

The Practical Way of the Community of Common Destiny for All Mankind

An Analysis of “One Belt and One Road”

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Abstract—Since taking office, President Xi Jinping has gradually formed the Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era in the face of the new opportunities and new challenges under the new situation. The community of common destiny for all mankind is an important part of the diplomatic strategy of China, and is also the important contribution made by China's concept and China's plan to the global governance. “One Belt and One Road” is a great practice for China to construct the community of common destiny for all mankind in Eurasia and Africa and the South Pacific, and is also a form of realization that China has always taken the path of peaceful development. The common foothold for their convergence is to realize the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of Chinese nation.

Keywords—the community of common destiny for all mankind; One Belt and One Road; civilizations and mutual reference; cooperation and win-win; mutual benefit and sharing

I. INTRODUCTION

Since taking office, President Xi Jinping has gradually formed the Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era and constituted an important part of the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the face of the new opportunities and new challenges under the new situation. The thought of the community of common destiny for all mankind is an important part of the diplomatic strategy of contemporary China. It has won the unanimous consensus of the international community including the United Nations and demonstrates the important contribution made by China's concept and China's plan to the global governance. “One Belt and One Road” Initiative embodies the Chinese leaders' judgment for the theme of the times today and the future development of mankind. Its purpose is to construct the community of common destiny for all mankind. The common foothold between the community of common destiny for all mankind and “One Belt and One Road” is to realize the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of Chinese nation.

On March 23, 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered an important speech titled “To Promote the Peaceful Development of the World by Adapting to the Trend of the Times” at Institute of International Relations in

Moscow in Russia. “In this world, the interconnectedness and interdependence of all nations are unprecedented deepening. The mankind lives in the same global village, and lives in the same time and place where history and reality meet. It is becoming more and more the community of common destiny that you have me and I have you.” Since then, Xi Jinping has interpreted the community of common destiny for all mankind for hundreds of times from different levels and on numerous occasions, giving the richer connotation and the far-reaching significance of the community of common destiny for all mankind.

In September and October 2013, during his visit to Central Asian Kazakhstan and Southeast Asian Indonesia, President Xi Jinping successively proposed major initiatives to jointly build “the Economic Belt of the Silk Road” and “the Silk Road of the 21st Century Maritime” (referred to as “One Belt and One Road”) On March 28, 2015, the Development and Reform Commission of China, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Commerce jointly issued “the Vision and Action for Promoting the Building of the Economic Belt of the Silk Road and the Silk Road of the 21st Century Maritime”. It stressed that we should uphold the spirit of the Silk Road of peaceful cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual reference, mutual benefit and win-win, to promote all-round pragmatic cooperation and construct the community of common interest, community of common destiny and community of common responsibility of political mutual trust, economic integration, cultural tolerance. Then the goal of construction is expanded from a community of common economy to three interrelated communities, which in turn has shaped the community of common destiny for all mankind.

“One Belt and One Road” initiative is a great practical way for China to construct the community of common destiny for all mankind in Eurasia and Africa and the South Pacific at a specific historical stage of development. It is also a form of realization that China has always taken the path of peaceful development. Through the construction of “One Belt and One Road”, China will promote greater openness, greater exchanges and greater integration at a greater scale, a higher standard and a deeper level. It will devote itself to constructing the community of common destiny for all

mankind and pushing the people of the world to jointly share the fruits of development of human civilization. Both of them are based on a common pursuit of goal and realistic orientation, and are an inseparable and interrelated organic whole.

II. CONTEXT

The construction of the community of common destiny for all mankind requires not only good ideas but also practical behaviors. The proposal of “One Belt and One Road” initiative is the practical platform of communication and the mechanism of operation that China takes the lead in establishing and promoting. The principle of “One Belt and One Road” is “jointly negotiating, building and sharing” with the main objective that enables all countries to participate in the cooperation to benefit from the construct of “One Belt and One Road”, and thus eliminating the concern of other countries on the rapid development of China, and has expressed the sincerity that China and the countries all over the world jointly share the achievements of development. The construction of the community of common destinies for all mankind fully embodies the responsibility and undertaking of China in promoting the reform of the system of the global governance, which proves that China is the builder of the world peace, the contributor to the global development and the defender of the international order.

A. *“One Belt and One Road” Is the Platform of Civilizations and Mutual Reference to Construct the Community of Common Destinies for All Mankind*

“One Belt and One Road” is the longest and most promising economic corridor in the world. There are over 60 countries along the line with a total population of about 4.6 billion. The cultural traditions, social systems, paths and levels of development vary from country to country, thus forming the characteristics of development in different degree in different countries. Only through common consultation and building a platform for cooperation can all countries seize the new opportunities of development and mobilize people’s enthusiasm and creativity to jointly meet the various challenges they are facing, and achieve complementary advantages, mutual benefit and win-win, effectively allocate resources and keep moving toward the construction of the community of common destiny for all mankind.

From the historical point of view, the ancient Silk Road is not only the road of business cooperation, but also one of trade contacts. It is also the road of peace and friendship and one of mutual reference between civilizations. From the practical point of view, “One Belt and One Road” is the road of rejuvenation of Chinese civilization and one of return to the world. On the one hand, it converts the cultural power of the ancient Silk Road into the real power. On the other hand, it transforms the current material power of China into an international one. In essence, it will push forward the hard power and soft power of China and promote the prosperity and development of the countries and regions along the line

through the platform of economic, political and cultural exchanges between the East and the West.

There are different modes of civilizations, including the three major religions of Christianity, Islam and Buddhism, as well as many other religious sects along “One Belt and One Road”, showing Confucian civilization, Western civilization, Indian civilization and Islamic civilization, etc, and each ethnic nation has also formed the unique national culture. Therefore, we must respect the civilization of different regions and countries, recognize the cultural differences among countries, and are compatible and accumulative in communication and mutual reference, and seek common grounds while reserving difference in order to gain new impetus and vitality of development. We must promote mutual understanding, mutual respect, mutual trust and beyond the boundaries of barrier, conflicts and superiority of civilization, and finally turn Chinese civilization into a great civilization with the attraction and competitiveness of the world.

However, since some countries are deeply influenced by the theory that “strong nationality must compete for hegemony” and one of the “clashes of civilizations,” they think that after China became prosperous and strong, it will try to promote the “neo-colonialism,” “restore the tributary system,” and follow the geopolitical ambitions and hegemony of the Western. To this end, China attaches special importance to which “One Belt and One Road” needs humanistic precedence in an effort to achieve mutual benefits and win-win through interconnection and friendly cooperation. It is to shorten the geographical distance of all countries and narrow the psychological distance among the people, and consolidate the cultural exchange and cooperation with other countries along the line. It will effectively link the destiny and interests with these countries so as to jointly promote the construction of the community of common destiny for all mankind.

“One Belt and One Road” is also a practical platform for China to advocate a new type of globalization. It carries the splendid history of more than 5,000 years of Chinese civilization, closely integrates the Chinese civilization with the trend of the times, and actively promotes the construction of the countries along the “One Belt and One Road”. It is also the course of realizing the great rejuvenation of Chinese nation. This is because China is not only an active advocate but also an active practitioner of the community of common destiny for all mankind. As a bridge and link connecting history with the future, Chinese civilization will surely create favorable conditions for constructing the community of common destiny for all mankind and make even greater contributions to the peace and development of mankind.

B. *“One Belt and One Road” Is the Platform of Cooperation and Win-win to Construct the Community of Common Destinies for All Mankind*

At present, “One Belt and One Road” initiative has received the active support and participation of more than 100 countries and international organizations in the world, a large number of influential landmark projects have been

launched one after another. Through the implementation of the policy of “five links” to the countries along the line, namely policy communication, facilities Unicom, trade flows, financing and the interlink of popular sentiments, it has played a huge role in promoting the economic development of these countries. From the initiative to the implementation, “One Belt and One Road” has been extended to the global in natural space and will be further expanded in social space in the future.

In terms of specific policy communication, China and other relevant countries have jointly coordinated the policy and achieved strategic docking, including the Eurasian Economic Union proposed by Russia and the General Plan for Interconnection proposed by ASEAN and other economic entities. “China has signed cooperation agreements with over 40 countries and international organizations and carried out the capacity cooperation of mechanism with more than 30 countries.” It has set strict demands on all parties involved in the cooperation and must conduct coordination and communication, and policy docking on the basis of respecting the sovereignty of the country. Only in this way can we achieve cooperation and win-win, and construct a community of interests, responsibilities and destiny.

In terms of specific facilities Unicom, China has actively promoted the cooperation with other countries along the line in the fields of highways, railways, ports, aviation, electricity, oil and gas pipelines and communications networks. At present, China has built a large number of overseas projects such as railways and ports. “With the economic corridors such as Sino-Pakistan, Sino-Mongolia and Russia and the new Eurasian Continental Bridge as the lead, with the land, sea and airways and the information superhighway as the skeleton, with the railways, ports, pipe network and other major projects as the basis, a complex infrastructure network is gradually formed.”

In terms of specific trade flows, China has continuously strengthened its trade with the countries along the line and shortens the clearance time of the trade products among the countries along the line. “China’s total trade with the countries along ‘One Belt and One Road’ has exceeded 3 trillion U.S. dollars between 2014 and 2016. ... Chinese enterprises have set up 56 cooperation zones of economy and trade in over 20 countries and created nearly 1.1 billion U.S. dollars of tax revenues and 180 thousand jobs for the countries concerned.” At the same time, it has provided a fast-growing channel for the 4.4 billion people, GDP and trade with 1/3 above in the less developed countries and regions, and brought tremendous business opportunities for them.

In terms of specific financing, the China-ASEAN Fund for Asian Infrastructure Investment, the China-ASEAN Maritime Cooperation Fund, and the “16 + 1” financial holding company in Central and Eastern Europe with China initiated a new platform of cooperation for the financing of the countries along the line. China has provided substantial financial support to the infrastructure construction and industrial cooperation along the country’s plan. China plans to bring about over 1 trillion U.S. dollars of infrastructure

funds to the countries concerned and 40 billion U.S. dollars to establish a “Silk Road Fund” to invest in the countries concerned 18.5 billion U.S. dollars, “providing 1.7 billion U.S. dollars in loans to 9 participating countries and a total investment has exceeded more than 50 billion U.S. dollars.”

In terms of the specific interlink of popular sentiments, China has continuously promoted the spirit of the Silk Road, established a multi-tiered mechanism of human cooperation, opened up channels of humanistic cooperation in various fields and extensively conducted cooperation in education, culture, health, sports and other fields. “The Chinese government annually supplies 10,000 governmental scholarships to relevant countries, and local governments also set up special scholarships for the Silk Road to encourage international cultural and educational exchanges.” We will expand the scale of exchange students and raise the level of cooperation in running schools. China has continuously stepped up its contacts with the parliaments, political parties and non-governmental organizations of various countries and held humanistic cooperation projects of different types such as cultural year, tourism year, art festival, and seminar and so on, which has narrowed the psychological distance of people in different countries.

C. *“One Belt and One Road” Is the Platform of Mutual Benefit and Sharing to Construct the Community of Common Destiny for All Mankind*

The vision of “One Belt and One Road” is an important part and implementation steps of the new system of international relations advocated by China. It seeks to establish a broader cooperation and win-win among nations and is in sharp contrast with the prevailing law of jungles in current international relations. “One Belt and One Road” initiative has provided China-style wisdom, ideas and solutions for accelerating the cooperation, overcoming the difficulties, and seeking common development among the countries along the line. It has made an important contribution to resolving global issues and promoting international cooperation. This is a realistic portrayal that China is committed to constructing the community of common destiny for all mankind

“One Belt and One Road” initiative advocates a new concept of international cooperation of peace and cooperation, openness and tolerance, common discussion and co-construction, mutual benefits and win-win, aiming at pushing the countries along the line to jointly build an open, inclusive, balanced and universal regional framework of economic cooperation. Among them, peaceful cooperation means that all countries should carry out cooperation at different levels and at different fields on the basis of peace and friendship. Openness and tolerance means that all countries should be mutually inclusive, equal and open, and all of them can become the participants, builders and beneficiaries of “One Belt and One Road” Initiatives. Common discussion and co-construction means that all countries should sincerely cooperate and negotiate jointly and hand in hand solve the difficulties and problems that human beings face. Mutual benefit and win-win means that the interests of all countries should be taken into

consideration and the aspirations of all parties should be truly reflected so that all peoples can benefit from their development.

“One Belt and One Road” initiative seeks to achieve the integration of Chinese dream and Asian dreams, European dreams and African dreams through the cooperation of win-win, mutual win and common win and relies on the factors of China’s abundant capital, technology, material resources and manpower for the benefit of neighboring countries, the countries along the line and other countries in the world. It has contributed to the positive energy to promote the reform of the system of global governance, reversing the phenomenon of the economic downturn of the world and driving the development of the developing countries. Its foundation lies in the abandonment of the blatant capital-for-profit, we have achieved the good wishes of all countries for cooperation and win-win, mutual benefit and sharing through the integration and cooperation of the “five links.”

“One Belt and One Road” initiative shows the responsibility and action that China is to promote the economic recovery and balanced development of the world. Under the downturn of economy of the world, China took the opportunity of the construction of “One Belt and One Road” to carry out the cross-border interconnection and exchange, raise the level of the cooperation of trade and investment, support the countries along the line in promoting industrialization and modernization, and promote the cooperation in international capacity and equipment manufacturing. It is to meet the urgent needs for all countries to improve the level of infrastructure, to activate and promote the potential of their innovation and development. It will be conducive to stabilizing the economic situation of the world and promoting the growth of global economy.

“One Belt and One Road” not only focuses on China’s own development but on its development as an opportunity to allow more countries to catch China’s express train of development and help them achieve their goals. While developing its own interests, China should give more consideration and take care of the interests of other countries. We must uphold the correct concept of righteousness and benefit, take righteousness as the first, righteousness and benefit is simultaneous, do not eager for instant success, and do not engage in short-term behavior. Through its development of “One Belt and One Road”, China will implement the thought of the community of common destiny for all mankind so that all parties work together to fill in the “depression” of development in Asia, Europe and Africa and create a new era of common development and prosperity for all countries.

III. CONCLUSION

The launch of “One Belt and One Road” initiative is like opening a new curtain of history. This is a large intercontinental economic corridor across three major continents--Eurasia, from Lianyungang in the western Pacific to Gwadar in the Indian Ocean, from Xi’an, the ancient capital of the hinterland of the world, across the vast Eurasian plains, eventually leading to Amsterdam in the

North Atlantic. On this large corridor, it carries the spirit of the Silk Road that lasted for thousands of years and bears the ancient dream of Chinese civilization, and carries the ideal and expectation of mankind for the community of common destiny in the future. This is the creation of rational wisdom of the entire mankind, and also a great journey of cleaning up the haze of war and conflicts and the pursuit of lasting peace and common prosperity.

“One Belt and One Road” initiative is the first global strategy proposed by China and a totally new strategy of globalization, embodying the ambition of constructing the community of common destiny for all mankind after China has developed from a great power to a powerful one. The biggest drawback of globalization is the polarization between the rich and the poor, and one of the core tasks of global governance is to cope with its unequal distribution of benefits. “One Belt and One Road” will promote the globalization of balanced development of the world and inclusion and universal welfare of all countries. At the same time, it will launch a globalization in which developing countries share the fruits of development, and gradually surpass the “winner-globalization” led by some countries since modern times with the “win-win globalization.” It is of great practical significance to curbing the global polarization between the rich and the poor, and constructing the community of common destiny for all mankind.

“One Belt and One Road” initiative leads the new wave of globalization that takes economic development and exchange of civilizations as the main content, and is also a concrete way to promote the reform of the system of global governance, create a new global order and construct a multi-dimensional community of common destiny for all mankind. It not only provides new ideas for the pattern of regional cooperation, but also sets out the way forward for the construction of the community of common destiny for all mankind. “One Belt and One Road” embodies that China unswervingly adheres to the path of peaceful development, pushing forward the system of global governance towards a more just and reasonable direction, and striving to build a new type of international relations based on mutual respect, fairness and justice, and cooperation and win-win.

The community of common destiny for all mankind is not only the ideal vision and goal of building “One Belt and One Road” but also a strategic decision and strategic choice by China toward the future of the world and the road of China. The community of common destiny for all mankind determines that China will always hold high the banner of peace, development, cooperation and win-win. It will unswervingly maintain world peace and promote common development, unswervingly develop its friendly relations with all countries in the world on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. China will make greater contributions to the construction of the world of lasting peace, universal security, common prosperity, open and inclusion, and clean and beautiful.

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