

PLACE AND ROLE OF CHINA IN MULTIPOLAR WORLD FORMATION

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Анализируются направления, формы и промежуточные результаты формирующейся многополярной модели мира, раскрывается проблематика участия в этом процессе ключевых геополитических игроков — Китая, США, России, Евросоюза. Сделан вывод о реальной востребованности процесса многополярного мироустройства в функционирующей системе международных отношений.

In the article the author analyzes directions, forms and some intermediate results of the developing multipolar model of the world. The article identifies the participation issues in this process of the key geopolitical players such as China, the USA, Russia, the European Union. The conclusion about the real demand of the process of a multipolar world order in the functioning system of the international relations is formulated.

Ключевые слова: Китай; США; Россия; Евросоюз; экономическое взаимодействие; иностранные инвестиции; инновационная экономика; региональная безопасность.

Keywords: China; the USA; Russia; the European Union; economic interaction; foreign investments; innovative economy; regional security.

The growing opposition between the West and Russia, which started after the well-known Munich speech of the President of Russia V. Putin in 2007 and escalated around the conflict in Ukraine in 2014, has signalled the beginning of a new stage in the world policy in fight for the future world order. In comparison to the confrontation of the West and Russia one more KEY geopolitical player is China. But nowadays there are no doubts that the position of China on the international arena will determine the configuration of future multipolarity.

In the late nineties of the XX century the famous American geopolitician Zb. Brzezinski pointed out the importance of China in the future geopolitical modeling of the world in the new century: "The creation of the 'antihegemonistic' coalition regarding China, Russia and, perhaps, Iran is potentially the most dangerous plot of the development (for the USA. — author's remark)", and "...in case of any problem the question is: 'What does Beijing think about it?'" [1, p. 73, 198]

The purpose of the research is to study the mechanism of building the relations by Beijing with the key geopolitical players such as the European Union, the USA, Russia. Obviously, taking into consideration the plummeting economic and military potential of this state at present (the GDP of the Chinese economy in 2030 will exceed a similar indicator of the USA for 30 % and the GDP of the EU for 10–15 %), every side will try to obtain the support of the Celestial Empire [2, p. 9]. However it is important to understand what China wants in the world changing geopolitically at the moment and what is its intention?

The Relations between China and the European Union (EU) have received a new impulse in March and April, 2014, during the European tour of the Chairman of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Xi Jinping. First of all the establishment of trade and economic relations is much of mutual interest,

especially taking into consideration the fact that China remains the second-large trading partner of the EU (the mutual goods turnover in 2015 exceeded 615 bln. USA dollars) [3]. Europeans are interested in more than 300 billion Euros of the Chinese investments that can be used for the revival of the economies which are still in recession [4]. China is in great need of marketing development, and also in the cutting-edge western technologies for the transition of the country to the innovative model of economic development. One more important issue for China is the support provided by the West in order to increase the Yuan in international payments. It would allow its free conversion in future. The British Minister of Finance J. Osborn points out that London tends to become the world centre of trade and investments in Chinese currency and the visits of J. Osborn and D. Cameron to the PRC in 2013 confirm this fact [5]. The latest position of Great Britain to this issue has the situation significantly changed in favour of Beijing.

The European policy of China in the long term perspective will be most likely directed to creation of the Chinese-European free trade area, the basic project of which will become "The Silk Road Economic Belt". As the professor of Institute of the international relations of Chinese People's University Van Ivey says: "If there is an opportunity to combine efforts, then the Chinese-European cooperation will bring the Eurasian integration, will grant a new content to globalization" [6].

The American-Chinese relations have more difficult configuration of development. Both Beijing and Washington consider each other as the main geopolitical rivals. Americans are afraid that China will challenge them in the fight for the world leadership, actively developing its economic and military power, and China in its turn accuse the USA of the policy of containment of the Celestial Empire. This the way how the position of the

USA and its policy in the Asian Pacific region are assessed (APR). China is extremely worried about the strengthening of Washington first of all in Southeast Asia (especially about the signing of the USA Pacific partnership (PP) where neither China, nor Russia is invited) as this region is the main logistic centre for China where the main import / export of resource products of China are shipped (the annual goods turnover in a zone of the South China Sea constitutes 5,3 trillion US dollars) [7]. The USA unlike England does not welcome the strengthening of the role of Yuan at the world financial market, fairly seeing in it a real threat for American dollar.

Americans jealously protect their cutting-edge technologies which are one of the main advantages in the modern world and, especially, in the military sphere. As "Washington Post" reports, that Pentagon considers new robotic arms to be the major deterrent factor for Russia and China [13]. In general, the establishment of trade barriers and export restrictions of high-technology products to China, the confrontation on all key issues for Beijing (starting from the Taiwan question, territorial dispute with Japan, a public censure of human rights in China and situations in Tibet, and ending with the espionage of the U.S. National Security Agency behind the largest Chinese telecommunication company "Huawei", and also the former leaders of the Celestial Empire, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and commerce, banks), obviously does not promote rapprochement of foreign policy lines of two states [8; 9].

The Russian-Chinese relations nowadays are characterized with constant development. Their positive dynamics is supported not only by personal V. Putin's and Xi Jinping's mutual participation in national events in 2015 on the occasion of the 70 anniversary of the Victory over fascist Germany and militaristic Japan in World War II, but also by the position of China during the discussion of the Ukrainian issue in the Security Council of the United Nations (the UNO). Moscow has blocked the adoption of this resolution, having used the veto, but the position of China during the vote (the representative of China has refrained when voting) can quite be regarded as an indirect support of the Russian Federation. Certainly, the Celestial Empire could not support openly Russia as China has its own disputable territories (Tibet, XUAR, and unresolved Taiwan issue). Moreover, by adjustment to this position China has stated the negative attitude to the coup-d'état which took place in Kiev in the winter 2014 and which was supported by the West.

At present China supporting the multipolar peace is interested in strengthening of Russia, capable to weaken the leadership of Washington on the world arena. But Beijing will not ally with Moscow openly against the West. At first, China will not risk the economic relations with the European Union and the USA, otherwise the probability of deterioration will significantly increase. The second reason to abandon such position is not so obvious, but it is much more

important for the whole world. The matter is that having adjoined to the either party of the current confrontation, the Celestial Empire thereby will actually lay the foundation for the creation of military-political blocks of China and Russia against the USA and the EU, or China – the USA – the EU against Russia that will shift all geopolitical alignment of forces to a crisis phase. At present China does not need a war the, as well as any international sanctions. Such events contradict to the declared PRC course to create a moderately prosperous society (Xiaokang) in the country by 2020. Besides, nowadays China is implementing large-scale international projects ("The Silk Road Economic Belt" project, the integration of the SCO and the EAES) and the international stability is extremely important for it. Therefore Beijing is extremely interested in a peaceful political settlement of the conflict both around Ukraine, and in the Syrian question in the Middle East.

The Russian-Chinese cooperation in the fuel energy sphere deserves special attention. After a decade of discussions Russian "Gazprom" and the Chinese national oil and gas corporation (CNPC) have signed a delivery contract on the supply of Russian gas to China in the amount of 38 bln. m³. per year during 30 years (total amount of the contract is 400 bln. dollars) by means "the Force of Siberia" gas pipeline. Deliveries are planned to be performed also from fields of a Sakhalin shelf zone of. The bilateral cooperation in the oil and gas sphere is a long-term and mutually advantageous perspective as Russian will be provided with a steady diversification of raw material export, and China will be provided with the reducing energy deficit and strengthening of the safety of energy supply channels.

In addition, there is a certain progress in the investment cooperation of Russia and China. An agreement with the Chinese company Great Wall on the implementation of an automobile manufacturing industry on the territory of Tula region was signed. The plant is planned to be put into operation in 2017, and the project schedule will be met in 2020. The organization of a new enterprise will allow to create up to 2,5 thousand workplaces, and investments into the project will be 12–18 bln. rubbles. The enterprise capacity is up to 150 thousand cars a year [10].

As for a long-term cooperation of Russia and China in cutting-edge industries the interaction of both countries in the aircraft industry is of high importance especially in the creation of a jumbo jet and a heavy civil helicopter. The Chinese "lurch into the space" of 2003 would be impossible without Russian space-rocket technologies [13].

It should be noted that due to the West and first of all the policy of sanctions to Russia because of Ukraine, contributed a lot to the mutual relations of Russia and China, which has always been positive. Russia was the first state that Xi Jinping visited as a new Head of the People's Republic of China that in the diplomatic language speaks of the priority of Russian direction in the foreign policy of Beijing.

The fact that Mr. Xi Jinping visited the opening ceremony of the winter Olympic Games in Sochi in 2014 while in the Celestial Empire celebrated the Chinese New Year is very important [11]. It is necessary to remember that this period the Chinese by tradition visit only relatives and the closest friends, and it is of great value in China.

However not everything is so “cloudless” in the relations of Russia and China. The growth of the Chinese influence in the Central Asian countries is understood dubiously in Moscow. The Chinese investments into Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan exceed Russian in 10,7 times and in the long term perspective the balance will be

changed not in favour of Russia [12]. That is why Russia insists on the implementation of the Silk Road on the direction from China to the Eurasian union, but China prefers bilateral cooperation with each country of the region separately. The migration issue of the representatives of China to the area of Siberia and the Far East is still in the agenda.

However, it is indisputable that the world has qualitatively changed at the present stage of its development. Today's world order is oriented at multipolarity which is more and more persistently cultivated by Russia, China, India and Brazil playing an important role in world economy.

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