

A Comparative Study of Mao Zedong and Xi Jinping's Strategic Thought of Maritime Power

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Abstract

The so-called "Seven parts sea, three parts land", the sea accounts for 71% of the Earth's surface area, and the land only accounts for 29% of the Earth's surface area. The oceans contain about 97 per cent of the world's water, while only 2 per cent is available for human consumption. The sea contains rich resources. From the point of view of mineral resources, there are many metal nodules and other resources in the seabed area at the depth of 2000 ~ 6000 meters. From the point of view of ocean space, the Gulf provides favorable conditions for the construction of ports, the vast expanse of the ocean is conducive to the development of marine transport; marine fisheries also provide more than 20 per cent of the world's animal protein and so on. It can be said that the ocean and human life are closely linked. Because of the important political, economic and military values of the ocean, the ocean has become the focus of the struggle for rights and interests in the present century. At the same time, the study of the marine environment, the development and utilization of marine resources and the cultivation of citizens' marine awareness have gradually been paid attention to. In this article, I will discuss the progress and the need for continuous improvement of China's maritime thinking from the comparison of the strategic thinking of the first generation of leaders on behalf of Comrade Mao Zedong and the fourth generation of leaders on behalf of Comrade XI.

Keywords

Mao Zedong; Xi Jinping; Strategic thinking of a maritime power; Comparative study.

1. Background and Significance of the Study

The thought of ocean power, as a product of specific historical logic which lasted for more than 2000 years, contains unique historical characteristics and evolution logic. Open the history of the book, it is not difficult to find the history of China and the sea for many exchanges, the sea is often linked to the powerful. In the Ming dynasty, Zheng He led his treasure fleet on seven voyages to the western ocean in an effort to establish an international order of hierarchy and harmony through peaceful means supported by military force. This not only established the limits of maritime power in the east, but also pushed China to the zenith of its maritime power. But when people regard China as an open civilization in the east, China quietly closed its doors and implemented such policies as "Sea ban" and "Isolationism", which also caused serious damage to china-foreign exchanges and gradually separated China from the world. When the west forced China out of the sea, China's maritime activities gradually returned to normal. But the so-called "First in Asia, ninth in the world," the Northern Division ended in a First Sino-Japanese War defeat, and the failure of the Navy dream was followed by the collapse. One might wonder whether the abrupt end of China's maritime journey was a civilizing necessity or a strategic blunder. Obviously, it's the latter. It can be said that the marine strategy is to determine the rise and fall of a country's marine cause and development.

At the same time, the strategic thinking of the ocean power is of great significance. First of all, the strategy of maritime power is the only way to open up and expand overseas interests. The strategy of maritime power gives China more say in the maritime field, through the continuous development of maritime transportation, the control of major maritime routes, and the acquisition of contacts with more countries and more regions, thus contributing to China's rise and integration into the world, the push for globalization has brought with it more opportunities and challenges. Second, we will actively promote the realization of the major strategies and goals for national rejuvenation on the Blue Sea. On November 26, 2012, Liu CIGUI, director of China's State Oceanic Administration, said that building a strong maritime country is an important decision of the party central committee to build the Xiaokang in an all-round way and to build a strong maritime country in an all-round way. History has proved to us step by step, "Survival to the sea, back to the sea and decline". The strategic line of the socialism with Chinese characteristics, with the sea as its main body, is of great practical and strategic significance and an indispensable path for the development of the Chinese nation and its emergence as a world power. Then, it plays an important role in protecting China's marine rights and interests and promoting the construction of harmonious marine environment. Today, all countries see the unique value of the sea, around the marine resources, "Throat" passage, sovereignty of the islands and reefs, maritime transport and other aspects of the fierce struggle. China has linked the strategy of a maritime power with that of a national grand strategy, the former being an important part of the latter. This decision has greatly raised the strategic height of a maritime power and enhanced China's maritime power, resolutely Protected China's maritime rights and interests. Some countries believe that China, after enhancing its maritime power, like some developed countries in the west, "The strong will dominate". In fact, this concern is completely unnecessary, china is promoting "Peaceful development", take the road of peaceful development, create a harmonious marine environment.

2. Mao Zedong's Strategic Thought of Maritime Power

As a great proletarian internationalism, Comrade Mao Zedong has made outstanding contributions to the marine cause of our country. His thought of sea power, coastal defense strategy and ocean strong army, these main ideas are of great significance to the construction of China's modern ocean strong nation.

2.1. The Yangtze River Must Be Crossed, and the Navy Must Be Built

The "Purple quartz incident" took place in 1949, the British Royal Navy Far East fleet purple quartz warship ignored warnings, and unauthorized intrusion into the waters of the lower reaches of the Yangtze River front, causing military conflict with the People's Liberation Army, the British warship was shelled. The Chinese side did not concede to the British side's unreasonable "Criminal Act", as the British side envisaged. Determined to protect our maritime supremacy, the Popular Liberation Army shelled the amethyst and then returned fire. The amethyst was badly wounded in the artillery battle. Then, on April Twenty-two, Chairman Mao himself penned an editorial condemning British imperialism for colluding with the Kuomintang and issuing a supreme directive: "If it happens again, we will strike it." Mao Zedong's strong sense of sovereignty and resolute attitude, eventually, the British fleet was withdrawn from China, and our forces in territorial waters were withdrawn. Mao Zedong's key defense performance has been his long term focus on building the navy. As a teenager, Mao Zedong Mao Zedong inspired a strong sense of responsibility and national self-improvement in the face of all kinds of humiliation and humiliation in modern China. This is true of the Opium War, the Sino Japanese War of 1894 and the Eight-Nation Alliance invasion, and the Sino Japanese War and the eight kingdoms war. They're coming from the sea. China lost, repeatedly lost, ceded compensation. Comrade Mao

Zedong was well aware of a similarity in the navy. He reinforced his tone: "We must build a strong Navy!" Of course, the development of the People's Navy has not been smooth sailing. It has gone through a process from scratch to small. During the war to resist U.S. aggression and Aid Korea, China stunned and impressed the world, and Mao Zedong was impressed by the strength of the U.S. Navy, which turned the tide in the early days of the war. After the Korean War, on December 4, 1953, at a Politburo meeting, Mao Zedong said, our country must establish a powerful navy in a planned and orderly manner in accordance with the industrial development and economic situation. This is a plan of our country. And this strategic policy, in the development process of China's navy in the new era of construction, also has a strong guiding and coordinating role. From 1955 to 1960, under the cordial interest of the party central committee and the Military Commission under Mao Zedong's leadership, the People's Liberation Army successively established three naval fleets in the East China Sea, the South China Sea and the North Sea.

2.2. Defying Pressure and Safeguarding Maritime Rights and Interests

"We will strengthen our defense and will not allow any imperialists to invade our territory again," Mao Zedong sternly declared after the founding ceremony of the People's Republic of China was established, the Kuomintang of Taiwan continued to send troops to the sea, land and air, attacked the coastal areas of the southeast mainland and occupied areas such as Jinmen and the Mekong island in an attempt to "Strike back". Instead of backing down in the face of rising tensions, Mao Zedong stepped up military campaigns along the southeast coast, shelling Golden Gate and more. American reinforcements, military intimidation, and war talk by the Taiwanese authorities did not deter Mao Zedong and the Central Military Commission from shelling Jinmen. On Sept. 4, the Chinese government declared a 12-nautical-mile territorial sea and said that "No foreign aircraft or warships shall enter China's territorial waters and airspace without Government of the People's Republic of China permission." Mao Zedong, guided by China's economy, sovereignty and security in terms of China's economy, sovereignty and security, and taking into account the effectiveness of the actual range of the coastal guns, finally adopted a territory 12 nautical miles wide and decided to issue it immediately. Mao Zedong's claim not only upheld the sovereignty of the country's territorial waters, but also set the international trend. On the rise of modern China, western powers repeatedly invaded China and established military bases and naval garrisons along its coast the unbridled actions of the Western powers have left the Chinese people with painful memories at a founding ceremony of the People's Republic of China ceremony in 1949, the Soviet Union leased a military port in the Lushun district under an earlier agreement and sent an army to defend Lushun district. In 1949, Chinese leaders visited the Soviet Union and put forward the view that "Foreign military bases are not allowed on Chinese socialist territory". Mao Zedong's steadfastness helped solve the problems of Soviet naval bases and historical sites. In May 1955, all Soviet troops were withdrawn from Lushun district to safeguard China's sovereignty. Since then, all foreign troops and garrisons on Chinese territory have disappeared.

2.3. Preventing Maritime Threats and Strengthening Coastal Defense

The construction of China's coastal defense project, which can be said to have begun before the founding ceremony of the People's Republic of China, is based on a relatively weak foundation. There is a certain amount of history in between. On the other hand, in order to achieve domestic peace and national reunification, the remaining forces of the Kuomintang should be completely eliminated and the territory of the People's Republic of China, including Taiwan and the coastal islands, should be liberated. All these can prompt China to strengthen the construction of strategic defense system in the future. The objective of the early coastal defense construction of new China was to resist the military invasion of foreign forces and to maintain the sovereignty of China and the real integrity of its territory. In order to be able to achieve this

new goal, we must work hard to achieve it. Mao Zedong summed up the ancient and modern Chinese and foreign beneficial war experience, theory and practice, adhere to the principle of seeking truth. Since the establishment of the People's Liberation Army, the strategy of "Coastal defense" has been carried out in accordance with internal and external conditions and naval forces. After the mid-1980s, the naval strategy, I. E. Coastal Defense, was formally proposed. The defense from the coast to the inshore can be said to be advancing with the times and should better fulfill its historical mission. What is the defensive strategy of the coastal war? Such defensive warfare is usually regarded as China's pursuit of a peaceful and unified foreign policy, or the implementation of China's naval defense strategy, which in fact is China's naval defense strategy. One of its main tasks is to protect and regulate the country's inherent maritime areas and its major maritime economic interests, to protect the coastal and coastal plain environment of the Eastern and Pacific maritime areas, and to maintain China's maritime and land transport.

3. Xi Jinping's Strategic Thinking on Strengthening China Through the Seas

"I have always believed in building a strong maritime nation," XI said during a visit to the National Oceanic Administration Science and engineering innovation pilot base in Qingdao, Shandong Province, in June 2018, xi Jinping's strategic thinking on the development of integrated maritime forces has already taken shape in the context of an analysis of the increasingly complex international environment for ocean governance that China is currently facing, it is an important and basic part of the new strategic thought of governing the country and the army, and the emphasis of the new concept thought is governing the country. General Secretary Xi Jinping made it clear that the sea is weak from the back and prosperous from the sea, while closing the sea will lead to decline and prosperity from opening the sea. To earnestly and thoroughly study and implement Xi Jinping's major strategic thought of developing a strong maritime economy, and to give us an active and in-depth understanding of the Chinese ocean, and attach importance to the development of the ocean and the strategic management of maritime areas, building a marine socialist country with Chinese characteristics, such as a marine economic power, has a very important role in promoting positive guidance. The main contents of Xi Jinping's great strategic thought on building China into a strong country through the seas include four basic aspects, taking the initiative to follow the Great Strategic Line of development that relies on opening up the seas to enrich China and focuses on strengthening the Seas and strengthening China, the Great Strategic Line of development focusing on the development of the country by the Sea of people. This paper focuses on the relationship between the two strategic ideas of China relying on the coastal seas to enrich the country and the two strategic ideas of China relying on the coastal seas to strengthen the country.

3.1. Promote the Development of the Blue Economy Based on the Strategy of Enriching China and the Seas

As the name suggests, the idea of depending on the sea to enrich the nation is to rely on the sea to drive China's economic development, and Mr. XI has pointed out that having a maritime economy is an important pillar for building a large maritime nation. The idea of enriching the country by the sea is the foundation of building a powerful country by the sea.

3.1.1. Unleash the Potential of the Sea

The 21st century is the century of the world's oceans, and mankind is ushering in the development and utilization of a new round of ocean waves. China is a country with many attributes. China has a land area of 9.6 million square kilometers, a land area of more than 18,000 square kilometers in the east and south, and a water area of more than 4.7 million square kilometers in the Inland Sea and Border Sea. How to utilize the abundant marine

resources in the ocean and release the potential of the “Sea” is the key. The key to developing the “Blue Economy” is to plan the marine economy scientifically and to formulate the development policies related to the marine resources Seek truth from facts the local conditions. Comrade Xi Jinping put forward a new idea in the field investigation in the east of Fujian province, which is called “Reading the sea classics”. At the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Hainan Provincial Special Economic Zone, Xi stressed the need to establish a national military-civilian integration and Innovation Demonstration Zone, and to build a military-civilian integration and innovation demonstration zone. We will make overall plans for maritime development and protection of maritime rights and interests, push forward joint military-regional consultations, develop facilities through science and technology, provide logistic support, accelerate the building of a resource development service base and a South China Sea Maritime Aid Base, and resolutely safeguard the gate of the motherland.

3.1.2. Science, Technology and Innovation to Develop New Marine Energy Sources

Marine Resources, Marine Water Energy and marine mineral resources have a broad space for development. It is vital to be able to use the abundant resources to develop marine technology. Science and technology is the first productive force of industry, for the exploration of new marine mineral resources; for the food of the deeper oceans; for the food of the deeper oceans. The possibility is provided in the exploitation and utilization of new marine drug resources. In the past 40 years, China has formed more than 20 technical fields, including marine environment monitoring, marine resources exploration, marine general engineering, and so on. Jiaolong is the glory of China’s deep-sea technology. From 2002 to 2012, the 7,000 meter test successfully set a record for the deepest manned dive of 7,062 meters in China and the largest diving record of its kind in the world. Although China’s marine technology has developed to a new stage in modern China, it is still in a brand-new stage. From “Qualitative accumulation” to “Quantitative breakthrough”, but compared with the western developed countries, China’s marine independent innovation capacity, core technology development capacity there are many deficiencies. In the future, China’s marine science and technology innovation will face new opportunities and challenges.

3.2. Improving Our Capability to Safeguard Maritime Rights and Interests in Accordance With the Strategic Philosophy of Developing China Through the Seas

3.2.1. Build A Strong, Modern Navy

In 2018, President XI again stressed at the National Maritime Liberation Parade, “Building a strong people’s navy has never been as urgent as it is today. We must thoroughly implement the party’s thinking on strengthening the armed forces, adhere to the party’s policy of building the armed forces politically, reforming the armed forces and rejuvenating the armed forces through science and Technology, steadfastly accelerate the development of the modern Navy, be good at innovation, be courageous in surpassing it, and strive to build a world-class People’s Navy”. With the aim of “The dream of strengthening the Armed Forces”, the Road of strengthening the armed forces with Chinese characteristics is to combine the plan of strengthening the armed forces with the situation with Chinese characteristics, and to promote the development of the armed forces in information and science and technology. Strong military dream and “Science and technology strong military” are closely linked, modern China has also tasted the “Backward will be beaten” hardship, military is the same, military will be eliminated without strong science and technology, no development is a dead end. Build one with good combat capability and good combat effectiveness. A powerful modern navy with advanced armaments is of great strategic significance for safeguarding China’s maritime rights and interests.

4. A Comparative Study of Mao Zedong and Xi Jinping's Strategic Thoughts on Strengthening China Through the Seas

4.1. Similarities

4.1.1. Build A Strong Army

In February 1953, President Mao Zedong again toured the Chinese Navy's fleet of warships, writing the same inscription in English for each of the five naval vessels: in order for China to oppose the invasion of the Empire of Japan, we must strive to build a strong Chinese navy! In 1954, Mao Zedong also addressed the first meeting of the central defense commission, saying, "Now our country does not have such a long national coastline, and we must strive to build a strong National Navy." These words, with a hard tone, are enough to show that comrade Mao Zedong attached great importance to building a strong army. Mr. Xi's strategic vision of strengthening the country by law will also make the modern Navy a central part of his agenda. By reflecting on the fact that China's access to maritime communication is often blocked, threatening the need for China to establish a modern naval system, China is urgently required to establish modern maritime communication.

4.1.2. Ideological and Theoretical Foundations

Great powers "Are strong because of the prosperity of the sea, relying on the power of the sea and strong.". After modern times, China's economy deviated from the Chinese ocean, went backward and lacked the right of sea navigation, so it gradually went to economic decline. This also fully reflects Mao Zedong's strategic thought of paying close attention to China's sea power theory. He realized that sea power and the realization of the "Maritime Power.". In order to firmly maintain the country's maritime rights, Mao Zedong did not fear the pressure of the country, pro-set the width of the territorial sea, to protect the rights of the country. And Xi Jinping's strategic thought of strengthening the country through the sea, inheriting and developing Mao Zedong's thought of maritime power, drawing on the crystallization of the thinking of party leaders of past dynasties, and summing up from his own practical experience, finally, it forms the strategic thought of a powerful country with new times and new characteristics.

4.1.3. Attach Importance to the Construction of Coastal Defense

Throughout the history of Chinese Navigation 100 years ago, Mao Zedong was well aware of the weakness of China's military coastal defense at that time. The disaster that brought hundreds of millions of people to China at that time was the repeated sea invasions by Western powers, china has thus become an abyss of Semi-colony. After the founding of the People's Republic of China, it became even more resolute to say that Mao Zedong wanted to build coastal defense, that the Chinese people would rise up, and that we must end the history of coastal defense. Strengthening coastal defense plays an important role in national defense construction and in maintaining the development of China's new regime. By the end of 1955, the sea battle defense system was basically formed, with the shore-based aviation as the main body. After more than half a century of continuous improvement, the history of "No defense at sea" has gone forever. Comrade Xi Jinping and other leaders have also paid close attention to China's border issues and held several national conferences on coastal defense. XI stressed that "Border and coastal defense is a major event in the governance of the country and a matter of national security and development." To this end, we must put national sovereignty and security first, and implement the country's overall security concept, we will earnestly organize the protection of maritime rights and interests, resolutely safeguard territorial sovereignty and maritime interests, and resolutely protect territorial sovereignty and maritime interests. Build strong border walls.

4.1.4. Focus on Technology

Proceeding from the reality of a problem of poverty and backwardness in science and engineering in the early years of the Communist Party of China, Mao Zedong advocated the military construction of the army and navy, relying mainly on the promotion of national economic and social development, industrialized developed countries and other advanced countries in the development of science and engineering technology as the main reliance. I want to learn about the Soviet Union, master advanced military technology, stand on my own two feet and build a strong military defense capability, he said during a meeting with Xu Xiangqian in May 1951. Comrade Mao Zedong clearly recognized that scientific and technological strength was indispensable to a strong military. There are many parallels with Mr. Xi's military dreams. Among them, the innovation of military thought, the upgrade and replacement of military hardware equipment, the upgrade of military research soft power, and the improvement of military personnel's comprehensive quality.

4.2. Differences

4.2.1. The Paradigm Shift in Coastal Defense

Since the establishment of the People's Liberation Army, the Navy has been implementing the strategy of "Coastal defense" and "Coastal defense", taking into account the domestic and international situation. Obviously, this has not been able to adapt to the changing world, coastal defense will also be changed. "China's military strategy white paper" pointed out that China's coastal defense has gradually realized the combination of coastal defense and far-sea defense, China's maritime combat force is more prominent and a comprehensive insurance-based. The change of inshore defense and inshore defense meets the needs of reality, which is the combination of the two defense forms of far sea and inshore.

4.2.2. Development of the Oceanography

Mao Zedong's focus on China's maritime outlook includes: implementing the maritime strategic concept, developing China's navy, carrying out shipping work, determining the breadth of the maritime masses, and safeguarding China's sovereignty and the integrity of the maritime masses. The modern maritime outlook is the quintessential outcome of Xi Jinping's great thought of leading the country as a single party, which further deepens China's strategic thought of building a strong maritime country, and calls on the people to attach great importance to the motherland's oceans and learn to love them, the strategic guidance of "Enriching the country by the sea, strengthening the country by the sea, harmony among people and win-win cooperation" is put forward after making use of the sea. The guidelines promote China's maritime strategic concept to a new level.

5. Conclusion

By comparing the similarities and differences between Mao Zedong's and Xi's strategic thinking on maritime power, we can clearly see that Xi's strategic thinking on maritime power is a continuation of Mao Zedong's strategic thinking on maritime power, and combined with the reality of continuous development, deepening, guiding our country to carry out the cause of the development of the oceans.

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