

Implementation of the “Belt and Road” Initiative under the International Environmental Change

Hongming Liu^{1, a} and Fuqiang Tian^{1, 2, b, *}

¹School of Economics and Management of Xi'an University, Xi'an, Shaanxi province, China

²Research Institute of Xixian New Area, Xi'an, Shaanxi province, China

^anmlhmlgg@163.com ^btianfuqiang2004@126.com

Keywords: “Belt and Road”; Initiative; International Environmental Relations

Abstract: The “Belt and Road” initiative is a product of the deterioration of the international environment for China’s development after China’s becoming the second largest economy. It is forward-looking for China to plan ahead and deal with the deterioration of the international environment in advance. China is an inward-looking country. Although the "Belt and Road" initiative is a measure to go global, it is a passive plan to go global.

China has made great progress in the past 40 years. With the rapid development of its economy, China's international development environment is becoming increasingly severe. The trade frictions that began in 2018^[1-3] are examples of changes in China's development environment. Facing the^[4-10] new changes in international relations, we pay attention to progress with developing countries and build a community of shared destiny.

After the "Belt and Road" initiative was proposed, it has received widespread attention. Some of these views are not objective, and some studies are not without prejudice. Failure to clarify the prejudice against the “Belt and Road” initiative is not conducive to scientific understanding of the nature of the “Belt and Road” initiative. The United States' actions to curb China will be normal in the short term. Sino-US economic and trade frictions provide a new context for the study of the “Belt and Road” initiative. From 2013 to 2018, the research background of the “Belt and Road” initiative is often in a more peaceful international environment. The research focus is one-dimensional, focusing on how Chinese companies go global. After the outbreak of Sino-U.S. Economic and trade frictions, the background of the Belt and Road Initiative has undergone subversive changes. The containment of the United States has become an obstacle for Chinese companies to go global, and has brought complexity to the study of the Belt and Road Initiative. 2018 was a turning point in the disruptive changes in the external environment of China's economic development. It is the focus of the Chinese people to analyze the impact of China's resolution of the U.S. crackdown on the implementation of the "Belt and Road" initiative. China's economic development is inseparable from overseas markets. Sino-U.S. Economic and trade frictions have affected the further improvement of China's scientific and technological innovation capabilities, and have also had a serious impact on Chinese companies going global.

The “Belt and Road” Initiative Is A Passive Response to A Sudden Change in the International Environment

International environment has changed drastically. China has encountered unprecedented international pressure. The “Belt and Road” initiative has to be launched. The “Belt and Road” initiative is forward-looking and passive. The "One Way" initiative has an expansionary and even aggressive bias. Some foreign viewpoints misread the passiveness, responsiveness and flexible connotation of the “Belt and Road” initiative in accordance with Western expansion logic. China's choice in response to the unfavorable international environment in recent years is a last resort.

To clarify the passive nature of the “Belt and Road” initiative, it is necessary to review the foreign policy of Chinese history. During the 5,000-year history of China, a relatively stable boundary has been formed, and it has not expanded beyond the traditional territory. After China formed a relatively stable territory, until the 21st century, China's territory not only did not expand,

but rather shrank to a certain extent from the largest territory in historical periods. This shows that China does not have the so-called expansiveness. On the contrary, it has a certain degree of restraint. In the historical period, China's influence was mainly confined to its territory, and China was not interested in seeking influence outside its territory.

In the History of The World, Some Western Countries Have A Long History Of Colonizing Overseas.

At present, some western countries still have colonies overseas. The modernization process of western developed countries is often based on colonial expansion. China's modernization is the exact opposite. After China began its modernization exploration in 1840, it experienced at least a century or so of interference from external forces. China's modernization process has been repeatedly interrupted by interference from external forces, which has been one of the biggest obstacles to China's modernization in a century. Different from the typical expansion and even aggressiveness shown by western countries, China is traditionally an inward-looking country. It has neither the so-called expansion nor the aggressiveness. Under the constraints of an introverted gene, China's modernization has always relied on its own strength, adopting an introverted development model, sticking to local development and focusing on domestic development. China's inward-looking development model is universally respected.

In the history of the world, some western countries have a long history of colonizing overseas. At present, some western countries still have colonies overseas. The modernization process of western developed countries is often based on colonial expansion. China's modernization is the exact opposite. After China began its modernization exploration in 1840, it experienced at least a century or so of interference from external forces. China's modernization process has been repeatedly interrupted by interference from external forces, which has been one of the biggest obstacles to China's modernization in a century. Different from the typical expansion and even aggressiveness shown by western countries, China is traditionally an inward-looking country. It has neither the so-called expansion nor the aggressiveness. Under the constraints of an introverted gene, China's modernization has always relied on its own strength, adopting an introverted development model, sticking to local development and focusing on domestic development. China's inward-looking development model is universally respected.

The “Belt and Road” Initiative Is an Initiative to Respond To Sudden Changes in the International Environment

China adheres to its inward-looking development model, devotes itself to doing its own thing, and is not interested in pursuing influence beyond its own country. In 2013, it proposed the “Belt and Road” initiative to respond in advance to the besieging and blocking of major Western countries starting in 2018, which is forward-looking. The "Belt and Road" initiative is of great value for China to break through the siege, develop its economy independently, and maintain strategic determination. China's "Belt and Road" initiative is a helpless move forced by adverse foreign environments. China planned in advance and selected the developing regions with relatively weak western powers to develop in the process of helping these regions develop.

There are two Interpretations of the Relationship between the “Belt and Road” Initiative and Sino-US Economic and Trade Frictions.

The first interpretation is that because of China's "Belt and Road" initiative, the United States has regarded China as its chief strategic competitor and imposed trade sanctions on China. The second interpretation is that the “Belt and Road” initiative is a forward-looking move to resolve the inevitable China-US trade friction. The first interpretation is relatively superficial. The presupposition is that China must obey the US's dispatch and command, and cannot independently determine its own economic development. If China is not obedient, it will be perfectly natural to suffer U.S. punishment. This presupposition makes no sense. China is not obliged to take the lead

of the United States, and China's development has never been the result of American gifts. There is no reason for U.S. trade sanctions, and China's getting closer to the strength of the United States are itself reasons for trade sanctions. As long as China is strong enough, the United States will inevitably crack down on China. The second interpretation is more unique and profound. The United States has actually provided China with a ceiling for development. From the analysis of China's trade sanctions in 2018, China's current level of economic development, social progress, technological innovation, and human resources development has clearly exceeded the red line of the development ceiling set by the United States for China, which will enable the United States to list China as The top strategic competitor. From the logic of China's own development, the United States has no reason to set a ceiling for China's development. Because China's total population is about four times that of the United States, if the living standard of Chinese residents reaches half of that of the United States, China's economic aggregate will also exceed that of the United States. Of course, this is not what the United States wants to see. The United States has always expressed its wish to see China's stable development and the improvement of residents' lives. But if surpassing the total amount of the US economy is the development ceiling set by the United States for China, then the lives of Chinese residents must always be stable below 1/4 of the average level in the United States in order to meet US expectations and requirements. In fact, the ceiling set by the United States may be even lower than this, and the United States does not allow a non-Western country to be equal to its own economic aggregate.

From 2017, the spirit of tolerance and tolerance pushed by the mainstream civilization of the United States is completely absent, let alone so-called freedom. In front of US global strategic interests, no matter what China does, it is useless. Since the United States listed China as its number one strategic competitor and implemented containment, the US accusations against China have deviated from academic ideas, lost its academic foundation, calm judgment, and internal logic. Since the development ceiling set by the United States for China is fixed, there is no reason for China to obey the United States' command and abandon the "Belt and Road" initiative. Seeing the analysis later, China put forward the "Belt and Road" initiative before 2013 and made a lot of preparations, which undoubtedly played a role in reducing the pressure on the US trade sanctions in 2018. China's "Belt and Road" initiative is indeed prescient.

Implementation of the "Belt and Road" Initiative in the Context of International Environmental Changes

China Has Chosen To Expand Its Foreign Trade in the Direction of Encountering External Obstacles

Foreign trade is an important foundation for China's economic development. In the context of a sudden change in the international situation, China will endure more severe foreign trade pressures than before, and it may often encounter siege by some countries, which will affect China's normal international trade. The "Belt and Road" initiative involves many regions, and some regions are in the direction where China is experiencing greater external pressure and are located in hot areas; once international relations change further, China's international trade in these regions may be pursued and blocked by some countries. In many other regions covered by the "Belt and Road" initiative, China has not encountered great external pressure; in these regions, China still has a lot of room for normal foreign trade. China adheres to the bottom-line thinking and expands its foreign trade development direction in as many dimensions as possible. The "Belt and Road" initiative is multi-dimensional, multi-directional, multi-channel, and multi-path. It attaches importance to but does not rely too much on foreign trade in hotspots, and pays more attention to international trade in non-hotspots, so as to maintain normal foreign trade if necessary.

China has chosen to launch foreign trade in areas that need further development. Ordinary countries pay more attention to developing foreign trade with countries with higher levels of economic development. Because countries with high levels of economic development have relatively high purchasing power, large market capacity, and low transaction costs. Through transportation and other infrastructure construction, it has penetrated many areas where the level of

economic development has yet to be improved, bringing capital, technology and human capital to these areas 'economic development. Many countries whose economic development needs to be improved will be the regions where the economy will take off in the future. By establishing long-term and stable foreign trade relations with these countries, China solves the key issues that restrict the economic take-off of these regions and promotes and participates in the economic take-off of these regions to share the dividends of global economic development.

China Chooses To Carry Out Foreign Trade In Areas That Are Less Likely To Cause Further Deterioration of State Relations.

China is committed to economic development in a peaceful manner and minimizes friction. However, China faces increasing pressure on international trade. During the implementation of the “Belt and Road” initiative, China chose to conduct international trade in areas that are less likely to cause friction, and selected areas with less pressure to conduct economic cooperation. China promotes the development of the world economy with a broad mind, and chooses to invest in areas that are not prone to disputes. China’s choice is conducive to the balanced development of the world, especially to the economic take-off of long-neglected regions.

China Is Committed To Building A Community of Shared Destiny with Countries with the Same Experience.

During the implementation of the “Belt and Road” initiative, China paid attention to developing countries with the same development experience as itself. These developing countries often have experienced long periods of underdevelopment, history of being invaded or colonized, development stages of long-term exploration for modernization, constraints and bottlenecks of economic development, and eagerness to escape from the status quo with wishes. China empathizes with these countries that have experienced the same development experience as itself. China focuses on solving the urgent needs of these countries in accordance with the development stages of different countries and combining the actual needs of specific development stages to promote these countries healthy growth. The “Belt and Road” have formed a community of shared destiny and achieved long-term cooperation under the common development goal.

Changes in the international environment pose challenges to the implementation of the One Belt And One Road initiative. To study the implementation of One Belt And One Road initiative under the background of international environmental change is undoubtedly the deepening of One Belt And One Road initiative research. The study on the path of Chinese enterprises to implement the One Belt And One Road initiative has profound historical connotation. It is of overall strategic value to study and implement the path of the One Belt And One Road initiative. It is an important topic in the research field of the One Belt And One Road initiative to study the economic and trade friction between the United States and the comprehensive containment of China represented by the United States. American containment of China are the historical background and specific constraints of the study. China-us economic and trade frictions have the end of the day, china-us economic and trade friction to an end, as long as the United States did not abandon contain China's strategy, the relevant historical background of this study and the area along the initiative implementation constraints are still valid.

The way out of common development lies in high-tech innovation. Win-win cooperation is based on the common development of new business forms and new economic fields among different economies. High-tech innovation can promote the development of new business forms and new economic fields and expand the space for different economies to jointly tap their economic potential. Different economies should further realize system innovation, further increase research and development investment, pay more attention to the cultivation of high-end talents, and achieve substantial progress in line with their respective comparative advantages through scientific and technological innovation and system innovation.

Acknowledgements

In 2019, Xi'an Academy of Social Sciences and Xi'an University of Arts and Sciences major strategic cooperation major social science research project "Research on Xi'an National Central City Integration into the Belt and Road Initiative" (2019ZDZT01) the project leader: Tian Fuqiang.

References

- [1]. Lian Degui. Sino-US trade war and Japan-US trade friction and alliance paradox [J]. *Asia-Pacific Security and Ocean Studies*: 1-16.
- [2]. Wang Zhifang. Disputes over Sino-US friction in international rules and China's plan for global sustainable governance [J]. *Northeast Asia Forum*: 1-13.
- [3]. Ma Wei. Sino-U.S. Trade Frictions: Origin, Development Status and Future Prospects [J]. *Studies of American Issues*, 2019 (02): 66-86.
- [4]. Zhong Sheng. Reason is the basis for maintaining Sino-US relations [N]. *People's Daily*, 2019-12-09 (003).
- [5]. Zhu Qirong, Wang Yuping. The Economic Impact of the Trump Administration's Strengthening of China's Technology Export Controls——Assessment Based on "Global Trade Analysis Model" [J]. *Northeast Asia Forum*: 1-15.
- [6]. Wang Lianhe, Jiao Li. Transformation of Sino-US Relations in the Mirror of Trade War [J]. *Studies of American Issues*, 2019 (02): 50-65.
- [7]. Wu Qisheng. Security Strategy and the Evolution of US Trade Policy with China [J]. *Studies of American Issues*, 2019 (02): 103-127.
- [8]. Zhang Haibing. An Analysis of the Impact of Sino-US Trade War on China's Participation in International Development Cooperation [J]. *Studies of American Issues*, 2019 (02): 169-183.
- [9]. Zhang Mingxin, You Wen. American Public's "China Rise" Cognition and Future Trend of Sino-US Relations: An Empirical Study [J]. *Journal of Huazhong University of Science and Technology (Social Science Edition)*, 2019, 33 (06): 85-94.
- [10]. Sun Tianhao, Wang Yan. Research on Sino-US Trade Policy Game and China's Dominant Strategy [J]. *Journal of Southwest University (Social Science Edition)*, 2019, 45 (06): 85-93.