

AUGMENTING THE INFLUENCE OF THE CHINESE CIVILISATION: THE WAY OF THE CHINESE DREAM

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The characteristics of China's political system are examined with special attention to the details of the socio-economic development strategy declared by Xi Jinping in November 2012 and known as "Great revival of the Chinese nation – the Chinese dream". The core of the strategy is explained from an analysis of China's consistently changing political trajectory. It is demonstrated that a key element of the Chinese dream vision is the role of the state on the international stage.

Keywords: global civilisation initiative; global development initiative; global security initiative; Chinese dream; soft diplomacy; Belt and Road Initiative; socialism with Chinese specifics.

О РАСШИРЕНИИ ВЛИЯНИЯ КИТАЙСКОЙ ЦИВИЛИЗАЦИИ: ПУТЬ К КИТАЙСКОЙ МЕЧТЕ

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Рассматриваются особенности политической системы Китая. Значительное внимание уделяется специфике курса социально-экономического развития, провозглашаемого главой КНР. На основе анализа последовательно сменяемых концепций политического курса страны раскрывается сущность современного курса "Великое возрождение китайской нации – китайская мечта", который Си Цзиньпин провозгласил в ноябре 2012 г. Идея данного курса заключается в обеспечении активной роли государства на мировой арене.

Ключевые слова: инициатива глобальной цивилизации; инициатива по глобальному развитию; инициатива по глобальной безопасности; китайская мечта; мягкая дипломатия; инициатива "Один пояс, один путь"; социализм с китайской спецификой.

Introduction

The revival policy, officially declared at the 18th Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), is the ideological foundation of China's current development course. It responds to the challenge of market-driven consumerist values that prioritise material success

and whose pervasiveness raises the prospect of social Westernisation and disintegration and necessitates a thorough re-evaluation of China's fundamental traditions and worldview. The nation seeks to strengthen its identity by incorporating a spiritual symbol into

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the state's national strategy, which represents a shift from emulating the liberal-democratic Western way of life to a robust socialist system with distinctly Chinese characteristics. Historically, China's catch-up strategies were rooted in foreign ideologies such as Soviet Leninism and European Marxism. They had been integrated into Chinese ideology since the late 19th century when a new culture movement gained traction amid military clashes. China's modern path emerges from the meeting of Western capitalism and Chinese Confucianism. This trajectory is marked by the revitalisation of traditional Chinese thought, a phenomenon termed the "renaissance of Confucianism" in political discourse.

China's leader, Xi Jinping, introduced the concept of the Chinese dream during a National museum exhibition in November 2012. Xi Jinping emphasised that this dream represents the resurgence of the nation and will be realised through the socialist state system. The Chinese dream expresses a desire for global equality and a shared future. As the CPC declared at its October 2022 congress, China aims to complete a new stage of modernisation by 2035, not only economically (by catching up with the middle-income countries) but also as a leading political power globally. Importantly, China's political course, based on Confucian ideology, prioritises both domestic well-being and global progress [1, p. 87]. This is consistent with the zhen principle of humanism and concern for others. Xi Jinping's "Great revival of the Chinese nation – the Chinese dream" embodies this approach, emphasising contributions to global problem-solving and addressing people's concerns. Therefore, the CPC should actively promote global advancement in addition to giving the welfare of the Chinese people top priority. China's current political agenda, centred around Xi Jinping's "Great revival of the Chinese nation – the Chinese dream", is

in line with its proactive approach to addressing global concerns and its contribution to their resolution.

Key characteristics of the modern political system in China are examined in this article. It defines the character of China's international initiatives and, in doing so, charts the development of China's current policy trajectory from inception to actualisation.

The Internet Information Centre and the Xinhua News Agency (Xinhua) are two examples of the Chinese mass media that are frequently cited in the research. The platform of State Council Press Office (china.org.cn), which provides news in eight international languages, was used to access the media excerpts. With this platform, events within the study's framework can be analysed more precisely. One of China's main information hubs, Xinhua, which ranks among the top six in the country and covers foreign policy, economy and culture, is essential to this study. Notably, reports from high-ranking government officials and policy documents primarily came from this source. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs press centre covers political developments, which, along with Xinhua, helped to form the study's empirical basis.

The research of numerous academics, including A. V. Boyarkina [2], D. V. Gurov [3], L. E. Krishtapovich [1], K. F. Lykov [4], S. V. Prosekov [5], K. V. Rudyi [6], and I. V. Turitsyn [7], provides the basis for comprehending China's current socio-economic and political course. A. V. Boyarkina investigates the views of Chinese authors regarding the notion of the Chinese dream. A theoretical interpretation of the Chinese dream is offered by D. V. Gurov, and China's contemporary political trajectory is examined through the prism of "soft power" by L. E. Krishtapovich. The application of "soft power" in China's foreign policy is examined by K. F. Lykov. I. V. Turitsyn focuses on the modernisation of China's foreign policy doctrine, while S. V. Prosekov and K. V. Rudyi examine earlier political courses in China.

Materials and methods

The structural-functional method, comparative analysis, analytical method, and general scientific methods are used. This study is important because it provides

a thorough analysis of how China's historical experiences shaped its current political trajectory which is called "Great revival of the Chinese nation – the Chinese dream".

Results and discussion

Many Chinese leaders have maintained China's political tradition of announcing its direction and development slogan. They have done so by articulating unique ideas such as Deng Xiaoping's socialism with Chinese specificity, Tsan Zeming's three representations, Hu Zintao's science-driven development, and Mao Zedong's new-democratic revolution [5, p. 77]. In 2012, Xi Jinping coined the term "Chinese dream" while visiting an exhibition. China's fifth-generation leader, Xi Jinping, said: "We are fully confident that the advan-

tages of the Socialist state system will become ever more obvious, and our path will ever broaden"¹.

The entry of the phrase "Chinese dream" into political discourse was a momentous shift that sparked debate among the experts. The dream represents the aspirations of many generations of Chinese people and embodies the state and people's alignment of interests towards the establishment of a prosperous, politically stable, and culturally influential nation. In contrast to previous policies, the "Great revival of the Chinese

¹The Chinese dream (governance) [Electronic resource]. URL: http://russian.china.org.cn/exclusive/txt/2013-03/17/content_28266229.htm (date of access: 14.11.2023) (in Russ.).

nation – Chinese dream” represents the first theoretical move towards bringing back a China-centric civilisation in the “new era”.

A crucial phase of China’s socio-economic modernisation took place under Hu Jintao’s leadership, distinguished by a unique political strategy that addressed social issues by emphasising national spiritual unity. Under this fourth-generation leader, the strategy, which called for a harmonious socialist society, addressed the growing social disparities (in employment, access to housing and healthcare, etc.) brought about by unchecked economic growth. The focus shifted from pursuing economic gains at all costs to reaching social equilibrium. Hu Jintao’s recognition of the prevailing social challenges encouraged him to turn to the “he” principle of Confucian philosophy, which promotes harmony [2, p. 170]. Hu Jintao’s commitment to world peace was demonstrated at the September 2005 UN summit. He made four key points in his speech to the assembly, emphasising the need to build a peaceful world for shared prosperity. In the first, “equitable security” was emphasised as a pillar for building a harmonious peace and a practical means of settling conflicts peacefully. The next initiative sought to improve global trade, financial systems, and energy markets to accelerate the achievement of the Millennium development goals. One more pillar emphasised each nation’s right to autonomous growth and cultural preservation. Hu Jintao concluded by restating China’s long-standing foreign policy approach, emphasising cooperation with all countries and guaranteeing a peaceful world underpinned by the UN. Hu Jintao was different from his predecessors in that his idea of creating a harmonious society served as the foundation for China’s current global peace and welfare-promoting ideology². This ideological change reflected a more nuanced approach to socio-economic challenges by placing a higher priority on social equilibrium than unbridled economic pursuits. Beyond his domestic policies, Hu Jintao left behind a legacy that helped China play a larger role in promoting international cooperation and harmony in the modern era.

According to K. V. Rudyi’s research “China’s reform and openness policy in the new era”, the country’s political development can be traced back to three significant periods in its socio-economic modernisation.

China’s pursuit of an independent path and the development of an integrated set of theoretical principles characterise the first period (1949–1978). Mao Zedong’s reforms effectively tackled urgent problems of cultural crises, external pressures, particularly from Japan, and oppositional conflicts.

The second period, which spans 1978 to 2012, led China’s economy to its present prosperity. Mao Zedong’s theoretical directives came to be understood in a more nuanced way during this time. China was

able to overcome extreme poverty thanks in large part to Deng Xiaoping’s reforms. Some would argue that China’s economic miracle was overstated because its achievements are only striking when compared to the underperforming developing nations. However, Deng Xiaoping’s era – which lasted for 15 years after the end of his term in office – created the foundation for China’s current progress.

The third period, known as the revival of the nation as Xi Jinping had termed it, began in 2012 and was formally declared during the 18th CPC congress, but it in fact started when Xi Jinping took his position as the Secretary General of the CPC Central Committee [6, p. 21].

This phase saw the resurgence of national pride as well as the development of an autonomous socio-economic trajectory. The current era represents a fully developed domestic policy (socialism with Chinese specificity) in contrast to Deng Xiaoping’s era when China’s socialism was perceived as a route towards a liberal-democratic Western lifestyle or a pro-Singaporean imitation. The emphasis is now on economic development rather than economic stimulation, indicating a self-assured and clear approach to domestic policy.

Therefore, Xi Jinping’s political trajectory of contemporary China adopts a unique and all-encompassing approach. The country’s foreign policy has gained international recognition thanks to his leadership. The profound Chinese dream, as expressed by Xi Jinping, is the central theme of this journey, uniting the people in the pursuit of prosperity and well-being for the country. This dream calls for elevated spirits and consolidated national power for both the state and individual citizens. The Chinese dream is a 200-year timeframe that includes the 100th anniversary of the PRC’s establishment in 2049 and the CPC’s founding in 2021. By this later milestone, China hopes to follow the socialist path of nation-building and achieve national revival while strengthening its position in all spheres of influence. The incorporation of the great revival concept is noteworthy as it unites earlier ideologies and represents the interests of multiple generations collectively. Going forward, economic liberalisation will continue along the path set by the reforms of the 1970s and 1990s, which improved population welfare but also emphasised social stratification. To mitigate growing social inequality and promote national wealth, the leadership of the CPC envisions additional economic opening-up. Based on socialist democratic principles, this strategy of ongoing liberalisation in the political and economic spheres actively seeks to draw foreign capital to sectors that were previously off-limits [7, p. 37].

D. V. Gurov highlights in his analysis that, as Chinese scientist Wang Wei put it, the realisation of the Chinese dream depends on international integration. China must design a political path that strengthens its

²Statement of the Chairman of PRC Hu Jintao at the UN summit [Electronic resource]. URL: http://russian.china.org.cn/international/txt/2005-09/16/content_2195668.htm (date of access: 14.11.2023) (in Russ.).

active global role in light of the necessity of economic growth requiring access to foreign markets. In a world historically dominated by the American-Western model of globalisation, this assumes particular significance [3, p. 388]. Essentially, revival is about two things: improving the country's state of affairs and fortifying its culture. Their symbiotic relationship is highlighted by the interdependence of civilisation as the ultimate goal and the source of well-being. Reaching these objectives requires tackling ongoing destabilising variables on the global scene. These factors include urgent global issues like terrorism, epidemic outbreaks, and the migration crisis, and they go beyond unilateral attempts to contain China. As a result, the CPC is charged with actively participating in global problem-solving initiatives in addition to ensuring the welfare of its citizens, thereby aiding in the resolution of global issues.

Xi Jinping introduced the Global civilisation initiative in March 2023 during the event "CPC dialogue with the world" opening ceremony, which focused on political parties' roles in the modernisation of nations. In his keynote address, the Head of the People's Republic of China emphasised the value of modernisation, which any state should pursue regardless of national characteristics, in front of representatives of political parties and organisations from numerous nations. To lead the way in the process of modernising civilisations, political parties should encourage the close integration of their development with the nation's modernisation. Xi Jinping called on people everywhere to respect cultural diversity and preserve the values of innovation and continuity to prevent a clash between civilisational modernisation and cultural diversity. In addition, he stated that China will actively develop the idea of global exchanges and humanitarian cooperation to enhance intercultural understanding and create a new paradigm of cooperation founded on equality, stability, and respect³.

The report by China's ambassador to Belarus, Xie Xiaoyong, contributes to the understanding of the fundamental ideas of the Global civilisation initiative and its role in the establishment of China's current political trajectory. Presented in April 2023 at the round table discussion "A unique path of success for all: China's Global civilisation initiative", the paper tackles the problem of bringing the divided world together. Three ideological components that are essential to the initiative's central idea are identified by Xie Xiaoyong.

The first component is overcoming obstacles between civilisations and opposing ideas and attitudes such as prejudice and superiority. The initiative promotes the spread of universal principles that bind all people together: justice, equality, freedom, and peace.

The second component is accepting cultural change in the spirit of modern times and encouraging humanitarian exchange as the main means of fostering understanding between people. The project promotes the equality of different civilisations and calls for an end to ideological conflicts and the imposition of one's values through the use of different cultural models.

The third component, by advancing international integration processes that support states' economic development, the Global civilisation initiative aims to benefit economic growth in all countries⁴.

The initiative, formally announced during the 6th Plenum of the 19th CPC Central Committee in November 2021, was inspired by the accomplishments of the CPC in the 21st century. The Committee's Resolution "On the principal results and historical experience of the party's centennial struggle" acknowledges that China's modernisation has fundamentally changed the course of world development, especially in Chapter V. A new form of human civilisation has emerged as a result of the CPC's successfully implemented modernisation model, which has led the party to offer Chinese strength and wisdom to address global challenges⁵. Xi Jinping highlighted the model nature of Chinese civilisation in his speech during the CPC's centenary celebration. Advancing the pursuit of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the 21st century, Xi Jinping called on all countries looking to enhance their social structures to learn from China's model of revival⁶.

The concept of global civilisation emphasises values like equality, respect, and mutual learning among various civilisations, underscoring the Chinese experience in modernisation and portending a return to a China-centric world order. As the world navigates the challenges of rapid globalisation, political and economic change, and cultural diversity, China offers a vision for a new global order that unites efforts for the prosperity of humanity as a whole. Beijing's policy path includes the introduction of the Global development initiative by the Chinese leadership as a means of achieving this goal.

The Global development initiative, which was first presented in September 2021 at the 76th UN General Assembly, expresses China's desire for global development initiatives to be coordinated and macroeconomic

³Keynote speech by the PRC Chairman Xi Jinping at the event "CPC's dialogue with the world" [Electronic resource]. URL: <https://russian.news.cn/20230316/a2bc0c83102e4cdea489909f82693a4d/c.html> (date of access: 14.11.2023) (in Russ.).

⁴Report by China's ambassador to Belarus, Xie Xiaoyong at the roundtable "A distinct path of success for all: the China's Global civilisation initiative" [Electronic resource]. URL: http://by.china-embassy.gov.cn/rus/xwdt/202304/t20230429_11068856.htm (date of access: 14.11.2023) (in Russ.).

⁵CPC Central Committee resolution "On principal results and historical experience of the party's centennial struggle" [Electronic resource]. URL: https://russian.news.cn/2021-11/16/c_1310314781.htm (date of access: 14.11.2023) (in Russ.).

⁶Statement by the PRC Chairman at the Honorary meeting celebrating the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the CPC [Electronic resource]. URL: https://russian.news.cn/2021-07/01/c_1310038413.htm (date of access: 14.11.2023) (in Russ.).

policies to be strengthened. Xi Jinping promised China's unwavering support to developing countries dedicated to the principles of global development⁷. Prioritising development, upholding the people-first principle, promoting inclusivity and accessibility for the general public, emphasising innovation, aiming for peaceful coexistence between humans and the environment, and guaranteeing practical action are the six main points that Xi Jinping outlined. China made a material commitment of 3 bln US dollars to support developing nations in their socio-economic recovery following the pandemic.

By September 2023, 70 countries had joined the group of friends, a collaborative platform that backed the Chinese initiative established in January 2022. About two hundred projects involving international cooperation have been selected for future implementation. China increased funding for the Global development initiative trust fund and established a dedicated structure with 10 bln US dollars in capital to facilitate project execution. China's commitment to achieving the objectives of the Global development initiative was further demonstrated by the establishment of a dedicated instrument for global development assistance⁸.

High-level dialogue on global development, an important event in the Global development initiative took place in June 2022. The Chinese leader, who was present to represent the PRC, declared the following important tasks to further the initiative:

- forging a stronger political consensus in favour of an internationally prosperous future where development is valued by all nations;
- establishing external conditions that are conducive to global development, such as limiting the unchecked spread of protectionist policies, imposing harsh penalties, and fostering polarising collaboration;
- fostering low-carbon industries, bridging the digital divide, and encouraging scientific and technological innovation as drivers of global development;
- strengthening international cooperation among developing countries and honouring the promises made by developed countries to improve international partnerships for global development⁹.

Crucially, China actively pursues its initiatives within the strong framework of the United Nations, which is the cornerstone of multilateralism. In international relations, a multilateral approach restrains the spread of unilateral policies, keeping the world from plunging into

a pit of confrontation. Multilateralism helps China tremendously because it creates a favourable external environment that speeds up its economic modernisation. China has maintained a strong rate of economic growth at home for many years, and it currently contributes about 20 % of the global GDP. Notably, China comes in second with a share of 15.3 % in the UN's regular budget for 2022–2024, highlighting its significant influence within the organisation. In contrast, China contributed only half as much to the UN in 2018 (7.9 %)¹⁰.

In his remarks at the high-level dialogue on global development, Xi Jinping emphasised how crucial it is to match the goals of the initiative with the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development of the UN. During the ministerial meeting of the group of friends for the Global development initiative in September 2022, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi emphasised particular measures to synchronise development strategies. He provided a list of seven measures that any group of friends member nation could take to improve cooperation with UN agencies:

- 1) publicise a list of 50 initiative projects that address important areas of global development such as industrialisation, food security, and poverty alleviation;
- 2) promote the cooperation strategy for increasing food production;
- 3) ensure that the project on the globalisation of clean energy is carried out;
- 4) strengthen collaborations in customs communication;
- 5) facilitate the establishment of the World Digital Education Alliance;
- 6) work with the International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation to create an action plan for switching from plastic to bamboo products;
- 7) make the data on China's sustainable development companion project open to the public¹¹.

UN Secretary General A. Guterres said during the ministerial meeting that China's initiative fits in perfectly with the UN's global sustainable development goals. He emphasised the importance of global participation in the initiative, particularly in light of the complex crises that the pandemic's effects are causing, including broken trade links, an increase in the number of people experiencing hunger and poverty, and escalating social unrest. In particular, A. Guterres praised China's resolve to forgo building coal-fired power plants, which is a critical step in the fight against climate change.

⁷On the inauguration of the Global development initiative in September 2021 [Electronic resource]. URL: https://russian.news.cn/2021-09/22/c_1310201357.htm (date of access: 14.11.2023) (in Russ.).

⁸On the practical results of the establishment of the group of friends of the Global development initiative [Electronic resource]. URL: http://russian.china.org.cn/international/txt/2023-09/20/content_116698894.htm (date of access: 14.11.2023) (in Russ.).

⁹Statement of the PRC Chairman at the high-level dialogue on global development in June 2022 [Electronic resource]. URL: <https://russian.news.cn/20220625/edbebe540fb0406c89ed78119fef51d2/c.html> (date of access: 14.11.2023).

¹⁰UN finance: regular budget assessments by country [Electronic resource]. URL: https://www.mid.ru/ru/foreign_policy/un/administrativno_byudzhetye_voprosy_oon/finansirovanie_oon/ (date of access: 14.11.2023) (in Russ.).

¹¹On the statement of the PRC Minister of Foreign Affairs at the ministerial meeting of the group of friends in support of the Global development initiative in September 2022 [Electronic resource]. URL: <https://russian.news.cn/20220921/4945306f144c4f3eb0bcdea2d878fbd/c.html> (date of access: 14.11.2023) (in Russ.).

Recognising China's increasing contribution to the UN as a major donor, A. Guterres highlighted its proactive role in advancing multilateralism¹².

Thus, China's initiatives for global development serve as essential building blocks for creating a world that is inclusive, open and prosperous. China's reform path, which is based on this kind of global order, depends on political dialogue and refraining from aggressive measures. Politically motivated military conflicts run counter to the principles of economic growth. As a result, China's leadership adopted the term "comprehensive national security" and used it in its political discourse.

The phrase "comprehensive national security" was first used by Xi Jinping in April 2014 during a meeting of the Central National Security Commission. 11 major areas are covered, including political, military, territorial, economic, informational, environmental, resource, social, nuclear, scientific, and cultural. Its main focus is on preserving world peace. Importantly, collective security and comprehensive security are not the same thing. China consistently applies non-alignment principles in its political strategy when it comes to matters of national defence [8, p. 50].

A revised white paper titled "China's national defence in a new era" was released in July 2019 and provides an overview of China's national defence policy. The document underlines that, in response to external risks, China is transitioning to a new development path after constructing a moderately prosperous society. Some sources of external risks are rising international competition and the US' unilateralism in matters of security and defence. Major nations are strengthening their cyber, space, and nuclear reserve capacities in response. Notably, the EU is speeding up security integration, Russia is bolstering its nuclear capabilities, and NATO is extending its influence in Central and East Asia. The white paper emphasises mutual understanding and acceptance of the community of common destiny of mankind among the nations in the Asia-Pacific region. Amidst internal contradictions, including challenges to territorial sovereignty and disputes over maritime and air borders, China seeks to maintain political stability and ethnic unity. The document reaffirms that since the start of its opening-up policy, China has actively pursued peace, valued peace, and opposed aggression and war. China chose to focus on improving its economic and spiritual capabilities rather than increasing its military might. It did this by voluntarily cutting its army by 4 million personnel and directing the energies of its people to overcome poverty.

The Chinese leader unveiled the Global security initiative in April 2022 at the Boao forum for Asian annual

conference, highlighting the critical connection between security and development. The initiative contends that power politics worsen global issues, challenging the widely held belief that they are good for the planet. Rather, it advocates for a change in perspective from a confrontational mindset to rational assurances of international security. During his speech at the conference, Xi Jinping emphasised the need for major powers to set an example and called for dignified conduct in the pursuit of equality¹³.

In February 2023, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs published a document entitled "Conceptual framework for the Global security initiative". The preamble recognises the difficulties that undermine worldwide co-existence, including the possibility of regional conflicts, protectionist policies, and conventional threats. China encourages countries to embrace interconnectedness, solidarity, and win-win strategies to adapt to the changing global environment. The document lists the Global security initiative's six guiding principles:

- 1) commitment to comprehensive national security (promote the use of political discourse as the main means of resolving conflicts, while honouring the security systems of each nation);

- 2) commitment to maintaining territorial integrity (adhere to the core principles of international law by refraining from overt interference in a state's domestic affairs);

- 3) commitment to achieving the goals of the UN Charter (consider the devastation caused by international conflicts and work towards the UN Charter goals);

- 4) commitment to legitimate security interests (recognise the illegality of upholding the security of one nation at the expense of another);

- 5) commitment to peaceful conflict resolution (establish productive channels of communication and consultation to ease tensions and deal with underlying issues);

- 6) commitment to upholding security address both conventional and unconventional threats which are becoming visibly interconnected (in the world of today)¹⁴.

Paying close attention to the guiding principles of China's global security initiative is essential to comprehending the initiative and its role in strengthening international security. These six tenets serve as useful directives for nations interested in enduring peace. China's security concept is remarkably different from the liberal Western one, which tends to emphasise unbridled power expansion. Crucially, the tenets of the Chinese initiative are not centred on material might. The Global security initiative should be widely acknowledged as

¹²UN Secretary General on China's role in international cooperation [Electronic resource]. URL: <https://tass.ru/mezhdunarodnaya-panorama/12750787> (date of access: 14.11.2023) (in Russ.).

¹³Statement of the PRC Chairman Xi Jinping "Joining forces to overcome the challenges in the name of a better future" at the opening of the 2022 annual Boao Asian forum conference [Electronic resource]. URL: <https://russian.news.cn/20220421/b9636a7570754147aca06d32e1d3a991/c.html> (date of access: 14.11.2023) (in Russ.).

¹⁴Global security initiative concept paper [Electronic resource]. URL: https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjbxw/202302/t20230221_11028348.html (date of access: 14.11.2023).

a means of countering the confrontational mindset that underlies geopolitical conflicts in Europe and the Asia – Pacific region, particularly in light of growing challenges that exacerbate intolerance threats.

China's initiative is a consistent step towards its ongoing commitment to a modern political trajectory that prioritises peaceful coexistence. China is currently protecting its borders while fostering amicable ties with its neighbourhood and other developing nations. This strategy, also known as soft diplomacy, was inaugurated in December 2011 at the 10th All-China meeting on diplomacy formation. A spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry emphasised that China believes in conflict resolution that meets the needs of all parties, and considers it a benefit to itself [4, p. 147].

Insights from the Russian researcher A. D. Tsypliyev can add to our understanding of the soft power strategy's conceptual underpinnings. A. D. Tsypliyev points out that Wang Huning, a well-known Chinese academic and current leader, coined the phrase "soft power" in a 1993 paper titled "Culture as national power". The political system, national character, foreign policy strategy, international image, and the advancement of science and technology potential are the six elements of soft power that Wang Huning identified. Together, these

elements characterise China's strategy for influencing the world outside of established power structures [9, p. 110].

Chinese scholars have identified the elements that are essential to their country's strategy, including diplomacy, international institutions, education, investment, and image, through an extensive study that was influenced by Wang Huning's insights. Different from the conventional wisdom of J. Nye, the creator of the soft power theory, China's leadership is promoting its culture internationally to further Chinese diplomacy and achieve economic goals. This way, the idea of Chinese revival is being translated into practice, increasing China's clout locally and globally.

Emphasis on traditional spiritual foundations is becoming a common feature of foreign policy in today's global environment. To promote national integrity, cohesion, and unity in the face of clashing ideologies and cultures around the world, it is essential to combat propaganda that only highlights one side of the matter. A culturally resilient state that can withstand external challenges and position itself to and navigate the complexity of the international arena, which constitutes modern China's most important strategic objective.

Conclusions

The strategy "Great revival of the Chinese nation – Chinese dream" concept was first introduced more than ten years ago. Over 100 million rural Chinese people have lifted themselves out of poverty during this time, and the nation as a whole is making progress in doing so. China's well-being is growing at a rate ten times faster than the rest of the world, with GDP per capita expected to rise by 8.1 % by 2022 and reach 14,096 mln US dollars up from 229 US dollars in 1978. In the same year, the nominal income of Chinese citizens increased by 5 % to 36,883 yuan. Over 12 million new jobs were successfully created, exceeding the 11 million target. China now has a much greater role in the world economy. As of 2022 estimates from the IMF and World Bank place its contribution to the global GDP at 18.48 %¹⁵. From all indications, China is still moving in the same direction towards becoming a political and economic superpower under Xi Jinping's direction. Projects like "Belt and Road" and "Community of common destiny of mankind" are essential in changing the international system and undermining the long-standing dominance of the Western world order model. China is steadfastly working to adhere to the policy of openness and deep integration in advancing a new paradigm of international cooperation, promising to do everything within its power to contribute meaningfully to the peaceful development of humanity.

We have examined key initiatives reflecting China's present policy direction: Global civilisation initiative, Global development initiative, and Global security initiative. Rooted in the common goal of establishing a fair and equitable global partnership, coupled with a commitment to support developing nations, these initiatives prioritise economic growth and peaceful coexistence. China's efforts contribute to enduring, environmentally sustainable, and healthy global development for human civilisation.

The strategy "Great revival of the Chinese nation – the Chinese dream" embodies China's aspiration for an entirely new worldwide framework founded on transparency, concord, and equitable prosperity for all. As opposed to Deng Xiaoping's earlier Taoist philosophy, China now publicly expresses its goals departing from the notion of staying in the shadows. Now a significant global power, China has made a strong claim to superiority and domination in its current foreign policy.

China exhibits a willingness to adapt to the modern world following a historical journey from humiliation to strength and dignity. The younger generation in China feels that the country is experiencing a national renaissance and feels that it is their duty to inform the world of this change in leadership after three decades of uninterrupted economic growth that has had an impact on the entire world.

¹⁵Disposable income per capita has increased in China [Electronic resource]. URL: <https://1prime.ru/world/20230117/839491239.html> (date of access: 11.10.2023) (in Russ.).

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