

# Research on the Construction of Harmonious Ethnic Relations in Xinjiang Under "the Belt and Road" Strategy

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**Abstract**—Xinjiang is the core area for the implementation of "the Belt and Road" strategy. Harmonious ethnic relations are the basic guarantee for its full implementation. Therefore, aiming at the construction of a harmonious ethnic group in Xinjiang, it proposes to build a harmonious ethnic relationship from three aspects: strengthen the construction of the legal system and the government's ability to govern, the inheritance of national outstanding culture and the demonstration of national unity, and provide a basis for the implementation of "the Belt and Road" strategy.

**Keywords**—"the Belt and Road"; ethnic relations; Xinjiang

## I. INTRODUCTION

"the Belt and Road" strategy was originally proposed by General Secretary Xi Jinping at the Nazarbayev University in Kazakhstan on September 7, 2013. Later, at a series of international conferences, General Secretary Xi Jinping further explained "the Belt and Road". The strategic concept aims to create a pan-Asian "interest community of interests" and a "community of destiny" that is equal and mutually beneficial, win-win and win-win, and conforms to the trend of the times of economic globalization, world multi-polarization and cultural diversity.

"the Belt and Road" strategy has made the construction of transportation and infrastructure along the line more complete, and achieved inter-connectivity, investment and trade development. The network of free trade zones has brought closer economic ties, political mutual trust and cultural exchanges have further increased, and gradually formed mutually beneficial regions.

Xinjiang is located in the northwestern frontier of China, covering an area of 1.669 million square kilometers, accounting for about 1/6 of the country's land area. It is bordered by eight neighboring countries and is an important energy base of the country. The strategic position is very important. Xinjiang is an important part of "the Belt and Road" in China. It is also a typical area where many ethnic groups, multi-religious and multi-cultural are intermingled. Because Xinjiang is historically a channel for exchanges and exchanges between the East and the West, many ethnic groups live here. It has unique customs and cultural traditions.

Due to the limitation of the natural environment, compared with the eastern coastal areas, the economy of Xinjiang is relatively backward. Coupled with the continuous penetration of "the three forces" in recent years, the development of all aspects of Xinjiang is greatly restricted. At the same time, the original harmonious ethnic relationship, it has been seriously affected, leaving huge scars in the minds of the various ethnic groups in Xinjiang. The construction of harmonious ethnic relations has become a necessary and sufficient condition for the stability of Xinjiang, and stability is the prerequisite and guarantee for development. Under the current situation in Xinjiang, with the development opportunity of "the Belt and Road" strategy, it can not only promote the harmony of ethnic relations, but also accelerate the development of Xinjiang's economy.

Xi Jinping's speech at the Sixth Central National Work Conference raised the harmony of ethnic relations to a new height. "Handling national issues and doing national work is a major event that affects the reunification of the motherland and the consolidation of the frontiers. It is a major event that affects national unity and social stability. It is a major event that affects the long-term stability of the country and the prosperity of the Chinese nation."

Harmonious ethnic relations are not only closely related to China's long-term stability and the prosperity of the Chinese nation. Under the implementation of "the Belt and Road" strategy, it has an important impact on the five Central Asian countries and the cross-border ethnic groups in Xinjiang. Harmonious ethnic relations have a solid national function for the stable development of cross-border ethnic groups in China. Under the national policy of several countries in Central Asia to welcome the cross-border nationality of their countries to return to China, China's harmonious ethnic relations are undoubtedly the national policy, and a buffer in the adverse effects of our country.

Harmonious ethnic relations play a role as a booster for the further promotion of "the Belt and Road" strategy in the five Central Asian countries. Harmonious ethnic relations provide a stable and harmonious social atmosphere for economic and trade exchanges, and harmonious ethnic relations are "one area". The smooth implementation of "All the way" provides protection.

"the Belt and Road" strategy and the harmonious ethnic relationship in Xinjiang complement each other and promote each other. "the Belt and Road" strategy has provided a powerful impetus for the adjustment of ethnic relations in Xinjiang and the inter-ethnic deep integration. The broader platform and more convenient channels will certainly break the existing relatively solid national structure and the relatively closed minority ethnic market. Thus it is necessary to contribute to the building of harmonious ethnic relations. At the same time, harmonious ethnic relations will promote the further development of "the Belt and Road" strategy in Xinjiang and Central Asia, providing a strong guarantee.

## II. THE IMPACT OF "THE BELT AND ROAD" STRATEGY ON PROMOTING HARMONIOUS ETHNIC RELATIONS IN XINJIANG

"the Belt and Road" strategy, as an important national implementation strategy, not only brings mutually beneficial and win-win development opportunities along the region and the country, but also brings great opportunities to the areas along the country. "the Belt and Road" strategy not only promoted the development of the economy, but also promoted the harmonious development of ethnic relations. The specific aspects mainly include the following aspects.

### A. *Enhancing the Awareness of the Chinese Nation*

"the Belt and Road" strategy has enhanced the national identity of the people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang. Since the reform and opening up, the Xinjiang people have gradually moved away from closure and tradition, and have moved toward openness and modernity. The mainland people of the motherland taught them advanced science and technology. The state provided them with a preferential policy environment and an open market. It is also the motherland that increased their income and improved their living standards. After several years of hard work, some of them got rich first. They responded to the call of the state and started their own businesses, so that more people could benefit from the national preferential policies of the country. They can have a happy life today, all benefiting from a prosperous, stable and powerful China, which will make them deeply agree with the great motherland and identify with the Chinese nation.

Furthermore, in the implementation of "the Belt and Road" strategy, different customs and cultures can strengthen the sense of difference between "I" and "the other" and enhance the awareness of the Chinese nation and benefit China and the construction of a national community.

### B. *Promoting the Modernization of the Central and Western Regions*

"the Belt and Road" strategy is conducive to promoting the modernization of the central and western regions and accelerating the pace of China's comprehensive modernization. Due to the topography, the natural conditions in China's central and western regions are relatively poor. The overall economic development is relatively backward compared with the eastern part, and the pace of

modernization is slow. In order to promote the modernization of the central and western regions, the state has proposed policies of "rise of the central region" and "development of the western region" to improve the backwardness of the central and western regions. As the core area of "the Silk Road Economic Belt", the Central and Western regions have attracted a large number of talents, technologies and funds to promote the pace of modernization and develop the regional economy.

"the Belt and Road" strategy is conducive to promoting the economic development of Xinjiang. Due to its remote location, poor environment and closed information, Xinjiang has always been one of the poorest provinces in China. "the Belt and Road" strategy will help attract a large number of investments, increase infrastructure construction, vigorously develop industry, change the status quo of poverty and backwardness in Xinjiang, and enable the Xinjiang people to share the fruits of reform, opening and development with the people of the country.

### C. *Promoting Exchanges and Exchanges Between Ethnic Groups*

"the Belt and Road" strategy promotes inter-ethnic exchanges and exchanges, breaks the inherent relatively single ethnic pattern and economic form, and promotes the harmonious development of ethnic relations. The implementation of "the Belt and Road" strategy has closely linked Xinjiang and the areas along "the Belt and Road", linking Xinjiang not only with other parts of the interior, but also linking Xinjiang with Central Asia and even Europe. It not only strengthened the economic exchanges and personnel exchanges between ethnic groups, but also provided a platform for the development of Xinjiang region, breaking the pattern of "Belt and Road" regional nationalization "Belt and Road" and "Belt and Road" economic segregation "Belt and Road" caused by geographical location and natural conditions.

1) *Strengthening mutual understanding among ethnic groups:* Due to the differences in economic and social development and ideological concepts between the North and the South, and the different historical relics in Xinjiang, the development of the North and South Xinjiang and the East Xinjiang are different, and their actual conditions have their own particularities. The northern Xinjiang region is dominated by the Kazakh and Han nationalities, and there are also some ethnic groups with a small population, such as the Mongolian, Xibo, and Russian ethnic groups. The ethnic groups present a pattern of "large mixed habitats and small settlements". Frequent contacts are frequent. With the development of the economy and the acceleration of the urban-rural integration process, the northern Xinjiang region has formed an embedded residential structure as a whole, and the ethnic relations are relatively harmonious. The southern Xinjiang region is dominated by Uighurs. Other ethnic groups have a small population. The population is mainly distributed in the oasis of the stars. Many southern Xinjiangs have few ethnic groups other than the Uygur. In

some towns, there are only a few Han or it is a Hui nationality, and some villages and even villages are Uighurs. There are no other ethnic groups, which objectively creates a phenomenon of "regional nationalization". The religious atmosphere is relatively strong and vulnerable to extreme thinking. Due to its proximity to the mainland, Dongjiang is a region with more exchanges between Xinjiang and the mainland. It is a crossroads between Xinjiang and Xinjiang. It is also a blend of Muslim culture, Confucian culture, Shaman culture, Buddhism culture and Taoist culture. In the Huidi area, personnel exchanges are frequent, exchanges are close, regional infrastructure is relatively complete, and people's ideological concepts are more affected by the marketization of the mainland. Due to its close proximity to Central Asia, the Northern Xinjiang port area has historically been invaded by the Russians. Therefore, it has been heavily influenced by Russian culture. Until now, there are many Russian loan words in the local Uighur dialects, such as kettles, which are read in Russian. "Terry Mousse" is also read as "Irily Mousse" in the Uighur dialect of the Ili region, but in the dialects of the southern states of Sandi (Hetian, Aksu and Kashgar), especially the Hotan area. Writing is "just in time." As a port area bordering other countries, it is deeply influenced by foreign countries and has good economic development. It is represented by Kashgar and Yili, and its ideological concept is relatively open, and it is relatively important to pay attention to children's education, especially women's education. The North and South and East Xinjiang each have different characteristics, and ethnic and ethnic issues are different in different regions. Therefore, in various exchanges and exchanges between various ethnic groups and regions in Xinjiang, there are often obstacles and cognitive biases in communication and communication.

"the Belt and Road" strategy not only promoted the exchanges between Xinjiang and foreign countries, Xinjiang and the mainland, but also closely connected the entire Xinjiang region. The ethnic groups in the region have frequent exchanges and close contacts, which has strengthened the recognition among the various ethnic groups. It is known that it laid a good foundation for the construction of harmonious ethnic relations.

2) *Promoting the modernization of traditional culture:* From economic transformation to social transformation, when the development of the region has crossed these two stages, it has come to the next stage, cultural transformation. When the influence of globalization is increasing day by day, exporting cultural influence through economic influence and then exporting political influence is the only way for a country or region to expand its interests and grasp the right to speak abroad. Facing the fact that the region lags behind other regions, in order to develop its own economy and better catch up with each other, it is necessary to change its own inherent concepts, change the world view as a whole,

and move from self-restraint to catch up with the advanced to adapt to social development.

"the Belt and Road" strategy will link Xinjiang from a backward and closed country to other parts of the motherland and the world. Xinjiang has fully embraced a modern lifestyle and a new style of life. It is different from traditional costumes and can adapt to the modern rhythm of modern clothing, and the different diets and customs in the region, developed economy and prosperous cities. In order to fully integrate with modernization, cultural and ideological aspects have also undergone a modern transformation.

The transformation and modernization of all aspects will ultimately promote the modernization of culture. The modernization of culture is not simply a "Westernization" or "Chineseization", but a certain improvement based on the culture of the region and the nation itself, and abandoning the habits and customs that are incompatible with modern life, in order to achieve modern society. Match the production lifestyle.

3) *Breaking old bad ideas:* In the process of promoting the implementation of "the Belt and Road" strategy, the modernization ideas and concepts that entered Xinjiang with the mainland personnel have brought great impact on the local people who have an important position in this religion. Modern concepts such as gender equality and women's rights and interests will spread to all corners of the Tianshan Mountains and North China as the policies of these countries continue to advance. Men are superior to women and women do not need to receive education, "bilingual" education is the idea of national assimilation has been certain to contain and suppress, people's thinking is completely new. Some people like a girl in a certain area of southern Xinjiang who drink pesticides in order to go to night school to learn Chinese, do not receive a marriage certificate and only read Nika, the phenomenon that children do not go to the hukou and polygamy after marriage will gradually disappear, the legal concept and Legal awareness has gradually increased in the process of development. Of course, these old bad ideas can't disappear from people's minds overnight. However, with the continuous advancement of "the Belt and Road" strategy, people's cognition has been sublimated, and these backward concepts will gradually disappear.

#### *D. The Adverse Effects of "the Belt and Road" Strategy on the Construction of Harmonious Ethnic Relations*

Comrade Xi Jinping pointed out at the Sixth Central National Work Conference: "Handling national issues and doing national work well is a major event that affects the reunification of the motherland and the consolidation of the frontiers. It is a major event that affects national unity and social stability. It is a matter of long-term stability of China and the great prosperity of the nation. The implementation of "the Belt and Road" strategy is a double-edged sword. While bringing great opportunities for development, it also brings a series of challenges to China's ethnic relations.

1) *Arousing the national consciousness of ethnic minorities*: After the founding of the People's Republic of China, China studied the Soviet Union for ethnic identification and established 55 ethnic minorities. During the decades of development, the ethnic minorities have achieved rapid development in economic, social and cultural fields. Gradually advancing, the national consciousness is more self-conscious, and the sense of national identity and pride is constantly increasing. It has aroused the awakening and rising of its national consciousness objectively, which has caused some ethnic minority members to have a strong sense of national consciousness and a weak national identity.

2) *The penetration of "double pan thinking"*: With the gradual advancement of "the Belt and Road" strategy, we must also pay attention to the penetration of Western reactionary forces and "double-pan-ideal thinking" under "the Belt and Road" strategy. These hostile forces often use investment or visiting relatives and friends to carry out a series of sabotage activities that endanger national unity and national unity. For example, in the southern Xinjiang region such as Hetian, some CDs from Turkey, Kazakhstan and other countries were sold in the street shops and the Bazaar rally along with "the Belt and Road" strategy. These activities are generally more subtle, and they are highly inflammatory and involve a wide range of people. The harm to ethnic relations cannot be underestimated.

3) *Traditional lifestyles are affected*: The gradual implementation of "the Belt and Road" strategy has brought a modern lifestyle to Xinjiang. People use electronic products extensively, the pace of life is getting faster, the pressure of survival is getting bigger, and the traditional way of life is affected. Some people have grown up in an "oasis society" with a closed, backward religious atmosphere and a harsh natural environment, and have developed unique humanities, values and lifestyles. In particular, some middle-aged and older people are slow to accept new things and cannot adapt well to modern lifestyles. Faced with completely different humanistic environments, values and customs, under the impact of modernization, it is inevitable that cultural adaptation problems will arise. They prefer to continue to adhere to the inherent way of life and adopt disapproval and even hostility towards those adopting new lifestyles. They believe that they are traditional traitors of ancestors and have a negative impact on ethnic relations.

4) *The lack of traditional culture causes psychological imbalance*: With the encirclement of modernization and globalization, traditional culture has generally shown a situation of retreat on a global scale. Under the impact of globalization and modernization, society has begun to transform. In the process of transformation, the traditional way of life is gradually replaced. People accept the new way of life and can't abandon the old habits at the same time. They struggle under the two lifestyles and cause serious psychological imbalances. They mistakenly believe that "Belt and Road" The implementation of the strategy and the

modern lifestyle are the culprit. They are dissatisfied with the state and party policies and other ethnic groups. If they are not effectively channeled, they will bring harm to national relations and the long-term stability of the country.

5) *Cause friction between different ethnic groups*: Under "the Belt and Road" strategy, it will inevitably bring more frequent exchanges and exchanges to various regions and ethnic groups in Xinjiang. Communication and communication will be deepened in both time and space. More exchanges will bring more friction and national harmony will be affected.

6) *The impact of Western thought and culture*: "the Belt and Road" strategy will also bring some Western so-called "freedom, democracy, and human rights" to the Xinjiang region. For most people who do not have in-depth study of political principles, such slogans are greatly deceptive. Further incited by the Western reactionary forces, it is likely to cause serious harm to national security.

### III. THE PATH CHOICE OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF HARMONIOUS ETHNIC RELATIONS IN XINJIANG UNDER "THE BELT AND ROAD" STRATEGY

#### A. *Strengthening the Government's Ability to Govern and Guiding the Harmonious Development of Ethnic Relations*

Under the background of the comprehensive implementation of "the Belt and Road" strategy, the government's ability to govern and coping strategies are insufficient. Therefore, it is urgent to establish and improve China's various rules and regulations and strengthen the government's ability to govern to guide the harmony of ethnic relations in Xinjiang.

In Xinjiang, there are large differences between the North and the South, especially in public infrastructure such as hospitals and schools. The backwardness of the South Xinjiang economy, the lack of talent, and the absence of the government are all reasons for the huge differences between the North and the South.

Regarding the national consciousness, the double-funded thinking, the western reactionary forces and the inter-ethnic friction that may be triggered in the implementation of "the Belt and Road" strategy, the Chinese government should take precautions and formulate relevant laws and regulations in advance to curb this and establish a complete set. Coping mechanisms to respond to emergencies and ensure that they respond in the shortest possible time. At the same time, strengthen the education of patriotism, religious extremism and double-disciplinary thinking, and strengthen multi-channel and multi-media publicity so that the people have natural immunity to these ideas.

#### B. *Inheriting and Carrying Forward the Excellent Culture of All Ethnic Groups in Xinjiang*

In the process of development, we should treat the traditional culture of ethnic minorities in two parts, and reject the old and backward parts, and carry out the inheritance and

development of the excellent parts that keep pace with the times. The excellent culture of all ethnic groups can not only play the role of inheriting tradition, but also regulate ethnic relations.

Inheriting and carrying forward the excellent culture of all ethnic groups is conducive to the adaptation of ethnic minorities to the transformation of modern society and adaptation to modern lifestyles. It is conducive to balancing the psychological imbalance under the impact of modernization and globalization and resisting the impact of Western thought.

### *C. Leading Role of National Unity Demonstration Zone*

To build a harmonious national relationship, it is necessary to carry out the construction of a national unity demonstration zone within the territory of the whole country. Each state and territory will build a demonstration township of national unity, and each township will build a national unity demonstration village, with financial assistance from the state and the autonomous region. When carrying out the construction selection demonstration point, it is necessary to analyze and consider the conditions, advantages, industrial support points and the demonstration effects that can be achieved in all aspects, and select the national characteristics to be strong and have industrial support points and good sustainable development conditions. Villages and towns with relatively concentrated populations as demonstration points, and selection points in demonstration areas should also pay attention to covering the settlements of various ethnic groups in various ethnic groups.

Efforts should be made to build a national unity demonstration zone, cultivate a group of advanced models, and then promote the advanced cases in a large area through various propaganda methods throughout the territory, and truly play a leading role.

## IV. CONCLUSION

The comprehensive promotion of "the Belt and Road" strategy has objectively promoted the connection and development between Xinjiang and the outside world, regardless of whether it is southern or northern. With the increase of economic exchanges and contacts, different cultures will be further integrated in Xinjiang. The subtle influence of economy and culture will accelerate the pace of modernization of various ethnic groups, enhance political stability and unity, and ensure the implementation of "the Belt and Road" economic strategy. It is conducive to the full development of their respective advantages and fair development.

In short, "the Belt and Road" is a national strategy that conforms to the new situation of national development. It is both an opportunity and a challenge to the construction of harmonious ethnic relations in Xinjiang. Therefore, in the process of advancing "the Belt and Road" strategy, we must properly handle the problems and challenges in the process of building a harmonious ethnic relationship in Xinjiang, and at the same time fully exert its guiding and promoting role. "the Belt and Road" will not only build the economic road,

the cultural road, the policy road, and the development path that benefit all ethnic groups, but also build it into economic ties, cultural ties, political ties and psychological ties that link the various nationalities. It is precisely through this kind of inter-connected, mutually beneficial and win-win national strategy that through the construction of tangible development paths that benefit all areas along the line and the intangible psychological bonds linking the various ethnic groups, to strengthen between Xinjiang and the various ethnic groups within and outside the region. In this way, we can better build a harmonious ethnic relationship in Xinjiang.

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