

CHINA'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS

2013

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

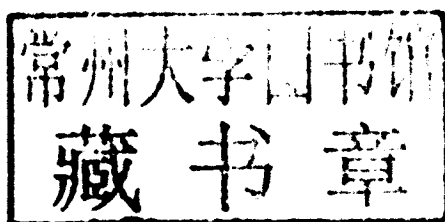


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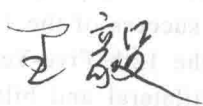
The year 2012 was of special significance in the course of China's development. The 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) was successfully held. It set the grand goals of completing the building of a moderately prosperous society and deepening reform and opening-up in an all-round way and adopted a comprehensive plan for advancing the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era. China entered a new historical phase in its development.

In 2012, the international situation was characterized by both stability and turbulence. New and major changes in the international and regional landscapes were in the making. Under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council, we met challenges head on, made steady progress, and fostered a favorable external environment for the success of the 18th CPC National Congress and full implementation of the 12th Five-Year Plan. Chinese leaders attended a series of major multilateral and bilateral diplomatic events, actively promoted China's cooperation with other parties and raised China's international influence. We properly responded to and handled disputes concerning China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests, such as those over Diaoyu Dao and the South China Sea, and resolutely upheld China's sovereignty, security and development interests. We made new progress in relations with the United States, Russia and major European countries, and worked actively to build a framework of major-country relations featuring general stability, relative balance and win-win cooperation. We continued to promote friendly relations and deepen shared interests with neighboring countries. We pushed forward mutually beneficial cooperation and strengthened traditional friendship with other developing countries. We worked with other parties to seek solutions to global and regional hotspot issues and actively played a constructive and responsible role as a big country. We conducted intensive public diplomacy and people-to-people exchanges to solidify the social foundation of China's relations with other countries. We actively promoted innovation in diplomatic theories and practices, advocated the spirit of equality, mutual trust, inclusiveness, mutual learning and win-win cooperation in international relations, and

worked to bring about a just and equitable international order and system.

China is at a decisive stage in completing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects. It is working to meet tough challenges in deepening reform and opening-up and accelerating the shift of the growth model. China's diplomacy is also at a new historical starting point. As diplomats, we carry daunting tasks and a noble mission. We will fully implement the guidelines of the 18th Party Congress and serve the overall agenda of the Party and the state. We will build on past achievements, maintain general stability in China's external relations, actively seek new progress and open up new prospects for China's diplomacy.

Like past editions, the 2013 edition of *China's Foreign Affairs* provides an insightful overview of the international and regional situations and a comprehensive and systematic account of China's relations with other countries and diplomatic work in various fields. Rich in contents and statistics, this volume will help its readers gain a good understanding of China's diplomacy. I sincerely hope that you will continue to follow *China's Foreign Affairs* and support the further development of China's diplomacy.



Wang Yi

March 2013

CONTENTS

Chapter 1 INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN 2012

1. An Overview	1
2. Regional Situation	3
3. Thematic Review	22

Chapter 2 CHINA'S DIPLOMACY IN 2012

1. An Overview	33
2. China's Relations with Countries in Various Regions	36
3. Special Events	59

Chapter 3 CHINA'S RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES HAVING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CHINA

Afghanistan	100
Albania	101
Algeria	102
Andorra	104
Angola	104
Antigua and Barbuda	106
Argentina	107
Armenia	108
Australia	109
Austria	112
Azerbaijan	113
The Bahamas	114
Bahrain	115
Bangladesh	115
Barbados	117

CHINA'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Belarus	118
Belgium	119
Benin	120
Bolivia	121
Bosnia and Herzegovina	122
Botswana	123
Brazil	124
Brunei Darussalam	125
Bulgaria	126
Burundi	128
Cambodia	129
Cameroon	131
Canada	131
Cape Verde	133
Central African Republic	135
Chad	135
Chile	136
Colombia	137
Comoros	138
Congo	139
Cook Islands	140
Costa Rica	141
Cote d'Ivoire	142
Croatia	143
Cuba	144
Cyprus	148
Czech Republic	149
Denmark	149
Djibouti	151
Dominica	152
DPRK	153
D.R. Congo	155
Ecuador	156
Egypt	157

Equatorial Guinea	158
Eritrea	159
Estonia	160
Ethiopia	161
Fiji	162
Finland	163
France	165
Gabon	167
Georgia.....	168
Germany	169
Ghana	173
Greece	174
Grenada	176
Guinea	176
Guinea-Bissau.....	177
Guyana	178
Hungary.....	178
Iceland.....	180
India.....	181
Indonesia	184
Iran	186
Iraq	187
Ireland.....	188
Israel	189
Italy.....	190
Jamaica.....	193
Japan	194
Jordan.....	198
Kazakhstan	199
Kenya	201
Kuwait.....	202
Kyrgyzstan.....	203
Laos	204
Latvia	205

CHINA'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Lebanon.....	206
Lesotho.....	207
Liberia.....	208
Libya.....	209
Liechtenstein.....	209
Lithuania.....	210
Luxembourg.....	211
Macedonia.....	212
Madagascar.....	213
Malawi.....	213
Malaysia.....	214
Maldives.....	215
Mali.....	216
Malta.....	217
Mauritania.....	218
Mauritius.....	219
Mexico.....	220
Micronesia, F. S.	222
Moldova.....	223
Monaco.....	224
Mongolia.....	225
Montenegro.....	226
Morocco.....	227
Mozambique.....	228
Myanmar.....	230
Namibia.....	231
Nepal.....	233
The Netherlands.....	234
New Zealand.....	236
Niger.....	238
Nigeria.....	239
Niue.....	240
Norway.....	240
Oman.....	241

Pakistan	241
Palestine	243
Papua New Guinea	244
Peru	244
The Philippines	245
Poland	246
Portugal	248
Qatar	250
ROK	251
Romania	253
Russia	255
Rwanda	259
Samoa	260
San Marino	261
Saudi Arabia	262
Senegal	264
Serbia	265
Seychelles	266
Sierra Leone	267
Singapore	268
Slovakia	269
Slovenia	270
Somalia	271
South Africa	272
South Sudan	274
Spain	275
Sri Lanka	278
Sudan	280
Suriname	281
Sweden	282
Switzerland	284
Syria	285
Tajikistan	286
Tanzania	287

Thailand	288
Timor-Leste	290
Togo	290
Tonga	291
Trinidad and Tobago.....	292
Tunisia	293
Turkey	294
Turkmenistan	295
Uganda	296
Ukraine.....	298
United Arab Emirates	300
United Kingdom.....	301
United States of America	302
Uruguay.....	311
Uzbekistan.....	312
Vanuatu	313
Venezuela	314
Vietnam	315
Yemen	317
Zambia	318
Zimbabwe.....	319

Chapter 4 CHINA'S RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

China and the United Nations	321
1. Political and Security Fields	321
2. The Economic Field.....	337
3. Human Rights	339
4. Social Issues	343
5. China's Relations with Specialized Agencies of the United Nations	347
(1) World Health Organization	347
(2) World Tourism Organization	348
(3) International Telecommunication Union	348

(4) International Maritime Organization	349
(5) International Civil Aviation Organization	350
(6) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.....	350
(7) World Intellectual Property Organization.....	351
(8) Universal Postal Union.....	352
(9) United Nations Alliance of Civilizations	352
(10) United Nations Development Program.....	353
(11) United Nations Industrial Development Organization.....	353
(12) United Nations Population Fund.....	354
(13) United Nations Human Settlements Program.....	354
(14) United Nations Children's Fund.....	355
(15) United Nations Environment Program	355
(16) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.....	356
(17) International Fund for Agricultural Development.....	356
(18) World Food Program.....	357
(19) World Meteorological Organization.....	357
(20) World Trade Organization	358

China's Relations with Other International and Regional Organizations and Conferences	359
1. International Red Cross Organizations	359
2. International Organization for Migration	360
3. China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development.....	361
4. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation	361
5. Shanghai Cooperation Organization	363
6. Association of Southeast Asian Nations.....	364
7. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation	366
8. League of Arab States.....	367
9. Gulf Cooperation Council.....	370
10. African Union.....	371
11. European Union.....	372

12. Organization of American States379

13. Community of Latin American and Caribbean States.....380

14. South American Common Market381

15. Economic Commission for Latin America and
the Caribbean381

16. Inter-American Development Bank.....382

17. Latin American Parliament.....382

18. Asia-Europe Meeting383

19. East Asia Summit384

20. China-Japan-ROK Cooperation385

21. The ASEAN plus China, Japan and the ROK Cooperation ..387

22. Greater Mekong Subregion Economic Cooperation389

23. Boao Forum for Asia390

24. ASEAN Regional Forum391

25. Forum for East Asia and Latin America Cooperation.....392

26. Pacific Islands Forum393

27. Asia Cooperation Dialogue394

**Chapter 5 WORK ON ARMS CONTROL, DISARMAMENT
AND NON-PROLIFERATION IN CHINA'S
DIPLOMACY**

1. An Overview396

2. China's Participation in Arms Control and Disarmament
Within the UN Framework397

3. China's Implementation of International Legal Instruments
on Arms Control and Non-Proliferation402

4. China's Efforts on Non-Proliferation.....413

5. Dialogues with Relevant Countries on Strategic Security,
Arms Control and Non-Proliferation414

6. Other Matters416

**Chapter 6 TREATIES AND LEGAL ASPECTS OF CHINA'S
DIPLOMACY**

1. Bilateral and Multilateral Treaties419

2. China's Activities in the Legal Field of the United Nations ...	421
3. China's Law-related Activities in Combating Transnational Crimes	429
4. China's Activities in Relation to International Human Rights Law	430
5. China's Activities in Relation to Private International Law—the Hague Conference on Private International Law....	432
6. Mutual Legal Assistance and Cooperation	433
7. China's Work in the Field of the International Law of the Sea	436
8. China's Participation in the Field of International Environment Law	442
9. Other Work on Treaty and Law	447

Chapter 7 BOUNDARY AND OCEAN AFFAIRS IN CHINA'S DIPLOMACY

1. An Overview	451
2. Work on the Land Boundary	452
3. Boundary Administration and Cooperation for Development	454
4. Issues of Maritime Rights and Interests Between China and Its Neighboring Countries	457

Chapter 8 THE PRESS, INFORMATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY WORK IN CHINA'S DIPLOMACY

1. An Overview	461
2. Exposition of China's Foreign Policy	462
3. Work Related to Foreign Correspondents	466
4. The Information Department's External Exchanges	472
5. Public Diplomacy	474

Chapter 9 CONSULAR WORK

1. An Overview	479
2. Consular Protection	480

3. Consular Consultation and Dialogues482

4. Consular Agreements485

5. Consular Posts486

6. Consular Certification487

7. Affairs Related to Foreign Consular Posts in China and
 Consular Cases.....489

8. Migration Cooperation.....490

Appendix I.....491

Appendix II502

Appendix III.....511

Editor's Note560

Chapter 1

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN 2012

1. An Overview

In 2012, the international situation was characterized by both stability and turbulence. The world economy enjoyed overall growth, while some countries suffered recession. There were both cooperation and frictions in international relations. The world continued to witness structural developments that represent the future trends in the political, economic and security fields. They will have a far-reaching impact on the international landscape in the second decade of the 21st century.

(1) A New Round of Adjustment of Relations and Interactions Between Major Countries Went Further Ahead

Major countries engaged in a new round of competition at a higher level over comprehensive national strength. They moved quickly to adjust their respective development strategy, external strategy and national security strategy, actively expanded development space and enhanced their own strength and status. Major countries engaged in cooperation and sought mutual support, and competed against each other. The strategic maneuvering between Western powers and emerging markets over international rules and order further deepened.

(2) The World Economy Experienced Greater Downward Pressure

The underlying impact of the international financial crisis became more evident. The European debt crisis became the biggest uncertainty for global economic recovery. Due to the European debt crisis, the economies of developed countries remained weak, and growth of emerging markets