



China Institute of International Studies  
China Foundation for International Studies

# China's New Diplomacy and the Changing World

Chief Editor ◆ Qu Xing

World Affairs Press



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# Preface

On November 23 and 24, 2013, China Institute of International Studies and China Foundation for International Studies co-sponsored a seminar on “The International Situation and China’s Diplomacy 2013” in Beijing. More than 160 participants, mostly experts in international studies from across the country, representatives from foreign-related central government institutions and military institutions, senior diplomats and veteran media personalities, attended the event. State Councilor Yang Jiechi was invited to be present at the seminar and delivered an important speech. Foreign Minister Wang Yi sent a congratulatory message to the seminar. The director of policy planning at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs attended the meeting and made a report on the evolving international situation.

In 2013, the world economy began a slow recovery, and peace and development remained the grand trends. Those major powers that saw changes in leadership exhibited more continuity than change in their domestic political agendas and foreign policies. However, new developments in the international situation have also made an impact on the major power relations: the United States is increasingly adopting a hedging policy towards China; while relations between the US and Russia and the US and European countries have been damaged by the revelations of the ex-US National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden. Relations between Russia and the EU have become more complicated as a result of their rivalry for influence in central Europe. On a more positive note, in hotspot regions such as the Korean Peninsula and the Middle East, positive factors to restrain and manage the tensions are on the increase although uncertainties

and the potential for conflicts still exist. Against such circumstances, the new Chinese government has been swift in setting out its diplomatic stances, thus revitalizing the overall Chinese diplomacy in an imposing, comprehensive and balanced manner and firmly taking the initiative in foreign relations. It is living up to the concept of major country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics, and is committed to shouldering its responsibilities as a major power. The new Chinese leadership's diplomacy, being pioneering and enterprising, is moving forward on a sound track as exemplified by the consolidation of the Sino-Russian Strategic Partnership for Coordination; the progress made with the US in creating a new model for relations between major powers; and the positive development in the Sino-EU Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. With the advancing of a range of initiatives to shape its neighboring environment, the "amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness" established by China as the core principles of its neighborhood diplomacy have helped manage the territorial disputes in the East China Sea and South China Sea, as well as boundary dispute with India.

The seminar focused on the changing international structure, and the readjustment of major power relations, the restructuring of the world economy, the international security situation and hotspot issues, changes in the neighboring strategic environment and the new thinking evidenced in Chinese diplomacy. The topics reflected the global situation and were closely connected with the priorities for Chinese diplomacy. At present, the international situation is undergoing complex and volatile changes, and various global challenges are increasingly prominent. Understanding precisely the characteristics and trends of the changes occurring in the international situation is of great significance to preserve and prolong the period of China's strategic opportunity, promoting common development, and

unswervingly pursuing world peace and stability.

Participants at the seminar were mostly the leading figures of international studies across China, while top officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other relevant ministries also attended the seminar and offered insights on the international situation and Chinese diplomacy, which ensured the seminar was a top-level gathering of China's international studies experts. As a routine practice, the organizers of the annual seminars will publish collections of papers from the participants in both Chinese and English version and present them to the readers at home and abroad, in an effort to further promote academic exchanges among experts and scholars. All articles in these collections are the own research achievements by the relevant authors, and the views expressed in the articles are their own.

The publication of the collections should be attributed to the generous support of the above authors. The Editorial Department of China Institute of International Studies has undertaken the main editorial work of the collections. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to them.

**Qu Xing**

President of China Institute of International Studies

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January 2014

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# Part I Overview



# Opening a New Page in China's Foreign Relations Under Complicated Changing International Circumstances

Yang Jiechi

In 2013 profound and complicated changes continued to take place in the international situation, although stable overall there was also an accelerated restructuring of international relations. Adapting to the changing circumstances in the restructuring of international relations and for China's own development, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China headed by General Secretary Comrade Xi Jinping sized up the situation and made pioneering efforts with a series of major diplomatic initiatives for proactively advancing China's diplomatic theories and charted a new course in practice. As a result, the year ushered in a good beginning for China's new diplomacy with overall work arrangements and new initiatives. It served to create favorable external conditions for all-round improvement of the work of the Party and the state.

## **I. Salient Features of the International Situation in 2013**

The international situation in 2013 was essentially characterized as remaining stable overall, but with turbulence in some localities. Meanwhile, in the complicated transformation of international and regional relations there were some outstanding developments and changes. These will have a major impact on the trend of international

developments in the next few years.

### **1. Major powers hastened to readjust their domestic and foreign policies**

Returned for a second term of office in the United States, the Obama administration continued to streamline its global strategy by maintaining a general orientation of prioritizing its domestic policies while stabilizing relations with other countries. Meanwhile, Russia continued to reinforce its big-power strategy and cooperated more closely with other emerging powers. Europe as a whole entered a new phase of strategic adjustment as the European Union tried to counteract the impact of the debt crisis step by step and proceeded with its integration process. New emerging market countries and developing countries as a whole grew stronger. The cooperation mechanisms of the BRIC countries and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization developed vigorously and they increased their weight in world affairs.

### **2. The world economy continued its slow recovery**

The world economy was still in a phase of in-depth readjustment with indications of recovery, although accompanied with problems such as a weak foundation, lack of a strong driving force, and the varying pace of recovery in different countries. Major developed economies showed a stronger recovery tendency, but their structural problems were far from being resolved. New emerging market economies grew at a reduced rate and encountered more external risks and challenges. All countries began to accelerate the transformation of their economic development modes and economic restructuring, and reinforced their efforts to develop new emerging sectors of strategic importance, such as big data, new energy, new manufacturing industries and bio-engineering, so as to spur stronger inherent drivers

for growth.

### **3. The Asia-Pacific region played a more important geostrategic role in the world**

The Asia-Pacific region became the main engine for the growth of the world economy. The center of gravity in the international geopolitical balance of forces continued to shift toward this region. All major powers poured more strategic input into the region. The security situation in the region as a whole was stable, but there were increased instabilities and uncertainties. Amid underlying changes in the regional structure of relations, the overall regional situation tended to be more stable and development was more balanced.

### **4. By and large, there was an easing of tensions in various hotspots**

The Syrian question entered a new phase with the destruction of the country's chemical weapons and political dialogue. On the Iranian nuclear issue the parties concerned had more contact and dialogue and made a major breakthrough, but there is still a rough road ahead. The Palestinian-Israeli face-to-face dialogue officially resumed, and discussions took place more frequently. However, the security situation and the fight against terrorism remained critical in Afghanistan, Iraq, the Central African Republic and Somalia.

### **5. There were sharp disputes over international systems, rules and regulations**

Along with the transformation of international relations accelerating and increased global challenges, reform of the international system is an inevitable trend. The G20 Summit in St. Petersburg, Russia, which was focused on "stimulating economic growth", played a key role in macro-economic policy coordination among the

world's major economies. The BRIC countries agreed on the need to establish contingency foreign exchange reserves and a development bank of their own. At the summit the emerging market economies and developing countries spoke with a stronger voice in global economic governance, and there was deeper international cooperation, as well as competition, in the new strategic frontiers of cyberspace, outer space and the polar regions.

Looking ahead to international developments in the next few years, one will continue to see the balance of international forces changing, transformation of international rules and regulations, and evolving reform of the international systems. In the meantime, China will maintain its momentum of rapid economic development and national rejuvenation. We must take a firm grip on the changing international circumstances, continue to reinforce and proactively implement our strategic planning, and create favorable conditions so as to obtain new accomplishments and break new ground in our diplomatic work.

## **II. The Party Central Committee Headed by General Secretary Comrade Xi Jinping Worked Hard to Blaze New Trails in China's Diplomatic Theories and Practice and Opened a New Page in China's Foreign Relations**

Last year witnessed a new beginning in the diplomatic work of the Party Central Committee headed by General Secretary Comrade Xi Jinping. It was also a pivotal year in which we could see the overall blueprint for Chinese diplomacy in the next five to ten years. In view of the profound changes in the international situation and unprecedented changes in China's relations with the rest of the world, the Party Central Committee led by Comrade Xi Jinping as



General Secretary, while maintaining the consistency and stability of our foreign policy, carried forward our Party's fine tradition of combining theory with practice. The Party leadership dared to explore new ground and blazed new trails by taking both domestic and foreign policies into account and integrating Chinese characteristics with needs of the times, thus obtaining initial results in diplomatic theory with pioneering efforts in practice, thus opening a new page in China's foreign relations.

### **1. Setting a lofty goal of the Chinese Dream which will have a profound impact on the world and garnering international understanding of and support for China's strategy for peace and development**

General Secretary Xi Jinping set forth the lofty goal of the Chinese Dream, the great rejuvenation of our nation, greatly boosting the resolve and confidence of the 1.3 billion Chinese people to achieve that goal. It has become a powerful spiritual driving force in their joint efforts, pointing to the general orientation of Chinese diplomacy in a new historical stage.

During his official visits to foreign countries and in his talks with foreign guests in China, General Secretary Xi profoundly expounded the rich connotations and international significance of the Chinese Dream. He pointed out that in essence the Chinese Dream is a common dream of all nationalities and also the dream of everyone in China, that to realize this dream, China needs a peaceful and stable international and peripheral environment, and that China will realize its dream through persistent endeavors for peaceful development. The Chinese Dream is inseparably linked with the universal dream of all nations, and China will share more development opportunities with all countries in the world, and work together with the international