

Reconceptualizing International Order: Contemporary Chinese Theories and Their Contributions to Global IR

Online Appendix I

This project, with its theoretical analysis of paradigmatic approaches to international order emerging from the Chinese academy, inevitably implicates problems of translation (Capan, Dos Reis and Grasten, 2021). This is a particularly significant challenge in this case for two reasons. First, the key concepts to be translated are theory-laden words that have specific meanings in the context of these theoretical works that are not obvious from literal translations. In this context, what is important is accurately conveying the theoretical concept that the term is conveying and maintaining the analytical work done by the term across editions of a work. Second and relatedly, these works in some cases are not necessarily “translations” in the sense that the author wrote in one language and translated into another with the simple goal of preserving meaning. Particularly for Qin and Yan, these theories are produced simultaneously in English and Chinese, with different theoretical texts existing in the same paradigms across languages.

Given these challenges and the necessity of communicating these ideas to a broader audience, we do not take a strong position on what the “correct” translation of key analytical terms would be between Chinese and English. Instead, we adopt an ethic of transparency about our choices of language, including Chinese terms alongside our English word choices in the main body of the paper. We also include a table in this appendix that shows the chosen translations of major theoretical concepts and gives a reason for our ultimate decisions. In the body of the paper, we explicitly define each of these terms in theoretical terms and analyze what they are doing in each of the analyzed texts. In general, we keep the terms used by these authors in their own English-language texts where those are available. We see this as the clearest policy, as it allows for less trouble quoting from the authors’ English texts and following the English-language debates between these authors (in which they generally use one another’s preferred translations). It is of course possible that authors are trying to communicate different things to different audiences by problematically translating their own work, but we do not feel comfortable making that assumption and imposing a different translation onto their work. Still, because reasonable readers can disagree about this, we include this appendix briefly noting all of our important translation choices.

Overview of Chinese IR Theories and Their Translations

Chinese IR Theories	Key Chinese Concepts	English Translation	Meaning of the Translation	Rationales for Our Translation Choices
Moral Realism	Wangdao 王道	Humane Authority	an international leadership type that is trustworthy and consistent in policy.	Yan's interpretation
	Baquan 霸权	Hegemony	an international leadership type that is trustworthy but follows a double standard.	Yan's interpretation
	Hunyong 昏庸	Anemocracy	an international leadership type that is untrustworthy and follows a double standard	Yan's interpretation
	Qiangquan 强权	Tyranny	an international leadership type that is untrustworthy but consistent in policy	Yan's interpretation
Symbiotic IR Theory	Tongzhi gongsheng 同质共生	Homogeneous Symbiosis	homogeneity in attributes is the foundation of actors' co-existence and cooperation	A literal translation from the symbiotic theory's Chinese texts.
	Yizhi gongsheng 异质共生	Heterogeneous Symbiosis	pluralism or diversity among states to be a "fundamental reality" and an opportunity for mutual development	A literal translation from the symbiotic theory's Chinese texts.
Relationalism	Zhonghe 中和	Centrality and Harmony	Harmonious and non-extreme relationships	Qin cited from the <i>Doctrine of the Mean</i>
	Zhongyong 中庸	the Golden Mean	Everything that tends to be dynamically positioning itself in or moving toward the due middle	Qin's interpretation of the Confucian principle

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Chinese IR Theories	Key Chinese Concepts	English Translation	Meaning of the Translation	Rationales for Our Translation Choices
Tianxiaism	Wuwai 无外	Internalization of the World	Means non-exclusive literally. Refers to an institutionalized interconnected world (Tianxia).	Zhao's interpretation of an important feature of Tianxia
	Guanxi lixing 关系理性	Relational Rationality	A term that means prioritizing minimizing mutual harm and maximizing mutual benefits over the maximization of self-interest	The translation used in Zhao's English book
	Kongzi gais-han 孔子改善	Confucian Amelioration	A term coined by Zhao to describe inseparable gains: either all gain (improvement) or none does	The translation used in Zhao's English book
	Xuanwo moxing 漩涡模型	Whirlpool Model	A model coined by Zhao to explain the expansion of a Chinese Tianxia. It is not centrifugal but centripetal, and is constantly rolling to incorporate its peripheries	The translation used in Zhao's English book

References

Capan, Zeynep Gulsah, Filipe Dos Reis and Maj Grasten, eds. 2021. *The Politics of Translation in International Relations*. Cham: Springer International Publishing.