

safeguard peace and stability in the world; on environmental issues, they should assist and cooperate with each other in conservation efforts to take good care of the Earth, the only home of human beings. The concept of “harmonious world” is a display of the Chinese foreign policy in the grand context of changes in the world situation, also the idea that guides the Chinese diplomacy in the situation of high-degree interactions between China and the rest of the world. The fundamental value goal that the harmonious world pursues is to set up a democratic, just and equal international political and economic order and to achieve forever world peace and universal prosperity. The idea of harmonious world shows in a concentrated way the basic judgment of the international situation by the Chinese government and leaders, and reflects China’s global strategy at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The proposal of it marks a new development stage for the Chinese diplomacy.

### III. Peace and Development: The Future Trends of the Chinese Diplomacy

At the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the Chinese government made the great strategic decision to “take the road of peaceful development”. The report to the 17<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the CPC had generalized in a systematic way the innovations and developments of the Chinese diplomatic theories since the 16<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the CPC, and made an overall explanation on the Chinese diplomatic strategy and foreign policy, marking that the “peaceful development” diplomatic strategy held by China had grown mature and that a major transformation had been achieved in the

Chinese diplomacy. The Chinese diplomacy guided by the strategy of “peaceful development” shows many new features of the times in diplomatic ideas, diplomatic means, diplomatic arrangements, diplomatic contents, diplomatic strategies, etc.

First, the diplomatic strategy of peaceful development is a product of learning the essences of the traditional Chinese Confucian “philosophy of concordance” in the new era, reflecting the traditional positive mean thinking of Confucianism. The diplomatic ideas in ancient China were deeply influenced by “benevolence”, “righteousness” and “etiquette” held by Confucius and Mencius, which stressed that great powers should treat small countries with etiquette, and not bully small countries or threaten their survival. “Harmony being the most precious”, “harmony without sameness”, “cherishing the men from afar” and “elevating morality and restraining military forces” are the core of the Confucianism-based diplomatic culture of China. The development of China is not only to provide economic materials for the international community, but also to carry forward and put into practice the essence of the traditional Chinese culture that has been deposited for several thousand years, making contributions to the international society at the ideology and culture level. The diplomatic strategy of peaceful development of China in the new era is the heritage and development of the traditional “concordance” diplomatic culture of China, absorbing the latter’s “peace” essence while abandoning the precedence idea of “the center of the nations” to form the current new diplomatic concept. Such diplomatic strategy goes beyond the “philosophy of revolutionary battles” in the Chinese diplomacy during the 1960s and single national interests, and with global perspective, pursues the integration of national interests and the

interests of the international society at a higher level.

Second, the diplomatic strategy of peaceful development is an inevitable choice based on the current trend of world development. The world today is in great reform and adjustment, and world multi-polarization is an irreversible development trend. Economic globalization goes increasingly deeper and global and regional cooperation is in the ascendant. We are in an interdependent world where countries share successes and failures. The development reality of community of fate in the international society promotes the human society to unite and face all challenges brought about by “global issues”. Seeking for peace, development and cooperation is the common strong desire of the peoples

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in all countries around the world, also an unstoppable historical trend. Any country, who wants to realize its development goal, must follow global development trend. The diplomatic strategy of peaceful development is put forward in response to the changes of the international situation.

Third, the diplomatic strategy of peaceful development is highlighted in the due attention paid by China to undertaking its international responsibilities. A country's international responsibilities cover its economic, political, security and moral duties to the international community and signify a country's contributions which match its national power to the international society. Since the reform and opening up, the Chinese diplomacy has been constructing the image of China as a big responsible country with a “commissioned” manner and

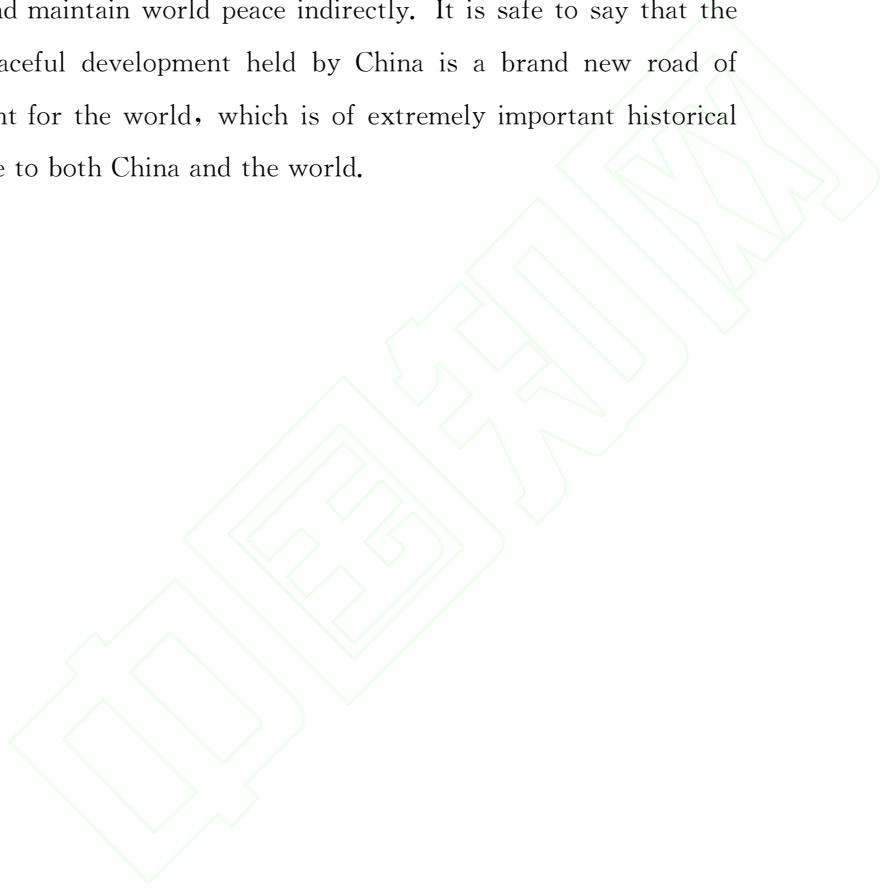
a confident and positive posture. Such image construction is reflected at two levels, namely diplomatic ideas and diplomatic practices. The diplomatic ideas include the new security concept, common development, common interests, multi-polarization, democratic international relations, cultural diversity, and the diplomatic practices include dealing with its relations with big countries and developing countries, participating in regional and global multilateral international mechanisms, etc. All that the above mentioned deliver a strong sense of responsibility, which fundamentally complies with the theme of the times of world peace and development, and shows the consistency of the interest goals between China and the international community, thus it is accepted and approved by the international society.

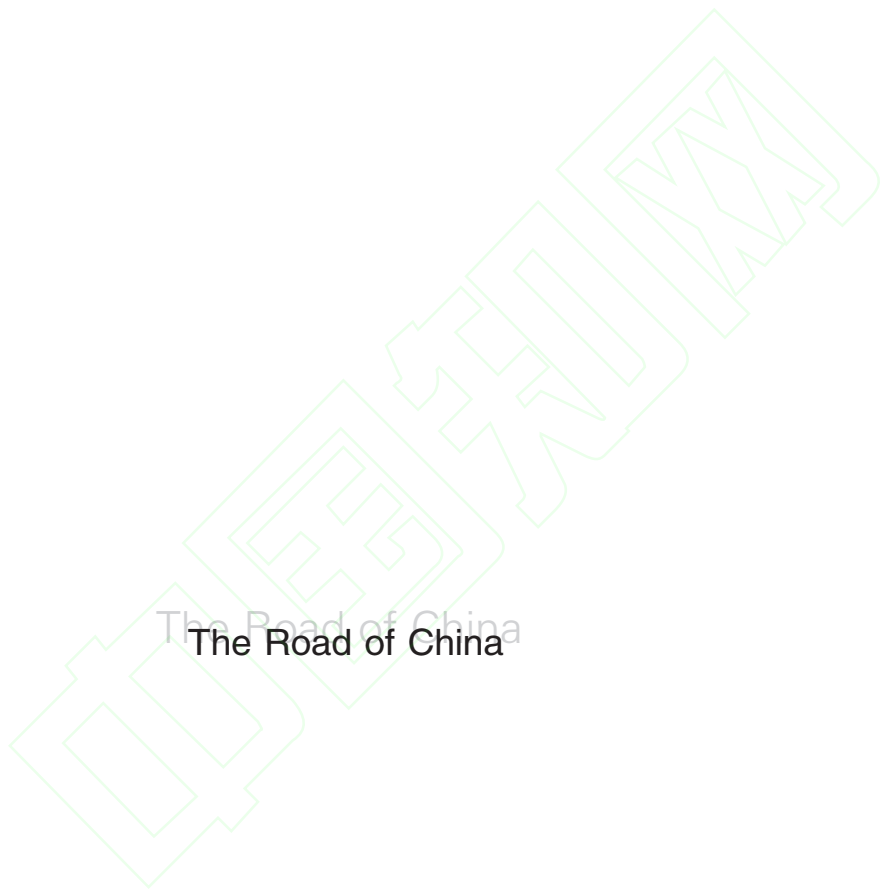
It should be noted that the concept of “peaceful development” held by China is not expedient, but a basic diplomatic principle and policy to be implemented for long. In history, Germany, Japan and other emerging great powers unanimously took the road of challenging the existing international system, which finally brought enormous disasters to the world and to themselves. Whether China would repeat the mistake is a question that lingers in the mind of many people. As a matter of fact, this logical reasoning on simple historical analogy is untenable, since profound changes have happened to the world political and economic patterns since WWII, especially after the Cold War. To start with, the global political and economic integration has developed to a higher level, and international competition has transferred from armaments race to economic and technological competition. In the new era, it is almost impossible to expand territory through war or other

military resorts. Secondly, the constant developments of the information technology have enabled the formation of a more intimate international community, in which the communications and exchanges between countries have become increasingly extensive. In this case, it has become unpractical to continue the former development road by robbery. Thirdly, the constant developments of the destructive power of the existing weapons, especially nuclear weapons make it impossible for any country to benefit from a large-scale war. Hence it is safe to say that trying to get benefits from a war is an unprofitable choice with unbalanced cost. As far as China is concerned, the wisest choice is, without any question, to respect the established international order, win more say in the international mechanism, and protect the universal principles and justice in the world with its national power while developing itself. That the Chinese navy went to Somalia to combat piracy serves as a good example that China bears its responsibilities as a big country. Meanwhile, highlighting harmony and the mean “concordance” culture in the traditional Chinese culture will also make it impossible for China to go to extremes to challenge the international community.

Undoubtedly, in the new time background, as a rapidly emerging great power, China is trying an unprecedented road of peaceful development. It is not only necessary, but also a must, since it is the only way to ensure the smooth development of the China in the future. The road of peaceful development will not only directly bring peace and prosperity to the world, but also serve as a template for later emerging great powers to follow through the strong “demonstration effect” to

promote and maintain world peace indirectly. It is safe to say that the road of peaceful development held by China is a brand new road of development for the world, which is of extremely important historical significance to both China and the world.





The Road of China

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Conclusion .....

Features, International Influences and Prospects of the Road of China

