Trust and Liberalism in Taiwan

Chung-Yuang Jan
National Chengchi University Department of Public Administration Professor

Abstract

Since September 2008, seaquakes of financial have struck the entire world. Lehman Brothers claimed bankrupt suddenly. They sold structure notes brought disaster for the world, no one could avoid, including individual, state, and international enterprises. Further, its impact world economic, people and enterprises not consume, bring about many giant enterprises in deficit, and even go out of business. The condition express free market can’t adjust itself, government must to help.

Only civilians trust the government, government has power to make policy. If civilians don’t operate, and suspect government, government will not do policy of social welfare. In term is called “Political Trust”. I attention to a book which is ”Why Trust Matters: Declining Political Trust and the Demise of American Liberalism”, it’s wrote by M. Hetherington. I was enlightened relationship between liberalism policy and trust in American, and I attempt to observe the relationship whether use in Taiwan. Expecting be a reference for incumbent government.

In this study, I reviewed some study about liberalism and trust, and explored context of historical, in order to fully understand liberalism and trust. Moreover discussed definition of social capital and relationship between liberalism and political trust. When or what cause can facilitate liberalism policy? What’s reason relevance? Why liberalism policies turn to conservatism policy?

This article compare poll of political trust with government policy, want to know Hetherington’s theory can use in Taiwan or not.

Key word: Political Trust, Social Capital, Liberalism, Conservatism, New Public Management.
I. Research Motivation

Recently political trust becomes one of the important topics in the field of academic research. Scholars focus on the degree of how people trust their government or how people trust their democratic system. The degree of people trust is directly proportional the difficulty of governance capability. The higher degree of people trusts will let the government has more power for governance. In opposite, the lower degree of people trust will impede governance capability. Some scholars think that the people trust of the American people decreased in the past several decades and worry the trend will damage the legitimacy of political systems (Hetherington 1998; Miller 1974).

Against civilians in ripe democratic regime, Taiwan and South Korea civilians have low trust in democratic regime. Democratization has done many years, appeared low trust in democratic regime. We worry about this trend probably be a critical in democratic regime stability. (Chin En Wu 2007)

In Hetherington (2005) studied, he analyzed relevance in political trust high or low and American government performed liberalism policy, the consequence relevance modulus is 0.81. It’s express American political trust degree and performs liberalism policy have positive relevance. Confirmed by statistics, when high political trust, liberalism policy was brought up, against, when low political trust, conservatism policy was brought up. Hetherington’s study has giant illumination, let me considered, relation between American political trust and liberalism policy, can this relative apply to Taiwan?

This study will look up literatures about definition of trust, liberalism, and interrelation. And comparison statistics with policy, try to clarify relevance of political trust and policy.

This study structure includes research motivation, literatures review which is definition of liberalism, political trust. And assumption of liberalism and trust. The third chapter is philosophical assumption of trust and liberalism. The forth chapter is relevance of political trust and liberalism policy in Taiwan. Finally is the conclusion.

II. Literature Review

A. Political Trust

Political trust refers to people's faith in the ruling government. When people have faith in the legitimacy of the ruling party, people believe that the ruling government will abide by the law and offer improved social welfare. On the contrary, when people do not have faith in the ruling government, the power granted by the people to the ruling government will be limited to ensuring people's rights. It is the faith in the government that lends necessary support for the regime. From empirical research, there are objects of support and bases of support. As to the objects of support, people will focus on political