

Does China need a new foreign policy? Transform China to be one of two liberal “hegemonic” powers in the AP region

Dr. PANG Zhongying
Professor of International Relations
Director, Centre for the Study of Global Governance
Renmin (Peoples) University of China
Beijing
zhongyingpang@gmail.com

Introduction

- Is China in the eve of going beyond the existing foreign policy?
 - Some want to maintain the existing foreign policy
 - Some argue to reform the existing foreign policy
- Does China need a new foreign policy?
 - To be a “responsible stakeholder” but with China’s own definition of it
- Which forces drive China’s next foreign policy?
 - The domestic factors
 - The external factors (Globally and regionally, the power politics returns; a strengthened US hegemony is not only not enough but also leads to further instability of the region)

Conditions and the gathering of a momentum

- China: A part of the existing liberal global order
- China: A part of the existing regional governance
- An increasingly major provider of regional and global public goods
- Growingly international and regional pressures to let China to be a “responsible stakeholder”
- Growingly, multiple forces and needs at home drive China’s adapt to change and change to adapt

a number of real reasons of regional instability

- Regionally, it is a big contradiction and problem that China's economic role is assessed positive but its military/security role is assessed negative
- Crisis of the existing American hegemony
- China: no ambition to be a regional and global leader
- The US: attempts to maintain the only leadership
- The true regional dilemma: maintain the US hegemony but prevent the possibility of Chinese hegemony

a possible new way for China's next foreign policy

- China:
 - By further reform/transform its domestic economy and foreign policy, to be a pillar of global liberal order if not just a conditional and occasional participant of the “western liberal order” (WLO)
 - To be a largest market for the rest.
 - To be a provider of security insurance (let others rely on China for their security)
- The US
 - Abandon the myth of the “American primacy” or the “sole superpower”
 - Sincerely invite China to co-manage/govern the region and the world
- Others: To accept and respect China to be a liberal “hegemonic” power regionally and globally.

Conclusion

- China needs a new foreign policy and
- The region needs a new China policy