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Citizen Political Quality in Political Civilization Perspectives

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Abstract: The political subject civilization is an important part of political civilization. As the main body of citizens' political quality plays an important role in construction of political civilization in our country. Citizens' political quality requirements include modernization of citizen's political consciousness, comprehensiveness of political knowledge and the rationalization of political behavior.

Key words: Political civilization, political subject, political quality citizen

INTRODUCTION

Humans are natural political animals, which means the politics is the inherent requirement of people. People living in the society will have relations with politics unconsciously or inevitably. The core theme of politics is the relationship between human and society, thus, its ultimate concern is personal development and social progress. As political subject and the development of society have become the fundamental prerequisite of political civilization, the level of citizens' political quality is crucial in political civilization.

POLITICAL CIVILIZATION AND POLITICAL SUBJECT CIVILIZATION

Political civilization is all the positive political achievement the human has got in the process of social changes and the state of the progress of human society's political life. Political development is ultimately based on people's own development. People, the political subject and social development which is made up of people will become the basic premise of the construction of political civilization. As Professor Zhen (2002) says, "A degree of political civilization of the society, fundamentally, depends on the quality and ability of the social political subjects. The political main body is the basis of the construction of political civilization, the premise and the fundamental guarantee. Therefore the progress of political subjects is vital. In any society and any time, the people are the most basic factor in the modernization process. Only when the nation on the psychology and behavior are changed, forming a modern personality and the administrative personnel have the personality of modernity in politics, economy and cultural institutions, can the society be described as the real modern society.

Because people (political subject) is a reflection of political consciousness civilization, the builder and carrier of political system civilization, the manifestation of political behavior civilization, the participant of political relationship civilization, therefore, people's quality is crucial for the development of a country or society.

POLITICAL SUBJECT CIVILIZATION AND CITIZEN'S POLITICAL QUALITY

In a normal and healthy society, citizen's political quality for maintaining and optimizing the system of freedom and the rule of law spirit is very important. No system can operate automatically without the actors. If in a free society the majority of citizens gives up thinking, gives up civic virtue and gives up the responsibility of defending justice, the social spirit of liberty will gradually atrophy and the existence of the civil operation in politics will be unnecessary.

The rationalization of political subjects, motivation and methods in political activities and which people's interest that it is on behalf of are important symbols of testing its civilization degree. Therefore, in analysis and investigation of political civilization of a society, we should first analyze the political subject civilization, namely political quality of the political subject.

Political quality, as a compound and comprehensive concept, is integrated and unified in many aspects, whose composition is very complicated, whose main contents include: Political theory knowledge, ideas, political participation, political level, policy level (values), political psychology, political beliefs (attitude), etc., (Chen, 1999). If we simply define the connotation of citizen political quality, we only consider the basic elements of political quality including: political consciousness, political knowledge and political behavior ability.

People	Urban residents	Rural residents	College educated	Primary educated
Political quality (10 total)	4.9	3.3	5.7	3.2

Fig. 1: Political quality index of different group of Chinese citizen

Political consciousness refers to the sum of spirit and psychological reflection which political subject make in political activities and political life under certain social condition and political phenomena, which is a political steady structure. As a kind of invisible spiritual power, political consciousness decides political subject's behavior, affects the political landscape of the society and promotes or restricts the social development.

Political knowledge refers to the dominant political theory and political thought of which includes knowledge of the political system and political party system, political process knowledge (political democracy program) and knowledge of political events' background, etc.

Political behavior ability refers to the ability in which people express their interests, make political decisions, propaganda and organize political activities. It includes the ability of solving the problems, the ability of recognizing and judging, the ability of organizing and the ability of participating and controlling in the political process.

There is no new estimate on Chinese citizen's political quality. In his book "China's Politican", Professor Zhang (1994) gives his research data as Fig. 1.

The research reflects the unbalance of Chinese citizens' political quality and its low level development status.

CITIZEN'S POLITICAL QUALITY IN POLITICAL CIVILIZATION PERSPECTIVES

Citizen's political quality is the premise, foundation and the important guarantee to realize political civilization. Modern political civilization requires modernization of citizen's political consciousness, the comprehensiveness of citizen's political knowledge and the rationalization of citizens' political behavior.

Modernization of citizen's political consciousness:

American scholar Ingalls emphasizes man's modernization, which is the basic driving force of the political evolution. He pointed out that: if people of a country lack of a wide range of modern psychological foundation which can give these systems a real life, if people who execute and apply the system haven't a shift towards modernization by themselves in psychology, thought,

attitude and behavior, it will be inevitable to have a failure and abnormal development tragic end.

Human modernization lies in a thoughtful and all-round developed quality, with advanced ideas and consciousness, the guide way of thinking, comprehensive and harmonious interpersonal relationship and social relationship. For the modernization of people, some scholars put forward 12 kinds of consciousness or idea: (1) The independent consciousness, (2) Democratic consciousness, (3) Participation, (4) Competition consciousness, (5) Reform consciousness, (6) Advanced consciousness, (7) Collective idea, (8) Views of science, (9) Legal system idea, (10) The concept of time, (11) Values, (12) Benefit (Zou and Qu, 2000). In the specific field of political consciousness, we believe that the consciousness of citizens' political modernization includes the subject consciousness, right consciousness, responsibility consciousness, consciousness of participation, the rule of law, etc. The following is a simple talk about the first three kinds of consciousness.

The first is subject consciousness. Subject consciousness promotes citizen as a main body to participate in modern public life and solve the problem of public interests together. Currently part of our citizens, however, has not really been aware of or understood the subject consciousness. On the one hand, suffering the bondage of subject consciousness, they view state political life with the attitude of onlookers who think state of affairs and policy has nothing to do with themselves, show negative in the actual political life and have no strong enthusiasm and initiative of political participation. On the other hand, they have too much emphasis on the master consciousness, to act as "master", on the basis of their immature political awareness, irrational criticism of political reality. The root cause is they haven't established the real subject consciousness. Subject consciousness is to recognize this thing is related to oneself but not just related to oneself.

The second is the consciousness of rights. Rights consciousness refers to people's perception of self interests and freedom, claims and demands, as well as understanding of others rights, claims and demands of evaluation. In modern society, citizens use their rights to establish contacts with the political country and extensive ties between members of civil society. Citizens should not

only know their rights, how to exercise rights but learn to protect their rights. In fact, our citizens don't lack right consciousness but lack the consciousness of how to exercise and advocate their rights rightly.

The third is responsibility consciousness. Responsibility consciousness embodies citizens can understand and deal with the relation between individual and the overall interests of the society with clear political orientations, knowing wisely, with strong consciousness of democracy and a high law-abiding notion, as well as the spirit of self sacrifice for their people and country.

Comprehensiveness of citizen's political knowledge:

Politics is human's senior needs and acquired activity, on the basis of certain knowledge cost. In the development of political civilization, the political idea of promotion, system design and the construction of civic culture is inseparable from the modern political construction, accumulation and dissemination of knowledge. This is because political knowledge promotes the establishment of the modern democratic value, political knowledge provides a foundation for political institutionalization, political knowledge fosters the modern civic culture (He, 2009). The political knowledge includes political theory knowledge and knowledge about political participation skills. Political theory knowledge is the dominant political theory and political thought, including knowledge of the political system and the political party system, knowledge of the political democratic process and knowledge about political events background. Political participation skills knowledge is technical skill and experience in political activities, that is to decide whether the political participation to be realized and how it be done.

First of all, political identity depends on the grasp of the political theory knowledge. State or government culture is mainly reflected in theoretical form and concretes into a political principle, political views, political norms, as well as the line, principles and policies, etc. Ordinary people, out of their basic interests, tend to show more strong utilitarianism and pragmatism color for reaction of the country's political activities. For citizens, if you have a solid base of political theory knowledge, your interest in political issues will not change with the situation and avoid the lethargic and superficial understanding of the political issues. Citizens based on a deep understanding on the value concept of national political activities, will produce a strong political identity. Second, the political participation skills depend on excellent knowledge of the political process. The knowledge of the political participation decides the basic citizen participation ability, while political participation ability directly affects the success or failure of citizen

participation or effect. The means and methods citizens apply to protect and to pursue their interests may also directly or indirectly impact on the effectiveness of political participation. At present citizens' political participation is in the low level and participation with purpose is little. One of the reasons of the existence of non-institutionalized participation is the lack of adequate knowledge, rules and skills. As a result, the high politics participation enthusiasm and the low political participation of knowledge and skills will be conflicts and contradictions, which tend to give the political development of society and economic development adverse effect.

Modern market economy gradually makes politics secularized, rational and popular. The traditional political operation is changing from empirical process towards the excessive institutionalization, procedures and open. (Wu, 2003) To meet this trend of political civilization, citizens should have a more comprehensive political knowledge.

Rationalization of citizen's political behavior: China's political civilization construction combines with extensive and effective citizen's political participation. Whether political participation is insufficient or missing will affect the course of the construction of political civilization in China, but the excessive or inappropriate political participation also gives serious blow to the construction of political civilization. The rising trend of mass incidents in China shows a less optimistic situation of citizen's political behavior, as Fig. 2.

According to scholars statistics, from the number of occurrences, the past 15 years, the annual growth rate of mass incidents is about 17%; as for the scale, the number of people involved in mass incidents average annual growth rate of 12% from 730,000 people to 3.07 million people; Among these, the participants more than a hundred has grew from 1400 to 7000 by starting up 4 times. On the whole, the outbreak of mass incidents shows a rapid upward trend.

The rapid upward trend of mass incidents shows that sharp contradictions exist in current China society, however, what should not be ignored is that parts of the citizens show some irrationality and the deviation of illegal behavior in the process of participating in political activities. With the blindness of political purpose and irrational ways, some citizen's political behaviors are not normative. These two deviations seriously hindered the development status of political behavior civilization. Therefore, the rationalization of citizen's political behavior should be emphasized the rationalization of behavior purpose and the rationalization of behavior ways.

Time	1999	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Quantity (thousand)	32.0	58.5	74.0	87.0	90.0	80.0	90.0	100.0	180.0	182.0

Fig. 2: Quantity of mass incident in China from 1999-2011

Rationalization of citizen's political participating

purpose: Political participation is that a citizen attempts to influence the political decisions through political activity and participation means taking an interest in politics, not passively accepting various regulations and policies but hoping through their own positive behavior to arrange their own destiny. The citizen's political participation, therefore, should be an voluntary, active political behavior after they make the correct by means of political knowledge while caring about a political problem, rather than blindly echo, rush.

Rationalization of citizen's political behavior ways:

Politics is a rational activity, so it has no avail only with passion and impulse. Due to historical thinking inertia and the past ideological and political education tending to lay particular stress on political ideology and despising to spread political behavior from the perspective of technical knowledge, irrational behavior in citizen's political participation is a bit common. From the participation behavior selected by citizens, if they are accumulated in daily life to political aspirations and their demands are not timely released, they will behavior irrationally. A high degree of political civilization is not necessarily performed on people often actively participating in, but must be reflected in people's political behavior civilization, therefore, citizens should make their political behavior

conform to the requirements of law, policy and procedures, in line with the requirements of political development. How rational political behavior is, whether political behavior is in the standardization process and institutionalized track and in what extend the expected results realized, these comprehensive index have become indispensable elements in political civilization.

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