

## **CHINA'S FOREIGN POLICY AND RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND ARMENIA**

*Li Yonghui,  
Institute of Russia, East Europe and Central Asia,  
Chinese Academy of Social Sciences*

The article summarizes the main contents and characteristics of China's foreign policy in different time, and looks forward to China's future foreign policy. As an important part of the overall strategy for building socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, the report of 19<sup>th</sup> national congress clearly states that the diplomacy of the big country with Chinese characteristics should promote the building of a new type of international relations and continue to promote the building of a community of human destiny.

### I. Main contents of China's foreign policy

1. Judgment of the times is different: Mao Zedong based his thinking on the belief that global war was inevitable, Deng Xiaoping proposed that large scale global war will not occur for a considerable time, and there is hope that world peace will be maintained.

On Maoist concepts primarily centered on conducting a People's War to focusing on fighting and winning local, informatized wars. Dan Xiaoping imported his own theory into the Chinese political system which does not claim to reject Mao Zedong thought or Marxism–Leninism, but rather seeks to adapt them to the existing socio-economic conditions of China. Deng also stressed that China should be open to the whole world, implement a "one state, two systems" mechanism. The theory included the need to economically develop the country, economic reforms were based on the theory of the Chinese President's "Socialism with Chinese Characteristics".

2. China's main interests are divided into three groups:

- Security: Preservation of China's political system and national security;

- Sovereignty: Preservation of territorial integrity. From this point of view, the priority concerns of Beijing are primarily concerned with Taiwan, Xinjiang and Tibet;

- Development: Economic Development, for which a peaceful regional environment is considered as a priority;

3. China develops cooperative military relations that are non-aligned, non-confrontational and not directed against any third party;

4. Emphasizing the fairness of the international order and the status of the United Nations. Hegemonism and power politics remain key factors, international security and global economic development is uneven, the only legal body which can deal with international security is the United Nations.

5. Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road (one road and one belt) initiative is important part of China's foreign cooperation, China is willing to coordinate development strategies with world states, support each other's advantages and implement potentials in order to enhance cooperation in infrastructure construction. China is willing to cooperate with world states to promote the new type of cooperation mechanism featuring openness and reciprocity, mutual benefit, and win-win results.

6. The relationship between China and the world's major regions and countries: "Good, Secure, Rich Neighborhood" policy. "The peripheral diplomacy under the new situation is: persist in being good to neighbors, make neighbors our partners, strengthen friendship with them, intensify regional cooperation and bring exchange and cooperation with neighborhood countries to a new level. "Good neighborhood", "Secure neighborhood", and "Wealthy neighborhood" is an important part of the strategy for China's own development.

China's Several Major Relations with neighboring countries. China-Japan relationship in particular will remain as a basic determinant of the regional security environment. Territorial disputes between China and Japan, like many other disputes between them, are politically sensitive in both countries. The U.S. alliance with Japan is also key factor in understanding Beijing's strategic animus toward Tokyo.

China's rapid development has led to its pretentiousness in the Indian Ocean, expanding to South Asia, which contradicts India's strategic plans. To

this end, China wants military cooperation with Pakistan as a counterbalance to NATO and the US in the region.

China plays a key role in the *Asia-Pacific region*, and its policy has its influence there. The 2012 Concept focused on Beijing's concerns regarding Washington's rebalancing policy, as the United States is starting to take more active steps to be involved in the Asia-Pacific region's security. Beijing is trying to counteract Washington's policy, and the first and most important step taken in the contribution to the growth of regional organizations where the US is not a member, such as the SCO. Due to this, Beijing's main goal in the region is military cooperation with Russia. China also places great importance to ASEAN.

*Chinese-Arabic* mutual cooperation was based on the political will to preserve peace in the Middle East. China is willing to have pragmatic cooperation in the principle of mutual benefit and win-win results with Arab states.

China's interests in *the South Caucasus* are essentially derived from its wider foreign policy goals: securing access to new sources of raw materials where possible, creating a stable environment around China's extended periphery, and, to an extent, opening up new markets for Chinese companies to expand into. China's interest lies in maintaining regional stability in the South Caucasus. Two strategic projects have been proposed which, if implemented, would significantly increase the region's importance for Beijing: One is a rail link from western China to Turkey via Central Asia, Azerbaijan and Georgia (with a ferry link across the Caspian Sea from Turkmenistan to Baku). The other is the construction of a Trans-Caspian Gas Pipeline (TCGP).

The Armenian and Chinese Presidents signed the Joint Declaration on Further Development and Enhancement of Friendly and Cooperative Relationship between the Republic of Armenia and the People's Republic of China. Moreover, more than a dozens of documents aimed at the promotion and strengthening of mutual cooperation between the two countries in a number of areas were signed.

Relations between China and African countries are strengthened the solidarity and cooperation with the Africa.

7. China's nuclear strategy "Pursuing a self-defensive nuclear strategy. China has always pursued the policy of no first use of nuclear weapons and

adhered to a self-defensive nuclear strategy that is defensive in nature". The document went further, stating that the nuclear force is a strategic cornerstone for safeguarding national sovereignty and security. "China has always kept its nuclear capabilities at the minimum level required for maintaining its national security. China will optimize its nuclear force structure, improve strategic early warning, command and control, missile penetration, rapid reaction, and survivability and protection, and deter other countries from using or threatening to use nuclear weapons against China".

## II. Relations between China and Armenia

Understanding and supporting each other on matters concerning their core interests and major concerns is the political basis for the sound and stable development of the relations between China and Armenia. Strengthening high-level exchanges between the two countries has the leading role in the development of cooperation between the two governments, legislatures, political parties, armed forces and social groups and the exchange of government and governance.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Armenia will play an important role in deepening the pragmatic cooperation between the two countries and will continue to use the committee to optimize the trade structure between the two countries, enrich the forms of cooperation and broaden the channels of cooperation so as to gradually improve the trade and investment environment.

The initiative to jointly build "One Road One Belt" has provided new historical opportunities for the all-round cooperation between the two countries. Both parties will actively implement the relevant agreements signed and jointly promote the construction of "One Road One Belt" and open up new broad prospects for their cooperation. We will further expand and improve cooperation in the fields of education, culture, science and technology, environmental protection, public information, sports and tourism between the two countries, as well as constantly enhance mutual understanding and friendship between peoples of the two countries and consolidate the friendship between generations of both countries.