

# ***CHINA'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS***

***2005***

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**Department of Policy Planning  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
People's Republic of China**

# **China's Foreign Affairs**

**2005 Edition**

**Department of Policy Planning  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
People's Republic of China**

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## Preface

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In the year that has just gone by, we have witnessed profound changes in the international situation and felt for ourselves the fervent desire of the world's people for peace and development. Committing to peace, development and cooperation, China's diplomacy has dedicated to promoting peace and development through cooperation and played a constructive role in addressing a wide range of important global and regional issues.

*China's Foreign Affairs (2005 Edition)* presents a detailed outline of the country's diplomatic endeavors in year 2004 which includes the following key points: promoting regional cooperation by enhancing friendly and good-neighborly relations, developing ties with the other major countries in the world on the basis of seeking common ground while shelving differences, deepening the traditional friendship with the developing countries through closer unity and cooperation, maintaining world peace by participating extensively in multilateral diplomacy with the UN at its center, proving consular protection to Chinese citizens and legal persons residing abroad and vigorously carrying out public diplomacy. The book also contains rich information on many specific areas of China's foreign affairs.

Since its layout change in 2004, *China's Foreign Affairs* has, through China's National Library System, exchanged copies with academic institutions and libraries in over 100 countries to the convenience of researchers and general public who are interested in China's foreign affairs.

It is my hope that *China's Foreign Affairs* will become a close companion in your quest for knowledge about China's diplomacy and a useful tool to help you understand China and the world we live in.

Li Zhaoxing  
18 February 2005

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## Chapter 1

# INTERNATIONAL SITUATION IN 2004

The international situation in 2004 continued to undergo profound changes. Peace, development and cooperation remained the order of the day as world multipolarization and economic globalization moved forward amid twists and turns. Relationships between the world's major countries kept on shifting. World economy registered a strong recovery. And non-traditional security threats such as terrorism continued to stand out.

## 1. An Overview

### (1) US Global Strategy Solidified and Advanced

On the whole, US foreign policy remained stable in the election year of 2004 with counter-terrorism, non-proliferation and homeland security being the goals of its overall strategy. In his State of the Union address and speech at the US Air Force Academy in the middle of the year, President Bush spelt out his strategy on counter-terrorism, describing it as the major task at hand for the nation. Bush also spoke on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), calling attacks by nuclear, chemical and biological weapons "the greatest threat before humanity today" and committing to contain the problem at its source. He announced a seven-point proposal to "strengthen the world's efforts to stop the spread of deadly weapons" and, taking advantage of US hosting the G8 Summit, launched the *Action Plan on Non-Proliferation*.

With 130,000 troops stationed in Iraq, the US worked to push Iraq's political and economic reconstruction. It led the efforts to form the Iraqi Interim Government, completed the power hand-over, and scheduled the country's general elections for 30 January 2005. The task, however, was quite formidable as continued unrest, violence and hostage-taking, plus rising death toll of US military personnel, made the security situation in Iraq highly

perilous. Furthermore, the international image of the US suffered a big blow as a result of its prisoner abuse scandals. Spain, the Philippines and some other countries had either withdrawn, or were about to withdraw troops from Iraq.

The US reshuffled its military posture around the world with the emphasis on retooling the traditional military alliances and developing new partnerships. It pushed reform and eastward enlargement of NATO, strengthened ties with Japan, Australia and other Asia-Pacific allies and gave "non-NATO ally" status to Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kuwait, the Philippines and Thailand. It made substantive headway in developing a strategic partnership with India. It also stepped up military and security cooperation with other countries through the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), the Regional Maritime Security Initiative (RMSI), as well as military assistance and joint military exercises.

The US paid greater attention to cooperation with other major countries of the world. Through multilateral and bilateral diplomacy, the US stressed the importance of the transatlantic alliance and tried to patch up its rift with Europe. It worked to win cooperation of Russia and other major countries on non-proliferation, and made substantial headway in PSI now with 15 members thanks to the participation of Russia, Canada, Norway and Singapore. It also conducted consultation with its Asia-Pacific allies and India on missile defense systems in an effort to secure their political support, military involvement, technological backup and sharing of the financial burden.

On the Korean nuclear issue, the US kept up pressure on the DPRK. On the Iranian nuclear issue, it threatened to bring the question to the UN Security Council while exerting pressure through the IAEA. It also sought to keep Palestine-Israel conflict under control and properly address a post-Arafat regional situation.

After winning the second term, President Bush pledged to continue fighting terrorism, resolve the Iraqi issue, move ahead the Middle East peace process, persuade the DPRK to give up its nuclear programs through the Six-Party Talks mechanism and settle the Iranian nuclear issue diplomatically.

### (2) Simultaneous Cooperation and Competition among World's Major Countries

In 2004, the EU, Russia, Japan and some major developing countries endeavored to develop themselves, resulting in rising national strength. The EU completed its biggest eastward enlargement in history. With the signing of

the *European Constitutional Treaty* and quick progress made in the development of common foreign and defense policies, Europe's integration ushered in a new stage. The profound changes in the European geopolitical landscape had a far-reaching impact on international configuration and major-power relationships. In Russia, President Putin won his re-election with a landslide and continued to pursue a great-power strategy by strengthening central government, broadening Russia's diplomatic space and promoting economic development. Japan emerged from its decade-long economic stagnation and worked vigorously to secure a permanent seat at the UN Security Council. Such major developing countries as China, India, Brazil and South Africa retained rapid economic development and achieved a robust cooperation with one another proceeding from their long-term strategic interests.

Mindful of the reality of international balance of power and the need to secure a more advantageous position in the future, the world's major countries all opted for enhanced dialogue and cooperation in search for greater convergence of interests. Taking advantage of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day, the Transatlantic Summit, the G8 Summit and NATO Summit, the US and the EU did considerable fence-mending on the damaged transatlantic partnership over the Iraqi War. They tried to highlight their common ground and stressed cooperation and coordination. The US, the EU and Russia took care to work with one another on issues bearing on stability in hotspot areas, counter-terrorism, non-proliferation and other issues where their interests converged. The adoption of Security Council Resolution 1546 on Iraq, the conclusion of the agreement on the Iranian nuclear issue between France, Germany and the UK on the one hand and Iran on the other, the second and third rounds of the Six-Party Talks on the Korean nuclear issue, were all testimony to the willingness of the world's major countries to coordinate positions and work together for common good. However, owing to clashing strategies and real interests, these countries continued to have rather competitive relationships with endless frictions and differences.

### (3) Complicated Security Situation in the World

The security situation in Iraq continued to deteriorate with violence, conflicts and kidnappings in the "Sunni Triangle" going on unabated and death toll of US troops and Iraqi civilians rising steadily. A series of major terrorist incidents took place around the world, including bombing in Madrid on March 11<sup>th</sup>, hostage crisis in Russia's Beslan and the explosion in Indonesian capital of Jakarta.

Continuing to make counter-terrorism a foreign policy priority, the US consolidated its intelligence agencies, putting in place a National Intelligence Directorate and a National Counter-Terrorism Center, and conducted large-scale counter-terrorism exercises along its east and west coasts. Following the March 11<sup>th</sup> explosion, the EU Summit issued the *Declaration on Combating Terrorism*, pledging every effective means to combat terrorism within the EU and appointing a special coordinator on counter-terrorism. After the Beslan attacks, Russia announced that it was prepared to use preemptive force against terrorism.

Non-proliferation, especially that in the nuclear field, attracted increasing attention within the international community. The second and third rounds of the Six-Party Talks took place in February and June respectively, and the Korean nuclear issue was addressed along the track of political settlement, until it came to a standstill. Further complicating the matter was the exposure of the uranium enrichment activities and plutonium experiments of the ROK. The Iranian nuclear issue, having gone through twists and turns, came to a settlement in the end. The UN Security Council adopted for the first time a non-proliferation resolution and created a non-proliferation committee. And the G8 Summit issued the *Action Plan on Non-Proliferation*.

Since launching the PSI in 2003, the US stepped up enforcement of the relevant measures by conducting many sea interdiction exercises, signing "Ship Boarding Agreements" with major flag states, proposing amendments to the *Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation* and introducing Regional Maritime Security Initiative for the Strait of Malacca.

Countries accelerated readjustments in military and security strategies. Stepping up the "revolution in military affairs", the Bush Administration completed the National Defense Strategy and the Global Defense Posture Review that had taken it 18 months to finish. Furthermore, the US continued realigning its military overseas, enhanced force mobility, flexibility and rapid reaction and long-distance projection of power and expedited deployment of NMD systems. Japan continued to strengthen its security alliance with the US, pushed for constitutional revision, and worked out a new "national defense program outline" with a view to seeking a greater role in regional and international security affairs. Progress was made in the development of a common defense policy in Europe. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) also made headway in their activities. African countries launched the "African Common Defense and Security Policy".



With respect to the Palestine-Israel issue, the pursuit of the Middle East "Roadmap" was put on hold as Israel went doggedly after its unilateral "disengagement plan". After Chairman Arafat of the Palestinian National Authority passed away in November, a transfer of power was under way in Palestine. India and Pakistan worked hard to ease their relations with a flexible and pragmatic attitude, beginning a comprehensive dialogue between the two countries. In Afghanistan, people went to polls in November for the first direct election after the conclusion of the three-year transitional period and elected Hamid Karzai the president. The humanitarian crisis in Darfur, Sudan became more serious.

#### (4) An All-round Growth of World Economy

Parallel recovery in the world's major economies led to a fairly high growth in overall global economy. US economy reported a sustained growth. EU economy retained a growth momentum. Japanese economy experienced an accelerated recovery and basically ended its prolonged doldrums. The newly emerging markets and developing countries enjoyed a steady economic growth, with Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Middle East and the CIS performing better than the previous year. China, India and other major developing countries, as well as Russia, attracted worldwide attention for their robust economic growth.

International trade and investment became dynamic again. Led by global economic recovery, the world's major economies saw their trade surging, and the total global trade volume of the year increased by 10.2%. International investment showed a strong rebound with an estimated FDI increase of approximately 7% globally, ending the three-year downturn. Worldwide industrial restructuring went deeper and there was a substantial transfer of the service industry to the emerging markets. The World Trade Organization reached a framework agreement on the major agenda items of the Doha Round.

Economic cooperation at regional level developed in greater depth as regional trade arrangements flourished and regional economic cooperation mechanisms became more dynamic. The EU's latest enlargement brought its membership to 25, ushering in a new stage of economic integration. Regional cooperation in East Asia further deepened. Work to promote a free trade area made remarkable progress as China and ASEAN signed the *Agreement on Trade in Goods of the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation* and the *Agreement on Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation*. The 10+3