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## МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЕ ОТНОШЕНИЯ

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### ОСОБЫЙ ПУТЬ КИТАЯ В МИРОВОЙ ДИПЛОМАТИИ: ВОЗВЫШЕНИЕ КИТАЯ И ИЗМЕНЕНИЕ МИРОВОГО ПОРЯДКА. ЧАСТЬ I

*Заметный подъем Китая на мировой арене открыл новую эру глобальной дипломатии, отличительной чертой которой является особый подход, основанный на его историческом опыте, политической философии и стратегических амбициях. Китай взаимодействует с международным сообществом. Это взаимодействие, отражающее его рост и изменение глобальных целей, влияет на глобальное управление и бросает вызов западно-ориентированным нормам 21-го века. Китайская Народная Республика является научно-технологическим авангардом современных инноваций и стремится использовать свои инновации для достижения своих целей за пределами своих границ. Таким образом, целью данного исследования является изучение и сравнение стратегий развития дипломатической политики Китайской Народной Республики (КНР) в рамках глобального порядка и важных ресурсов для реализации этих стратегий. На основе анализа основных стратегий, таких как инициатива «Один пояс, один путь», трансформации международной роли Китая и последовавших за этим изменений в мировом порядке, в этой статье рассматриваются возможности и проблемы, связанные с подъемом Китая. В этом исследовании рассматриваются дипломатические принципы, стратегические цели Китая, усиление его лидирующей роли в глобальном управлении и новые вызовы в отношениях с традиционными державами, в частности с Соединенными Штатами. В этой статье также рассматриваются теоретические основы и исторические требования стратегии международных отношений Китая. Это исследование подчеркивает меняющуюся динамику власти, сотрудничества и соперничества, иллюстрируя, как китайская дипломатия влияет на мировую систему и ее взгляды на власть. Результаты исследования представляют собой выводы, сделанные на основе оценки будущих последствий усиления Китая для глобального управления и международной стабильности.*

**Ключевые слова:** Китай, растущая смена власти, международные отношения, глобальное партнерство, геополитические стратегии, дипломатические принципы.

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# CHINA'S DISTINCT PATH IN GLOBAL DIPLOMACY: THE RISE OF CHINA AND SHIFTING GLOBAL ORDER. PART I

*China's remarkable rise on the world stage has ushered in a new era of global diplomacy, marked by a distinct approach shaped by its historical experiences, political philosophies, and strategic ambitions. China engages with the international community. This engagement, mirroring its rise and shifting global goals, impacts global governance and challenges 21st century West-centric norms. The People's Republic of China is the scientific and technological vanguard of modern innovation and seeks to use its innovations to realize its objectives beyond its borders. Therefore, this study aims to examine and compare the developmental strategies of the People's Republic of China (PRC) diplomatic policy in the global order and the important resources for realizing these strategies. Through an analysis of essential strategies such as the Belt and Road Initiative, the transformation of China's international role, and the ensuing changes in the global order, this article delves into the opportunities and challenges arising from China's rise. This examination addresses China's diplomatic principles, strategic goals, increasing leadership role in global governance, and new challenges in its relations with traditional powers, particularly the United States. This article also delves into the theoretical underpinnings and historical requirements of China's international relations strategy. This study emphasizes the changing dynamics of authority, collaboration, and rivalry, illustrating how Chinese diplomacy influences the global system and its views on power. The results of the study are the conclusions drawn by assessing the future implications of China's rise for global governance and international stability.*

**Key words:** China, Rising Power Shifts, International Relation, Global Partnerships, Geopolitical Strategies, Diplomatic Principles.

**Introduction.** China plays a much more active and complex role in contemporary international relations. No country in modern history has so rapidly transformed from an essentially rural and agrarian economy to a leading global economy as China has done in the last four decades. China is now the second-largest world economy with meaningful political, economic, technological, and cultural influence. It is no longer viewed as simply a developing country focused on domestic affairs and stability but also as a country that is deeply engaged in shaping the policies and trends of the global order in the 21st century. With economic growth came increased political and diplomatic power, which allowed China to take the lead in reshaping the global and regional agendas on its own terms, outside the Western-led systems. China's approach to international relations (IR) is characterized by its foundation in native

philosophical traditions, its assessment and modification of Western IR theories, and its contemporary pursuit of a new world order concept.

This article examines key Chinese international relations theories Zhao Tingyang's «Tianxia (天下) System,» [23. P. 332]. Tianxia, a classical Chinese concept, views the universe as a unified whole, reflecting the modern perspective of a connected global community. It transcends independent nation-states, advocates for shared responsibility and collective action to tackle global issues. This philosophy informs China's approach to international relations, emphasizing its commitment to universal harmony and shared prosperity [11. P. 1-10]. China's foreign policy aims to create a more inclusive international system that considers the diverse interests of all nations, irrespective of their power status. Tianxia theory serves as a political philosophy rather than a strategy or diplomatic practice [26. P. 397-402]. Furthermore, China highlights the necessity of respecting national sovereignty and territorial integrity, opposing foreign intervention in domestic issues, thereby aligning its governance model with the Tianxia ideal. The theories illustrate China's dual role as a rising state and a normative actor, advocating for a moral global order. Tianxia's concept aims to legitimize China's central but benevolent leadership role in global affairs, emphasizing harmony and order over conflict and competition [20. P. 76-86].

China's rise does not merely involve economic skill but it also involves the articulation of a distinctive vision for global governance as well as diplomacy. China's approach, based in cultural values as well as its own development trajectory and in historical experiences, contrasts with norms that are promoted by Western powers. Nations emphasize mutual respect and non-interference, fostering partnerships based on shared interests. China aims for a multipolar world, prompting countries to balance collaboration with concerns about competition, security, and differing values while engaging with an assertive China. China's foreign policy emphasizes relational diplomacy, multilateralism, and normative leadership, as seen in the Belt and Road Initiative, which connects peripheral countries within a China-centric framework, contesting U.S. supremacy [16].

At the heart of this transformation lies China's particular path for global relations. Distinct from numerous Western nations, China has established a strategy different from traditional colonialism or military pacts that frequently sway others, focusing instead on economic collaborations and multilateral cooperation while emphasizing sovereignty and non-interference. China integrates along with diplomatic outreach its economic ambitions within the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). This integration encourages connection also growth all through Asia, Africa, and beyond while simultaneously extending its geopolitical footprint. By promoting projects such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, it supports a governance approach focused on shared advantages and local flexibility. China's exceptional growth influences international relations, reshaping diplomacy and global governance significantly. This article analyzes these dynamics and their profound, lasting impact on the world stage.

**Historical Foundations of China's Foreign Policy.** The historical foundations of China's foreign policy are rooted deeply in ancient philosophies, revolutionary transformations, with global power dynamics' changing tides. China's diplomatic

strategy is one that has transformed itself over the course of different historical periods with each period being unique. Specific guiding principles, values, and tactics from each period characterize still shape China's global engagement today. The historical philosophical foundations of Chinese foreign policy have consistently derived insights from Confucianism, Taoism, and the idea of «Tianxia» (all-under-heaven), focusing on harmony, ethical responsibility, and an integrated global order [18. P. 108]. The concept of harmonious coexistence and steering clear of open conflict traces back to ancient Chinese philosophy, establishing the ethical and cultural basis for China's diplomatic values [1. P. 105-116].

**Imperial Legacy and the Trauma of Foreign Domination.** Historically, China perceived itself as the central civilization under Tianxia, engaging in tributary diplomacy to maintain regional stability and prestige. Throughout much of its imperial history, China was characterized by Sinocentric diplomacy, viewing itself as the “Middle Kingdom” in a hierarchical world order [4. P. 449]. In the 19th century, unequal treaties forced by Western powers and Japan led to deep resentment in China, fueling nationalism and a foreign policy aimed at resisting imperialism and reclaiming sovereignty [17. P. 286]. The “century of humiliation” profoundly shaped Chinese sensitivity to sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national pride, themes that remain central to its foreign policy [10. P. 19].

**Republican Era: Fragmentation and Nationalism.** The Qing dynasty's fall in 1911 gave rise to the Republic of China, facing challenges from foreign interference and warlords. The 1919 May Fourth Movement spurred anti-imperialism, setting the stage for conflict between the Nationalist Kuomintang (KMT) and Communist Party of China (CCP), with Mao emphasizing ideological alliances in revolutionary China. This period established China as an independent actor, challenging Western-led global norms. Following the CCP's triumph and the establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949, the nation's foreign policy shifted towards ideological alignment with the Soviet Union [2. P. 9]. By the early 1960s, the Sino-Soviet split led China to develop a more independent foreign policy.

**Era of Pragmatism and Global Engagement.** After Mao, beginning in the late 1970s, Deng Xiaoping initiated reform and opening-up policies, leading to the normalization of relations with Western countries and an embrace of the global economy [8. P. 73]. China joined the United Nations (UN), established US ties, prioritized economic growth, emphasized diplomacy, and became a major global economic player through pragmatic multilateral engagement. Deng Xiaoping's era heralded a shift toward pragmatic and development-oriented diplomacy, stressing «Maintaining a Low Profile» and prioritizing economic growth over ideological confrontation [13. P. 124-140].

**Contemporary “Major Country Diplomacy”.** Post-Cold War, China's foreign policy under Xi Jinping has become more assertive, aiming for global dominance through initiatives like the «China Dream,» «Great Rejuvenation,» and the Belt and Road Initiative to boost economic influence. Additionally, Xi promotes a “Community of Shared Future for Mankind” (CSFM) focusing on redefining global governance through cooperation [24. P. 154-166]. Overall, the policy shift is intended in order to turn China into a key player for geopolitics and for global governance. China isolated then dominated in the

19th century, struggled ideologically also modernized realistically in the 20th century, then now leads globally in the 21st. China's foreign policy consistently mirrors its past events together with its goals regarding power, security, and sway within global affairs.

**Core Principles of China's Diplomatic Strategy.** China's diplomatic strategy combines historical principles with global power ambitions, marked by Wolf Warrior diplomacy under Xi Jinping's leadership [7. P. 106-119]. He urges for a proactive stance in protecting national interests, and he promotes confidence and assertiveness among officials in international relations. A unique approach to international relations has marked China's ascent as a major global power reflecting its ambitions, cultural values, along with historical experiences. As the global order experiences profound changes, understanding the core principles guiding China's diplomatic strategy is essential for grasping the nature of its engagement with the world [25. P. 50-64]. There are several core principles which characterize China's diplomatic strategy that reflects its unique path as it rises up and shapes a shifting global order. These principles stress nations coexist in peace and respect for one another. These principles do also ensure sovereignty as well as govern all of the globe through just a multipolar system. The core principles of China's diplomatic strategy can be summarized as follows.

**Table 1.** The core principles of China's diplomatic strategy

Peaceful Rise and Development	China's diplomatic strategy promotes a peaceful rise, prioritizing coexistence over hegemony in international relations.
Respect for Sovereignty and Non-Interference	Chinese diplomacy stresses sovereignty and non-interference, opposing foreign intrusion on Taiwan, Hong Kong, Xinjiang, and the South China Sea.
Promotion of a Multipolar and Equitable Global Order	China seeks to shift from a unipolar to a multipolar global structure, promoting a fair and inclusive system that values diverse political models and fosters cooperation among nations.
Win-Win Cooperation	China embraces pragmatic multilateralism, engaging globally to enhance its influence, adjust rules, and foster win-win cooperation.
Major-Power Diplomacy with Chinese Characteristics	Xi Jinping's «major power diplomacy with Chinese characteristics» advocates assertive foreign policy, multilateralism, sustainable growth, and joint security globally [12].
Non-Alignment and Strategic Autonomy	China pursues a non-aligned policy, avoiding formal military alliances, maintaining foreign affairs flexibility and autonomy, and prioritizing its national interests in global interactions.
Strategic Use of Economic Statecraft	China's economic power enhances its diplomacy through integration, trade, and investment, aligning its global interests and creating strategic alliances.

*Compiled by authors, Sources: Ministry of Foreign Affairs People's Republic of China [15].*

**Global Partnerships and Financial Power Dynamics.** China's rise as a global power has marked by swift economic development coupled with a shift of strategy regarding international alliances. China ranks as the world's second-biggest economy and its economic impact is now a key part of its diplomacy, shifting world alliances as well as challenging old power structures. China's economic footprint throughout the globe has grown in such a substantial manner. This expansion is greatly because of China's strong trade policies. China became a vital trading partner to countries across Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Europe through its large consumer market with its manufacturing skills. The Belt and Road Initiative enhances global infrastructure by linking countries through transportation and energy projects. It boosts trade and investment while increasing economic reliance on China and expanding its geopolitical influence. China is leading worldwide infrastructure advancement, trade linkage, and international collaboration, promoting inclusive regional integration primarily among developing nations [19].

China uses its economic influence to form global alliances, particularly enhancing cooperation with Russia in the Middle East, shifting regional dynamics significantly. Increased GDP growth in Middle Eastern countries shows China's rising multipolar influence [22. P. 1-13]. China's «Great Power Style» economic diplomacy non-coercively blends economic gains with geopolitical influence, exemplified by its partnership with Portugal, focusing on investment in energy, ports, finance, and technology under the Belt and Road Initiative. It was the first Western European nation to sign a Belt and Road cooperation agreement with China, the first EU nation to establish a 'blue partnership,' and a founding member of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, issuing RMB bonds as the first Eurozone country [5]. China's strategy is less about militaristic dominance and more about economic attractiveness, collaboration, and projecting itself as a responsible great power [21. P. 309].

A key component of China's role can be seen as being in its global economic influence as a provider. Chinese banks and state enterprises invested billions constructing telecommunications networks, energy infrastructure, ports, and railways globally. Western institutions frequently link aid with governance or human rights changes. China focuses instead on mutual economic advantage with no interference, in contrast. China saw a wide array of countries forge calculated partnerships for the sake of diversifying its toolkit. China formalizes partnerships through bilateral agreements focusing on economic cooperation, technology transfer, and cultural exchange. It also actively engages in multilateral organizations such as the SCO, BRICS, AIIB, FOCAC, and CACF, often leading to the creation of these alliances [9. P. 313-340].

**Table 2** China signed several notable strategic partnerships in 2025

Country	Strategic Partnerships
Armenia	In August 2025, China and Armenia established a strategic partnership, strengthening political and economic collaboration, backing Armenia's SCO membership, and working together on the Belt and Road Initiative.

Azerbaijan	In early 2025, China and Azerbaijan formed a comprehensive strategic partnership highlighting collaboration in security and law enforcement.
Bangladesh	Bangladesh obtained promises worth \$2.1 billion in investments, loans, and grants from China, as almost 30 Chinese firms committed to investing \$1 billion in a dedicated Chinese Industrial Economic Zone.
Brazil	In May 2025, Brazil and China enhanced their commercial and strategic collaboration by signing 20 agreements that emphasize infrastructure, technology, environmental sustainability, and trade, supported by substantial Chinese investments.
Portugal	China aims to align development plans with Portugal, enhancing Belt and Road initiative collaboration, digital and green economies, and promoting bilateral trade and investment.
Russia	In September 2025, China and Russia strengthened their partnership through 22 agreements in energy, science, healthcare, and media, highlighting projects like the Power of Siberia 2 gas pipeline.

*Compiled by author, Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs PRC [14].*

Through these platforms, China promotes a multipolar world to counter Western influence through strategic global partnerships. In 2024/25, Chinese foreign investment targets high-tech services and manufacturing. The tertiary sector leads with US\$428.8 billion in high-tech services, while manufacturing attracts approximately US\$181 billion [6]. China’s economic initiatives challenge Western models by focusing on green finance and sustainable development [3. P. 131-168]. This strategy aims to enhance China’s role in global governance and reshape the rules of international cooperation and engagement in the twenty-first century.

*Продолжение исследования читайте в следующем номере*

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