

Oliinyk O. M.
Doctor in Philosophy,
Leading Scientific Fellow

CHINA PRINCIPAL CONCEPTS OF FOREIGN POLICY IN THE 21ST

It is a concept of a specific time and China a sober understanding and clear assessment of the international situation and China's domestic development in coming future. The Chinese government adheres to viewing international contradictions and relations among countries in a historic and objective way and handles foreign relations with a long-term point of view of development, changes, interrelations and interaction. The Chinese leaders think that the foreign policy is based on understanding of the following three points.

First, it is trend of 21st century that the world wants peace. In the first half of the 20th century, mankind suffered two world wars and people who suffered the catastrophes will never forget the hardship and pain of losing their loved ones. Later, the world was plunged into the cold war featuring confrontation between the socialist and capitalist camps and contention between two superpowers. The Chinese people and the people of the world have longed for lasting peace, have craved for a peaceful and tranquil life, friendly cooperation and common development for a better future of the world. Peace is an irresistible trend of history.

Second, multi-polarization is the framework for the 21st century. In the last century, the world gradually turned from a multi-polar one into a bipolar one. After the dismemberment of the Soviet Union, the United States became the sole superpower in the world. But with the raise of China the dominance of the USA in foreign relations became unstable. History has proven that a multi-polar situation is more conducive to developing peace and stability than a sole-polar situation and it provides more opportunities for developing countries to catch up with developed countries. Though the process of multi-polarization is not easy going, but has twists and turns and struggles, nonetheless, democratization of international politics and multi-polarization are an irresistible trend of the history.

Third, peaceful development is the theme of the 21st century. The resolution of the difficulties faced by mankind depends on the development. Peace and development are closely connected and mutually complementary. World peace is a prerequisite to the common development of all countries while common development is the important foundation for world peace. China's general assessment of the 21st century – an important century of the history of mankind. On the basis of rational cognition, it has improved its conceptual approaches to foreign affairs. The following «key words» like

peace, development, friendly relations, conciliation, harmony, cooperation, rationality and legitimacy have profound connotations.

Peace is the core word of China's foreign relations and the independent foreign policy of peace is the soul. Shortly after the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Chinese government and the Chinese people have stand for maintaining world peace. China has always regarded peace as the common aspiration of the people of all countries in the world and has taken it as its sacred diplomatic duty to maintain, to strive for and defend peace. China supports peaceful settlement of international disputes and dialogue instead of confrontation with the goal of «realizing world peace».

China believes that there are quite a few favorable international environment and promoting world cooperation and development. Peaceful competition is quite realistic for a long time. This provides the peaceful external conditions and international environment for China and other countries to develop. Chinese leaders believe that economic globalization has brought about impact as much as opportunities. They think that economic globalization on which the developed countries play a leading role has driven world development anyway. Though the developed countries, with their powerful economic force and advanced technology, have brought great pressure on the developing countries in the competition for resources and market share, the global circulation of productive factors like funds, technology and management know-how can also be used by the developing countries. The successful reform and opening up of China is a case in point. The connotation and meaning of development, as a key word in China's domestic and international affairs, continues to expand. Moreover, it is common development of the world, particularly one that allows the developing countries to change their fate. The road of peaceful development taken by China is to maintain lasting peace and never to seek hegemonism even when country attains its global of development.

In ancient time China advocated the concept of good neighborliness. In recent years, China is more concerned with properly handling relations with neighboring countries, reasonably setting border issues and issues left over from history. In line with the spirit of leaving the past behind and looking towards the future, China is improving its relations with neighboring countries. China adheres to the foreign policy of «friendly and peaceful neighbors and making neighbors affluent» sincerely treating neighbors as partners with benevolence and seeking friendly and all-round cooperation with all neighboring countries for common for development. China hopes the international community will become a big harmonious family.

As an ancient Chinese saying goes «Better solve disputes with foes than create rifts». It advises people to take the initiative to conciliate rather than intensify contradictions, problems, confrontations and conflicts. Confron-

tation will only lead to disaster for both parties and war will bring more hatred and make the world more unstable, which is not in the interest of peaceful life. In terms of policy guiding exchanges with other countries, this philosophical thinking of China is expressed in establishing friendly relations, mutual respect and mutual cooperation with all countries on the basis of five principles of peaceful co-existence for continued progress of mankind. China holds that world affairs should be dealt with through friendly consultation and dialogue on an equal footing among countries and peoples and is opposed to hegemonism and power politics in any form.

In recent years, the Chinese government put forward the goal of building a socialist harmonious society. Building a socialist harmonious society refers to that China, while marching towards modernization and making efforts to realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, attaches great importance to creating and maintaining a fine mechanism for a harmonious society that features long-term development and stability. China in putting forward the proposal for a harmonious world, hopes that there will be neither wars, nor power politics, nor oppression on the globe, but that there will be international political democracy, fairness and justice, friendly and harmonious coexistence among all nations and countries and people of different races with different beliefs to freely create their life in accordance with their own ways. China believes that the goal of harmonious society is the common aspiration of the people all over the world.

Since the beginning of the 21st century, China has strongly supported the policy of cooperation in international affairs with the aim of seeking peace and development and promoting exchange through cooperation. China's opening-up, accession to WTO, expansion of exchanges and participation in the international affairs are all for better cooperation. Promoting of trade, introduction of fund and bilateral exchanges are all for cooperation. Cooperation is a win-win act: for China, it is an effective measure to work for regional and global interests. The successful development for China over the past 40 years has benefited from good international cooperation. Under the current situation of economic globalization, China will only succeed in its peaceful development through world cooperation. For other countries, cooperation with China provides opportunities to supply each other's needs and make up one's own deficiencies by drawing from other's advantages. It also provides a gigantic open market in China for other countries or regions to conduct extensive trade, economic and technological cooperation, and scientific and cultural exchanges. Such broad international cooperation will enhance exchanges and friendship and also enliven multilateral international activities, thus provides a great force for maintaining world peace and making the world economy and culture prosper.

Going along the Chinese philosophical tradition China strongly stand for the rationality on foreign relations. Rationality means doing things in line with the objective rule or law and reason. With the respect to foreign exchanges, it means adhering to justice and fairness, closely consulting with developing countries in international and regional affairs, supporting the just demands and reasonable request of the developing countries, paying attention to protecting their interests and striving to build a more rational and fair new international political and economic order. It also means adhering to mutual respect, equality, prevention of big power chauvinism and opposition to the hegemonic philosophy of power over justice.

China consistently holds that any country, whether big or small, strong or weak, should abide by principles of the Charter of the United Nations and follow internationally recognized fundamental standards of international relations and international laws. China also support building a just and fair new order of international politics and economics and corresponding solid set of international law. Chinese leaders suggest that current international mechanism of economics, finance and law is formed under the dominance of developed countries on the basis of the values, political views and legal theories of the West, reflecting the interests of a few developed countries and embodying many unfair and unjust factors. World affairs should naturally be decided by the people of all countries and the rules for international acts should be democracy, standardization and legislation.

Friendly exchanges, cooperation and co-existence are the basic attitude and spirit for China in its foreign exchanges, whether in its relations with big powers and neighboring countries or with the vast number of developing countries. In both official and non-official exchanges, China sticks to threatening everyone with politeness and hospitality, keeps its words and shows respect to all but never impose anything on them. With respect to relations with other countries, China always adhere to the five principles of peaceful co-existence. In exchanges with political parties, China adheres to the principle of independence, equality, mutual respect and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. In terms of non-governmental exchanges, China adheres to enhancing friendship, expanding exchanges, enriching content and creating new approaches. It does so by placing emphasis and hopes on the people on the basis of equality, mutual benefit and friendly exchanges, so as to develop non-governmental exchanges to deeper, wider and multi-level realms.

Striving for peace and development is key priority of the foreign policy of China. The progress of human civilization, prosperity and development of a country or a nation will only be achieved through peaceful development. Chinese people also learned an important lesson from their history and experience of suffering from aggression in modern history. Only when a country is strong, will it stand independently among the nations in the world.

Over the past more than one hundred years, the Chinese people fought hard struggle for the great goal of reinvigorating China, accomplishing tremendous achievements. However, China is still developing countries and will remain so in the initial phase of socialism for a long time. China needs to undergo a long period of hard struggle before it can realize the lofty goal of reinvigorating China and building a relatively affluent society. In order to fulfill unswervingly the prime task of developing China, it is necessary to firmly foster the strategic thinking of putting development first, to seize the important strategic opportunities of the new century and to adhere to promoting economic and social growth with scientific development. It is essential to take economic development as the core and promote the all-round and coordinated development of socialist economic, political and cultural construction and the development of a harmonious society, continue to develop China's economic, scientific and national defense strength and enhance national coherence and creativity to create more material and cultural wealth for mankind. Here, three points merit special mention because they determine that the development of China can only take a peaceful road.

1. China development needs a peaceful international environment. China needs a prolonged

peaceful and stable international environment – this is a necessary precondition. As China has implemented an open policy for more than 40 years, foreign investment and foreign trade, international markets and international talents have long become important conditions for China's development, which would be adversely affected without these conditions.

2. The peaceful development of China is scientific one with the first and foremost priority

being placed on people. The core of peaceful development is putting people and people happiness first, and everything is done for the interests of the people and serve the people. It is the people who will benefit from the achievements of development. As regard to the coordinated development of economy, politics, culture and society, that of rural and urban areas as well as human society and nature, they are all concrete requirements raised on the basis of the principle of putting people first.

3. The goal of China's development is to build a harmonious society. To build a harmonious society is an important task proceeding from the task of building socialism with Chinese characteristics and a relatively affluent society. It meets the objective demand of the development of Chinese reform at a critical juncture and reflects the common aspiration and fundamental interests of people. The foundation to build such a harmonious society is development, continuous growth of productivity and social material wealth. Poverty is a major root cause of disharmony in society while development is the foundation approach to eradicate poverty. Since China choose as its target the building of a

harmonious society, it will identify as a first priority the resolution of all domestic contradictions and problems by means of accelerating development so as to achieve internal peace, harmony, comfort and friendliness.

China believes that a harmonious world needs first of all justice and fairness, and being rich but cruel or being strong but bullying will not lead to peaceful development and such a society will ultimately harm its own interests. All development should be mutually beneficial and conducive to common wealth and development of all people of the world.

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