



An Analysis of Xi Jinping's Diplomatic Thought from a Macro-Historical Perspective

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Abstract— *Interpreting the theoretical origins and contemporary value of Xi Jinping's Thought on Diplomacy from the perspective of "macro-history" helps to deeply grasp its formative logic and historical context. This thought emerged at the intersection of global trends and the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, rooted in China's fine traditional culture, inheriting the essence of Marxist theory, drawing on historical experiences of modern national salvation, developing the diplomatic practices of New China, and innovatively proposing the concept of a "community with a shared future for mankind." It seeks to reshape the international order through the global governance principle of "wide consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits," while driving practical transformation via the high-quality co-construction of the Belt and Road Initiative. As the fundamental guideline for China's diplomacy in the new era, Xi Jinping's Thought on Diplomacy not only demonstrates strategic resolve and historical confidence but also contributes a theoretical paradigm to the reform of the global governance system.*

Keywords— *Macro-Historical Perspective, the Communist Party of China (CPC), Diplomacy, a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind*



I. INTRODUCTION

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), General Secretary Xi Jinping has put forward a series of important expositions on the "grand historical perspective." This worldview and methodology, rooted in historical materialism, has gradually taken shape through the summation of revolutionary and developmental experiences and the inheritance of China's fine traditional culture. At its core, it views history as a dynamic and unified process, bridging the past and present with both historical depth and forward-looking vision. By grasping the laws of history and coordinating diplomatic practices, General Secretary Xi Jinping has developed Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy, which serves as the

fundamental guide for China's diplomatic endeavors in the new era. Since the 20th CPC National Congress, the essence of this thought has become even more solid, and its characteristics more distinct.

The academic community widely regards the grand historical perspective as a new development of historical materialism in contemporary China. It has been applied to analyze China's issues and explain the theoretical and practical logic behind Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy. The international community has also taken note. The Russian book *Xi Jinping: Fulfilling the Chinese Dream* centers on the theme of national rejuvenation, introducing General Secretary Xi Jinping's personal journey and the context of the "Chinese Dream," while highly praising his

innovative ideas and measures [1]. The American publication *The Age of Xi Jinping* reviews the general secretary's political career, with a focus on new strategies such as the "Four Comprehensives" [2].

Currently, the once-in-a-century transformation is accelerating, placing higher demands on China's diplomacy and its global positioning. This article aims to examine Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy through the lens of the grand historical perspective, exploring its historical foundations. By aligning with the strategic arrangements of the new era and analyzing global trends alongside China's national conditions, it will focus on the core concepts and elucidate their significance for our times.

II. THE HISTORICAL "ORIGINS" OF XI JINPING'S THOUGHT ON DIPLOMACY

2.1 The Fine Genes of Traditional Chinese Culture

Traditional Chinese culture has profoundly nourished Xi Jinping's thought on diplomacy. First, the Chinese nation has always cherished peace since ancient times. Confucianism advocates that "harmony is precious," Mohism promotes "non-aggression," and Daoism values "non-action," all prioritizing peace over war. Rulers sought "peace under heaven," while the common people longed for "living and working in peace and contentment," collectively forming the peaceful foundation of Chinese civilization. Second, the Chinese nation embraces harmony in diversity. Ancient wisdom held that differences foster exchange, and exchange drives progress—the vitality of civilization lies in mutual learning and enrichment [3]. Third, the Chinese nation has always been open and inclusive. From the integration of Central Plains and Chu cultures to the absorption of neighboring ethnic cultures, an open-minded ethos was cultivated. The Silk Road of the Han Dynasty, the fusion of Buddhism and Confucianism in the Tang Dynasty, Zheng He's voyages to the Western Seas, and the spread of the Four Great Inventions that spurred the Renaissance all demonstrate how Chinese culture thrived through exchange and contributed to world civilization. Fourth, the Chinese nation's pursuit of a "Great Harmony" society has deep historical roots. The *Book of Rites* states, "When the Great Way prevails, the world belongs to all." Sun Yat-sen

envisioned "a world shared by all" as his revolutionary ideal. This aspiration for a better society reflects the nation's spiritual pursuit and provides a profound cultural foundation for today's vision of building a community with a shared future for humanity.

2.2 Marx and Engels' Diplomatic Thought

While exploring the theories and actions for the liberation of the proletariat, the revolutionary mentors encapsulated the essence and core principles of handling international relations.

First, the Industrial Revolution in 19th-century Europe propelled a leap in productive forces. As capitalists expanded their markets globally, the proletariat was forcibly drawn into the industrialization process, with the surplus value of laborers continuously exploited. In response to this exploitation, Marx and Engels called for the unity of the proletariat to collectively oppose bourgeois oppression, stating: "The united action of the proletariat, at least in the civilized countries, is one of the first conditions for its emancipation." [4] They advocated replacing the illusory community of capitalism with an "association of free individuals," truly aligning with the fundamental interests of the vast majority.

Second, Marx and Engels championed peace and resolutely opposed unjust and unreasonable international relations. They condemned the capitalist powers' foreign policies, which "exploited national prejudices and shed the blood and squandered the wealth of the people in predatory wars for the pursuit of criminal ends." [5] They explicitly proposed that peace is the essential principle for correctly addressing national issues and interstate relations.

2.3 Historical Origins: The Wave of Globalization and China's Catastrophic Modern History

In the 15th century, advancements in navigation technology and commercial capital propelled Columbus's discovery of the Americas and Magellan's circumnavigation of the globe, opening new maritime routes for the West. Subsequently, Western nations, driven by mercantilism and the pursuit of wealth, accumulated capital through military expansion, maritime plunder, and fraudulent trade and are igniting a wave of colonization. Faced with these external pressures, the Ming and Qing governments, motivated by the need to maintain control

and economic self-sufficiency, adopted a policy of isolation, leaving only a few ports open. It gradually distanced China from the trajectory of global development, ultimately exposing its fatal shortcomings in modernization during the Opium War of 1840.

By the mid-19th century, Britain had taken the lead in completing the Industrial Revolution, leading to rapid growth in productivity. Eager to expand overseas markets and plunder raw materials, Britain sought to force open China's doors. To reverse its trade deficit with China, Britain smuggled vast quantities of opium into the country, triggering the Opium War. Due to the overwhelming disparity in strength, the Qing dynasty suffered a crushing defeat. This failure made enlightened individuals realize that the isolationist Qing Empire was no match for industrial civilization. China's natural economy began to collapse, national sovereignty was continuously eroded, and the country plunged into the abyss of semi-colonial and semi-feudal subjugation, forcibly drawn into the capitalist world market.

Some court officials and intellectuals gradually became aware of the vast gap between China and the world and began exploring ways to save the nation from peril. From the 1860s to the 1890s, the Self-Strengthening Movement, under the slogans of "self-strengthening" and "seeking prosperity," introduced Western technologies and established modern military and civilian industries, which to some extent spurred China's economic development. However, the movement only addressed superficial issues, failing to resolve deep-seated social contradictions, leaving China still passive amid global trends.

Subsequently, the Hundred Days' Reform and the 1911 Revolution erupted successively, completely ending the autocratic monarchy. As for where China's future lay, the nascent Communist Party provided an answer through practice. The dissemination of The Communist Manifesto and the victory of the Russian October Revolution brought new hope to China. A century of history has proven that only by actively aligning with historical trends can China truly achieve rejuvenation.

2.4 Successful Experiences in the Diplomatic History of New China

Over the past fifty years, New China has forged a path characterized by self-confidence, independence,

openness, inclusiveness, fairness, and justice. In the early days of the founding of the People's Republic, faced with the confrontation between two major blocs, Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai proposed the principles of "starting anew," "cleaning the house before inviting guests," and "leaning to one side," which aimed to eliminate imperialist privileges in China and prioritize relations with socialist countries. At the Bandung Conference, Zhou Enlai put forward the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, projecting New China as a peaceful and friendly nation onto the world stage.

In the 1960s, as national independence movements surged across Asia, Africa, and Latin America, China shifted its diplomatic focus to these regions, supporting liberation movements while improving relations with neighboring and European countries, ushering in a second wave of diplomatic recognition.

By the 1970s, the U.S.-Soviet rivalry had entered a phase of "Soviet offense and U.S. defense." Mao Zedong introduced the theory of the "Three Worlds," with China actively seeking support from the Third World, thereby expanding its international influence while ensuring domestic stability.

In the 1980s, Deng Xiaoping concluded that a major war was unlikely and explicitly identified "peace and development" as the themes of the era. China adhered to self-reliance while advancing reform and opening-up, proactively strengthening exchanges and cooperation with other nations and steadily progressing toward modernization.

After the 1990s, amid the dramatic shifts in the international landscape following the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Communist Party of China, under the leadership of Comrade Jiang Zemin, responded with composure. It stabilized the foundations of domestic development, upheld peace and development, opposed hegemonism, advocated for a just and equitable new international order, and promoted global progress toward peace.

III. THE HISTORICAL "TRANSFORMATION" BEHIND THE FORMATION OF XI JINPING'S DIPLOMATIC THOUGHT

The era is the mother of thought, and practice is the

source of theory [6]. The diplomacy of the new era is built on the spatial horizontal coordinate of the current global trends and the temporal vertical coordinate of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, evolving with the times and circumstances.

3.1 The Major Trends in World Historical Development

General Secretary Xi Jinping's proposition of "profound changes unseen in a century" profoundly reveals the complex transformations the world is undergoing today. Unlike the "changes" mentioned by Li Hongzhang in the late Qing Dynasty, the current transformation is all-encompassing: the collective rise of emerging markets and developing countries has led to a more balanced international power structure; the accelerated advancement of a new round of technological and industrial revolutions is profoundly reshaping productivity and lifestyles; the global governance system faces adjustments, with multilateralism under pressure yet urgently needing reinforcement; and various global challenges continue to emerge, requiring nations to collaborate in response. This assertion provides crucial guidance for China to grasp the pulse of the times and formulate its diplomatic strategies.

As the technological revolution deepens, the intertwined development of productive forces among nations is rapidly reshaping the global economic landscape. Emerging countries, leveraging enhanced productivity, are achieving rapid growth, accelerating the trend toward multipolarity, gradually stepping onto the stage of global governance, and challenging traditional power structures. The international order is undergoing profound adjustments, with the traditional dominant framework being disrupted, a trend toward "de-Americanization" emerging, and nations increasingly pursuing independence. Peace and development remain the themes of the era, yet risks such as regional conflicts and bloc confrontations persist. The resurgence of protectionism and unilateralism, coupled with challenges like ecological crises and terrorism, collectively hinder global progress. This indicates that the current era presents both unprecedented opportunities and multidimensional risks.

Facing these profound changes unseen in a century, nations must transcend zero-sum games, deepen mutual trust and cooperation, and steer the world toward a more

peaceful, inclusive, and sustainable future.

3.2 A Critical Period in the Historical Development of the Chinese Nation

The "Decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Further Deepening Comprehensive Reforms and Advancing Chinese Modernization," adopted at the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee, highlights the pivotal significance of the current and upcoming period for building a strong nation and achieving national rejuvenation. The plenum introduced over 300 reform measures, with a focus on establishing a high-level socialist market economy system, sending a clear signal of expanding openness and driving high-quality development.

On the political front, China, as the largest developing country and a major contributor to the global economy, continues to see its influence rise, particularly in regions such as Southeast Asia and Latin America. The emergence of the so-called "China threat theory" also reflects, in a way, the growth of China's international discourse power and institutional influence. In diplomacy, China adheres to the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, seeking common development on the basis of respecting other nations, thereby fostering a positive environment for external engagement. Culturally, China embraces openness and inclusiveness, promoting its fine traditional culture while actively absorbing achievements from other civilizations, creating a harmonious atmosphere for international exchanges.

Overall, China's developmental achievements are rooted in reform and opening up. Chinese modernization is continuously advanced through reforms and will undoubtedly open up even broader prospects amid comprehensive deepening reforms, propelling the nation toward prosperity and strength.

IV. THE CORE CONCEPT OF XI JINPING'S DIPLOMATIC THOUGHT

Building a community with a shared future for mankind is the core concept of Xi Jinping's diplomatic thought and the lofty goal pursued by major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics in the new era. Throughout history, this initiative represents China's

proactive engagement with the world through diplomacy [7].

4.1 Learning from History to Shape the Future: Building a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind

History serves as a mirror, revealing the rise and fall of nations. Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, General Secretary Xi Jinping has visited numerous countries, actively disseminating China's diplomatic philosophy and systematically articulating the core propositions of contemporary Chinese foreign policy. In 2013, he first proposed the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations, marking China's diplomatic transformation from an important participant in the international order to an active leader in global governance. Addressing key issues such as reforming the global governance system, reshaping development models, and constructing a new type of international relations, the General Secretary introduced the "five-pronged" approach to global governance: advocating lasting peace, pursuing universal security, promoting common prosperity, fostering openness and inclusiveness, and building a beautiful world. This theoretical framework has enriched the architecture of major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics and provided systematic guidance for global governance reform.

Humanity shares one planet, and the destinies of all nations are interconnected. The 2008 financial crisis, which originated on Wall Street, quickly spread globally, leading to shrinking investments, sluggish trade, rising unemployment, social instability, and increasingly complex international relations. In the era of globalization, threats faced by any country can evolve into shared challenges, leaving no nation immune. Only by building a world of lasting peace and universal security can we provide a stable environment for the development of all countries—this is the right choice in the face of a changing world.

"All beings flourish without harming one another and all paths coexist without conflict." In the new era, China's diplomacy consistently follows the path of peaceful development, commits to forging a new type of

international relations, and stands ready to work with all nations to shoulder global development responsibilities. This approach aligns with the trends of the times, captures the momentum of human progress, and responds to the shared aspirations of people worldwide.

4.2 Upholding the Principle: A Global Governance Philosophy of Extensive Consultation, Joint Contribution, and Shared Benefits

Building a community with a shared future for mankind epitomizes President Xi Jinping's vision for global governance, with its core principle being extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits [8][9].

Currently, hegemonic practices such as bullying and zero-sum games remain prominent, while deficits in peace, development, security, and governance continue to worsen. Some developed countries are neither capable nor willing to shoulder global governance responsibilities, nor do they relinquish power to developing nations, leading to prolonged stagnation in addressing global challenges and the unchecked spread of risks. Confronted with this predicament, China has proposed the governance philosophy of extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits—an inevitable choice for tackling global challenges, reforming the international order, and building a community with a shared future for mankind.

Extensive consultation means "hearing all sides makes one enlightened"—global governance should not be dictated by major powers or any single party; issues concerning the development interests of nations and the direction of international rules must involve the participation of all stakeholders. Joint contribution embodies the spirit of "prosperity through hard work"—uniting all forces that can be united to maximize collective momentum for development. Shared benefits reflect the ideal of "the world belongs to all"—ensuring that the fruits of governance are enjoyed by all nations, enabling every country to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from global peace and development. Extensive consultation emphasizes equality at the starting point, joint contribution highlights solidarity and cooperation, and shared benefits focus on equitable outcomes—the three are inextricably linked.

Guided by Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy, the call for improving the global governance system is growing

louder. Establishing international mechanisms, adhering to international rules, and pursuing international justice are increasingly becoming the consensus among more and more countries.

4.3 Practical Achievements: High-Quality Co-Building of the Belt and Road

Building a community with a shared future for mankind epitomizes President Xi Jinping's vision for global governance [7] [10]. At its core lies the principle of "extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits."

Today, hegemonic practices such as bullying and zero-sum games remain rampant, while deficits in peace, development, security, and governance continue to deepen. Some developed countries are neither capable nor willing to shoulder global governance responsibilities, nor do they intend to cede power to developing nations. As a result, global challenges remain unresolved, and risks spill over to more countries. Confronted with this dilemma, China has proposed a global governance approach centered on consultation, collaboration, and shared benefits, offering a necessary pathway to address global challenges, promote a just and equitable international order, and build a shared future for humanity.

"Extensive consultation" embodies the wisdom of "heeding diverse voices for clarity"—global governance must not be dictated by major powers or any single party; issues affecting nations' development interests and the direction of international rules require collective participation. "Joint contribution" reflects the ethos of "prosperity through action"—uniting all possible forces to maximize synergy for development. "Shared benefits" upholds the ideal of "the world for all"—ensuring governance outcomes are enjoyed by all nations, enabling every country to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from global peace and development. Consultation emphasizes fairness in initiation, collaboration highlights collective action, and shared benefits focus on equitable outcomes—all three are inextricably linked. Guided by Xi Jinping's diplomatic philosophy, calls for improving the global governance system are growing louder, with international mechanisms, rules, and justice increasingly becoming the consensus among nations.

V. THE PROFOUND SIGNIFICANCE OF XI JINPING THOUGHT ON DIPLOMACY

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core has taken over the baton of history, leading the entire Party and people of all ethnic groups across the country to forge ahead with determination and innovation, ushering in a new era of major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics. This reflects the epoch-making significance of Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy [11].

5.1 A Global Perspective: Defining the Historical Position

The CPC Central Committee, with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, grounded in the diplomatic practices of the new era, has coordinated the domestic and international landscapes, systematically clarifying the historical orientation of socialism with Chinese characteristics. General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized that China will never seek hegemony or expansion and is willing to work with other countries to become a builder of world peace, a contributor to global development, and a defender of the international order [12].

In the new era, China has provided effective solutions. Economically, it has assisted developing countries in constructing key projects, promoted the Belt and Road Initiative and high-level opening-up, broken down trade barriers, and injected vitality into the global economy. Politically, in 2023, China mediated the resumption of diplomatic relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia, demonstrating its constructive influence in addressing complex international issues and earning widespread acclaim [13].

Since the 18th CPC National Congress, China has achieved the goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and is now advancing toward the goal of becoming a modern socialist country. Major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics has comprehensively bridged the gap between China and the world, continuously advancing Chinese modernization. General Secretary Xi Jinping adeptly employs a grand historical perspective, steadfastly serving as a force for peace, stability, and progress in the world. He continues to uphold the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and

shoulders the mission of building a community with a shared future for mankind.

5.2 Profound Reflection: Answering the Questions of Our Time

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, General Secretary Xi Jinping has stood at the crossroads of human development and proposed a series of Chinese solutions to the critical question of "what kind of world to build and how to build it." Practice has proven that these solutions provide a powerful response to the questions of our era.

The times have placed China at the center of the world stage. When guided by Xi Jinping's thought on Diplomacy: China is committed to safeguarding world peace and promoting a just international order. To date, China has dispatched over 50,000 peacekeepers to participate in United Nations peacekeeping operations across more than 20 countries and regions, making it one of the largest troop and financial contributors. Additionally, leveraging its talent pool, China sends a large number of technical personnel to developing countries each year to support infrastructure development and provide technological and intellectual assistance. China also actively promotes mutual learning among civilizations and supports people-to-people diplomacy and cultural exchanges.

These diplomatic practices are grounded in an accurate assessment of the direction of historical development. They not only chart the course for progress but also benefit the world while expanding the pathways to realizing Chinese modernization.

5.3 Visionary: Looking Towards the Future Trend

Marx envisioned the future ideal society as a "community," emphasizing human solidarity, cooperation, and shared interests. Although this ideal has not yet been fully realized, the world is evolving toward a "community" direction—an inevitable historical trend that transcends the will of any single nation.

As a steadfast practitioner of Marxism and a powerful driver of world history, the Communist Party of China actively engages with countries worldwide, building the largest global cooperation platforms. With an open and inclusive approach, it welcomes nations to join initiatives like the Belt and Road, working together to build a

community with a shared future for humanity. Simultaneously, China strengthens dialogue with political parties and developing countries, actively participates in multilateral cooperation mechanisms such as APEC, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and BRICS, and promotes an innovative, vibrant, interconnected, and inclusive global economy. China champions multilateralism, effectively integrating national interests with universal human values, aligning its people's aspirations for a better life with the creation of a brighter future for humanity, and fostering correct shared values for all [14].

As highlighted in the white paper *Working Together to Build a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind: China's Proposals and Actions*, humanity stands at a crossroads of history, where interdependence has become an irreversible trend. Global challenges require collective responses, and outdated notions like "the strong dominating the weak," "might makes right," or "zero-sum games" are no longer viable paths for human survival.

VI. CONCLUSION

"Fear not the clouds that block the view, for you stand atop the highest peak." To grasp the international situation, one must adopt a correct historical perspective, wielding the telescope of history to reflect on the past and discern its patterns while looking ahead to the future and seizing the broader trends.

Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy emerged during a pivotal era of profound global transformation and national rejuvenation. With a visionary outlook, General Secretary Xi Jinping adeptly discerns historical patterns, advancing the adaptation of Marxism to China's diplomatic context. By synthesizing the diplomatic experiences of successive generations of Chinese Communists and drawing upon the essence of China's fine traditional culture; he upholds the principle of putting the people first, driving China's progress and global development through diplomatic practice.

Today, China is striding confidently onto a new journey to build a modern socialist country in all respects. To further deepen comprehensive reforms and advance Chinese modernization, it is essential to enhance exchanges between China and the world across economic,

political, cultural, and other domains through diplomacy. As the fundamental guideline and action plan for major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics, Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy embodies the diplomatic aspirations of the entire Party and people of all ethnic groups across the nation, charting the course for China's foreign policy. With unwavering strategic resolve and historical confidence, it will steadfastly guide China's diplomacy forward, advancing resolutely toward the great cause of national rejuvenation.

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