

# Mechanical Aid and Organic Aid

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**Abstract:** In the traditional sense, most of the aid has the characteristics of one-way free. With Europe’s coming out of the haze of World War II and moving towards revival, most of the aid belongs to the two-way and mutually beneficial development, which is beneficial to both donors and recipients. Based on Durkheim’s theory of organic unity and mechanical solidarity, the author tries to use organic aid and mechanical assistance to discuss China’s assistance to Xinjiang.

**Key word:** Mechanical aid; Organic aid; Aid to Xinjiang

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The concept of “aid” is a word frequently used by the international community. The United Nations has a concept of “official development assistance”, which generally refers to the assistance provided by developed countries to developing countries. Since the end of World War II, the United States has made Europe rise from the flames of war through a large amount of aid. With the revival of Europe, the western developed countries began to provide national assistance to their original colonies in Asia, Africa and Latin America (most of them became independent countries after World War II). Compared with the original aid, this kind of aid is to a large extent mutually beneficial.

## 1 The concept of “organic aid” and “mechanical aid”

Durkheim put forward the concepts of mechanical solidarity and organic solidarity when discussing social

solidarity. Borrowing Durkheim’s concepts, the author puts forward the concepts of “mechanical assistance” and “organic aid”.

“Mechanical assistance” is a kind of aid mode based on the unequal relationship and promoted by moral or political ideas. The strong side uses the economic and social resources to assist the weak side. The driving force of this kind of assistance is to meet the requirements of certain organizations, historical morality or religious morality. For example, the Red Cross cooperates with some countries to assist refugees; Assistance provided by religious groups such as Catholic Relief Services through a number of projects. China’s aid to the disaster areas and to the underdeveloped areas is such assistance. “Organic assistance” is a way to carry out assistance consciously, voluntarily and actively under the premise that the two sides are complementary in their development and the advantageous party is conducive to their own development. The international community’s aid to Africa is a typical example of organic aid, and many countries’ assistance to Africa is a win-win model.

The two aid models have their own advantages and disadvantages. “Mechanical aid”, when the political subject has strong control ability, the aid side will fully implement the aid measures, and the recipient gets the most assistance. Once the political restriction is reduced or weakened, the aid policy will also weaken or stop; The biggest drawback of this kind of aid is that most of the recipients are in a passive state of accepting “whatever the aid is,” and it is easy for the donors to “aid for the sake of aid”. “Organic aid” is beneficial to both donors and recipients. Therefore, the aid measures are more scientific and reasonable, and the assistance is more lasting. Both sides are in an equal state under the condition of mutual benefit and reciprocity.

## **2 Development aid from western countries**

The imbalance of economic and social development is a common phenomenon. It is a common problem for all countries to realize the balanced development within the national scope. Due to institutional constraints, western countries are unable to provide large-scale inter governmental assistance free of charge. There are mainly two aspects.

### **2.1 The central government shall establish specialized agencies responsible for the development of backward areas**

In order to guarantee the aid to the economically and socially underdeveloped regions and to put the plan into practice, the central governments of all countries have set up special organizations and management institutions. This kind of organization is mainly responsible for the formulation of poverty-stricken regional assistance plan, adjustment or modification and implementation; Regular meetings between relevant departments and underdeveloped local governments are held to exchange information and evaluate the effectiveness of assistance; The specialized agencies are specifically responsible for the financing of development and the construction of infrastructure projects. In the mid-20th century, the federal government of the United States successively established the regional redevelopment agency, the Appalachian Regional Committee, the economic development agency and other interstate regional development committees. In order to promote the development of backward areas, the United Kingdom has set up “Scottish Development Agency” and “Welsh Development Agency”. In order to promote the development of Hokkaido, Japan has set up the Hokkaido development department in the central government, with the Minister of state as its head, and the Hokkaido Development Bureau under the Department. In 1968, the National Development Committee of the government of India appointed a special working group to study how to provide financial stimulus for industries in underdeveloped areas.

### **2.2 Central governments adopt flexible and diversified development policies**

The central government’s financial support is a common policy adopted by all countries. It is mainly used for the construction of productive infrastructure such as transportation, communication and energy, and also includes the construction of social infrastructure

such as education, health and culture, so as to improve the investment environment and enhance the self-development ability of underdeveloped areas. The main body of regional development assistance is the central government, but the role of the central government alone is limited. In promoting the development of underdeveloped areas, countries have also paid great attention to mobilizing the enthusiasm of local organizations at all levels to encourage the active participation of non-governmental forces. The legalization of regional aid policy is one of the most important measures. Natural, social, ethnic and other factors determine that the development of economically backward areas can not be achieved overnight. Therefore, regional assistance needs a relatively stable and continuous policy, which must be legalized. The central government directly invests, or stimulates the economic development of underdeveloped areas through subsidies and tax policies. For example: The investment of the French government to the backward areas is higher than that of the developed areas. 40% of the total investment of the Italian central government is invested in the underdeveloped south; Taxes in the northeast and the Great Lakes are higher than those in the south, West and mountainous states.

## **3 The policy of aiding Xinjiang**

### **3.1 In the Qing Dynasty, there was a policy of aiding Xinjiang**

It is an indisputable fact that China has a vast territory and uneven development among regions. In order to narrow the gap in development, the central government uniformly arranges inter provincial assistance to the economically developed areas due to disasters or backward development, and has been promoted to the height of socialist system advantages. The Xinjiang aid policy is the most typical aid phenomenon. As early as the middle of the Qing Dynasty, the central government of the Qing Dynasty carried out human resources assistance to Xinjiang through military and civilian villages, and carried out financial assistance to Xinjiang in the form of “cooperative payment” and “special payment” through 14 provinces and regions. According to Mr. Qi Qingshun’s research, the assistance effect of various regions to Xinjiang accounted for about one-fifth of the annual financial expenditure of the Qing government. In the past 102 years, Xinjiang received about 210 million taels of “Xiegan” and “special rates”.

With the establishment of the Republic of China, the civil war continued and the aid to Xinjiang was interrupted<sup>[1]</sup>.

### **3.2 New China's policy of aiding Xinjiang**

After the founding of new China, the central government provided assistance to Xinjiang through human resources, material resources and funds. After the reform and opening up, some provinces and cities and central enterprises were arranged to provide assistance to Xinjiang in various ways. We call it "Xinjiang assistance policy". As a unique public policy with Chinese characteristics, it is the embodiment of the superiority of the socialist system with Chinese characteristics.

At the beginning of the reform and opening up, Xinjiang and other provinces and cities have entered a new period of reform and opening up. In view of the huge advantages of the southeast coast, the central government has made clear the arrangement of giving priority to the development of coastal areas. "The coastal areas should speed up the opening up to the outside world, so that this vast area with a population of 200 million will develop first, to promote the better development of the mainland. This is a matter of great importance to the overall situation. The mainland should take into account the overall situation. On the other hand, when the development reaches a certain level, the coastal areas are required to provide more strength to help the development of the mainland. This is also a general situation. At that time, the coastal areas should also be subject to the overall situation."<sup>1</sup>

In 1997, the central government asked seven developed provinces and cities to assist Xinjiang, and the number of provinces and cities assisted by the central government reached 14. On March 29, 2010, the first Xinjiang aid work conference was held in Beijing. At the meeting, 19 provinces and cities, including Beijing, Shanghai, Guangdong and Shenzhen, were determined to undertake counterpart support for Xinjiang, and the aid policies almost covered the whole Xinjiang. The counterpart assistance work will be extended to 2020, and there will be more clear requirements for Counterpart Assistance Mode and assistance funds. Subsequently, the State Council held an annual meeting on counterpart assistance to Xinjiang to promote the development of Counterpart Assistance to Xinjiang. Around the overall goal of social stability and long-term stability, all the aid provinces and cities

have participated in the construction and development of Xinjiang and carried out large-scale assistance work. From the initial "cadres aid Xinjiang" to "all-round assistance to Xinjiang".

### **4 Counterpart aid to Xinjiang is a policy of regional support and development**

The development process of China's various regions is different, basically showing that the eastern part is better than the western part, and the southern part is faster than the northern part. After the reform and opening up, the state policy is also inclined to the southeast coastal areas. According to Deng Xiaoping's two-step strategy, when the eastern region develops and then helps the western region develop, history places more support and hope on the southeast. The sea has also lived up to expectations, becoming a synonym for rapid economic development and social prosperity. Xinjiang is located in the northwest frontier, and the surrounding national environment has a great impact on Xinjiang. Since Czarist Russia touched Xinjiang, until the collapse of the Soviet Union, with the return of religion and the rise of national consciousness, Xinjiang's social stability is still affected by the surrounding countries. Due to the superior natural environment and dense population in the southeast coast, both the labor force and the consumption market have unparalleled advantages in the western region. The purpose of implementing counterpart assistance to Xinjiang is to narrow the development gap between Xinjiang and the mainland. If it stays at the level of aid, it is difficult to achieve the policy objectives.

### **5 Counterpart aid to Xinjiang has the characteristics of "mechanical aid" and "organic assistance"**

In a short period of time, the policy of Counterpart Assistance to Xinjiang is to solve the problem of unbalanced economic and social development among regions. However, due to the influence of historical, geographical, cultural and other factors, the imbalance between regions will always exist. Unless we want to find superior resources in underdeveloped areas, or the central government's policy focus shifts, it is impossible to achieve a complete regional balance in countries with vast territory, different development levels and different cultural environments, whether in theory or things.

Since 1978, at the request of the central government, Jiangsu and Shanghai began to implement the work

of Counterpart Assistance to Xinjiang. As Jiangsu and Shanghai are in the stage of economic and social recovery, it is difficult to have the energy to carry out large-scale assistance to Xinjiang. In 1997, under the clear requirements of the central government, all provinces sent Xinjiang aid cadres to support Xinjiang's development, implemented the "first leader" policy in 2002, and a new round of Counterpart Assistance to Xinjiang in 2010. The work is carried out under the strong promotion of the central government, which is a typical "mechanical assistance". The enterprise has the aid method of the enterprise, and the profit is still the core goal of the enterprise, and has little connection with the government's support and assistance. After 20 years of the implementation of Counterpart Assistance to Xinjiang, Xinjiang's infrastructure has been greatly improved. It is necessary to focus on the driving force of economic and social development, and it is difficult for free government assistance to participate in the economic field. Xinjiang is rich in resources, adjacent to many countries in Central Asia and South Asia, with great development potential, natural endowment in economic and social development, and complementary foundation between donors and recipients, which can realize "organic assistance".

## 6 Conclusion

One belt, one road, China, is located in the Northwest China. Its natural environment is fragile, its ethnic

groups are numerous, its religion is complex, its border line is long, but its location advantage is obvious. It is an important gateway for China to open to the West. It is the core area of the economic belt in the construction area of "one belt and one road", and is the closest province to Europe in Europe. "Xinjiang is the most important city in China. It is a long-term work to narrow the gap between regions. As a special measure, aid policy plays an irreplaceable role in narrowing regional differences. Comparing the two modes of "mechanical assistance" and "organic assistance", we find that "organic assistance" benefits both sides. Therefore, "organic assistance" may be a better choice.

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