

Type Analysis of Mass Incidents in China

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Abstract: This paper combs the domestic scholars' research on the mass incidents, and sums up the concept of mass incidents. And summarizes the types of mass incidents in China, finds that it is divided into three categories. Therefore, this paper mainly focuses on these types, and puts forward the policy recommendations for preventing, governing and controlling the mass incidents, with a view to enrich and improve the practice of public management process.

Keywords: Mass incidents, Public management, Harmonious society.

RESEARCH BACKGROUND

China is in a critical period of economic transition and social transformation. With the continuous development of economic development and urbanization, the social structure has undergone tremendous changes. As a result, the conflicts between the various interest groups become increasingly apparent. According to the literature, in 1993 the beginning of the implementation of the market economy in China, the country occurred a total of 8700 cases of social mass incidents, in 1994 increased to more than 10,000. From 1994 to 1996, the growth rate was around 10%, 32,000 in 1999, 58,500 in 2003, and 74,000 in 2004, and 87,000 in 2005. From 2006 to 2008, more than 90,000 per year. In 2009 rose to more than 100,000 (more than in 1993 increased by 10.5 times) [1].

When there are some large-scale, wide-ranging and serious threats to social order, the government, as defenders of public order, should realize the importance of maintaining social stability. Therefore, the analysis of the main types of events, research led to the main cause of the outbreak of the incident should be an important agenda for China's national political life.

CONCEPT DEFINITION

The earlier studies of mass incidents focused on the 18th century in Europe, taking the various social revolutions at the time as the object of study. Mass events are known in the world as "Collective Action" or "Collective Behavior" [2]. In China, however, the concept of mass incidents has a unique evolutionary trajectory, usually as a "political term" in official documents. There are many similar concepts in many domestic and foreign literatures, such as social movement, group activities, social contradictions, social conflicts, non-institutional political participation,

interest struggle, riots, revolution and so on. In order to strengthen the communication between researchers, we should first integrate different scholars' definition of mass incidents, and strive to form a scientific and standardized academic terminology.

Scholars define the concept of mass incidents in China mainly as follows:

Chen Jinsheng mentioned that "mass incidents are group behavior that is caused by contradictions within the people. The activities organized by a number of people involved in the formation of organized and purposeful groups, such as visits, meetings, obstruction of traffic, containment of party and government organs, sit-ins petitions, gathering trouble and other activities, and will affect the government management and society [3].

Wang Guoqin gives a multi-dimensional definition of the concept of "collective action". First, a number of individuals to participate, initiated by the general public, the government involved. Second, the degree of organization is low. Third, the degree of institutionalization is low, mostly outside the system of political behavior. Fourthly, the degree of low demands on changing the status quo, usually material interests, less abstract interests. Fifth, the duration is shorter. Finally, the mode of action begins with a moderating action, and then either the situation subsides or becomes a violent violence [4].

Lin Weiye and Liu Hanmin think that "mass incidents refer to social events that violate national laws, regulations, rules and regulations, disturb the society, endanger public safety, violate the personal rights of citizens and damage the public and private property [5].

Yu Jianrong pointed out that “ a mass incident is an event that has a certain number of people who have a certain influence on the social order through an act without a legal basis.” And put forward four aspects of the provisions for this definition: “First, the number of participants must reach a certain scale. According to China's current laws and regulations, more than five should be a minimum standard. Second, these events have no clear legal provisions in the process, and some even laws and regulations expressly prohibited. Third, these gathered the crowd maybe does not necessarily have a common purpose, but there are basic common behavioral orientation. Fourth, these events on the social production order, life order, governance order had a certain impact [6].

Ying Xing defines group events as “It is a group gathering event that triggered by contradictions among the people, more than ten people participate voluntarily, and mainly directed against government or enterprise managers. In this process, there have been significant violent clashes and serious violations, which have a great negative impact on the social order. Obviously, the group event is different from the rights of action, it has a strong spontaneity, violence and illegality.” The author also distinguishes concepts between mass events and related to revolution, rebellion, gang crime, and group fighting [7].

To sum up, the mass incidents in this article refers to: “It is a kind of group activities that carry out non-traditional political participation within the framework of national laws and regulations, institutional rules and so on. It is caused by the contradictions among the people, by the people and the government as the main participants or as direct stakeholders, and its purpose is to express the group interests or the interests struggle, mainly in the form of collective petitions, petitions, collective strikes, rallies, demonstrations, etc..”

The type of mass incidents

In order to express basic interest demands

Most of the participants in such mass incidents are aggrieved party or stakeholders. They gathered together to form a stakeholder group to strengthen its negotiating power. They create external public opinion and impose pressure on other stakeholders to achieve their own interests. The usual cause of such an mass incident is the following: First, urban demolition and municipal construction planning led to the demolition resettlement. Second, enterprise restructuring, mergers and acquisitions, bankruptcy led to a large number of workers unemployed. Third, policy changes or industry renovation lead to conflicts intensified. Finally, due to environmental pollution or some may cause environmental pollution of the project is about to construction.

Want to vent their emotions

Most of the participants of such events are not the stakeholders of the event. Perhaps because of sympathy, anger, dissatisfaction, they are involved in the group just to vent their emotions. These extreme emotions can easily cause devastating consequences. As the French psychologist, Gustave Le Bon, has mentioned in his book *A Study of the Popular Mind*, “Once the individual becomes a member of the group, what he does is no longer responsible. Then everyone will reveal the side that he is not bound by. The pursuit and belief of the group has never been the truth and reason, but blind obedience, cruelty, paranoia and fanaticism. They just only know the simple and extreme feelings.”

In order to express political views and beliefs

The participants of this kind of event are different from the above two. They have a high degree of consistency in ideology, and the action logic is clear. They are assembled together to assert their political views and religious beliefs. And by making a voice to the ruling party, maintaining the legitimacy of its own organization and strengthening its political rights. With the development of China's economic society and the awakening of the people's rights consciousness, such mass incidents will show an increasing trend [8].

DISCUSSION

After analyzing the typical categories of the above-mentioned mass incidents, we can see that public managers can prevent, manage and control the occurrence of mass incidents from the following aspects.

Widely listen to public opinion, weigh the interests of various participants. In resolving the mass incidents of conflicts of interest, the government should prioritize the actions of various stakeholders into the policy formulation. In the early stages of policy development, there should be sufficient communication points within the policy area to strengthen the communication between policy makers and local people. In the process of project advancement, a comprehensive early warning mechanism should be set up to track and feedback the sudden public contradictions in the implementation of the project, so that the relevant managers can respond in the first time to avoid the intensification of public sentiment.

Appropriate guidance of the media and public opinion, monitoring the extreme emotions of information in the process of dissemination

The government is not only the sender of the information, but also the supervisor in the process of information dissemination. While ensuring the openness of government information and the people's right to

know, we should correctly guide the media public opinion. News reports only need to objectively state the truth, if necessary, need to control the spread of those news that may incite ignorant masses.

Public managers should fully respect the freedom of religious belief and other basic rights. The government can provide enough places for the people to carry out normal religious activities and to arrange for the relevant departments to cooperate when the people need it. While striking the cult, the government needs to fully protect the interests of all legitimate organizations, which can avoid the intensification of public sentiment.

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