**Duplicate Warfare: The Dangerous Evolution of Great Power “Proxy Warfare”**

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The world today is undergoing profound and extensive historical changes, with the two trends of change and turbulence continuing to evolve, and the two orientations of unity and division stirring each other. A new round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation is developing in depth, the international balance of power is undergoing profound adjustments, and the world's turbulent changes are showing new characteristics and trends. After the Ukrainian crisis, the security confrontation between the United States, the West and Russia has given rise to a new form of "duplicate warfare". The so-called "duplicate warfare" means that a major power directly intervenes in the military conflict between the opponent's major power and other small and medium-sized countries by providing public opinion intelligence support, battlefield situation awareness, equipment and logistics support, and becomes a de facto participant in the war that profoundly affects the direction of the war. The "duplicate warfare" has further intensified the confrontation between the camps of the major powers, the risk of global "nuclear destruction" has increased sharply, the community of human destiny is facing new challenges, and the danger of "proxy wars" by major powers is constantly evolving.

**New Choices for Great Powers in the Post-Cold War Era**

　　The game between major powers has fallen from "zero-sum" to "negative-sum". In recent years, the global economic growth rate has continued to decline, and the momentum of global economic growth in the medium and long term is significantly insufficient. Camp confrontation and "zero-sum game" have further intensified, and some major powers have adopted a "negative-sum" strategy of consuming opponents even at the expense of their own interests. "Blowing out other people's lights and burning your own beard" has been repeated. Economic and trade issues and development issues have been upgraded to geopolitical conflicts and ideological confrontations, completely abandoning "harmony and win-win", crossing the "zero-sum game", and gradually moving towards a "negative-sum game". The trend of de-globalization has further intensified, and financial sanctions and trade control measures have become more and more frequent. In 2021 alone, the US Treasury Department, the Department of Commerce and other departments have imposed various sanctions on more than 2,000 entities outside the United Nations framework. The "negative-sum game" has intensified and heated up the "Cold War" between major powers, and the confrontation between major powers has fully entered the "post-Cold War era".

　　"Doppelganger war" has become a new option for major powers to "go directly". In the post-Cold War era, the "proxy wars" that frequently occurred during the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union can no longer satisfy the fierce confrontation and conflict between major powers, and the "direct exit" of major powers may become an inevitable choice. NATO has been seeking eastward expansion, instigating "color revolutions" around Russia again and again, eroding Russia's strategic living space, and step by step "forcing Russia to the corner" and "forcing it to go down". After the outbreak of the Ukrainian crisis, NATO, led by the United States, has continuously provided Ukraine with military assistance including heavy tanks and battlefield situation awareness support based on the "Starlink" system, and has undertaken the training tasks of some military personnel. The list of military aid to Ukraine updated by the US Department of Defense in January shows that since February 2022, the total amount of US military aid to Ukraine has exceeded US$27.1 billion. The United States and Western countries have become de facto participants in the Ukrainian crisis. In a sense, Russia is fighting against the "doppelgangers" of the United States, the West and other countries. "Duplicate warfare" is different from direct "hot war" military conflicts between major powers. In theory, it avoids face-to-face competition between major powers, is conducive to controlling the situation, reserves sufficient technical space to end the conflict, and adds a "guardrail" to the "hot war" between major powers. But because of this, major powers can invest their own battlefield perception, command and control, weapons and equipment, logistics support and other military capabilities in extraterritorial conflicts with less scruples, which significantly increases the possibility of major powers moving towards a high-intensity "security confrontation".

**New model for small and medium-sized countries to cope with pressure**

　　The significance of "fighting in two parts" is to "stop the war" in small and medium-sized countries. After Erdogan came to power, Turkey has grasped the essence of this, constantly correcting the one-way unbalanced diplomacy that leans towards the West, gradually breaking away from the fixed pattern of looking at Russia from a Western perspective and historical thinking, and gradually realizing the importance of developing Turkey-Russia relations for its own long-term interests and regional peace and stability, and began to improve and develop bilateral relations with Russia in an objective and equal way with the West. By developing Turkey-Russia relations, the joint suppression of the United States and Europe can be eroded, Russia can be used to control the United States, and the strong suppression of the West can be responded to, and the "Erdogan version of the new Turkey" can be created with all efforts. Recently, on the issue of Finland and Sweden joining NATO, Turkey has been walking between NATO and Russia, constantly striving for its own interests. The trilateral talks between Turkey, Sweden and Finland on Sweden and Finland joining NATO, which were originally scheduled to be held in February, were "postponed indefinitely" due to the "provocative incidents" against Turkey and the Islamic world in Sweden, making NATO's eastward expansion confusing. The Marshall Islands, located between Hawaii and Australia, have relied on financial assistance from their former colonizer, the United States, for the past 40 years, after the latter conducted 67 nuclear tests on two atolls here in the 12 years after World War II. The leaders of the island nation have long complained that the compensation agreement is not enough to make up for the damage caused to the local area by the US nuclear tests. On January 27, the Washington Post published an article with the original title: The Marshall Islands, which feels ignored by the United States, enjoys new bargaining power. The Biden administration acknowledged that the Pacific island countries were "briefly ignored" because the United States focused its attention elsewhere. Now Washington is trying to make up for it quickly because China is investing a lot of money and attention in many island countries, working to expand its influence in the Pacific region and reap economic, diplomatic and military benefits. Biden's negotiating envoy admitted: "It's no secret...China is a factor."

　　Pursuing selfish interests and undermining regional peace, the "duplicate war" will become a "burning war" for small and medium-sized countries. Attempting to use the "duplicate" of a big country to introduce group confrontation and disrupt regional peace and stability will inevitably be despised and suffer the consequences. Recently, South Korea has hyped up the US "extended deterrence" in an attempt to use NATO's nuclear sharing mechanism to target North Korea's nuclear and missile threats. Not long ago, when NATO Secretary-General Stoltenberg visited South Korea, he talked about the importance of nuclear deterrence and claimed that the "nuclear threats" of Russia, China and North Korea were obvious, and "without NATO allies, it would be very dangerous." When the US Secretary of Defense visited South Korea on January 31, he made a big fuss about the use of nuclear weapons against North Korea and publicly claimed that more strategic assets such as fifth-generation stealth fighters and nuclear-powered aircraft carriers would be deployed. NATO, led by the United States, is accelerating its tentacles from Europe to Northeast Asia, which will only make the situation on the peninsula more complicated and difficult to resolve, and the result is definitely not what South Korea wants to see. North Korea warned the United States that it will respond in accordance with the principle of "countering nuclear weapons with nuclear weapons and responding to direct confrontation with direct confrontation." The Hankook Ilbo clearly pointed out in a commentary that the so-called "nuclear sharing" is by no means about the ownership or use of nuclear weapons, but about the "political burden and operational danger brought by nuclear weapons." The "nuclear bait" brought by NATO is definitely poison rather than a panacea for South Korea, which pursues a safe and stable external environment.

**New challenges for a community with a shared future for mankind**

　　There are no real winners in the "duplicate war", only absolute losers. On January 19, Russian Security Council Deputy Chairman Medvedev warned NATO countries that are actively providing weapons to Ukraine, "The failure of a nuclear power in a conventional war may lead to a nuclear war. Nuclear powers have never lost a major conflict that determines their fate." In this regard, Reuters interpreted that Medvedev was warning NATO that the failure of Russia's special military operations in Ukraine may lead to a nuclear war. Putin once declared, "If Russia no longer exists, the world will be meaningless." Einstein, who knew a lot about atomic bombs, once predicted future world wars. He said, "I don't know how the Third World War will be fought, but the Fourth will probably be stones and wood!" Once Russia uses nuclear weapons, NATO will most likely shrink its defenses across the board, and the probability of launching a nuclear weapon countermeasure and thus triggering a nuclear war is basically zero. Ukraine will then be categorically abandoned by the United States and other Western countries, and the Ukrainian people will have to bear the cost of the war in the end.

　　There is no way out of the "dual war". We should find a correct way for major powers to get along with each other. Maintaining the strategic stability of major power relations is an important cornerstone for the prosperity of the world. How major powers get along with each other is related to the future of mankind. Former US Treasury Secretary Paulson recently wrote in "Foreign Affairs" that if the United States and China do not have a stable relationship and cannot cooperate on issues of common interest, the world will become "very dangerous and less prosperous." There is competition in the world at any time, but competition should be mutual learning, catching up, and common progress, rather than a "zero-sum game" where you lose and I win, or even a "negative-sum game" that hurts oneself and others. "Harmony and coexistence" is the correct way to get along. Win-win cooperation has long been the true narrative of major power relations and a common goal that all parties should actively strive for. We must continue to promote the establishment of a pattern of major power relations with peaceful coexistence, overall stability, and balanced development. Faced with common challenges facing all mankind, such as the ever-increasing global security challenges, the global food and energy crisis, and global climate change, major countries should take the initiative, and in the spirit of being responsible to history, the world, and the people, establish a tone of interaction based on dialogue rather than confrontation, and win-win rather than zero-sum results. They should take practical actions to bring major power relations back on track for healthy and stable development, to the benefit of their own countries and the world.

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