

Community of Shared Future for Mankind: The Code of Contemporary Chinese Diplomatic Philosophy

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ABSTRACT. *It has been several years since the concept of community of shared future for mankind was put forward. For scholars and even ordinary people outside China, understanding that concept rooting from China's diplomatic philosophy, is beneficial for minimizing disputes in international relations. This paper discusses the main content of the concept, why it was proposed by the Chinese people, what characteristics it has, and the possible impact and choice it may bring. Without complicated argument, this paper aims to express the intention that building community of shared future for mankind has been deeply embedded in contemporary Chinese diplomatic philosophy. The Chinese are advocating multilateralism and pushing forward the practice of "one belt and one road" in order to truly pursue brighter future for the whole world. Inevitably, this requires the understanding and participation of developed and developing countries.*

KEYWORDS: *community, mankind, Chinese politics, diplomatic philosophy*

1. Introduction

In China's political discourse system, Leaders' formal speech is not only the expression of individual thinking, but also the collective wisdom of leadership. The concept expressed in conciseness often contains profound implications. there are inevitably obstacles in semantic understanding and ‘fusion of horizons(Gadamer,1960), when people except Chinese examine ‘building a community of shared future for mankind’(Xi Jinping,2013),a typical expression in Chinese diplomatic philosophy.

Analyzing ‘community of shared future for mankind’ is a efficient way to understand how Chinese people views its relationship with the outside world.

Furthermore, it is of positive significance for global development to avoid falling into the trap of Thucydides and to break through the limitations of Neoliberalism.

2. Concept

On March 24, 2013, President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China delivered a speech in Moscow to convey to the world for the first time his understanding of the community of shared future for mankind. Since then, on many important diplomatic occasions, such as the summits commemorating the 70th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, President Xi has advocated the establishment of the community of shared future for mankind.

In the domestic political field, on October 24, 2017, 'Promoting the Construction of a Community of shared future for mankind' was written into the Constitution of the Communist Party of China, and then into the Constitution of the People's Republic of China in March, 2018. It is no longer a metaphysical presupposition, but a far-reaching political commitment.

Conceptual understanding based on the report of the 19th CPC National Congress[1]:

2.1 Reason

'The dream of the Chinese people is closely connected with the dreams of the peoples of other countries; the Chinese Dream can be realized only in a peaceful international environment and under a stable international order.' That's why Chinese people aspire to peace and openness, because the realization of the Chinese dream can not be separated from world peace and stability. The world must find ways to become more united.

2.2 Strategy

'We must keep in mind both our internal and international imperatives, stay on the path of peaceful development, and continue to pursue a mutually beneficial strategy of opening up.' At the diplomatic strategic level, China pursues peaceful

development and mutual benefit, rather than winning the zero sum game in international relations.

2.3 Principle

‘We will uphold justice while pursuing shared interests, and will foster new thinking on common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security.’ Those are some of the principles to be adhered to during that establishment, among them win-win cooperation is the basic principle.

2.4 Mission

‘We will pursue open, innovative, and inclusive development that benefits everyone; boost cross-cultural exchanges characterized by harmony within diversity, inclusiveness, and mutual learning; and cultivate ecosystems based on respect for nature and green development.’ There's a lot of dimensions to diplomatic work to be done.

2.5 Responsibility

‘China will continue its efforts to safeguard world peace, contribute to global development, and uphold international order.’ This clearly defines China's identity and its responsibilities in promoting the development of human civilization.

For this theoretical framework, Chinese scholars(Li Ai-ming,2016; Zhang Yan-tao,2018; Zhang Hui,2018;Yang Jie-mian,2018) have carried out a lot of research from the perspectives of philosophy, political science, and jurisprudence. It further enriched the theoretical foundation, promoted the value guidance, and explained the practical principles.

3. Why Chinese

In the history of Western political thought, Aristotle, Stoics, Kant, Machiavelli, Tonnies, Marx, Weber, Habermas, etc.. Many thinkers and politicians have

conceived sorts of ideal humanity communities, trying to coordinate the relationship between different countries or groups more reasonably.

The spread of those thoughts in contemporary western politics has promoted the trend of globalization and has also enabled the United Nations and other organizations to play an important role in international disputes. Marx believed that ‘human has categorical nature’. The destiny of mankind is linked together as never before, and the integration of diversity is a trend in the development of human civilization. Allowing the clash of civilizations(Huntington,1993) happens, human civilization will face a great disaster.

Contemporary Chinese are open-minded and good at learning. When dealing with their relationship with the world, they not only learn from the Western wisdom, but also find evidence from their traditional culture. Building a community of shared future for mankind has inherited the important ideas of peace, development, righteousness, war and co-winning in ancient Chinese philosophy. Many views coincide with those of Marx’s historical materialism. Chinese people believe in that the development of humanity should based on reconciliation, integration, creativity and criticism.

The Chinese learned the lessons of being a semi-colonial and semi-feudal society which had fallen behind in modern times. Through 40 years of reform and opening up, great achievements have been made in social construction. There is a firm belief that peace and development are the mainstream of the world. When the world is up to the challenges to the common interests, common security and common values, ‘China must share weal and woe with other countries, working together against external risks and challenges ’[2].

Building a community of shared future for mankind has its inevitability proposed by the Chinese. however, once it is proposed, it is no longer limited in a country’ appealing. It is a world concept and has the characteristics of internationalism.

4. Features

The community of shared future for mankind represents the vision of the Chinese people when dealing with their relations with the world. It is the code for

understanding Chinese diplomatic philosophy. There are several important features to be concerned about:

4.1 Pursuing mutual benefits

The development of the world is no longer a single-country unilateralism or a zero-sum game. While developing themselves, we must also give others the right and space to develop. A world divided between rich and poor is destined to be turbulent. Respect for the right of development in every country requires rational coordination and improvement of the inequalities and anachronisms of the current political and economic circumstances.

4.2 Improving global governance

The building of a community of shared future for mankind is the result of the improvement of global governance. Such global governance requires legal rules of procedure that are shared and work well. This is a great challenge not only for China but also for the rest of the world. When some developed countries' domestic law is often superior to international law, it inevitably gives rise to a sense of confusion and helplessness in the current global governance. Global governance needs legal governance. Humanity needs to work together with greater courage and responsibility in consultation on the rules of global governance.

4.3 Value of coexistence

From individualism to civil society, from nationalism to internationalism, from attention to minorities to majorities, and then to all groups. The history of human development is the history of the pursuit of values. European countries, American and Japan had given solutions for the construction of a human community, but unfortunately those solutions 'unilaterally prioritize the gaining of developed countries'[3]. The First World War, the Second World War and today's wars in the Middle East and North Africa are tragedies caused by the attempts of minority values to be imposed on others. Human beings should pursue cultural coexistence and symbiosis, not rejection and elimination.

4.4 Open to practice

Deng Xiaoping said that practice is the only criterion for testing truth. Mankind should have a positive community ideal. Practice can make a good dream come true. However, the community of shared destiny for mankind will certainly not be accomplished overnight, nor will it be the ultimate form of human evolution. When the development of mankind is faced with enormous risks, we must think deeply, put forward a reasonable vision, and fight for it. Therefore, the community of shared future for mankind is a Chinese solution to global problems and reflects China's wisdom. It arises directly from the courage and strength of Chinese reform and innovation, and contains the possibility of sustainable development.

5. Influence and choice

With the widespread use of this concept, it has become the core concept in China's diplomatic discourse system. meanwhile, China, as the world's second largest economy with a more the 1.3 billion population market, has established diplomatic relations with more than 180 countries around the world.' This vision has received warm response from the wider international community and is exerting positive and far-reaching influence on contemporary international relations'[4]. The proposal is gradually being recognized by countries around the world. For example, The Belt and Road Initiative runs across three continents, involving over 60 countries and around 4.4 billion people, it will fully arouse the economic potential of the participating countries.

From the perspective of the developed world, it is necessary and critical to understand the diplomatic philosophy of an emerging developing power. It should find something in common with its own diplomatic philosophy, understand it, analyze it, and even perfect it together. Instead of drawing the line between ideology and policy measures, it has even escalated and stigmatized. Respect and understanding are the foundations of coexistence.

Among the developing countries, China is the largest one, and its diplomatic philosophy represents, to a certain extent, the aspirations of all developing countries. Without building good relations with other countries and participating in global governance, it will be difficult for developing countries to share the fruits of global

resources and human civilization. Openness and integration are inevitable choices for human social development. Therefore, it is necessary for developing countries to seriously consider and participate in the building of a community of shared future for mankind.

‘With the self-conscious sense to shoulder more global responsibilities, and the confidence stemming from the successful exploration of development path’[5], China is initiatively attempting to forge a brighter future for the whole world.

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