

The Implications of China's Revival for European & Global Governance

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Good afternoon, Chairman, ladies and gentlemen.

China's peaceful rising or peaceful development is a hot topic in and out of China. Encouraged by the great success of just finished China-EU summit, I'd like to take this opportunity to express some opinions on the implications of China's emergence for EU and global governance some impression on the perception of the EU on China.

(1) At first, I'd like to talk briefly about the concept related to the development China has made over the past decades and that China will continue to make in the future.

Academically, since China used to be very strong in history, I prefer to use the words "peaceful Revival" or "peaceful rejuvenation" to describe the achievements China has made and will continue to make. Many Chinese experts and officials used the words "peaceful rising" at first. But some people think the word "rising" would remind other countries, especially our neighbours of "China threat". They advocate replacing the "peaceful rising" with "peaceful development". In my opinion, neither rising nor development can describe the reality relevantly.

(2) China's peaceful revival is a historical process of comprehensive transformations beginning with economic reform and openness to the outside world in 1978. This process is not a finished one. It will last at least 30 to 50 years. Essentially, This transformation process is a mixture of inheriting good traditions, learning modern technological and management experiences from developed countries and independently innovating. This process of comprehensive transformation means not only the increase of economic power, but also the political, cultural, sociological progress and the improvement on the way of life.

-----Economically, China has been transforming from single public ownership system towards a complex ownership system. The way of economic function has been transforming from a planned economy which we copied from Soviet Union towards a market economy, the quality of China economy has been improved very much.

-----In social and cultural area, China has been transforming from a closed society towards an open one. More and more foreigners and foreign companies come to China and Chinese people go abroad. More and more Chinese students finished their study in foreign countries and returned with what they learned. Today, not only Marxist Doctrine but also other political, economic and sociological theories are taught in colleges and universities. China has become a multi-cultural society.

-----In political area, China has been transforming from a society ruled by person towards a society ruled by law. Chinese people didn't enjoy much freedom in their life before 1978. But today, they enjoy more and more freedom, including freedom of movement, freedom of speech, liberty of belief and the freedom of choosing

place to live and work. People can get every kind of information from newspapers, periodicals, radio, TV and internet. More and more people can participate in the discussion on domestic and foreign policy, for example, they can comment and criticize on the policy of government and the performance of officials. The respect and protection of human rights has been put into the charter of China communist party. At the same time, a great progress has been made in democracy and rule of law. Democratic experiments on the grass-root level have been carried out broadly. More and more high level officials are elected openly.

-----Partly as result of the domestic transformations, we can also find obvious changes in China's perception of the world and foreign policy area. *With the development of economic inter-dependence between China and outside world, more and more officials and experts began regarding China's foreign relations with a viewpoint of win-win games, favouring China's more constructive and more responsible participation in the international affairs. We have realized completely that in an era of globalization, no country can reach its goal of development in isolation. China's peaceful revival has contributed a great deal to the world peace, security, stability and prosperity, and will bring about much impact on the future of the world.*

Personally, compare with all I mentioned above, the EU arms embargo put into enforcement more than 10 years ago seems a little ridiculous. The perception of the EU on China might have fallen behind the reality. I agree with the remark given by Premier WEN in the interview with participants in EU-China Think Tank Roundtable conference held in Hague that Chinese experts have better knowledge about the EU than European experts about China. Even American experts understand China better than European experts

(3) Looking into the future, I am optimistic about the implications of China's revival to EU and the global governance.

_____With the sustainable and sound economic development, China will play a more important role in accelerating global economy and contribute much more to the welfare of human being. It means China's economic success will provide economic opportunity not only to the developed countries, but also to the developing countries. It also means China will be able to follow the EU and provide more and more assistance to the development of poverty countries.

_____The successfully revival of China will be more open-minded and have more and more consensus with the EU on global governance. Now, respect for and protection of human rights has been put into the constitution and the Charter of China Communist Party. The protection of environment has been one of the top priorities.

_____A successfully revived China will be more confident in favouring the Effective Multilateralism advocated by the EU. Just because we favour a bigger role of the UN, China's representative, together with that from other great powers such as France, Germany and Russia, gave the UN Secretary-General Koffi Annan a strong support when the US media ask him to resign for alleged improprieties in the UN's oil-for-food program for Iraq when that country was ruled by Saddam Hussein. So far, China

has sent out about 1500 troops to take UN peace-keeping missions. We can expect China will be able to play a bigger role in strengthening an effective multilateralism.

_____A successfully revived China will be more capable of maintaining and expanding our national interests through peaceful way as not to make the United States feel threatened seriously.

_____A successfully revived China will play a more important role in the reform of international institutions such as UN, IMF and World Bank, and have much more interest in keeping closer contact with G8 and NATO.

_____With the deepening of economic inter-dependence between China and outside world, China will have more and more interest in cooperation with other great powers in order to deal with complicated security challenges we are going to face.

In sum, China's revival in the coming years will provide a greater opportunity to both sides to push the China-EU bilateral relations. The further development of China-Eu relations and establishment of a closer partnership require paying more attention on the part of European experts to China's likely development and the role China will play. You should take the opportunity of having a strong EURO to pay more trips to China. I expect more exchanges with you in Beijing or any place in Europe.

Thank you!