

Striving for breaking US discourse hegemony

The Chinese think tanks' report – "America Ranked First!": The Truth about America's fight against COVID-19" – has been viewed at least 500 million times. The report named the US as the world's No. 1 anti-pandemic failure, No. 1 political-blaming country, No. 1 pandemic spreader, No. 1 politically-divisive country, No. 1 currency-abusing country, No. 1 turbulent country during the pandemic, No. 1 disinformation country and No. 1 country advocating for origin tracing terrorism. It was widely quoted in media reports. Newsweek reached out to the White House on August 9 for a response to the Chinese academic report, but did not hear back in time for publication.

As the leading publisher of the report, I hope it will restore the truth regarding the state of the world since 2020. The realities shouldn't be distorted by Bloomberg's COVID Resilience Ranking that put the US at No.1 in June. From this perspective, the Chinese academic report is a push back against Bloomberg's distortion of history rather than a direct criticism of the US.

More important, I hope the report will lead the US to reflect upon its pandemic failures, draw lessons and promote international cooperation to end the pandemic as soon as possible. After all, in the past year and a half, a considerable part of the more than 600,000 COVID-19 deaths in the US could have been avoided.

However, what shocked me most is not the media's response to the academic report, but warnings and worries from my mother. She chastised me for my criticisms against the US. "The US' situation is so bad that it will certainly

draw criticisms from someone else; why poke your nose in it?" she asked. She also asked worriedly, "what if the US disapproves and sends a spy to kill you?"

I don't think the US is as evil as my mother thinks. I am just a scholar committing myself to restoring the truth in the world. But my mother's words reminded of the price paid for rebelling against US hegemony.

Late US political scientist Zbigniew Brzezinski once pointed out the unprecedented emergence of the "global political awakening." From Vietnam in the 1970s to today's Afghanistan, countries face US hegemony, but eventually they choose their own paths according to their own will. China embarked on an independent path much earlier than many countries established after World War II. But the path is littered with difficulties.

In the first 30 years after 1949,

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China successfully developed "Two Bombs and One Satellite," solving the problem of "being beaten" by others. Then it has spent 40 years of reform and opening-up in solving the problem of "starvation." Many Chinese people sacrificed their lives to solve the two conundrums. Take the battle against poverty, more than 1,800 Party members and officials have lost their lives in the cause of poverty alleviation.

Next, China will have to solve the problem of "being scolded." That doesn't mean China won't allow the world to criticize it. But it means that China deserves due international respect rather than smearing and slandering.

Nowadays, Western politicians, media and think tanks in general cannot face up to China's development squarely. They arbitrarily interfere in China's Taiwan, Hong Kong, Tibet, Xinjiang and human rights issues, twisting facts and making groundless accusations. This has irritated the Chinese people.

It's not an easy task for China to solve the problem of "being scolded." I even believe it will take us 30 or 40 years, or even more time. During this period, mutual understanding will exist between China and the West for a long time with the two engaging in a public opinion struggle.

Chinese people need to implement greater institutional reforms, and devote more manpower, knowledge and innovation of ideas to deal with a more fierce struggle with the outside world. Of course, we also need more growth of the economy and national strength. Still, a most difficult thing in this process is to rid the world of US hegemony, especially the hegemony of US discourse.

This also requires many Chinese people to make sacrifices. The new sacrifices won't necessarily see the repetition of the story of three journalists losing their lives in the 1999 NATO bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Yugoslavia, or of the Chinese pilot Wang Wei who was killed when his fighter jet collided with a US spy plane over the South China Sea. But stories of fighting for respect will continue in China until the goal is achieved.

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Illustration: Chen Xia/Global Times

US hypes China factor to tie Canada to chariot as Trudeau announces snap elections

By Liu Dan

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who is also the Canadian Liberal Party leader, officially announced Sunday that Canada will hold a snap general election on September 20. Canada's next fixed-date election was set for October 2023.

In Canada, minority governments tend to be subject to many restrictions. Historically, there are two circumstances when a minority government holds snap general elections. One is when the opposition plans to replace the minority government. Former Canadian prime minister Stephen Harper encountered such a situation. Another is when the minority government believes the timing is ripe for it to regain a majority of the seats in the House of Commons. Trudeau falls into the second category.

According to a Leger Marketing poll released on August 12, nationally, Liberals would win

35 percent of the vote, in comparison to 30 percent for the main opposition Conservative Party and 19 percent for the left-leaning New Democrats.

Trudeau's Liberal Party's approval ratings have been relatively high in recent months. Trudeau's rising approval rate is related to the public's satisfaction with his administration's handling of the novel coronavirus.

Before the pandemic, Trudeau's performance had been lackluster. Canada now has one of the highest COVID-19 vaccination rates in the world, with 72 percent of eligible residents above 12 having received full vaccination, according to Forbes. And since the outbreak of COVID-19, the Trudeau administration has announced support to protect various groups and industries. Regardless of whether the supports can be implemented, his proactive manner generally satisfies the Canadian public.

Judging from the current situation, if nothing goes wrong, Trudeau's Liberal Party is likely to regain the majority.

Meanwhile, the US media seem to care more about the influence of Canada's China policy and relations with China in the elections.

For example, Politico on Friday published an article titled, "Beijing shoves Canada's China problem into the path of Trudeau's reelection quest." CNN on Friday reported that according to a poll by Angus Reid Institute, half have rated Trudeau's overall handling on the cases of the "two Michaels" and Huawei's Meng Wanzhou as poor, "which could impact Trudeau's Liberal Party performance at the ballot box should the crisis not be settled by election day."

However, as a matter of fact, Canada's foreign policy, including its relations with China, is rarely considered to be a key issue in the Canadian elections.

Unlike the US, in Canada, diplomacy is usually not even among the top 10 key issues Canadian voters care about. Canadians tend to attach more importance to topics related to domestic affairs, such as the economy, health care and education. Canada-US relations are not even the main concern of Canadian voters, let alone Canada's relations with China. Therefore, Canada-China relations will not be the main topic during this incoming election.

When choosing whom to vote, Canadian voters care more about the candidates' attitude of governing. In the cases of the "two Michaels," Trudeau has been keeping a firm attitude and assertive stance regarding this issue when facing the Canadian people. To most voters in the country, this is already satisfying.

The US media's emphasis on the influence of China on the Canadian elections is to pile more pressure on the Trudeau

administration. And that is the intent of the US government as well. Washington has already regarded Beijing as its biggest rival. Since Joe Biden took office, he has solidified US allies to intensify confrontations with China. The Biden administration has repeatedly made unwarranted accusations against China over the Xinjiang and Hong Kong issues. And Ottawa has always been at the frontline of these attacks against Beijing. Thus, the US' hype about the Chinese factor aims to force Canada to be more aggressive in confronting China so that it can be more firmly tied to the US anti-China chariot.

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