

Chinese International Security Policy: From Peace to Rise

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Abstract: In this article, the importance of recent Chinese strategy from peaceful to aggressive will be fully discussed. With the fast development of the Chinese economy and more and more attentions being paid to this emerging country, China is facing the problem of figuring out their role in the global economy. So far, the reasonably agreed upon strategy has been to apply the plan of being peaceful at first and then became more aggressive when China is preparing to compete with America.

Keywords: development, relationships, unipolarity, comparison

1. Introduction

Chinese strategy has been discussed for many times in the International Security part throughout the whole world. Despite there being no official documents disclosed by the Chinese government to define its grand strategy, we are still able to see that China's policies are highly connected with its domestic interests and the constant priorities from the previous history. I will split this into three sections about boosting domestic economy, constructing international relationships and dealing with America.

2. The first step of strategy on economic development

The first step of this strategy is to continue the development of the economy in China that has been achieved over in the past half century. In 1978, Chairman Deng Xiaoping enacted the policy of "Economic Reform and opening up". The CCP (Communist Party of China) set the domestic economic development as the priority through the whole country. This decision seriously influenced the Chinese national policy over next 40 years, which helped the Chinese economy become the second largest in the world behind America. The question why the Chinese government needs to attain such rapid development with the ignorance to any costs arises? There is one fact which needs to be considered: China's traditional concerns and rejections to the Western society's value. From the article, "China's search for a grand strategy: A rising great power finds its way" which is written by W Jisi in 2011, clearly stated "Chinese leaders totally understood that their country's history is their persistent sensitivity to domestic disorder which were caused by foreign threats." W Jisi [1] Therefore, there will inevitably be conflicts with the countries such as America because of the cultural difference and self-concern. The best solution is to own enough industrial compacity to allow China to compete with its rivals. This is what the CCP became devoted to achieving over the past 41 years. Until now, this principle has been undeniably effective with incredible developments since 1978. (World Bank 2019) Data shows Chinese Gross Domestic Product increased from 178.281 billion in 1979 to 13.608 trillion in 2018. Therefore, the essential part of the strategy is about the economic development.

Table 1 China's outlook on international order [2]

	Dominant Orthodoxy	
	Qing (1800-1860)	Separatist
Era	Republican (1896-1939)	Integrationist
	Mao (1949-1976)	Revisionist
	Deng (1978-)	Integrationist

3. The second step of strengthening international relationships:

The second step of the plan is to consider the reconstruction of international relationships with foreign countries. After the People's Republic of China was formed in 1949, China was compelled out of all the international organizations including the United Nations. Without any international relationships with other countries except with the Soviet Union, China stepped in the muds of difficulties. However, after only 22 years, China joined into the United Nations in 1971 because of the votes from the Soviet Union and Great Britain. W Jisi [3] Demonstrated the efforts that China made in these years to build the international network stating, "*China made great efforts to develop friendly and cooperative relations with countries all over the world, regardless of their political or ideological orientation.*" With the unprejudiced opinions to the foreign countries, Chinese Government successfully built a "nonconfrontational posture" which attracted lots of investment to boost its economy. The most typical example is the AIIB (Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank) which is organized through Chinese relations with members such as Singapore and India. This project significantly increased China's influence in Asia through the methods of investments. Besides this, Chinese government also provided aids for the constructions of high-speed rail system in other countries, which also strengthened relationships and influence in these countries. The critical policy of maintaining a friendly manner and attitude in the world can be a long-lasting strategy for CCP to exploit in the future.

4. The final step of appeasing unipolarity

The final aspect of this strategy focuses on appeasing the unipolarity of power in the world since the end of the World War Two, America. We then put our attentions to the only Great Power in the unipolarity world in past years, America. After 1979, China formally built the international relationship with America. There have been continuous frictions between these two powers over the past 40 years and it has become more and more severe in the recent years. The underlying reason behind this series of conflicts is the American's worries about Chinese rapid development over the past 40 years. According to Christensen's thesis, there are two points of views in American political fields about the rise of China. The first opinion is positive about the Asian policy which helped to give the regional powers "*incentives to increase mutual trust, transparency, and economic ties*" In contrast, the zero-sum perspective states that the "*continuous increase in Chinese power poses the most formidable long-term danger to the national security and economic interests of the United States and its allies.*" Christensen [1] These two different perspectives illustrate the American government's hesitations selecting the strategy they should apply to China. United States exploits in its Asian policy since 1990s have not only helped increase the economic interdependence in East Asia, but also increased China's regional influence as a contributing factor in Beijing becoming a central hub of Asia. America needs to find a solution for this problem, and it will inevitably choose the second one. It is because of the reason we inferred above: China rejects the ideology of America because if China accepted American values, it would violate the Chinese core concerns of the foreign invasions and national independence, Friedberg [4] Also indicated the inevitable conflicts that will arise between these two Pacific powers due to the expanding and rising values of China in contrast to the constraints policy of America. Consequently, the conflicts between these two powers lead to the ultimate path of China to being aggressive in the future without any compromises.

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, before China's comprehensive national strength surpassed that of the United States, it was highly strategic to adopt a peaceful rise. However, due to the strong geopolitical conflict between China and the United States, and China's desire to establish a new order different from the United States after becoming a world power, China needs to become more aggressive to compete with the United States for world influence

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