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# Abstracts

## **Global History and Innovation in IR Theory: Dilemmas and Solutions**

**Shi Bin** (4)

**【Abstract】** Theories have dual attributes such as science and humanity, universality and particularity. Western mainstream IR theories are mainly based on their own historical experience, practical needs, and cultural values, which have distinct local characteristics. The almost synchronous development of global historiography, although originally intended to break the European-Western centrism and present the overall historical landscape of human civilization interaction, has not fundamentally improved the limitations of Western IR theory in academic visions, modes of thinking, and experiential knowledge, and has fallen into a state of difficulty in adapting to global changes. Due to the instrumental-technical rationality and pragmatism embedded in IR, the humanistic connotation of theories is dissolved, which has led to a disconnect between theoretical exploration and historical and regional research. Moreover, the achievements of global history are not only under-utilized, but also bear the traits of “global history of the West.” Only by maintaining a reasonable connection between science and humanity, theory and history, global and regional perspectives, jointly writing the “global history of mankind,” and seeking basic consensus and the largest common denominator of knowledge and values through the exchange of experiences and inter-cultural dialogues among all mankind, can the universally applicable classical knowledge of world politics be produced, so as to construct a global IR theory that reflects the shared experiences and values of humanity and facilitates the common progress of mankind.

**【Key Words】** global history, international relations, occidentality, science and humanities, theoretical innovation

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**Global History and Reflections on International Relations Theory****Ren Xiao** (22)

**【Abstract】** For many years, studies in world history and international relations theory have been deeply influenced by Western-centrism, with a focus on Europe and thinking materials mostly drawn from European and Western history, including diplomatic history. Global history is a new research orientation and perspective, and its features include a broader perspective, a holistic view of history, a multi-centric viewpoint, and comparative history. It can communicate with Global International Relations (GIR) in spirit and orientation. The existing international relations theories that have been constructed in the West have both strengths and weaknesses. The excessive stress on and preference for “hard science” confuse the nature of social sciences with that of natural sciences and have led to the fallacy of “scientism”. In this regard, we should have a sober reconsideration, and comparative historical analysis provides an important and feasible means to redress it. This article first enunciates the advantages of global history as an academic approach by summarizing its features, and then analyzes and criticizes the existing IR theories. Finally, it expounds that global history and IR theory are potentially interlinked, and explains why comparative historical analysis is significant as an approach.

**【Key Words】** global history, international relations theory, global IR, comparative historical analysis, reflections

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**Resilient Openness in Developing Countries from the Perspective of Global Value Chains****Zheng Yu Ye Zi** (38)

**【Abstract】** Since the 21st century, rapid globalization and rising inequality have been the main drivers behind anti-globalization sentiment. While protectionism and nationalism are on

the rise in developed countries, trade barriers in developing countries have steadily declined. This article attempts to explore the impacts of global value chains (GVCs) on income distribution and trade policies in developing countries. Using panel data consisting of 88 developing countries and 25 years, we have three main findings. First, participation in GVCs tends to contribute to the decline in income inequality in developing countries. Second, upgrading in GVCs tends to foster the growth of income inequality. Third, participation in GVCs in general mitigates protectionist pressure in developing countries, but upgrading in GVCs might increase their protectionist pressure. It indicates that GVCs not only strengthen economic interdependence among developing countries, but also enable them to become the primary supporters of economic globalization. However, developing countries might find it more difficult to balance economic efficiency and equality as they move up their positions in GVCs.

**【Key Words】** globalization, global value chains, protectionism, income inequality, developing countries

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## **The Return of Geopolitics and the Change of International Industrial Geography: Supply Chain Strategy Adjustment of Apple Inc.**

**Li Wei Xu Yue (71)**

**【Abstract】** With the increasing geopolitical pressure brought by the great powers competition, the supply chain security of enterprises, especially those with strategic significance, has become a critical issue concerning national security and development. This issue has gone far beyond the scope of business and calls for research from the perspective of international political economy. As the most distinguished super enterprise in the global electronics industry, Apple Inc. adopted an efficiency strategy and gathered its supply chains to China due to China's industry attraction. However, in the context of the intensifying Sino-US stra-

tegic competition, the US launched three economic wars in order to exert industry repulsion on China, during which Apple Inc. began to perceive an increasingly severe dilemma regarding its supply chain security. Apple Inc. thus has to sacrifice efficiency and implement a security strategy for the supply chain, that is, diversifying supply chains to reduce overreliance on China. The supply chain of Apple Inc. is shifting to India and returning to the US, but this process is fraught with various pains and challenges due to its high economic costs. The supply chain security dilemma and supply chain strategy adjustment of super enterprises can be regarded as keys to understanding the change of international industrial geography. A falling leaf is the herald of autumn. The supply chain strategy adjustment of Apple Inc. demonstrates the contradiction and collision between market forces and state forces, efficiency logic and security logic in the new era of economic globalization encountered with the return of geopolitics. This indicates the basic direction of the evolution of the international economic order.

【Key Words】 super enterprises, supply chain security dilemma, industry attraction, industry repulsion, international industrial geography

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## **Norm Costs, Interdependence and Sanctions Stalemate: The US Economic Sanctions from a Conflict Perspective**

**Pang Qin** (108)

【Abstract】 Economic sanctions, as the most frequently employed non-violent foreign policy tool since the Cold War, have received wide academic interest. Extant research, however, predominantly adopts a Western (US) perspective, focusing on the effectiveness of sanction policies and the underlying mechanisms. This paper adopts the perspective of the sanctioned country, viewing sanctions as a political conflict initiated by the United States against the target country through economic means. It focuses on the highest intensity of con-

flict, the “sanctions deadlock,” and, based on signal theory, explains both the motivation and power factors that lead the United States and the target country into a “sanctions deadlock”. Regarding motivation, this paper categorizes US-initiated sanctions into two types: normative sanctions and self-interest sanctions. In normative sanctions, as the normative costs borne by the United States to maintain leadership order increase, the probability of both sides entering a deadlock also increases. In terms of power, it divides the trade dependence between the two sides into imports and exports. By introducing the global value chain theory, it points out that the asymmetric interdependence between the target country and the United States in import trade is the core of their power differences. This easily leads to strategic misjudgment, namely signal distortion, resulting in a non-linear positive U-shaped curve relationship in the probability of both sides entering a sanctions deadlock. Specifically, when the target country’s dependence on US imports gradually rises from “very low” to “medium”, the probability of a deadlock decreases. However, as the dependence increases from “medium” to “very high”, this probability gradually rises.

**【Key Words】** economic sanction, sanction costs, normative costs, interdependence, import dependence

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## **US Selective Decoupling from China Under Inter-State Green Competition and Digital Competition**

**Zhou Yamin** (138)

**【Abstract】** Green competition and digital competition are the two core areas of national competition in this era. After positioning China as a “strategic competitor”, the United States has implemented a selective “decoupling” strategy against China by targeting the green economy and the digital economy in the name of “de-risking”. Based on the differences in national competitive advantages and disadvantages, the United States has taken very different “decoupling” measures in the fields of green economy and digital econo-

my. The trade theory based on interdependence cannot explain the “decoupling” behavior of the United States towards China. By integrating exogenous factors, security perceptions and national competitive advantages, the author proposes an analytical framework to explain the selective “decoupling” of the US from China, arguing that green transformation and digital transformation, as exogenous factors, are trendy, uncontrollable and irreversible, resulting in the emergence of a new race track in national competition, the inability of the first-mover to control the competitive landscape, and continuous follow-up by the later-movers. The United States has shaped the security of the green economy and the digital economy through the construction of identity discourse and threat discourse. The United States tries to block the upgrading of China’s digital supply chain by means of export control and investment restriction in the field of digital economy where the United States has competitive advantages, while in the field of green economy where the United States has competitive disadvantages, the United States mainly implements various measures characterized by import substitution to get rid of its dependence on China’s green supply chain. As the common material basis of the green economy and the digital economy, the supply chain of critical minerals is also facing the risk of reorganization by the United States. The ultimate goal of the United States’ selective “decoupling” from China is to develop economic interdependence in key areas within its political-military alliance system in the form of issue-based alliances.

**【Key Words】** Sino-US strategic competition, green competition, digital competition, critical minerals, selective decoupling

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