

Brief Analysis of the Non-Ruling Parties' Diplomatic Status and Their Solutions

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Abstract: "Political parties" has become a well-versed term in the political field. Except for a few countries such as Vatican and Saudi Arabia, most countries in the world implement party politics, where state power is held by political parties, whose significance is highlighted in international and domestic societies as a result. The emergence of political parties is a natural result of social development and human activities, and their registration and cancellation are highly uncertain and difficult to count. According to data from the United Nations, there are more than 230 countries and regions in the world, but there are more than 10,000 existing political parties, and the number of governing parties in each country or region is very limited. In addition to political parties such as the Democratic and Republican Parties in the United States, the Labour and Conservative Parties in the United Kingdom, and the Communist Party of China, which hold power and have international implications, this indicates that there are still many non-ruling parties in the international community, whose diplomatic behavior will also affect the direction of the international situation and global development. So the development of diplomacy of these political parties should be sufficiently addressed.

1. The Necessity and Role of Diplomacy of non-ruling Parties

Non-ruling parties play an important role in both the national and international communities. In the author's opinion, they are mainly divided into two categories: political parties that have the strength to hold state power but temporarily lose in elections, and small parties that have more freedom and do not participate in governing competition. The parties are important components of the national machinery and play different roles in domestic and foreign societies.

Diplomacy of non-ruling parties refers to the diplomatic activities carried out by political parties that do not hold governing positions but seek to participate in international affairs and influence foreign policies. In capitalist countries, political parties that do not participate in holding state power are outside the government cabinet and have more freedom and flexibility in their foreign affairs.^[1] In specific international contexts, some governing parties do not have amicable relations, but have broad contact with the diplomacy of non-ruling parties.^[2]

Sometimes, non-ruling parties may also become "authorized representatives" of governing parties. Under the typical election system in capitalist society, the decisions of governing parties will greatly influence the public's support for political parties, so their diplomatic decisions will be carefully considered and weighed repeatedly. Once they hope to make a breakthrough, non-

ruling parties will take on the important task of testing public opinion and transmitting signals on behalf of governing parties.^[3] For example, France, the first Western country to establish diplomatic relations with New China, sent radical socialist Ful to contact China with a letter of authorization from President De Gaulle; the normalization and smooth establishment of Chinese-American and Sino-Japanese diplomatic relations also partly owe to diplomatic behavior of non-ruling parties.

In addition, political parties themselves also have a strong demand for carrying out diplomatic activities. To realize the party's propositions, they need to enhance their influence in the international agenda and compete for the right to speak on international issues. Through diplomacy, political parties can have access to expressing their interests and obtaining activity resources for the party, which is of great help to the people who recognize the party's propositions and benefit from them.

2. The current situation of non-ruling party diplomacy

The effectiveness of non-ruling party diplomacy varies greatly depending on the political environment and specific party. The author believes the main influencing factors include influence, organizational level, and adopted diplomatic methods.

In terms of influence, non-ruling parties with certain advantages can better achieve their own goals in

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international activities. For example, parties with a long history, a large membership, influential leaders may have greater influence, not to mention that the leaders have made significant contributions, won public support and the ability to propose high-quality development proposals.

As regards organizational level, forming alliances or joining international and regional networks provides opportunities for non-ruling parties to cooperate, exchange knowledge and advocate common policy goals. Some parties have international or regional organizations, such as the Socialist International, the Communist and Workers' Parties International Conference, the Asia-Pacific Political Parties Conference, the African Political Parties Council, the European Left Party, etc. These international organizations include governing and non-ruling parties, providing convenience for both sides' diplomacy. For example, the global Green Party, which focuses on environmental protection, has called for cooperation with other Green Parties and organizations to promote the development of the global green movement in international activities and mobilization, and has established a platform for communication and exchange between political parties.^[4] It can be said that with organizations, these parties' international communication goals are often clearer and more consistent, and their proposed ideas and beliefs are more widely spread, enabling them to be more active in the international community.

With respect to adopted diplomatic methods, multi-channel communication has achieved better diplomatic results. Some non-ruling parties often participate in second-track diplomacy, including unofficial communication and dialogue channels to promote the resolution of conflicts and complex issues. Parties can propose beneficial perspectives from a new perspective, with less influence from official positions. Some parties are also good at utilizing "digital diplomacy" to contact international audiences and establish contacts with political figures around the world, increasing the chances of realizing their own demands.

Overall, as political organizations, parties serve both national interests and have strong ideological or value appeals, so their dual functions can be achieved through diplomatic behavior. However, although non-ruling parties have certain diplomatic space, their forms and strengths of cooperation and the internal and external environment directly affect their actual effectiveness.

3. The difficulties faced by non-ruling party diplomacy

The difficulties faced by non-ruling party diplomacy vary depending on specific national conditions and political patterns, but by observing and summarizing, we can find some commonalities from a broader perspective.

3.1 Lack of legitimacy recognition hindered realization of equal diplomacy

Because in some countries and regions' laws, non-ruling parties do not hold formal recognition and diplomatic relations, their equal contact and communication with foreign governments or official organizations may be affected. non-ruling parties find it harder to gain international recognition and access to a wider audience. They are at a disadvantage when competing in diplomacy with official governments or ruling parties that have more resources.

3.2 Resource limitations

Compared with governing parties or governments, non-ruling parties have more limited financial, human resources, and opportunities to participate in official affairs. They usually lack the institutional support that governing parties have in diplomacy, such as professional diplomatic departments or education systems that train diplomats. This makes non-ruling parties face challenges in mastering diplomatic etiquette, establishing diplomatic networks or effectively conducting complex negotiations. This limitation will hinder their diplomatic capabilities, affecting their participation in international affairs or long-term contact with other international actors.

3.3 Official opposition and resistance

Non-ruling parties may confront political opposition and resistance from the governing party or government. When there are disagreements between the non-ruling party's position and the official position of the government, or when the governing party sees the non-ruling party's diplomatic activities as a challenge to its authority, the non-ruling party may encounter legal and regulatory barriers to its diplomatic activities. Some countries strictly limit the diplomatic scope of non-ruling parties; and some governing parties haven't recognized the non-ruling party's diplomatic activities, considering them unofficial.

3.4 Lack of coordination and consistency in diplomatic strategy

Non-ruling parties often navigate through obstacles to maintain coordination and consistency in their diplomatic activities. With hardship in the political landscape, different factions within the party may propose different diplomatic priorities and methods. If there is a lack of authoritative leadership or organization, it can easily lead to confusion within the party, making it difficult to present a unified front in diplomatic activities.^[5]

3.5 More unfavorable Turbulent political environments of non-ruling party diplomacy

When the political party relationships of the target diplomatic countries are complex, the effectiveness of non-ruling party diplomacy is even more difficult to guarantee. Take South Korea as an example, since the

restoration of independence in 1945, there have been more than 500 political parties, but the average lifespan of political parties is very short, and some even last less than a year. Frequent struggles within the political arena and the removal of previous government leaders are common practices. When the stability of the target is weaker, non-ruling parties, as non-official representatives of the country, are less likely to be recognized for their diplomatic achievements compared to the governing party.

4. Analysis of the development of non-ruling party diplomacy

The effectiveness and challenges of non-ruling party diplomacy depend on factors such as the political system of the country, the level of democratization, and the willingness of the governing government to engage with the opposition party in diplomatic affairs. Overcoming these difficulties requires a strategic approach, and the author believes the following strategies will help the development of non-ruling party diplomacy:

4.1 Actively participate in strategic alliances and establish group communication

Non-ruling parties can strengthen their diplomatic influence by establishing strategic alliances and group communication with like-minded political organizations, civil society groups, and international actors.^[6] Cooperation can amplify the voice of participating parties, increase access to activity resources, and enhance the collective influence of political parties on global issues, helping them better achieve their diplomatic goals.

4.2 Proper use of multi-channel diplomatic methods

Firstly, non-ruling parties can actively participate in second-track diplomacy, such as participating in informal dialogues and mediation work, and other non-official communication and dialogue channels, to increase their activity in the international community and strive to provide forward-looking and distinctive viewpoints. Secondly, non-ruling parties should be good at using digital diplomacy tools and platforms to reach more audiences and connect with international stakeholders. Emerging technologies such as social media, virtual networks, and artificial intelligence still have great potential for development in political affairs, and their diplomatic influence can be increased through these areas.^[7]

4.3 Seek international and public recognition

Non-ruling parties can strive for international recognition for their diplomatic efforts. By participating in international forums, conferences, and activities, they can demonstrate their contributions to global issues. Actively communicating and contacting with governments, international organizations, and foreign political actors

under legal permission can gradually establish legitimacy and recognition for the party in the diplomatic arena. At the same time, non-ruling parties can strengthen their diplomatic role by interacting with the public domestically and internationally.^[8] Using effective methods to convey the party's stance and mobilizing support can help the party establish public awareness and increase its influence on the global agenda.^[9]

4.4 Strengthen institutional capacity

One of the important reasons for the limited diplomatic capabilities of non-ruling parties is the lack of professional diplomatic institutions and personnel. To enhance their diplomatic influence, non-ruling parties should focus on strengthening their party's diplomatic institutions. This includes investing party funds in diplomatic training, communicating with experienced diplomats and experts, and adopting efficient administrative structures to support their diplomatic activities.

4.5 Focus on specialized and niche diplomacy

Non-ruling parties can invest their party funds in policy research and analysis to strengthen their diplomatic role. Based on the latest and accurate news and data, they can propose policy recommendations, which can help enhance the party's credibility and influence in participating in international affairs. At the same time, non-ruling parties can play a specialized role in specific niche diplomatic fields.^[10] By focusing on emerging, high-potential, or underdeveloped areas dominated by small and medium-sized countries, they can become recognized and trusted actors in these fields, allowing the parties to have a more significant impact on target issues.

5. Conclusions

Non-ruling parties can choose appropriate strategies to strengthen their diplomatic role, expand their influence, and effectively participate in global affairs and decision-making processes. However, the most basic requirement is to choose the appropriate approach and exercise restraint. Once diplomatic behavior crosses the line, it will cause backlash, as seen with the Cambodia National Rescue Party and 40 political parties dissolved by the military government in Myanmar. Non-ruling parties must balance national interests with party goals, diplomatic influence, and respect for the ruling party's authority to achieve optimal development through the most appropriate diplomatic means.^[11]

At the same time, there are significant differences in the way different ideologies organize their participation in politics. To a certain extent, East and West were once ideologically opposed, and many people criticized each other's party organizational constructs and refused to learn from each other's political experience as a result. Indeed, non-ruling parties in China and the West face different situations. Some opposition parties under the Western party system face a dilemma of responsibility. On the one

hand, voters always hold both the government and the opposition responsible for the election and the development of the country. Although the ruling party and the opposition party have different political ideas, the opposition party may still be blamed for the failure of the government.^[12] This leaves the opposition parties with a difficult problem in terms of issue setting and limits of action. On the other hand, it is also tricky for opposition parties to grasp how to regulate the ruling party. In China, the state faces a lack of enthusiasm from the non-ruling party. *The regulations on the united front work of the Communist Party of China (CPC)*, published by the CPC, clearly stipulate that participation in political discussion, democratic supervision and political consultation under the leadership of the CPC are the basic functions of democratic parties. However, the absence of ruling competition has led to the phenomena of lack of talents in some non-ruling parties in China; weak political party awareness; insufficient ability to participate in politics and discuss politics; increasing convergence among political parties; insufficient organizational leadership, cohesion and mobilization; and low social awareness and recognition. In such a situation, the governance models of the non-ruling parties on both sides can, on the contrary, provide lessons for each other.

Therefore, in my opinion, if people holding the views of both sides move towards each other, remove barriers with practical actions and strengthen sincere dialogue, it will instead have a positive impact on the development of non-ruling parties in the world. The main way in which our democratic parties participate in the policy process is to gather public opinion and then make suggestions to the relevant organizations. In order to improve the effectiveness of our participation in policy making, we can also learn from the techniques of Western policy advice that are relevant to our own country's situation. The non-ruling parties in the West can also adopt some Eastern wisdom by taking timely countermeasures according to changes in the socio-political environment and class structure.^[13] The governance frameworks of political parties are not all antagonistic. Breaking the confrontation under different ideologies and national governance systems is also very instructive for countries with imperfectly developed party systems. In the future, non-ruling parties will play a greater role in the world political arena, and they will be important and indispensable players in the international community for a long time.

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