

東方外交史叢書(一)

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陳奉林 魏楚雄 主編



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主 編：陳奉林 魏楚雄
封面設計：天覓意念有限公司
統 籌：澳門大學出版中心
出 版：澳門大學
澳門氹仔徐日昇寅公馬路
電話：(853) 2883 1622 傳真：(853) 2883 1694
網址：www.umac.mo 電郵：pub.enquiry@umac.mo
承 印：鴻興柯式印刷有限公司
出版日期：2009年10月，初版
印 量：500冊

Asian Diplomatic History, Volume I: The Evolution of Asian Diplomatic History (in Chinese)

Edited by CHEN Fenglin and George WEI Chuxiong

Published by University of Macau

Tel: (853) 2883 1622

Fax: (853) 2883 1694

Website: www.umac.mo

Email: pub.enquiry@umac.mo

Published and printed in Macao.

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ISBN 978-99937-986-8-2

Synopses

Chapter One: Overview

1. The Origin and Evolution of the Regional Concept of East Asia and Its Significance in the Modern Era

CHEN Fenglin

Before the modern era, East Asia had a distinctive regional concept for its unique international relations and deep historical and cultural tradition, similar to West Asia, North Africa, South Asia and Central America. The emergence of regional concept is a process which is inseparable from a country's historical and cultural tradition or geographical environment. East Asian countries like China, Japan and Korea have close ties with one another. It is crucial to understand the East Asian civilization by analyzing the origin and development of regional concept. The East Asia regional concept, after hundreds of years of development, has prospered and flourished again. Like the regional rising economy, this concept has a great influence on the entire region. To put it in a broader sense, one can see that the growth of regional concept has symbolized the rise of the whole East Asian region. It also serves as a key historical transformation. All these have contributed to the mutual development and prosperity of the entire region.

2. Oriental Diplomatic History – Definition, Scope of Research, and Other Discussions

ZHANG Xudong

By analyzing the concepts of “Orient” and “diplomacy”, the author has defined oriental diplomatic history, in both broader and narrower sense, and has further analyzed the scope of research in this paper. Based on the understanding of diplomacy, history, and orientalism, the author considers the history of oriental diplomacy as an interdisciplinary study.

3. Oriental Diplomatic History and Its Temporal and Spatial Issues

WEI Dexing

The paper examines the present dilemmas in the study of the history of oriental diplomacy and the principles of reconstructing the history of oriental diplomacy. The author discusses that the object of the study of oriental diplomatic history should be focused on the generalization of diplomacy; its scope of study in terms of space should be limited to Asian and North African regions, and the time period begins from the emerging period of the early states.

4. Imperial China's Heavenly-Celestial International Systems at the Beginning of the Third Millennium

NG Kee Lian

Every social culture and civilization is derived from the human pentagon systems, and it is there to serve the systems. That is, all human beings are made of the physiological, psychological, societal, natural and cosmological principles which produce socio-cultural systems and civilizations.

Chinese tradition and Chinese civilization serve Chinese people primarily and effectively within the Chinese territory. Nevertheless, it also spreads outside China more or less at the invitation of the recipients. For instance, Japanese and Koreans have welcome Chinese civilization and integrate it with their local cultures so as to promote their social development. It is based upon this cultural exchange that the Chinese empire and the surrounding nations created such an international system which enabled them to interact peacefully. The “heavenly-celestial empire” did not govern its neighbouring states directly and effectively due to its limited capacity and the lack of material motivation for domination.

The so-called “heavenly-celestial system” of imperial China before 1900 is undoubtedly different from Pax Britainica, Pax Sovietica, Pax Japonica or Pax Americana because the latest western international systems are built on modern capitalism and imperialism. The author concludes that there is no chance to have the “heavenly-celestial system” repeated if globalization, modernization and cooperation are in dominance in the coming decades.

Chapter Two: History

5. Koguryo and Paekche in the International Relations of Ancient Northeast Asia

CHEN Hui & XU Deyuan

Koguryo and Paekche, two ancient kingdoms which belonged to two different countries, were both established within 20 years of each other. Although the two kingdoms were enemy states for a long time, they subsequently united in a war against the Tang Dynasty of ancient China. However, they were both wiped out by the Tang respectively within seven years. Both kingdoms had made use of imperial China, Silla and Japan to adjust their relationship. At that time, Koguryo, Paekche, and Silla were all competing with each other on the Korean peninsula. While Koguryo was dependent on imperial China, both Paekche and Silla were ethnic Koreans, with Japan as Paekche's ally. This complex political, diplomatic and military struggle led to conflicts between these countries and powers, and eventually resulted in an international war in ancient Northeast Asia.

6. How Smaller States Inhibited the Power of Overlords in the *Chunqiu* Period

XIONG Mei

In the *Chunqiu* (Spring and Autumn) Period of ancient China, the power of overlords was not unlimited. Once the “inter-state” rules drawn up under the hegemony power were in force, the overlord himself was also subject to these rules. Feeble states living under the hegemony could inhibit the overlord’s power with the legalized systems and rules. One of the main tools of smaller states to counteract the powerful overlords was by the general rule of “Li”. But the competition among states was a race of strength and capability, and the effect of rules was limited, which made it difficult to inhibit the ever-increasing ambition of the overlords under the general rule – “Li”.

7. Some Issues on the Envoys to Silla during the Mid and Late Tang Dynasty

BAI Genxing

The fraternal relationship between the Tang Dynasty of ancient China and Silla should be regarded as a typical example for China’s relations with other Northeast Asian countries in ancient times. In its middle and late reign, the Tang Dynasty sent as many as 22 envoys to Silla. In A.D. 812, the assistant envoy in company of Cui Ting was not Jin Shixin but Jin Mian. In those days, the Tang court collected funds for the envoys to Silla partly by employing self-funded officials, which would bring about some inevitable problems. An analysis of the events related to the Tang envoys to Silla presents some profound insights into the nature of the relations between the Tang Dynasty and Silla, in order to enhance the study of Sino-Korean relations.

8. Master Wei Zheng and the War of Japanese Invasion of Korea from 1592 to 1598 – A Case Study of Buddhist Monks and Asian Diplomacy

CHEN Wenshou

As a Korean Zen Buddhist monk living during the turbulent years of the Japanese invasion of Korea in 1592 and its aftermath, Wei Zheng (1544-1610) played an active role in history, not only by organizing and leading Buddhist monks to fight against Japanese invaders, but also by taking part in wartime and post-war negotiations to promote the peace settlement and normalization of diplomatic relations between Korea and Japan. Therefore, Wei Zheng provides us with an important example to understand the historical role of religion and religious people, and also a rare case for examining the relations between Buddhist monks and oriental diplomacy.

9. US' Colonial Rule in the Philippines and the Reflection of Filipino People – With a Comparison with Spanish Colonial Rule

SONG Yunwei

The United States, which transposed her own systems onto those of the Philippines, established a colonial administration in the territory under the sovereignty of America at the end of the 19th century. The US policy had reflected the characteristics of neocolonialism. Although legislature, administration and judiciary were established in the Philippines, Americans controlled the majority of the territory and local governments. Civil rights of the Filipinos were severely restricted. In spite of the huge investments made by the Americans in the Philippines, the zero tariff policy made the Philippines' economy greatly dependent on America. The US further influenced the Philippines through education, language and lifestyle, which disrupted the course of Filipino culture. It was difficult for people in the colonies to realize the influence of neocolonialism, as a result their traditional national identity was easily lost.

10. Revisiting San Francisco Peace Treaty with Japan with Reference to Paracel and Spratly Islands

ZHANG Mingliang

Based on documents of the US and other sources, this paper discusses the reason why the San Francisco Peace Treaty with Japan did not clarify the sovereignty of Paracel and Spratly Islands. Historically the sovereignty of these islands belonged to China. During the Second World War, they were invaded by Japan. Although in 1951 the Peace Treaty stated Japan as giving up these islands, it did not specify which country has the right over them. The US blurred the sovereignty issue on purpose, since the US dominated the process of drafting and signing the treaty, and China was prevented from concluding a favourable term to claim the sovereignty of these islands. As a result, the treaty laid the foundation for further dispute over unsolved sovereignty issues.

11. Preparations by the Japanese Government for Revising the Constitution in the Early Postwar Period

WANG Lei

As the Constitution of Japan was being made under the influence of GHQ, Japan's conservative force insisted on amending it in the postwar period. They regarded the amendments as compulsory as the constitution was unable to relegate Japan's own will. However, what was the will of the Japanese government at that time? The author discusses the actions of the Japanese government before GHQ intervened, including the independent preparation of the Japanese government for revising the constitution, Duke Konoe and his committee's work, and the working process of the government's Matumoto Committee. It made clear that the Japanese government, expected by all people to protect the 1889 constitution and Emperor's supremacy, did not want to revise the constitution

in accordance with the Potsdam Declaration, and its conservatism eventually led to the intervention of GHQ.

12. China's Geo-barycentre – Dynamics of the Historical Progress of Chinese Civilization

SU Hao

The author has analysed in the thesis about China's political geography using the theory of China's geo-barycentre. A barycentre is the centre point of all gravities that an object receives, which determines the stability of object. A geo-barycentre means the focal centre of a particular region which determines the geographical characteristics of the region. It is the geographic basis of the social system built by citizens in this region. It is believed that there is such a "geo-barycentre" in China's political geography. Although it is intangible, its influence on China's historical development, political system and economy is clearly seen.

13. The Origin and Evolution of Consular Protection

XIA Liping

With globalization and increasing contact between nation-states, the issue of consular protection has drawn more attention. This essay explores the origin and development of consular protection system. Consuls, in the beginning, were commercial arbitrators. Consular services were mainly provided to those foreign merchants who were away from their own countries. The emergence of consular jurisdiction has strengthened consuls' rights of protecting their nationals in a foreign land. In the course of development, the governments of the western countries promulgated a series of laws and regulations regarding consular protection. Contemporarily, the scope of consular protection has been largely expanded and consular services are full of humanistic elements. The history of consular protection systems parallels and reflects, at least from one perspective, the course of modernization.

Chapter Three: Diplomacy

14. The Evolution of US Postwar Economic Policy towards China

George WEI Chuxiong

At the end of WWII, China and the US were economically, politically and culturally at different stages of development. The economic liberalism of the US was essentially in conflict with the planned economy designed by the Kuomintang (KMT) regime. What the KMT was interested in was not American economic liberalism but her economic aid. The American aid escalated the economic dependence of the KMT government upon

the US and the tendency of the Chinese government to intervene in China's economy. As a result, the American aid did not bring forth the political and economic outcomes American diplomats expected. On the contrary, it led to the unexpected outcome which is more a loss than a gain.

15. Domestic Backgrounds for Nationalist Diplomacy of East Asian Countries in the Early Postwar Period

WANG Xinsheng

In the early postwar period, the newly independent states of East Asia all adopted nationalistic foreign policies, which were closely related to their aims of promoting domestic political integration and constructing a nation-state. The leaders of national liberation movements, as Founding Fathers, continued to use nationalism as a tool of maintaining their regime. Politically these authoritative political figures utilized nationalist sentiments for concentrating power in their own hands. Even in terms of economy, the import-substituted industrialization strategy became an integral part of nationalist policies because economic reconstruction, political independence and national security were closely related to one and other.

16. The United States' Policy towards China under the Challenge of Japan

XIONG Zhiyong

In the early 20th century, both the United States as a world power, and Japan as a regional power in Asia, tried to expand their influences in China. Facing an aggressive Japan, the Americans first adopted a policy of isolation or non-recognition to avoid direct conflict with Japan and to focus on their own national expansion. The US did not stand firmly against Japan until the late 1930s when Japan tried to expel the US from East Asia by ignoring the free trade principle. The US ultimately declared war on Japan after being attacked at the Pearl Harbour, and eventually defeated Japan. This act of the US proved successful in securing her long term interests.

17. The Rise of Japan and How Japan Made Use of Its Relations with World Powers

CHEN Fenglin

The rise of Japan was attributed to various factors, both internal and external ones. Domestically, Japan's successful reformation and her emphasis on science and education laid a solid foundation for her expansion. Nevertheless, her relations with great powers should not be neglected. As Japan was placed in a favourable international environment with the prevalence of modern technologies, she rose at a relatively early

period and became the first modern nation in the East. After rising, Japan's aggression to neighbouring countries and her race with European and American powers have great historical significance.

18. A Tentative Study of the United States' Changing Foreign Policy towards Japan after the Cold War and the Reasons behind

LU Yaodong

The US-Japan Alliance has experienced different stages of ups-and-downs – the formation of alliance during the Cold War, the “floating” and adjustments after the Cold War, and the consolidation period. Due to the shifting core interests of the alliance over time, the alliance is structurally changing. It has transformed from a “principal (US)-and-subordinate (Japan)” relationship to a two-way, reciprocal relationship, while the alliance is oriented towards becoming globalized and integrated militarily. The adjustment of American foreign policy toward Japan is deeply related to the overall conservatism of the Japan's political tribune. Based on the US' strategic needs and Japan's pursuit of political mega-power, the US-Japan Alliance would exert more and more profound impacts on Asia Pacific and even global security.

19. China's Recognition of and Participation in UN Peacemaking Action

ZHONG Longbiao & WANG Jun

Maintaining world peace and security is a key objective of the United Nations (UN) Charter. China's recognition of and participation in the peace-making action of the UN have experienced a historical process, although China holds a peaceful and independent foreign policy. Such a change is witnessed in the recognition, attitude and participation of China towards UN's peace-making effort, both in terms of China's scope and depth of participation. The process has evolved from a sheer negative attitude to non-participation, then from selective involvement to active participation. This reflects China's rising international position, her changing world view and evolving diplomacy. The historical process of China's participation in the UN's peace-making efforts has demonstrated China's rising consciousness as a world power in maintaining world peace.

20. Malaysia's China Policy and the Development of Sino-Malaysian Relations

LIAO Xiaojian

After the Cold War, Malaysia adopted a friendly policy towards China for several reasons which include: increasing economic cooperation between the two countries, satisfying Malaysia's domestic economic needs, seeking support from overseas

Chinese for consolidating the political position of Barisan National, looking for China's support for Malaysian fights with the US, and securing Malaysian national benefits in international affairs at that time. This policy has received warm response from China and has reflected the Malaysian national interests of the time. It has effectively promoted Sino-Malaysian relations, thus their economic cooperation has continuously strengthened. The cooperation between the two countries in defence, energy resources and education has also made much progress.

21. Philippines' Policy on South China Sea during the First Ten Years of Independence (1946.7.4 – 1956.3.1)

CHENG Aiqin

According to an act passed by the United States Congress in June 1944, the Philippines finally gained independence from the US on July 4th 1946 and the Republic of the Philippines was established. On July 23rd 1946, just 20 days after gaining independence, the Philippines was anxious to show her attempt to possess some of the islands in the South China Sea. Although the Philippines gained independence peacefully from the US, she was still generally under the US' control. In areas of foreign affairs, national security, and military defence, the Philippines was following the foreign strategies of the US. Fighting against communism became the Philippines' most important mission. Thus, after the People's Republic of China was established in 1949 and with the outbreak of the Korean War, the Philippines treated her new neighbour China as a main target of political attack because she classified "allies" and "foes" according to her own political system and ideology. The Philippines' policy on the sovereignty of Nansha Islands was based on the same political concept. In order to thoroughly understand the Philippines' propositions and actions toward the sovereignty dispute of Nansha Islands, it is necessary to have an in-depth study on the related actions and policies of the Philippines in this special period.

22. Sino-African Relations and China's African Policy in the Context of the "Rise of China"

LI Anshan

There are two interpretations on the discourse of the rise of China – an optimistic one and a pessimistic one. The author analyzes the past and the present characteristics of the Sino-African relations from the perspective of their continuity and change, and features of their cooperation. The author believes that summit diplomacy, equality, mutual benefits and routine mechanism have characterized the Sino-African relations and have guaranteed their continuity. Three major changes in Sino-African relations are discussed – emphasis on ideology has been changed from strong to weak; scope of interaction from simple to diversified; and nature of cooperation from pure economic aid to mutual benefits. The author also criticizes three misleading views of Sino-African relations and analyzes new challenges faced by their cooperation.

Chapter Four: Ideas and Culture

23. The Ideological Origin of Japan's "Continental Policy"

ZHOU Yongsheng

The author argues that Japan's "continental policy" is a policy that integrated diplomacy with armed aggression and colonial rule. The ideology of this policy mainly originated from the ideas of outward expansion during the feudal era, together with the expansion ambition sprouted in early capitalism and the formation of nation-state in the modern time. Such ideology of expansion represents ideas of expansion in terms of feudalism, colonialism and extreme nationalism. It also analyzes the historical background of this "continental policy" and its main contents. This paper provides insight and evidence for the study of the emergence and formation of this policy.

24. From Great Asianism to Great East-Asian Co-prosperity Sphere – Evolution and Influence of Japan's Invasion Theory

SHI Guifang

The theory of Great Asianism originated in Japan in the early 20th century. In recent years, Chinese scholars have begun to pay attention to this theory, but with opposing views on how to evaluate it. This article asserts that the historical evolution of this theory should be studied, together with analyzing its background and details, in order to better understand what it is. This paper focuses on the Great Asianism and its related theory of the Alliance of East Asia and the Great East-Asian Co-prosperity Sphere. It also tries to explore the influence of Great Asianism on Japan's foreign policy.

25. A Case Study of Sino-Japanese Civilian Diplomacy – The Asian Peoples' Convention

YANG Ningyi

Civilian organizations of both China and Japan convened a regional conference in the 1920s – the Asian Peoples' Convention, which was the earliest regional conference among civilian organizations in Asia. The convention mainly focused on the issues of Sino-Japanese relations, which could be regarded as an example of civilian diplomacy between these two countries. Recapping the convention can serve as a reference for the present moment, including the advocacy of regionalism, Sino-Japanese relations being the key to the unity of Asia, and the positive influence of civilian diplomacy, and so on.

26. Ho Chi Minh's Tactics and Methods for International Propaganda during the Anti-French War

HUANG Yunjing

When Ho Chin Minh declared Vietnam's independence and the establishment of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) in 1945, the suzerain France did not want to give up Vietnam. France declared war on Vietnam. On one hand, Ho Chi Minh led Vietnamese people fought against the French for national independence and sovereign integrity, on the other hand he actively publicized DRV to the international community and tried to gain other countries' recognition, sympathy and support. The author discusses the strategies and techniques which Ho used in publicity.

27. The Theory and Practice of Diplomacy in the Indian Region

SUN Jinzhong

Since getting independence in 1947, India had adopted a regional policy with an aim to build a leading role in South Asia and to bring South Asia into her orbit. Through wars with neighbouring countries, political pervasions, economic blockages, interferences and the like, India has basically achieved her goal. But India's hegemony and chauvinism have not been accepted by her neighbouring countries. The struggle of control and anti-control between India and her weak circumjacent countries has prevented India from playing a more important role in the international arena.

28. Impacts of the Essence of Chinese Civilization on Foreign Relations of New China

ZHANG Lili

The Chinese civilization is an important and integral component in world civilization. The essence of Chinese cultural tradition as a mainstream exists in the Chinese civilization or Chinese traditional culture. It has become one of the three origins of the advanced socialist culture represented by the Chinese Communist Party. The essence of Chinese cultural tradition has eight aspects with patriotism as its core. Due to the continuity of history, the essence of Chinese cultural tradition has influenced the socialist life of New China, played a subtle role in New China's diplomacy, and had a special effect on the formation of diplomatic self-awareness and international strategy, and the use of skills in diplomatic tactics.

Chapter Five: Economy

29. China's Foreign Economic Policy in the Past Fifty Years

HAO Yufan

As an integral part of foreign policy, China has adopted a foreign economic policy which aims at modernizing and enriching the country. The author examines the major features of China's foreign economic policy and the main factors affecting her foreign economic relations in the past fifty years. He also explores the new challenges faced by China after her entry into the World Trade Organization and the possible adjustments China may make.

30. After Zheng He: A Comparison of Maritime Trade and Related Systems from Different Perspectives between China and the West

LONG Denggao

China's foreign trade did not standstill in the post-Zheng He's period. Although the splendid navigation promoted by the government had become history, Chinese merchants still played a dominant role in the East Asian trade. The closed-door policy in foreign trade was not a product of Chinese culture's conservatism, but a result of balanced policy. The economy of scale of a huge and united domestic market and its advantages in economy and system over circumjacent regions led to a declining need for foreign goods, especially when the government's financing need for foreign trade was very weak. This is the root of trade conservatism. At the same time in Europe, the isolated domestic markets, wars for annexation and the high transaction costs led to a strong demand for foreign trade. The huge benefits brought by colonial expansion and the re-distribution of interests directly strengthened the unbalanced system that had already existed. This factor, together with the emergence of new competitive systems, triggered a series of social and economic changes and system reforms.

31. "Bridges" and "Platforms" – Relationship between Brazil and Macao during 1995-2002

YE Guiping

The period between 1995 and 2002 was a turning point of Macao. Macao's Portuguese administration handed over its ruling power on December 20th 1999. At the same time, a preparatory group for a new Special Administrative Region (SAR) government was actively engaging in the transfer of regime. What was the relationship between Brazil and Macao in this period? How was Brazil's policy towards Macao's Portuguese administration different from the new Macao SAR government before and after 1999? What does Brazil think about Macao's handover and the future relations between Brazil and Macao? These issues are addressed in this paper thoroughly. It also

outlines the relationship between Brazil and Macao from 1995 to 2002, and compares the relationship between the two sides before and after 1999.

32. The Outward Development Strategy of East Asia – Its Rationales, Patterns and Characteristics

LU Jing

After the Second World War, many developing countries in East Asia have adopted the economic strategy of outward development when their import-substituted industrialization strategy met great difficulties. Such outward development has diversified into different models, for instance the state-led model, the state-oriented model, the market-promoted model and the market-oriented model. Although these models vary greatly, no matter which model is chosen it would succeed as long as it fits one's national conditions, enables the state to perform efficiently, and aligns with the international environment.

前 言

東方外交史幾乎同東方國家歷史一樣的悠久，留下大量的浩如煙海的資料，成為東方國家人民共同的精神財富。其內容之豐富，活動範圍之廣泛，世界任何其他地區都無法匹敵。東方國家在漫長的歷史演進中，科技、文化、社會組織以及外交活動等許多方面在近代以前一直處於世界領先地位。但是長期以來，國內外對東方外交史研究的成果不多，雖然也出版了幾部有關東方國家外交史的著作，但大部分是小區域外交史，或是國別外交史，並不是整體意義上的東方外交史。有的失之於過窄，有的失之於框架與所用材料過於陳舊，都不能涵蓋東方國家外交史的豐富內容。即使是區域外交史，也由於特殊的國際政治環境，不可避免地受到東西方意識形態分歧的影響。長期以來，西方人寫外交史，往往把東方外交史寫成以歐美為中心的外交史，寫成西方文明向東方傳播的歷史，並不能全面反映東方國家的真實情況，並且由於個人治史套路由於基礎、語言、觀點、興趣的差異，對東方外交多有“只見樹木，不見森林”的情況。至今我國學者與研究機構尚未推出一部完整意義上的東方外交史著作。這不能不說是我國學術研究上的空白。

東方外交史是每個國家外交的簡單疊加、機械匯合，還是作為一個整體的歷史？這是一個需要認真加以解決的問題。我們認為，國別史不能代替東方外交史，應該以更為廣闊的視野研究過去所發生的一切重大外交事件，從眾多的外交活動當中提取和發現對當今人類社會有重大意義的主題，從而使各國外交從根本上和整體上有機地聯繫起來，既照顧到東方國家的整體性，又不忽視每個國家的多樣性特點。國內外學者的研究雖然也是重要的，但從總體上看，存在著明顯的不足以至於缺陷，主要表現為政治外交史的框架，忽略對政治以外的重大經濟、文化、科技與人員往來的關注，對許多具有重大意義的選題沒有引起重視，對東方外交的深度與廣度缺乏總體性把握，對東方外交尤其對近代以來東西方外交互動關係缺乏系統性總結，僅僅以小區域外交史或國別外交史遠遠不能概括東方外交的全部內容。故我們擬提出以大歷史的視角編寫東方外交史的艱巨課題，依靠國家支持完成這項複雜的系統工程。

東方國家歷史悠久，國家眾多，外交思想豐富，至今仍具有積極意義與不朽價值，值得認真總結研究。在歷史上，東方外交（特別是中國、印度、阿拉伯帝國外交）曾對世界產生過重大影響。今天，包括中國在內的東方國家正面臨重新走向世界的問題。隨着東亞經濟的崛起，東方外交應在世界中佔有重要位置，產生巨

大的影響力與穿透力。作為東方大國，中國、印度必然要在國際事務中發揮大國作用。經過經濟持續高增長之後，東方文化又煥發了青春，國際上關注和研究東方歷史、現狀與文化的興趣再度高漲起來。我們的一個初步看法是，要完整準確地瞭解東方，僅以歐美一家之說是遠遠不夠的，東方學者必須置身其中，發揮主體作用，根據歷史實際情況對既有材料進行組織與取舍，構建新的東方外交史研究框架與理論分析模式。

2005年“東方外交史”被確定為外交學院立項課題。在開展此課題研究的過程中，我們深感研究之難，也感到東方外交史內容異常豐富，其範圍之廣、歷史之久遠，不論在政治、經濟、文化、經貿交流方面還是在外交活動方面，東方外交史遠比西方複雜和豐富，只有聯合國內同行專家學者才能推動本課題的縱深開展。開闢一個新的研究領域，是一件很不容易的事情，尤其要把地域廣袤、人口眾多、文化背景複雜國家的外交整合起來更屬不易。鑒於這種情況我們決定先召開一次學術會議，聽取國內同行專家的意見，吸收百家之長，把相關的問題討論清楚。至於能將東方外交史研究到甚麼程度，只好留給時間來評斷了。

2006年10月21-22日，在外交學院召開了由外交學院、香港亞太二十一學會和《世界歷史》編輯部聯合主辦的全國首屆“東方外交史”學術研討會。來自中國社會科學院世界歷史研究所、北京大學、清華大學、北京師範大學、中國人民大學、首都師範大學、國防大學、北京聯合大學、空軍指揮學院、廈門大學、暨南大學、遼寧大學、南京師範大學、河南師範大學以及澳門大學等單位的50餘名專家學者參加了研討會。會議收到論文逾40篇。會議圍繞“東方外交史研究的理論、方法和時空範圍”、“東方外交史中的政治、經濟、文化交流與互動”、“東方外交的歷史與現實”等主題進行充分而深入的研討。會議的最大收穫是取得了對東方外交史若干問題深層次的認識，開拓了研究的新視野，許多問題被納入探索的軌道。可以說，這是一次東方外交史研究的拓荒會議，為開闢這一領域研究敲響了晨鼓。此次會議是規模較大、水準較高的國內首次東方外交史學術盛會。美國康得基金會執行長王立禮先生慷慨解囊，為會議提供了資助。

為本書提供論文的作者有：

廈門大學：張旭東（南洋研究院）

空軍指揮學院：韋德星

澳門大學：黃枝連、郝雨凡、魏楚雄

澳門科技大學：葉桂平