Analysis of Political Decision-Making and Its Influencing Factors

YAN Xing[a],*

[a]School of Political Science and Public Administration, China University of Political Science and Law, Beijing, China.
*Corresponding author.

Abstract

Political decision-making means a country's political parties, leaders or leadership compare and select implementing principles and approaches and means to achieve the target in political practical activities for the purpose, principles and direction of activities. The process of political decision-making is a dynamic political process that is related to the formation and implementation of major and general decisions of the national, political and social interest groups. This process is to integrate major and general decisions regarding national and social interests. The subjects are state organs, political parties and individual decision makers or decision-making participants, and the finally formed decision is backed by the country's coercive power with mandatory features. Meanwhile, political decision-making is influenced by system pressure. In the decision-making process, there will be a certain degree of bias between the final decision and the targeted decision.

Key words: Decision-making; Political decision-making; Political party; Selection bias

INTRODUCTION

The related content of political decision-making is the application and development of decision-making theory in the field of political practical activities. It is a branch of decision-making science and it is also the indispensable content in the field of political science. From the perspective of political science, the so-called political decision-making refers to a country's political parties and state leaders or political leadership compare and select in implementing principles and means and methods to achieve the goal in political practical activities for the purpose, principles and direction of activities. The study of the rules of these political decision-making activities has formed political decision-making theory. Political decision-making is affected by the level of citizen participation. Effective domestic political participation can provide sufficient information regarding political decision-making of the decision-making group and will contribute to the effective integration of the various interests into the public interest. Because the interests of society and the people are of a wide range, it is somehow difficult for the ruling party to obtain accurate information about public interest, which brings difficulty for the development of policies on behalf of the interests of the majority of people. This requires the ruling party to provide a wide variety of participation and expression platforms for expression of interest so that members of the community can make recommendations for their own problems to provide references for the decision-making group.

1. POLITICAL DECISION-MAKING

The term "decision-making", as a particular term in the management, appeared in the 1950s in the United States. American scholar Herbert A. Simon (1947) was the first to use the concept of "decision-making" in the book *Administrative Behavior: a Study of Decision-Making Processes in Administrative Organization* published in 1947. Since then, "decision-making" has been widely used worldwide. However, as for the specific definition

of decision-making, he did not give a fixed answer. Therefore, many scholars have interpreted the meaning of decision-making from different perspectives. Some believe that decision-making is to develop policies and strategies; some suggest that decision-making is to make a decision, that is, management as management is decision-making; some propose that decision-making is comparison and selection; decision-making refers to all activities in which people try to determine the goal of the behavior. Theory of decision making or decision theory was developed after World War II, and the system theory, operations research and computer science and other related sciences were all combined to be applied in decision-making issues in the science of management, and then it has formed a relatively complete theoretical system about the decision-making process, principles, methods and types. At present, domestic research on political decision-making problems mostly focuses on national decision-making and business decision-making research in management, where the study of decision-making problems, compared to political decision-making, is more enriched and improved. Most scholars believe that decision-making is critical for the country, the study of political decision-making is an important part of political disciplines. About research on decision-making, the main points are as follows:

Zhang (2004) points out that, two basic value judgments of decision-making are optimization principle of people's benefits and the principle of objective feasibility. He believes that, national decision-making refers to that the political parties, people, government agencies and community groups and other subjects of a sovereign state develop and select objective feasible solutions in the line with the part of the interest groups regarding the configuration of social resources, social life, social production and social interest relations. If we explain national decision-making system in accordance with the concept of system, then the decision-making of a country includes national overall policy-making, regional or sector industrial policy-making regarding local problems. National decision-making process is not only relevant to the overall satiation of a country, but also closely linked with various parts of domestic decision-makings. Meanwhile, the national policy-making is also closely related to the policy-making of social production units. From the perspective of the content of national policy-making, national decision-making in general is a process of an infinite loop made up from the general to the individual and then to the general and from abstract to concrete and then to abstract. Each end of the loop is general public's execution of the decision-making of subjects at all levels.

Regarding the definition of decision-making, Zhu (1997) proposes that, decision-making is to make decisions and it is the process in which individuals or groups try to decide to use a certain solution to achieve their goals based on comprehensive opinions and several policy selection recommendations. Decision-making in China is that, through an opinion integrating system with the leadership core of the Communist Party of China, we integrate people's requests, wishes and opinions and turn them into political behavior such as legislation and policies. After the decision is made, it enters the stage of decision execution by government agencies such as the government and courts and procuratorates. If we use the sayings of experts on western government issues, it can be expressed as, before decision-making and after the expression of opinions, it enters the process of opinion integrating and is input from society to the government. From decision-making and the implementation of the decision, it is the process of government outputting to the public. Obviously, the two processes complement each other and are inseparable from each other. They are the most important two parts in the government decision-making process.

Lin (2003) believes that, decision-making is a common behavior present in the economic, political and daily life and is a form of practice frequently occurring in management activities. Decision-making means the decision. Its purpose is to achieve a specific goal and it is a process to make a decision for future actions according to the objective conditions and based on the possession of certain information and experiences to use appropriate techniques and methods and to conduct scientific analysis, calculation and judgment of the merits of factors associated with the goals. Decision analysis is a comprehensive discipline in which decision-making is the subject of the study and the ultimate purpose of the study is to help people improve the quality of decision-making and reduce decision-making time and costs. Therefore, the process of decision analysis is a creative management technique. This technique involves finding problems, setting goals, developing evaluation criteria, selecting better solutions and final implementation and other processes.

We believe that, decision-making refers to the process in which the management subject such as the government or the main political parties specify and select the action plan and it is the process of selecting the direction, objectives, principles, methods and steps of the problem. Political decision-making is the process of comparing and selecting the implementing principles and approaches and methods to achieve the goals in which a country's political parties, political leader or leadership conducts practical activities for the purpose, principles and direction of activities. The process of political decision-making is a dynamic political process that is related to the formation and implementation of the major and general decisions of national, political and social interest groups.

The basic features of political decision-making are as follows: first, political decision-making is a dynamic process, namely the integration process of major decisions and general decision regarding national and social interests; second, the subjects of political decision-making are national authorities, political parties and individual decision makers or decision-making participants; third, the ultimate decision formed by political decision-making is backed up by national coercive power and is mandatory; fourth, political decision-making is affected by system pressure and in the decision-making process, there might be a certain degree of bias between the final decision and the goal.

The whole process of political decision-making can generally be divided into the following steps. The first step is to determine goals. It is the process to clarify what results are expected to be achieved. The second step is to collect and process information. According to the goal orientation, we collect relevant information, and analyze and process the information to form an objective and accurate statistical report. The third step is to design the solution. Based on the certain objective information, we design corresponding alternative solutions to achieve goals. The fourth step is to evaluate the effectiveness. Through scientific analysis and assessment tools, we conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the proposed alternative solutions, weigh the pros and cons, compare deselection solutions, rank the deselection solutions and provide views on how to select. The fifth step is to choose a solution. The decision-making group selects the best solution to a number of deselection solutions and this is the most critical aspect in a political decision-making process. It determines whether we can achieve the stated goals at the lowest costs, with most savings, in the shortest time and with the best results. The sixth step is to implement the decision and get feedback. Once the decision is finalized, it will enter the implementation process. The decision-making group should create the conditions for the successful implementation of the decision; meanwhile, based on the feedback in the implementation of the decision, they should timely make the appropriate adjustments and corrections of the decision to try to optimize the results.

2. ANALYSIS OF THE INFLUENCING FACTORS OF POLITICAL DECISION-MAKING

In addition to the interference of system pressure, the formation of political decision-making is also influenced and restricted by a variety of factors. This paper believes it is influence by the following factors:

Firstly, political decision-making is influenced by the geographical environment and resources. The geographical location of a country and the country's geographical situation including its surrounding geopolitical boundaries are the space on which the country's people depend to survive and they have a profound impact on its political culture. Take Japan as an example. As an island nation in the Western Pacific region, for a long time Japan interacts with Asian countries close to it. At the same time, the position of the edge region of Japan makes it always use the utilitarian purpose to treat its neighbors in Asia. This is shown in its utilitarian attitude toward its status of an "Asian country": When it is difficult to get more benefits with Asian identity, it would choose to join the Western camp in policies; when this identity is profitable, it would get rid of European identity and become an Asia country. From the perspective of domestic geographical factors, natural disasters frequently happen in Japan, resulting in a relatively strong sense of national crisis; because of the relatively small land area and the scarcity of natural resources, in order to meet their needs, Japan has an increased drive to expand overseas. Donald believes that, there are two key questions that can affect Japan's foreign relations and foreign policy: a) How will Japan ensure its national security in the nuclear age? b) How will Japan fix the hatred left over in Asia from World War II? To deal with the above two issues will have a significant impact on Japan's foreign relations and foreign policy. He believes that, handling national security issues and regional historical conflicts well will be conducive to building a harmonious regional relation and will contribute to the implementation of Japan's foreign policy. Lawrence divides the history of postwar Japan diplomatic relations in Asia into two periods: the first period is from 1952 to 1964, that is to desire to restore relations with Asian countries, including the compensation negotiations with the Southeast Asian countries and the trade and cultural exchanges with communist countries (mainly China); the second period is from 1964 to 1969, and the diplomatic relations during this period are due primarily to the ecological, economic and political concerns. In the meantime, Japan comes to realize that the development of the Asian region is closely related to its own interests, and therefore it attempts to take diplomatic means to promote stability in Asia and enhance the economic and political role of Japan in the region.

Secondly, political decision-making is influenced by national cultural characteristics. National cultural characteristics are deep-seated cultural identity of a nation accumulated in the long production and life. It also can be called the national character of a country. This trait has a strong stability and has a subtle impact on political decision-making of a country. For example, in Japan's national cultural characteristics, it has a strong tendency of conservatism. Conservative ideology on its nature is a reflection of conservative social psychology and ideology which refuses innovations. This is a kind of ideological stance with empiricist tendency. This position makes conservatism always belittle the role of rational thinking.

Since 1990s, the domestic environment and international situation of Japan have undergone major changes. The "overall conservative" tendency of Japanese society is increasingly significant. Domestically, the continued rapid development of the economy has created a large number of people in the middle layer. They are satisfied with the social status qua and Japan's economic success and to deny class differences with the "new middle class consciousness", that is the so-called "mid-stream consciousness". As Japan becomes the world's second largest economy, public's awareness of great power is breeding and they require the identity of great power politically in line with their economic power; therefore, they come to accept the security system and the Japan Self-Defense Forces. The awareness of the public in the entire nation tends to be conservative, and the ideology as a belief system of voters also becomes conservative. Meanwhile, as the binding power of ideology declines, the construction of conservative and innovative ideology appears diversification. Coupled with the great changes in the international situation after the Cold War, domestic politics of Japan have also been deeply influenced. While ideology declines in the proportion of politics, conservative and innovative parties in Japan also start coordination instead of opposition. In late 20th century, the Japanese economy shrank and the nation was mentally trapped in the state called "helical decline nationwide", and the people were trapped in a society which was "lack of security", which provides social foundation for the political conservatism of Japan. The conservatism of political parties has reached its peak at this point. Around welfare, participation, equality, the opposition between conservatism and innovation has been weakened, and innovative strength declines and innovative and the golden mean political parties are becoming conservative. On August 6, 1993, Moorish Hosokawa (1993) was elected Prime Minister of Japan, establishing a coalition government of non-LAP, which declared the end of 38-year-long "1955 System". Most people have basically accepted conservative policies and advocate from the conservative party, and Japanese politics in the last decade of the twentieth century has clearly showed a significant conservative tendency. Meanwhile, during this period of time, Japan eliminated the stigma of the defeated. Constantly seeking political power status and gradually expanding the military power are the main tasks of the cabinet.

Thirdly, political decision-making is also affected by a unique historical experience. Gong (2002) believes that, the formation of political decision-making and the historical experience in the development process of civilization and the empirical belief formed based on them have a deep connection. Professor Zhao (2009) also points out that, the highly successful experience and extremely disastrous lesson have a great impact in shaping the political culture of a country.

Finally, the degree of the role that various scholars or policy research organization forces play in the decision-making process also has a great impact on political decision-making. We refer expert scholars and policy research organizations as a think tank here, and its role in the decision-making process is mainly demonstrated as follows: Expert scholars can conduct special investigations regarding major decision-making issues with other decision-making support groups and provide objective and accurate policy consultation reports; they can use their own expertise and participate in the drafting of major policy documents; they can conduct professional research and evaluation for the implementation effect of the policy. For example, in many Western countries there are a large number of official, unofficial and other professional policy research organizations. They can provide professional advice to the government's political decision-making, and they can also provide professional services regarding policy advisory activities for political parties and interest groups. In political decision-making process, whether the decision-making is scientific and fit objective reality requires a more complete information processing mechanism, which also provides living space for the lobby activities of the interest groups. Therefore, the communication and competitive activities between interest groups and political parties can make up the information asymmetry issues to a certain extent in the political decision-making process. Under the political participation pattern in which the ruling party is in a dominant position, it is difficult for the information from all sectors to hindered and smoothly be reflected by this pattern, which requires the establishment of appropriate information processing mechanism to make up for this shortfall. The makeup of the problem of this mechanism will have a significant impact on political decision-making.

CONCLUSION

The process of political decision-making is a dynamic political process that is related to the formation and implementation of the major and general decisions of a nation, political parties and social interest groups. Specifically, political decision-making is not just for political purposes to make a choice from a number of feasible solutions, and it must determine the action plan as well as including conducting a series of activities of information collection, study and observation, data collection, comparative analysis and evaluation and other activities m both before making a final choice. Therefore, we believe that, the process of political decision-making is a process including a number of important aspects. Among that, the main aspects of decision-making include the following two: first, the establishment of political objectives to be achieved; second, the selection of implementation plan available to

achieve the objectives. These are the basic aspects that all the decision-making activities must have and they are indispensable. The content also can be divided into the following specific areas, such as: identifying problems, developing standards, setting goals, developing plans, assessing the results, tracking and correcting and other processes. Political decision-making is also involved the leader of the party, the heads of state or military and political responsible persons. Decision-making is to make decisions on major political issues or social issues of domestic and international community, and thus the subjects of decision-making must be the leader of a political party, heads of state or government, and military and political executives and resource persons participating in decision-making. They live in leadership positions of a party and state and have decision-making rights and management rights of political parties and the country, including the right to decide on domestic and international issues related to major political and social subjects.

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