after the World War II.

Keywords—world system; China; Japan; international relationship

I. INTRODUCTION

After the Second World War, Japan is rebuilt on the ruins, constantly changes its economic strategy according to the situation at home and abroad, and adopts many effective strategies. After more than 20 years, it has once again become the second largest economic power in the capitalist world. On the one hand, China began a civil war after the Second World War, and the National Government retired to Taiwan after experiencing the failure of the economic recovery plan. After the founding of the People's Republic of China, China began the socialist exploration, and experienced the history of the people's commune movement, the Great Leap Forward, and the Cultural Revolution. Until 1978, with the guidance of Deng Xiaoping, the reform and opening policy had far-reaching influences on the Chinese economy. It has achieved amazing economic development by adjusting industrial structure and implementing economic system reforms. After joining the WTO, China has changed from a "world factory" to the "world market". At the same time, opportunities and challenges coexist for China. The balance of economic development between the east and the west and environmental issues has also become the major issues in the process of China's economic development, which must be addressed.

Japan is a very important neighbor of China. The economic, political, and cultural exchanges between China and Japan have a long history. Especially for today's China, it is an important period for comprehensively deepening the

reform of politics and economic system. To develop economic and trade relations with Japan will naturally become an important research topic for China. At the same time, the development of Sino-Japanese relations is also of great significance to the peace and security of the two countries and even Asia. Therefore, this article will discuss the development history of Sino-Japanese relations after World War II from the perspective of world system theory.

II. THE RESEARCH METHODS OF SINO-JAPANESE RELATIONSHIP

Sino-Japanese relations are an important part of international relations research. In China and Japan, research on this topic is very important. Research methods are broadly classified into the following four categories: 1. Chronicle research. Focusing on historical studies, it compiles and studies the development history of Sino-Japanese relations. 2. Research based on intergovernmental communication. In such research, politics and diplomacy have a strong meaning and are part of China's foreign relations research. 3. Relevant research centered on China-Japan economic development. 4. All-round research. It includes research on political, economic, cultural and other aspects between China and Japan. The research results mainly include Sino-Japanese friendship theory, Sino-Japanese hostile theory, and political and economic separation theory.

The research method of this paper is different from the four research methods listed above. It is a comparative study of the economic recovery history of Japan and China after World War II from the perspective of "world system theory". Using Murata's "world system model" and "capitalist system and social welfare system theory" and model as research methodology, this theory is specifically applied to the study of post-war Sino-Japanese relations. From the perspective of the history of the relationship between economic development and social welfare development, this paper analyzes the complementary relationship among the three-layer structure of [A· Center State], [B· Quasi-surrounding Countries], and [C· neighboring States]. Especially, the Sino-Japanese relationship after World War II is the main research object. Based on the Murata model, the history of Sino-Japanese relations after World War II was discussed.

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III. THE THREE STAGES OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF SINO-JAPANESE RELATIONS AFTER THE WORLD WAR

A. Sino-Japanese Relations Before the Restoration of Diplomatic Relations

The establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Japan in 1972 was a watershed for Sino-Japanese relations after World War II. Under the Cold War system, in terms of China's economic, political, and diplomatic relationship, from 1949 to 1972, diplomatic policy has experienced three stages: "be with the Soviet Union objectively", "anti-American and anti-Soviet", and "anti-Soviet". This paper specifically analyzes the content and effectiveness of China's foreign policy in these three stages as follows. Domestically, China has experienced the movements such as the "People's Commune Movement", the "Great Leap Forward Movement" and the "Cultural Revolution". From the perspective of world system theory, we can analyze the Sino-Japanese relationship before the restoration of diplomatic relation from 1949 and 1972. China was at the stage of authoritarianism $\rightarrow (\times)$ economic development $\rightarrow \times$ social welfare development. In other words, China is at the role of [C-neighboring country and product country] of the world system [A. Center country, country of manufacture \rightarrow B. quasi-surrounding country, intermediate \rightarrow [C-neighboring country and product country]. At the same time, Japan at that time was at the stage of authoritarianism \rightarrow economic development $\rightarrow (\times)$ development of social welfare system. At this stage, the economic ties between the two countries basically rely on friendly trade, LT trade, and MT trade to achieve the complementary effect.

B. Sino-Japanese Relations After the Restoration of Diplomatic Relationship

In the 1970s, the world system has undergone tremendous changes. During the process of changing the structure of the Cold War, major historical events such as the close of China and the United States, Nixon's visit to China, the reconciliation among China, Japan and the USA, and the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Japan have emerged. The dramatic changes in these international relations are directly caused by the change of the world system. The occurrence of these historical events is also counterproductive to the operation of the world system.

After the reform and opening up, China has grown from a "C. neighboring country" to a "B. quasi-surrounding country". The most important reason for achieving this transformation is the interaction among the three major groups A, B and C in the world system. For example, foreign capital technology and economic assistance have played a role in China's economic development in the 1970s. Specifically, such as Japan's ODA policy, technology exports, capital investment, etc., these policies are externally important factors for China's rapid economic growth. Of course, Japan has also gained huge economic benefits in the process of Japan's investment in China. After 2000, the trade friction between China and Japan gradually intensified, just like the trade friction between Japan and the United States in

the 1980s. This was determined by the laws governing the development of the world economy and the operating rules of the world system.

C. Sino-Japanese Relationship in the 21st Century

From the "Nixon's visit to China" and "reform and opening up" to the normalization of Sino-US diplomatic relations in 1979, China gradually realized the market economy and became the world's factory in the historical change. In the world system of the 1970s, as described by the Murata model, the world system before the 1970s was $\{[A] \rightarrow (\times)[B] \rightarrow \times[C]\}$, and the world system from the 1970s to today is developing towards the direction of $\{[B] \rightarrow (\times)[C] \rightarrow \times[A]\}$. It has undergone tremendous changes. The development of the national economy of Group B has become a decisive factor affecting the development of the world economy. Under this international background, the realization of balanced economic, trade and political development of China and Japan has become a problem that the two countries must face.

IV. SINO-JAPANESE RELATIONSHIP UNDER THE WORLD SYSTEM

A. Sino-Japanese Relationship Under the World System

This paper takes the history of economic development and social welfare system development under the world system as the main line, and applies the world system model to the study of the history of Sino-Japanese relations. It is not only the innovation of research methodology, but also the development of basic research of world system theory. After a lot of research and demonstration, it is no accident that the economic growth of China and Japan after World War II is rapid. Judging from the world system model that the author has studied, the role played by China and Japan in the world system after World War II is summarized as follows.

- The role of Japan and China in the world system in the early stage after World War II

C • China • Japan (\times) \times B • the Soviet Union (\times)

A • USA

[Authoritarianism \rightarrow economic development \rightarrow development of social welfare] \rightarrow [economic development \rightarrow development of social welfare] \rightarrow [economic development \rightarrow development of social welfare]

A • USA B • Soviet Union (\times) C • China • Japan (\times) \times

[Economic development \rightarrow development of social welfare] \rightarrow [Economic development \rightarrow development of social welfare] \rightarrow [authoritarianism \rightarrow economic development \rightarrow development of social welfare]

- China and Japan under the world political and economic system after the Korean War

C • China (\times) \times B • Japan (\times) A • USA

[Authoritarianism \rightarrow economic development \rightarrow development of social welfare] \rightarrow [economic development

→ development of social welfare] → [economic development → development of social welfare]

A • USA B • Japan(×) C • China(×) ×

[Economic development → development of social welfare] → [Economic development → development of social welfare] → [authoritarianism → economic development → development of social welfare]

• China and Japan in the world system after the 1970s

C • Africa(×) × B • China(×) A • Japan

[Authoritarianism → economic development → development of social welfare] → [economic development → development of social welfare] → [economic development → development of social welfare]

A • Japan B • China(×) C • Africa(×) ×

[Economic development → development of social welfare] → [Economic development → development of social welfare] → [authoritarianism → economic development → development of social welfare]

It should be noted here that all the (×) in "economic development → (×) development of social welfare" in this article refers to the development stage of a country. Specifically, it refers to the possibility of the country's transition from economic development to social welfare system. In the process of change, it has not been fully realized. The "×" refers to the possibility of realizing this transformation process. If it has not reached the economic foundation, it cannot achieve the high development of the social welfare system at this stage. In the same way, the "(×)" in "authoritarianism → (×) economic development" and "×" can also be understood.

The grouping of the three-layer structure of A, B, and C is not solely the economic influence, but refers to the unified relationship between the deeper economic structure and the social welfare system. The welfare system here is an important part of the "superstructure". In addition to the scope shown in the above diagram, it can be understood in a broad sense as the development relationship between economic development and the "superstructure" of politics, law and welfare system.

Since 1945, Japan has achieved economic recovery and revitalization under the guidance of the US-led GHQ occupation policy. In the 1960s and 1970s, the rapid development of the economy and the development of the social welfare system were achieved. Undoubtedly, Japan's rapid economic growth and the rapid economic growth of West Germany are realized in the US-led world order. That is to say, they are realized under the relationship between economic development and social welfare development in the world system model. However, the revival of the Japanese economy helped the USA "suppress the Soviet Union", and also reorganized the positional changes of A, B, and C in the development of the world system.

As shown in the above-mentioned world system model, Group A has undergone tremendous changes in its industrial

structure due to the high economic development and the heightened social welfare system (the transition from industry-led to financial-service-led). The direct result of this change in industrial structure is that the development of Group A countries or the world economy requires finding and creating new industrial centers to become "world factories". It will maintain the normal operation of the entire world system and the basic operation of a highly economic development and social welfare system of the countries in Group A. The author believes that this is the inevitable result of the changes in the world system and the inevitable result of the upgrading and change of the world economic model. At the same time, it has also promoted the changes in the so-called international situation such as the close of China and the United States and the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Japan. After analyzing and studying the various models of the formation, development and change of the world system, it can be seen that after the formation of the "B-C-A World" in the 1970s, the US strategy for Japan has also undergone great changes. There is a cooperative competition mechanism among A, B and C in the entire world system. When Japan grows from B to A, it means that the "cake" provided by the world economic development to Group A is obtained by one more country. Specifically, the changes in the game relationship between the US and Japan, such as the automobile manufacturing industry and the financial industry, can be seen as the tip of the iceberg. In order to maximize the interests of the United States, under the "B-C-A" world economic model, when Japan becomes a threat to the United States, the harshness of the United States toward Japan can be understood. It is precisely because of this, the Japanese and American trade frictions in the 1970s and 1980s, the Plaza Agreement, and the demanding requirements of the United States for Japan in today's TPP negotiations are logical.

In the same way, taking the close of China, Japan and the United States, the normalization of Sino-Japan and Sino-US relations as the opportunity, China gradually becomes a "world factory" and gradually develops towards the "world market" after the reform and opening up. China takes on the role of "B-factory" in the world system. It has realized the rapid growth of the economy and has also played an irreplaceable role in the development of the world economy. This role is similar to the role of Japan and West Germany in the world system in the 1950s and 1960s. At that time, Japan became the "factory of Asia" in the world economic system. This was the root cause for the rapid growth of the Japanese economy and the heightening of the social welfare system after World War II.

Therefore, the high growth of the Japanese economy after World War II, and the rapid growth of China's economy after the reform and opening up are not accidental. They are the results of the development and changes of the world economic system.

Murata used two modes such as $\{[A] \rightarrow (\times)[B] \rightarrow \times[C]\}$ and $\{[B] \rightarrow (\times)[C] \rightarrow \times[A]\}$ to describe the world before the 1970s and the world after the 1970s, respectively. At the same time, as discussed by Murata, the relationship between the two models in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s is repeated.

Therefore, the author only describes and discusses the laws of the world economy and politics in the first "ABC model" here.

The author concludes that the complementary roles of A, B, and C in the world system are the root causes of the economic recovery of Japan and China after World War II, and are the biggest reason for the development of Sino-Japanese relations.

B. Changes in the World System After the 1970s

In the process of changing the world system, the United States has realized the transformation and upgrading of the industrial structure, that is, the process of shifting from the secondary industry to the financial and service industries. According to this, Japan has upgraded its position in the world system from the "C·neighboring countries" to the "B·quasi-surrounding countries". And then, Japan has upgraded its position in the world system from the "B·quasi-surrounding countries" to the "A·central countries" in the 1970s. China is also actively pursuing a policy of opening up to the outside world in the mutual restraint and cooperation mechanism of the international order, and has achieved a high degree of economic growth. Among them, from 1945 to 1978, China is basically at the position of "C·neighboring countries, production countries" of [A·central countries, manufacturing countries → B·quasi-neighboring countries, intermediate → C·surrounding countries, production countries]. At the same time, Japan was in the development stage of [authoritarianism → economic development → (×) social welfare] at that time. The economic complementarity between China and Japan has always existed at this stage. After the reform and opening up, China has risen from "C·neighboring countries" to "B·quasi-surrounding countries." What make it possible are also the interaction among A, B, and C in the world system. At that time, the capital from all over the world flooded into China. The Chinese economy grows rapidly. For example, Japan's "ODA policy", technical assistance, capital investment, etc., make the rapid growth of China's economy possible. Of course, Japan has also gained huge economic benefits from the investment in China. This is the complementary relationship between China and Japan under the so-called world system.

After entering the 1970s, the world system has evolved from {[A·Economic development → social welfare system] → [B·Economic development → (×) development of social welfare system] → [C·Economic development → ×social welfare system development]} to {[B·Economic development → development of social welfare system] → [C·Economic development → (×) development of social welfare system] → [A·Economic development → × development of social welfare system]}. It is as the following:

- The world system after the 1970s

B · China, Russia, India C · Southeast Asia, Africa (×)
A · Milan · Japan · Europe×

{[Economic development → development of welfare system] → [Economic development → development of welfare system] → [Economic development → development of welfare system]}

(Manufacturing → finance and service industry)
(Product country → manufacturing country) (Mainly in finance and service industries)

A · Milan · Japan · Europe× C · Southeast Asia/Africa (×) B · China· Russia· India

{[Economic development → development of welfare system] → [Economic development → development of welfare system] → [Economic development → development of welfare system]}

(Mainly in the financial and service industries) (Product country → manufacturing country) (Manufacturing → finance and service industry)

After entering the 21st century, Asia has become the region with the fastest growth for world economic development and social welfare systems. Among them, China has obtained the most attention. China proposed the "One Belt, One Road Economic Circle" vision for rebuilding the Silk Road on the Sea and the Maritime Silk Road, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the Chinese manufacturing in 2025, the internationalization of the Renminbi, the expansion of foreign investment, the Shanghai Free Trade Zone and other economic measures.

The author believes that the changes in the internal economic structure among A, B and C in the world system are the main reasons for China's economic growth. In this process of change, there is a subtle complementary and competitive relationship between China and the United States. Moreover, this kind of complementary and competitive relationship between China and the United States will exist, develop and change in the process of realizing the replacement of the world economy.

In the entire world system, the main way to obtain economic benefits is to construct the [central-quasi-peripheral-peripheral] relationship that is most beneficial to the country. All countries in the world are also striving to build a B·C·A relationship that is most beneficial to the country. And it will maximize the interests of the country's economy, politics, and military. In the process of constructing B·C·A world system in China, the author proposes to use the following order model to maximize the economic and political interests of China. This is the core point of this paper.

TABLE I. THE WORLD SYSTEM THAT CHINA IS BUILDING

{[B]}	\rightleftharpoons	[C]	\rightleftharpoons	{[A]}
Economic development →development of social welfare system China ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ①Russia ② Hong Kong, Taiwan, Korea ③India ④Brazil ⑤ Other countries and regions	\rightarrow \leftarrow	Economic development → (×) development of the welfare system ① Major exporting countries and regions of industrial products — southeast Asia (Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, etc.) ② Important military and political partners — Pakistan, north Korea, Cuba, etc ③ Strategic resource center — Middle East ④ Resource — some countries and regions in Africa ⑤ Parts of Latin America ⑥ Others	\rightarrow \leftarrow	Economic development → development of the welfare system ① France, Germany, Britain, Italy and other European countries ② America ③ Australia ④ Canada ⑤ Japan ⑥ Others
While actively cooperating and competing with the countries of Group B, they will compete with some industries of the Group A to achieve the prosperity of domestic economy in the Group B.		Raw materials from B and C are processed and exported to ABC countries to develop the economy. Then, this will expand the gap with C.		Actively introducing capital and technology from A, it will develop the quality and quantity of the economy and narrow the gap with developed countries.

The author believes that the top and bottom positions of countries and regions of A, B, and C in the above-mentioned world system are very important for China's development. The change in the position of each country and the balance of power will be greatly different due to the setting of national construction mechanisms. Specifically, the economic status and political influence of Japan are minimized in Group A. The more successful this strategy is, the more favorable it is to China's export strategy in Southeast Asia (the main export region of China's industrial products). Therefore, in constructing the world system and international order that are most favorable to China in the 21st century, it is necessary to press Japan's influence to the lowest level of Group A. On the other hand, some Japanese politicians seem to fail to recognize the changes in the world system and the changing role of economic dependence in Sino-Japanese relations. Also, they don't know how to develop Sino-Japanese relations in this context.

V. CONCLUSION

This paper applies the world system theory, the Murata model and the hypothetical model developed according to this to the study of Sino-Japanese relations. Thus, this paper analyzes the relationship between the rapid growth of the Japanese economy after the Second World War and the rapid growth of the Chinese economy. In the future, we will continue to conduct in-depth research on the world system

theory, and develop the world system theory research methodology into a new way to study international relations and world history. In this paper, the author analyzes the development of Sino-Japan relations and China's economic development and social welfare after the World War II, and uses the world system model to analyze the complementary roles of China and Japan. After a comparative study of Wallerstein's "Modern World System Theory" and Murata's "Social Welfare Theory" under the world system, the following conclusions were drawn. The high growth of the Japanese economy after World War II, and the rapid growth of China's economy after the reform and opening up are not accidental. It is the inevitable result of the development and changes of the world system.

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