Chinese Wisdom and Global Governance from the Perspective of "One Belt One Road"

Li Wang*

School of Business and Management, Shanghai International Studies University, Shanghai 200083, China
*Corresponding Author

Abstract: As the largest developing country in the world, China not only seeks development for itself, but also strives to provide Chinese solutions for global governance and contribute Chinese wisdom by launching the "Belt and Road" initiative. With the continuous development of the times, the "Belt and Road" initiative, as the top-level design for China's deep participation in global governance, is faced with Western global governance concepts such as adherence to zero-sum game, winner-take-all, neoliberalism, technological protectionism, and universal values challenge. The "Belt and Road" initiative draws wisdom from Chinese civilization, contributes Chinese wisdom to the reform and improvement of global governance, and leads changes in global governance to a fair, reasonable and healthy direction.

Keywords: One Belt One Road, Chinese wisdom, global governance

1. Introduction

Since the "Belt and Road" was proposed in 2013, with the joint efforts of all parties, great progress has been made. More than 170 countries and international organizations have participated in the joint construction of the "Belt and Road". In 2017, President Xi proposed in the opening speech of the first "Belt and Road" International Cooperation Summit Forum that the "Belt and Road" should be built into a road of peace, prosperity, openness, innovation and civilization [1]. Faced with the intertwining and superposition of the sudden the "Covid-19" and major changes unseen in a century, the world has entered a period of unstable and uncertain turbulent change, and the "Belt and Road" initiative is facing considerable impacts and challenges. A century of change and the epidemic of the century are intertwined with turbulent multi-dimensional challenges. As China's new thinking on improving the global governance system, the "Belt and Road" initiative actively draws wisdom from Chinese civilization, and contributes China's peace, development, and open wisdom to the improvement of global governance. Innovative wisdom and civilized wisdom will lead the global governance system to move towards building a community with a shared future for mankind.

2. Background analysis of the "Belt and Road" initiative

2.1 Marx's theory of "world communication"

Marx's theory of "world communication" is the ultimate theoretical source of my country's opening to the outside world. "Communism is not a territorial system. It is only possible empirically as the actions of the dominant nations' all at once, the prerequisite for world exchanges"[2]. In the view of Marx and Engels, world communication is an inevitable trend of world development and an indispensable condition for the realization of communism. It can be said that the theory of world communication has laid the theoretical source of socialist opening to the outside world. If socialism wants to develop, it must take the road of open development.

2.2 New China's foreign exchanges before reform and opening up

Because New China was born under the circumstances of internal and external attacks, and its special national conditions, the foreign exchanges before the reform and opening up began to be embargoed by imperialist countries headed by anti-U.S. countries. The Chinese Communists,
represented by Mao Zedong, formulated three major foreign policies in order to eliminate the remnants of imperialism in China, consolidate the new regime, and establish diplomatic relations with countries that abide by democracy and equality like my country. The support of non-Latin American countries has provided a prerequisite guarantee for our country's smooth realization of reform and opening up. In addition, at the Bandung Conference, Premier Zhou put forward the Five Principles of Upholding National Sovereignty and Peaceful Coexistence, which won unanimous praise from the participating countries, and China took a firm step on the stage of world diplomacy[3].

2.3 The inevitable demand of the development of the times

The age is the mother of thought. The "Belt and Road" initiative is a great creation made by our leaders on the basis of conforming to the trend of the times and in line with their own development requirements. From an international perspective, the global regional development is uneven, and the gap between the rich and the poor has widened. Trade protectionism and unilateralism led by European and American countries affect the stability of the international situation. The United States made false statements to discredit China and frequently set up trade barriers to try to contain my country in trade, finance, politics, economy, and culture, putting my country's development strategy space at risk. From a domestic perspective, my country's economic development has entered a new normal, but there are still many problems. The inadequate development of high-tech fields, the challenges facing the development of the real economy, and the weakening of the demographic dividend that has long supported my country's economic growth have made a new round of expansion and opening up inevitable. In addition, my country's international positioning has undergone a qualitative change[4]. The existence of labels such as the world's largest trading nation and the world's second largest economy indicates that my country has the conditions for opening up and upgrading, and can lead the world to a more fair, just, and prosperous tomorrow. It is against this background that the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi at the core puts forward the "Belt and Road" initiative, drawing a blueprint for a new world development system.

3. The real dilemma of global governance

3.1 Stick to the "zero-sum game" in the security concept

The global security governance system is established under the leadership of the United States, and what it implements in practice is the value goals and philosophical recognition of Western countries. After the Second World War, the Western security concept with the "zero-sum game" as the core formed based on the Cold War mentality has restricted the development of global security governance. "In terms of standpoint, Western countries habitually use the 'Western-centric theory' and the 'superior civilization theory' as the starting point, insisting on the 'historical division theory' of understanding security issues by dividing it into parts to see through the essence, and adopting the 'historical segmentation theory' in resolving security issues to "double standards." These concepts and ways of thinking are taken for granted by Western countries, and have a profound impact on their security governance practices. Historical inertia has made it difficult to reform the existing global security governance mechanisms.

3.2 Pursue "Winner Takes All" in the development concept

On the path of modernization, especially the Western development model and its concepts formed after World War II, such as liberalism's "winner takes all" competitive development concept, material-oriented capital logic, social Darwinism, and the relationship between man and nature Confrontation, overemphasis on national interests, etc., still deeply affect the development policies of all countries in the world. On the issue of understanding the road of development, Western countries insist on promoting the universality of Western values and the uniqueness of Western modernization roads. These concepts and ways of thinking are taken for granted by Western countries and have a profound impact on the practice of global economic governance. "The world does not have a universal development model, and there is no unchangeable development path." The development path represented by emerging economies has received increasing attention from the international community, but it is far from mainstream[5]. Global economic governance concepts and values are diversified. The competition trend of globalization is obvious, and how to change the outdated ideas that constrain global economic governance, innovative ideas are particularly urgent.
3.3 Advocating "neo-liberalism" in the concept of openness

The development of economic globalization is still dominated by Western powers. Western powers strive to maintain their neoliberal globalization concept for monopoly interests. After the end of the Cold War, the rapid development of economic globalization is inseparable from the proliferation of neoliberalism that advocates marketization, liberalization, and privatization throughout the world. Since the 1980s, the in-depth development of globalization has indeed brought a huge impact on the world, but under the influence of neoliberalism, the development of economic globalization has undergone major deviations, the gap between the North and the South has further widened, and the poor have become poorer, the rich get richer. The outbreak of the financial crisis in 2008 sounded the death knell of neoliberalism. As David Coates said: "What we are seeing is not just a severe financial crisis and a severe economic recession. We are witnessing a systemic crisis in the neoliberal form of capitalism. This form of Capitalism’s ability to promote growth in output and profits now appears to be exhausted."

3.4 "Science and technology protectionism" prevails in innovative ideas

In order to maintain their dominant position in core technologies, Western developed countries are prevalent in the global innovation governance of "technological protectionism", by strengthening intellectual property protection strategies, building global technical standards to achieve innovation barriers, and then maintain their global "innovation chain". As a result, the "technological gap" between developing countries and developed countries continues to widen. In recent years, the protectionism of science and technology in the United States has become more pronounced. The United States is very afraid of China's catch-up in the field of scientific and technological innovation. "Scientific and technological international exchanges and other issues traditionally determined by scientists and enterprises are now strictly controlled by the government in the name of national interests.” The prevalence of scientific and technological protectionism will inevitably pose huge challenges to global innovation development and governance.

3.5 Rendering "universal values" in the exchange of civilizations

The so-called "universal value" mainly refers to the basic content of freedom, democracy, and human rights that some Western countries vigorously advocate, and vigorously promote its eternity and universality, and it is widely promoted worldwide. But its essence is to "use the promotion and promotion of so-called universal values as a means, through cultural penetration and political hegemony, and ultimately serve the bourgeoisie to grab the benefits." "Universal values” have not brought democracy and freedom, peace and security, prosperity and development to the world, but have completely gone to the opposite side that people all over the world expect: turbulence, poverty and backwardness. On the basis of "universal values", some Westerners advocated the "democratic peace theory", advocated the "end-of-historical conclusion", and exaggerated the "clash of civilizations", etc., but they have cast a pessimistic color on the pursuit of a better life for the people of all countries. The world is reflecting on the dilemma faced by the global governance philosophy and governance practice of "universal value”. “The West needs to get out of the inherent moral superiority and centralism discourse” and bid farewell to Western centralism from the depths of consciousness.

4. Chinese wisdom and global governance from the perspective of "One Belt One Road"

4.1 Promote the establishment of a common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable global security governance system

Peace is the keynote and background color of the "Belt and Road" initiative. The "Belt and Road" initiative is only possible in a peaceful and secure environment to build and realize the pursuit of a better life for the people of all countries along the route. However, due to religious, ethnic, historical, cultural and other reasons, religious extremism, national separatism, and terrorism prevail in some countries and regions along the “Belt and Road”. This has caused long-term turbulence and difficulty in achieving peace and security. The country’s economy is declining, the people's livelihood is in short supply, and the people’s lives and property are threatened from time to time. The "Belt and Road" initiative inherits the wisdom of "harmony and symbiosis" in global security governance, actively advocates a new security concept of "common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable", and
points out the goal and path to achieve national peace and security. Common security and comprehensive security are the goals of global security governance, and the way to achieve this is through international dialogue and cooperation. The new security concept requires abandoning the outdated concepts of the Western security concept, not seeking absolute security and unilateral security, and abandoning traditional military alliances and military deterrence policies. All countries in the world should conduct strategic dialogues through consultations on an equal footing, increase strategic mutual trust, resolve disputes peacefully, maintain peace and security, promote economic development and social progress, and create a stable foundation for long-term stability. In addition, we must adhere to the concept of combining security and development, solve the socio-economic causes of wars and conflicts from the root, maintain global security from the source, and promote regional and world peace through development. The "Belt and Road" initiative is guided by a new security concept and promotes the establishment of a new mechanism for global security governance. First, create a new type of international relations featuring mutual respect, fairness, justice, and win-win cooperation, and develop friendly cooperation with all participating countries of the "Belt and Road" initiative, but will not interfere in other countries’ internal affairs, will not export social systems and ideologies, let alone impose on others. "Our promotion of the 'Belt and Road' construction will not repeat the old routine of geopolitical games, but will create a new model of cooperation and win-win; will not form a small group that destabilizes, but will build a large family that coexists in harmony." Second, create a bilateral relationship. Cooperate with multilateral security mechanisms. China has conducted multi-channel and multi-level consultation and communication with countries along the "Belt and Road" to build a number of bilateral cooperation demonstration zones. At the same time, make use of dialogue mechanisms such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the AsiaInfo Conference, China-ASEAN "10+1", and the "Belt and Road" International Summit Forum, and actively communicate with relevant countries in the security field to ensure relative peace in the construction of the "Belt and Road" to the regional environment.

4.2 Promote the construction of an equal, open, cooperative, and shared global economic governance system

At present, the global economy has suffered a severe setback due to the new crown epidemic, the deep-seated impact of the international financial crisis continues to show, the world trade and investment pattern and multilateral trade and investment rules are brewing adjustments, the development problems facing countries around the world are still severe, and the global economic governance system, reform and transformation difficulties. "Whether it is responding to the epidemic or restoring the economy, we must follow the road of solidarity and cooperation, and we must adhere to multilateralism. Promoting interconnection and adhering to openness and inclusiveness are the only way to respond to global crises and achieve long-term development, and to jointly build the 'Belt and Road.' International cooperation can play an important role." The 'Belt and Road' is a sunny avenue for everyone to advance hand in hand, not a private trail of one party. The co-building of the 'Belt and Road' pursues development, advocates win-win, and conveys hope. "The Belt and Road Initiative" inherits the development wisdom of "integrity of justice and benefit", adheres to the development concept of "mutual benefit and win-win", and promotes the concept of global economic governance of "equality, openness, cooperation, and sharing". Equality is the foundation, openness is the guidance, cooperation is the driving force, and sharing is the goal. China's new concept of global economic governance reflects the new changes in the global economic structure, and also reflects the interests of emerging market countries and developing countries. It guides the direction of China's participation in global economic governance and injects new impetus into global economic governance. Conducive to the reform of the international economic system and the transformation of global economic governance. The joint construction of the "Belt and Road" has expanded new practices and new mechanisms for improving global economic governance. First, strive to build a fair and efficient global financial governance structure. China takes the lead in preparing for the establishment of a new multilateral financial development mechanism and innovating a new mechanism for financial governance. Such as the establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the BRICS Development Bank, the Silk Road Fund, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Development Bank, etc., plus the support of the China-ASEAN Investment Cooperation Fund, the China Central and Eastern Europe Investment Cooperation Fund, etc., financial system arrangements. Second, while maintaining the multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organization as the core, we should promote the construction of a fair and reasonable new pattern of global trade and investment.
4.3 Promote the construction of a new economic globalization that is open, inclusive, inclusive, balanced and win-win

Faced with the many difficulties of economic globalization, China is exploring a new type of globalization that is different from neoliberalism. The "Belt and Road" initiative is not only the "open road" for China to expand its opening up to the outside world, but also an important way to promote the healthy development of economic globalization. It fully embodies the open wisdom of "the world is the public". "Opening is the only way for development and progress, and it is also the key to promoting economic recovery after the epidemic." The "One Belt One Road" is open-oriented, building an all-round, multi-level, and open new platform for international economic cooperation. "We must focus on solving development. Issues such as imbalances, governance dilemmas, digital divides, distribution gaps, etc., to build an open, inclusive, inclusive, balanced, and win-win economic globalization." The construction of the "Belt and Road" embodies the spirit of openness, inclusiveness, and win-win cooperation. It opposes exclusive and discriminatory regional cooperation, which is conducive to promoting the common interests of the world and the integration of the global economy. "In the era of economic globalization, openness and financing is an unstoppable historical trend. The artificial 'building of walls' and 'decoupling' violates economic laws and market rules and harms others and ourselves." A related report from the World Bank believes that by 2030, joint construction " The Belt and Road Initiative is expected to help 7.6 million people around the world get out of extreme poverty and 32 million people out of moderate poverty. "In the spirit of openness and tolerance, we will work together with all interested parties who are willing to participate to build the 'Belt and Road' into a 'poverty reduction road' and a 'growth road', and make positive contributions to the common prosperity of mankind.

5. Conclusion

The "Belt and Road" initiative has contributed Chinese wisdom to global governance from a practical perspective. Batches of developing countries have rushed to take the "Belt and Road" express train and embarked on a new journey of development; batches of poor people have also been on the road to get rid of poverty; the concept of a community with a shared future for mankind has become more and more popular; people all over the world desire the new international political order is just around the corner. The great China is bound to become an important force in global governance, a promoter of economic prosperity, and a guardian of world peace under the great "Belt and Road" initiative.

References

[1] Wang C F. Globalization of Science and Technology and Strategic Choice of China's Science and Technology Development [M]. Beijing: China Social Sciences Press, 2008.
[2] Jin M Q. Out of the Maze of "Universal value" Theory [N]. China Social Sciences Journal, 2016-12-13.
[3] Jin C R. Farewell to Western Centrism — Reflection on the Current International Situation and Its Trend [J]. International Observation, 2010 (2).
[4] Wu Z C. An Analysis of the Idea of a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind [J]. World Economy and Knowledge, 2018(3).
[5] Ren X. On the Principles of the East Asian Symbiosis System-One of the Studies on the Thought and System of Foreign Relations [J]. World Economy and Politics, 2013 (7).