



# INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION UNDER THE PROFOUND CHANGES UNSEEN IN A CENTURY: DIFFICULTIES AND SOLUTIONS

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## Abstract

*The world today is undergoing profound changes unseen in a century, and its evolution is accelerating. From the perspective of international relations, the international pattern has taken on the following new features: First, the international balance of power has changed. The main manifestations are: the decline of the strength of the western traditional powers; the collective rise of emerging economies; Sino-US relations have entered a period of strategic competition; Second, the Western-dominated international cooperation and global governance are in a lot of difficulties. Although the power politics model is changing to the global governance model, the Western-dominated international economic and trade cooperation, global economic governance, global climate governance, public health, cultural governance and other fields are in trouble. The fundamental reason is the concern of relative gains in the economic field. Political hegemony, “anti-globalization”, “anti-establishment” trend of thought, “power politics resurgence”; In culture level, “culture conflict theory” is advocated. At a time when international cooperation and global governance are stuck in a real dilemma and unable to find effective solutions to global issues, the era calls on emerging economies to step onto the world stage and actively participate in international cooperation to solve common crises facing the world. South-south cooperation among developing countries is leading a new paradigm of international cooperation. As the largest developing country in the world, China offers its solutions and wisdom in international cooperation and global governance.*

**Keywords:** Profound Changes Unseen in a Century, International Cooperation, Global governance, Chinese Approach

## 1. Introduction



On the basis of the overall pattern of global development, General Secretary Xi Jinping came to the conclusion that the world is undergoing "deep alterations not witnessed in a century." This is a neutral appraisal of the external environment of the ever-shifting globe that serves as the foundation for a scientific analysis of the present international situation and pattern. According to the report presented at the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, which took place in October 2017, "the world is undergoing immense expansion, vast change, and considerable adjustment (Jinping, 2017)." General Secretary Xi made the audacious assertion that China is through its best development period in modern history at the Central Committee of Foreign Affairs Work Conference of the CPC in June 2018, while the rest of the world is facing profound upheavals not seen in a century. And he emphasized China should shoulder its historic mission during the shifts, namely "increasingly come to the world stage, continuously make greater contributions to humanity"(Jinping, 2020). To accomplish this great mission, China shall grasp the new characteristics of the rapidly changing international landscape, analyze the practical difficulties and causes of western-led international cooperation and global governance, take advantage of possibilities and stand up to threats; in doing so, you may discover a way out of problems and contribute Chinese ideas and knowledge to world governance and international collaboration.

## **2. Changes in the International Balance of Power**

The global financial crisis began in the United States in 2008 and quickly spread throughout the globe. Western financial markets, especially the United States' market, were severely rattled, and economic growth clearly reversed course. The emerging developing countries led by China also suffered from the turbulence and negative impacts to a certain extent, but their economic growth was still relatively optimistic and achieved the collective rise. In addition, the complexity of Sino-US relations has increased, and their main strategic competition started in science and technology.

### **2.1 The Decline of The Conventional Western Powers**

Western countries have confronted many challenges since entering the 21st century. In 2001, the United States was hit by the September 11 attacks. In 2008, the subprime mortgage crisis occurred in the United States, and then developed into a global financial crisis. Financial markets in European countries such as Britain and Germany were also hit hard. After Donald Trump took office in 2017, he implemented anti-globalization policies such as trade protectionism "America First" and a "trade war" against China. In 2020, the COVID-19 epidemic has had a devastating effect on international health security. The economic development of Western countries has become even worsened, with a sharp decline in employment, an increase in poverty, and negative economic growth. These challenges have not only weakened the economic strength of the United States, but also exposed its problems like the inadequacy of social governance capacity. According to the comparative economic data released by the World Bank, the world GDP in 2002 was 34.71

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trillion US dollars, of which the US totaled 10.938 trillion US dollars, accounting for 32% of the world total. In 2019, out of the world GDP of 87.698 trillion US dollars, the US accounted for 24.4% of the world total with 21.39 trillion US dollars, a decrease of 7.6% from 2002 (World Bank: COVID-19). However, after the outbreak of COVID-19, the United States did not adopt positive policies to respond to the epidemic challenges, which revealed the shortages of its social system, social governance capacity, and international governance capacity, resulting in a decline in influence in the alliance system it dominates (Jiemian, 2020).

In Europe, Greece had a sovereign debt crisis in 2009. The crisis then spread to Spain, Italy and other geographically adjoining countries. The debt crisis in these countries gradually transformed into credit crisis. As the degree of crisis deepened, the European monetary showed extremely significant mobility defects. This led the Euro to a steep increase in interest rate while a sharp decline in real value, which worsened the fiscal deficit in Euro zone and caused a debt crisis. Since the movement of Arab Spring in 2010, a massive number of refugees flooded into Europe that triggered refugee crisis lasting for years. The rise in oil prices in 2018 sparked the Yellow Vest Movement in France; Britain continued the process of “Brexit” in 2020; the US “trade war” exerted a negative impact; the world economy went on overall downturn trend; the EU economy now still faces many uncertainties. With the continuing influence of the European debt crisis, many EU countries have taken measures such as cutting expenditure, reducing welfare, and stimulating the economy to reduce the losses of the crisis to economic and social development. The outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020 had a huge impact on the economies of European countries. Many European countries had to take various lockdown measures to cope with the epidemic, which brought new challenges to the economic growth of EU countries. GDP among the 27 EU countries fell to 13.3 trillion euros in 2020, a real contraction of 6.2% in comparable prices (European Commission). All these show that the strength of the conventional western powers in economic and social governance is generally declining.

## **2.2 The Collective Rise of Emerging Economies**

After the Second World War, the Eastern countries, including China and India, ended their long-term oppression and colonization and achieved national sovereignty and independence through arduous anti-imperialist and anti-colonial movements. Subsequently, in the game between socialism and capitalism, the political power of the imperialist countries was weakened, and the emergence of socialist countries promoted the development of the “Non-aligned Movement”. At the economic level, socialist countries have actively devoted to building a peaceful internal and external development environment. In particular, some emerging developing countries like China, have made certain achievements in economic development and modernization and achieved national rejuvenation. The rapid development of the emerging powers in the world economy: in the 1960s, Brazil’s average economic growth rate was as high as 11.2%, and then it went on to create an “international financial miracle”. During the 1970s, China's economy maintained its

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trend of rapid expansion and improvement as a direct outcome of the country's reform and opening-up policy. China's proportion of the global GDP has been steadily increasing over the last two decades, going from 3.28 percent in 1998 to 8.45 percent in 2009 and then to 16.36 percent in 2019. The Statistical Communiqué of the People's Republic of China on the National Economic and Social Development was released by China in 2019. According to the statistics, if converted according to the annual average exchange rate, China's per capita GDP exceeded 10,000 US dollars for the first time in that year, further narrowing the gap with high-income countries (National Bureau of Statistics (NBS 2020)). It can be seen that the influence of emerging economies represented by China in the world economic pattern is increasing, which is in sharp contrast to the traditional western powers.

### **2.3 Sino-US Relations Have Entered: A Period of Strategic Competition**

Since the 21st century, the rapid improvement of China's economic strength has provided an important material foundation for its innovation and development in science and technology. China has seized the opportunity of the fourth industrial revolution, namely the "Internet +" development. Guided by the concept of building China into a world science and technology power, China has entered a period of rapid development in artificial intelligence, 5G technology, biological science and other fields. (Jinping, 2020)

However, China's tremendous progress in economic construction and science and technology has made the United States worry about its hegemony in the world. That's why the United States suppresses and encircles China in an all-round way, continuously curbing the development momentum of China in economy, trade, science and technology, finance, and many other fields. In March 2018, the Trump administration announced to the international community a possible list of products to be taxed against China through the "Section 301 Investigation". His administration holds that it is necessary to levy a certain percentage of taxes on most products produced in China, such as steel products and medical items, so as to stop the development wave of "Made in China 2025". This is the first step of the "trade war" against China. In 2019, the US Department of Commerce announced another "entity list" for export control, and China's Huawei and its subsidiaries were enlisted. In this regard, the United States launched a frenzied suppression and sanctions on Huawei's 5G technology; in May 2020, the export control entity list was further expanded to other 13 Chinese universities and 33 companies pertaining to high-tech research institutions. In the financial field, the United States and Japan, driven by common interests, have formed a new alliance platform on the future cryptographic guidelines for digital virtual currencies. In addition to competing with China in technology and finance, the US has begun to preach a "new cold war". US Secretary of State *Mike Pompeo* has repeatedly made speeches since 2020, hyping up the "threat" of China, attempting to form a "coalition of democratic countries" and spreading the economic and trade "decoupling" strategy into the social and cultural fields. It can be said that the contest between China and the United States is entering a long-term, all-round, and increasingly



fierce game period.

### **3. The Dilemma of Global Governance and International Cooperation and Its Causes**

Under the profound shifts unseen in a century, essential changes have taken place in the international balance of power, and it is hard to sustain the political situation of stable development. The thoughts of “anti-establishment” and “anti-globalization” gradually prevailed in international politics. To some extent this phenomenon became an important factor that hindered the international cooperation. In particular, development cooperation in international trade, global climate governance, and global health governance highlights the value of international cooperation. As a consequence of this, the procedures of economic governance, global governance, cultural governance, and health governance each came up against a significant number of legitimate challenges.

#### **3.1 Practical Difficulties in International Cooperation and Global Governance**

Emerging in the context of "deep upheavals not seen in a century" are non-traditional security problems such as terrorism, economic and public health crises. The method of addressing global challenges is changing from power politics to international governance. International community should jointly solve various crises and problems through international cooperation and global governance. But in fact, as the international power balance changes, the international pattern of “rising in the east and falling in the west” appears. The United States and other western powers return to the old path of “Cold War mentality” and “zero-sum game” facing the revitalization of eastern countries. In this regard, power politics has a slight trend of return. The process of international cooperation and the practice of global governance, especially the development cooperation in the fields of international trade, global climate governance, and global health governance, have encountered multiple difficulties.

First, difficulties have emerged in international economic and trade cooperation, global economic governance, and global climate governance. Since the 21st century, due to the rapid growth of economic and trade, emerging countries such as China have shown signs of rise, resulting in the emergence of a large number of new forces in the international trade pattern, which to a certain extent has weakened the United States in the international community and also exerts a negative impact on the development and transformation of the United States. In particular, since the 2008 financial crisis, global economic growth has declined significantly, since 2018, and the economies of all countries have fallen into difficulties. While since 2011, China overtook Japan as the world’s second largest economy in terms of gross domestic product. At the same time, China’s political and military strength gradually radiates to Asia and the Pacific region. Due to the improvement of international trade status, emerging developing countries have stronger trade and economic influence and radiation capacity in the international community, which reflects the relative decline

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of the United States. Based on the above situation, the United States has carried out a series of trade protectionism policies, such as revising and withdrawing from multilateral trade rules that are detrimental to its own development. Specifically, in the field of international trade, President Trump insisted on pursuing conservatism and forced withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement by executive order, reopened business talks with Canada and Mexico and reopened the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), manipulated frictions in Sino-US trade; refused to pay WTO membership dues which led to paralysis of WTO and created various obstacles to international cooperation in the field of economy and trade.

Second, global health governance. At the beginning of 2020, COVID-19 broke out. On the one hand, some sovereign countries operated independently and lacked cooperation, which was not conducive to the effective control of the epidemic; on the other hand, the global health governance system had also exposed serious defects. WHO has become an authority in the field of health governance in the international community and has built a global health governance system based on this. However, WHO is faced with insufficient fund-raising and resource allocation capacity to provide adequate public goods for health governance for it relies on the donations from major countries. The global health governance coordination mechanism lacks integrity and is fragmented (Jiyong, 2010). The United States has politicized health issues and tried its best to shift the blame of COVID-19 pandemic to China, with an attempt to bilateralize to the multilateral health mechanism. The United States believes that WHO was “China-centric” during COVID-19 outbreak in 2020, which did harm to American interests. Thus, it announced its exit from the WHO in July 2020, which creates obstacles for global cooperation against the epidemic.

Third, cultural governance. For the governance in the field of culture, Western countries have always regarded the European and American cultures and values as the core of the world, because the concept of international community, sovereign states, and international law are all developed from European society and culture, and the international system is mostly formulated by the West. Moreover, the United States has always attached great importance to the control of the ideological field. Ruthlessly oppress countries with different systems and continue to adopt containment strategies against socialist countries; carry out “color revolution” to developing countries with different cultural values. In the 21st century, as the eastern countries revitalize with rising economic power, the United States proposes the “clash of civilizations” theory (Samuel 1998). The purpose of this theory is to strengthen the unity of western civilization, to carry out the value war with socialist countries, and finally to maintain the western cultural hegemony. In recent years, the United States has become more obvious in its rejection of foreign cultures, like tightening immigration policies to prevent immigrants from different cultures from entering, “stigmatizing” emerging countries, boycotting China’s Confucius Institutes, and a string of misbehaviors emerging one after another. All in all, the current international cooperation process and global governance practice, especially development cooperation in the fields of international trade, global climate governance, and global health governance, are in a predicament.

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### **3.2 Major Causes of Difficulties in Global Governance and International Cooperation**

From the practical dilemmas arising from the above-mentioned international cooperation and global governance in different fields such as economy, health, and culture, it is easy to see that under the circumstances of profound changes, western-led international cooperation has been characterized by weakened initiative, enhanced exclusiveness and solidified power.

The so-called weakened initiative means that after the outbreak of the global financial crisis, the economic development rate of western developed countries is extremely slow. The initiative to promote international cooperation and global governance, to fulfill international commitments, and to assume international responsibilities, and establish moral authority has also significantly weakened. The current international system is a set of global governance procedures built by the United States, and this is why it has become more exclusive. Ideology is the primary driver of the long-standing divide between "western" and "non-western" political perspectives. The US and other western nations have a blatant exclusivist stance, relying on factors such as identity threshold to restrict the participation of non-western countries, especially to weaken the political radiation power and discourse power of emerging countries in the international community. In the field of cultural cooperation and governance, the above-mentioned dilemmas fundamentally reflect the western idea of cultural hegemony and "clash of civilizations". Western countries take the "clash of civilizations" as the theme of international politics, attempt to replace the diversity of human civilizations with a single civilization, and ignore the exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations, which is actually the concern of non-western civilization challenging western civilization, reflecting the hidden "western-centered theory". This is not consistent with the interdependent international system and the needs of all countries to seek international cooperation.

## **4. New Changes and New Paths for Global Governance and International Cooperation**

With the decline of western influence in the international community, emerging economies represented by China begin to step into the center of the international stage, and the international system has undergone profound changes. It is no longer a unipolar world dominated by the US, but a comprehensive global governance system with multiple participants. It is difficult for western powers to occupy a dominant position in international cooperation, and the traditional "north-south cooperation" has fallen into trouble and its role has declined. Emerging countries are playing an increasingly important role in international cooperation.

### **4.1 Emerging Economies Actively Participating in International Cooperation and Global Governance**



Among the emerging countries, the main body is BRICS countries, namely China, Russia, India, South Africa, and Brazil, as well as some regional powers, such as Germany and Japan which are regarded as “middle powers” or “rising powers” and have great influence in regional politics and economy. These emerging economies have become important players in international cooperation and global governance.

Emerging economies play an important role in the G20. After the outbreak of the international financial crisis in 2008, G20 leaders organized a joint theme meeting on “Financial Markets and the World Economy”. In order to solve the crisis and unify global action, the conference integrated the World Bank, IMF, WTO, G8, the BRICS and other organizations to jointly solve the development problems in the financial, macroeconomic, trade and other areas that the G8 failed to deal with (Kirton 2015). During the meeting, the world’s emerging economies showed their strength and played an important role. Most importantly, the meeting decided to abandon the old international multilateral organization and choose the G20 instead to deal with the crisis. In the following years, G20 members took active and effective measures to mobilize powers and resources to maintain global economic stability. For example, in 2016, Hangzhou, China hosted the G20 Summit with the theme of “Toward An Innovative, Invigorated, Interconnected and Inclusive World Economy”. The G20 Hangzhou Summit focused on four areas, namely “enriching economic growth channels, closing development loopholes in the global economic and financial governance system, boosting international trade and investment growth, and promoting inclusive and interconnected development model”, which put forward important systematic plans for global economic governance.

#### **4.2 The New South-South Cooperation Leads: A New Paradigm of International Cooperation**

As the international cooperation system has undergone profound changes unseen in a century, “North-South cooperation” has fallen into many difficulties, while the “New South-South cooperation” has become increasingly popular in the international community. The “New South-South Cooperation” has obvious advantages in institutional building, concept innovation and path selection, and can become an important leader in reshaping the international cooperation system. The historical mission of the era of “New South-South cooperation” has changed to provide a wider range of public goods for global governance, contribute new ideas for solving global development problems, and strive to reshape the international cooperation system.

The New South-South cooperation calls for a more representative, inclusive, open, and equitable international cooperation system, which is clearly different from that of the North-South cooperation. We should create a South-South cooperation mechanism that goes beyond bilateral and involves multilateral to provide richer public goods for international cooperation and global governance. An important international cooperation mechanism created by New South-South

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cooperation is the BRICS mechanism. In 2001, Brazil, Russia, India, and China joined forces to form the BRIC. In September 2006, the meeting of BRIC Ministers of Foreign Affairs was held in Russia for the first time. Subsequently, the cooperation model of the BRICS has been transformed into various forms such as leaders' meetings, meetings of high representatives for security affairs, and meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, covering a wide range of areas such as economy and trade, finance, education, health, science and technology, culture and government cooperation. Firstly, the BRICS have jointly built a flexible and adaptable regional and subregional market system, which has provided a sound external environment for the structural transformation of the economies of South-South countries and promoted the successful transformation of their economic structures. Secondly, the BRICS offers a new approach to western-dominated international cooperation and global governance, that is, to focus on addressing the democratic deficit in global governance. Thirdly, the BRICS mechanism is characterized by openness and diversity. New South-South cooperation itself has the coordination as well as the change of endogenous power, strengthening the cooperation and interaction between the policy linkage and humanistic system, formed with the West in the field of multicultural common logic, it is significant to distinguish cooperation on cultural diversity generated by the problems in the process of globalization, and the BRICS mechanism presents a strong response.

#### **4.3 “China’s Plans” for International Cooperation**

As an important member of the emerging economies and countries of the South, China has actively shouldered its responsibilities as a major country in the field of emerging economies, New South-South cooperation and global governance, put forward important “China’s Plans” and made important contributions.

Firstly, as a core emerging economy in the region, China actively guides regional cooperation and the construction of regional integration, as well as participates in the establishment of cooperation mechanisms. For example, China is an important leader in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the cooperation between China and ASEAN countries. At the same time, China is also actively responding to regional cooperation practices such as “10+1” cooperation, “10+3” cooperation, and the establishment of the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area. China has established regional and global international mechanisms. The contents involved include: joint construction of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the New Development Bank, joint participation in the development policies of the “the Belt and Road”, public goods of South-South cooperation and national mechanisms, etc. These measures, on one hand, make up for the defects (Gregory Chin and Thakur Ramesh, 2010) of the old mechanisms (Jordan, 2003); on the other hand, they replace the traditional global governance mechanisms to legitimize and rationalize the international system, reduce conflicts and differences in international cooperation and global governance, and enhance China’s influence and voice in regional cooperation and international organizations. At the same time, China has become a leader in building new international institutions, denouncing

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hegemonism and legitimately caring about the development interests of weaker countries, designed to facilitate the development of southern countries.

Secondly, in the construction of the BRICS mechanism, an important New South-South cooperation, the “BRICS+” cooperation model has been proposed. This has contributed to the “China’s Plans” to overcome the internal difficulties of the BRICS mechanism, enhance the strategic connotation of BRICS cooperation and advance the process of globalization. In 2017, the BRICS Xiamen Summit was held in China. At the meeting, China first proposed the concept of building a “BRICS+” cooperation model, believing that the BRICS mechanism should cover more non-western countries. This indicates spreading the ideas and institutional framework of the BRICS mechanism to more potential partners, encouraging more non-western countries that truly recognize the BRICS mechanism, and enhancing the role of the BRICS mechanism in many areas, including regional economic development and political governance. At the same time, it is proposed that the “BRICS+” model should effectively avoid the emergence of closed, conservative, confrontational, and exclusive phenomena in the institutional arrangement, emphasizing the non-confrontational nature of the BRICS members. It also provides a broader institutional space and presupposes more possibilities for the “BRICS +” to learn from the ASEAN “10+3” model in the future, and for the rapid docking with the western-led international mechanism. In addition, as the BRICS mechanism has not yet formed a fully mature cooperative governance framework, China has actively organized and held leaders’ summits and provided effective suggestions on numerous strategic cooperation, becoming an important leader in coordinating the unity of BRICS member states and setting detailed cooperation contents and policies. The cooperation suggestions provided by China mainly include: the “Four Initiatives” of the Durban Summit, the “More Equal and Just” mechanism positioning of the Sanya Summit, the establishment of the New Development Bank, the Contingent Reserve Arrangement and the formulation of the strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership at the Xiamen Summit. All of these recommendations have promoted the gradual accumulation of BRICS ideological consensus on strategic development and led to the implementation of various consensuses.

Thirdly, in the face of global challenges such as terrorism, public health, refugees and climate change, China advocates international actors to participate in global governance and solve global problems through cooperation. Taking the global public health management after the outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020 as an example, China, as the main force of the new economy, not only demonstrated the inherent advantages and adaptability of the socialist system, but also strengthened the construction of the core role in the international pandemic prevention and resistance work, actively sought international cooperation, provided public products for the international community, and displayed a positive image of a big country. We have demonstrated the “Chinese wisdom” of pandemic prevention and control and made great “Chinese contributions” to the world. Firstly, China provides diversified support and assistance to other countries, such as medical materials, anti-pandemic supplies, and medical workers. Secondly,

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China conducted multilateral and bilateral exchanges and interacted with other countries in anti-pandemic practical experience. For example, holding China-Japan-ROK trilateral cooperation talks, the phone call with the heads of the departments to discuss strategies for cooperation in East Asia, and cooperation with ASEAN, the European Union and other international organizations to conduct exchanges on pandemic prevention and control. Thirdly, China has actively carried out anti-epidemic cooperation among major powers. During the most difficult times of the epidemic, China and Russia helped each other, giving China-Russia relations a unique strategic dimension in the new era and setting a good example of cooperation between major countries. China-EU cooperation on epidemic prevention and control is also very deep and extensive. The China-EU Comprehensive Strategic Partnership has certain characteristics of the times and has exerted a great influence on the international community. Fourthly, China has promoted international cooperation projects and provides all-round support for broader cooperation with developing countries, such as funding and technical assistance. Last but not least, China has supported WHO's leadership in epidemic prevention and control, and has increased its financial fund to WHO.

In the process of integration, both EU and ASEAN attach great importance to cultural construction and regard the construction of cultural community as an important strategy (Shuyong, 2016). The EU took culture as the core issue in the *Treaty on European Union*, proposed to promote the construction of cultural community, and then put forward the concept of "Creative Europe" (European Cultural Agenda in a Globalizing World). ASEAN has actively explored regional cultural governance, (ASEAN 2025: Moving Forward Together ) and its specific contents include the establishment of the ASEAN Council, which is especially responsible for social and cultural affairs within ASEAN (Shixin, 2016) and the joint establishment of the ASEAN Social and Cultural Community in 2015 (Shuyong, 2020). China has an extremely strong radiating power in the international community and has provided many effective suggestions for resolving cultural conflicts, striving to make the integration of civilizations a normal situation. China does not agree with the "game theory of civilization" and the "theory of narrow-mindedness of civilization". We have actively undertaken the important task of international cultural governance and taken the initiative to carry out civilization integration activities. We have also fully implemented cultural globalism, actively participated in international cultural exchange activities created by UNESCO, actively participated in international religious conferences, compiled documents such as the minimum standards of international ethics, and actively participated in a diversified dialogue among civilizations in the promotion of an international cultural order dominated by sovereign states and international law (Shuyong, 2019). China places a high value on debates concerning the governance of civilizations and cultural exchanges with other nations, according to the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. It emphasizes the need to promote the diversified development of civilizations, and advocates "transcending the estrangement of civilizations through cultural exchanges, transcending the conflict of civilizations through mutual learning of civilizations, and transcending the superiority of civilizations through coexistence" (Jiping 2018). In August 2019, the Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations was held in

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Beijing. General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out that civilizations need to communicate and integrate due to their diversity, so that they can learn from each other and realize development. To create a brighter future for Asia and all of humanity, it is imperative that people from different parts of the world share their traditions and practises with one another. The compatibility of traditional Chinese culture reflects the great wisdom of harmony with diversity. It seeks harmony on the basis of recognizing and respecting “differences”. It has always practiced the goal of building a community with a shared future for mankind, adhered to the concept of inclusiveness and mutual learning among civilizations, and led global cultural governance in the new era. In the new historical process, China is taking an increasingly active part in cultural governance, integrating its excellent traditional culture with Marxist internationalism and cosmopolitanism, continuously enhancing its cultural soft power with other countries, strengthening regional cultural exchanges, and working hard to build an East Asian cultural alliance and a community with a shared future for mankind.

Finally, at the conceptual level, China believes that all countries in the world should not be limited by factors such as national strength and self-construction degree, and should have the freedom and right to participate in international cooperation and governance system on an equal footing. China has made every effort to break the hegemony that has dominated the international system since the end of the Cold War. We have put forward such ideas as “building brand new international relations, adhering to the diplomatic philosophy of cooperative development, and jointly advancing the implementation of a community with a shared future for mankind (Jinping 2015)”. These ideas are the full manifestation and modern practice of China’s excellent traditional culture of “harmony with diversity”. They show China’s world outlook and outlook on justice and interests of “respecting the legitimate rights and interests of other countries and building a development pattern of equality and win-win cooperation”, providing a conceptual guide for international cooperation and global governance, as well as providing a positive value concept for the international community. In response to the high deficit of global governance and the deepening uncertainty of world politics, the report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China put forward the development concept of building a global governance system of extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits. This concept was presented in the report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. This concept of global governance places a priority on diversifying governing bodies, promoting transparency and inclusiveness, and building a political system that is fair and acceptable in order to facilitate the international community's identification of a community with a common destiny for mankind. This particular framework for the management of foreign affairs served as the foundation for the creation of the Belt and Road Initiative. Its core goal is to build a consultative governance system with participation of multiple actors, an open and inclusive international economic landscape, and a community that can achieve long-term development. The global governance thought of “extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits” and the joint development thought of “The Belt and Road Initiative” can provide a new way of thinking for international cooperation and

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global governance, making a great possibility to break the existing deadlock (Yaqing 2018).

## **5. Conclusion**

The paper first interprets the connotation of “profound changes unseen in a century” put forward by General Secretary Xi Jinping, and analyzes that under this background, the international landscape has seen a decline in the strength of conventional western powers, and emerging economies have risen in groups. After the transformation of Sino-US relations into a period of strategic competition, the fields of international economic and trade cooperation, global economic governance, global climate governance, public health, and cultural governance dominated by the West have fallen into difficulties. Combined with these realistic dilemmas, this paper specifically analyzes the important reasons for these dilemmas: economically, concerns about relative gains; politically, conflicts bring by hegemonism, “anti-globalization”, “anti-establishment”, and the resurgence of “power politics”; culturally, advocate “cultural conflict theory”. It also discusses the defects of western mainstream international cooperation theory. At the same time, it is pointed out that when western-led international cooperation and global governance have fallen into practical difficulties and failed to find effective solutions to global problems, the time calls for emerging economies to step up to the world stage, actively participate in international cooperation, and solve common crises of the world; calls for South-South cooperation to lead a new paradigm of international cooperation; calls for China to provide “China’s Plans” and “Chinese Wisdom” in international cooperation and global governance. Specifically, in terms of economy, as an emerging economy at the core of the region, China actively guides regional cooperation in the region, establishes regional integration and participates in cooperation mechanisms, such as the creation of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area, and the Belt and Road International Cooperation Initiative. In terms of policy, in the construction of the BRICS mechanism, we put forward the “BRICS +” cooperation model. In the face of global challenges such as terrorism, public health, refugees and climate change, China advocates international members to participate in global governance and solve global problems through cooperation. In terms of cultural governance, China pays attention to important issues such as international cultural exchanges and civilization governance, and through the dialogue of Asian civilizations, the China-Arab Civilization Forum and other civilization exchanges and mutual learning platforms, it advocates the realization of “transcending the estrangement of civilizations through cultural exchanges, transcending the conflict of civilizations through mutual learning of civilizations, and transcending the superiority of civilizations through coexistence”. Under the guidance of the concepts of “harmony with diversity”, equality and inclusiveness, China put forth its view on the world and its outlook on justice and interests, that is, to respect the legitimate rights and interests of other countries, build a development pattern of equality and win-win cooperation”. This provides a conceptual guide for international cooperation and global governance, as well as offers a positive value concept to the international community.



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