

On Major Country Diplomacy With Chinese Characteristics in the New Era: The New Realm of Sinicization and Era ization of Marxist International Relations Theory

HE Bingxue^{[a],*}

^[a] Marxism College of Beijing Institute of Graphic Communication, Beijing, China.

*Corresponding author.

Received 21 November 2023; accepted 19 January 2024
Published online 26 March 2024

Abstract

Major country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics in the new era is an important feature of Xi's near-peace diplomatic thought. Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy is an important part of Xi Jinping's Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era, and is an enrichment and development of Marxist theory of international relations. Xi Jinping's diplomatic thought is the crystallization of the integration of Marxist international relations theory with China's specific reality and China's excellent traditional culture, and is the latest achievement and latest realm of the Sinicization and modernization of Marxist international relations theory. Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy is an important embodiment of the Sinicization and modernization of Marxist international relations theory, which is in line with Marxist international relations theory, highlights the Chinese characteristics and Chinese wisdom of Marxist international relations theory, and is a concrete embodiment of the world outlook and methodology of Marxist theory of state relations.

Key words: Xi Jinping's diplomatic thought; Marxist theory of international relations; Sinicization and modernization

He, B. X. (2024). On Major Country Diplomacy With Chinese Characteristics in the New Era: The New Realm of Sinicization and Era ization of Marxist International Relations Theory. *Cross-Cultural Communication*, 20(1), 14-18. Available from: <http://www.cscanada.net/index.php/ccc/article/view/13291>
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3968/13291>

1. MARXIST THEORY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1.1 Interpretation of Marxist International Relations Theory

There are many interpretations of Marxist international relations theory, but the central point of interpretation is based on "the liberation of the proletariat and world peace". In Western countries, some scholars even believe that there is no "Marxist theory of international relations". American scholar Robert Gilpin believes that: "Although Marx regarded capitalism as a global economy, he did not develop a systematic theory of international relations to clarify various international relations. This task fell on the shoulders of Marxist scholars in later generations." Regardless of whether Marxist international relations theory has systematically discussed the theory of international relations, the international relations we learn or study in the future are inseparable from Marxist international relations theory. The interpretation of Marxist international relations theory on international relations theory is also recommended to be based on Marxist theory, which means that the interpretation of international relations theory by subsequent scholars is also based on Marxist theory.

Marx and Engels's many masterpieces, such as the "New Rhine", "The German Formation", "The Inside Story of the Diplomatic History of the Eighteenth Century", and "The Communist Manifesto", all reflect Marx and Engels's important ideas and theories on international relations from different levels. In recent years, many scholars in China have conducted certain research on Marx and Engels's thoughts and theories on international relations. Regarding the interpretation of Marxist international relations theory, scholar Li Bin believes that Marxist international relations theory should include four elements: "a conflict and dynamic world view", "a historical materialist methodology", "a social

analysis of the capitalist world system”, and “a yearning for socialism”. Zhao Kejin and Ni Shixiong have different interpretations of Marxist international relations theory from Li Bin, but they also have similarities. They both divide Marxist international relations theory into several major parts. Zhao Kejin and Ni Shixiong advocate dividing Marxist international relations theory into six parts, namely “materialistic world view”, “political dialectics”, “class subject reduction”, “international political development theory”, “world system theory”, and “the yearning for human liberation and free people’s union”. In the article “Special Research on Marxist International Relations Theory”, Professor Li Aihua’s interpretation of Marxist international relations theory is relatively broad, based not only on Marx and Engels’s international relations thoughts and theories, but also on Lenin, Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping’s international relations thoughts and theories.

1.2 Enrichment and development of Marxist international relations theory

Marxist international relations theory has been continuously enriched and developed in practice. Professor Li Aihua divides Marxist international relations theory into two levels: on the one hand, the original thoughts of Marx and Engels on international relations; on the other hand, the interpretation of Marxist international relations theory by subsequent scholars who enrich and develop Marx and Engels’ thoughts on international relations on the basis of the first level. Professor Li Aihua’s interpretation of Marxist international relations theory includes both the views of Western scholars and the relevant understandings of domestic scholars.

Marxist international relations theory is a theory that studies international relations based on Marxism as its guiding ideology and Marxist worldview and methodology. It covers the ideas and theories of Marx and Engels on world revolution, war and peace, and social class struggle. The international relations theories of Lenin, Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping, Jiang Zemin, Hu Jintao, and Xi Jinping are all based on Marxist international relations theory and are enrichments and developments of Marxist international relations theory.

2. THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE NEW REALM OF SINICIZATION AND MODERNIZATION OF MARXIST THEORY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

2.1 The Sinicization and Modernization of Marxist International Relations Theory

The sinicization and modernization of Marxist international relations theory is the integration of Marxist international relations theory with China’s specific reality

and with China’s excellent traditional culture. The theories of Mao Zedong’s international relations thought, Deng Xiaoping’s international relations thought, Jiang Zemin’s international relations thought, Hu Jintao’s international relations thought, and Xi Jinping’s international relations thought are all concrete manifestations of the sinicization and modernization of Marxist international relations. During the period of the New Democratic Revolution, the CPC, with Comrade Mao Zedong as the main representative, took mutual learning, coexistence and development among countries as the basic principles, and put forward such Marxist diplomatic ideas on international relations as “independence and autonomy”, “the five principles of peaceful coexistence”, “seeking common ground while reserving differences”, which laid the ideological foundation for the diplomacy of New China. During the period of reform and opening up, the CPC, with Comrade Deng Xiaoping as the main representative, took the relationship and development between countries as the basic principle, and put forward Marxist diplomatic thoughts on international relations such as “peaceful development” and “good neighborliness and friendship”, which effectively promoted the economic and social development. During the period of socialist revolution and construction, the CPC, with Comrade Jiang Zemin as the main representative, took order, security and development among countries as the basic principles, and put forward Marxist diplomatic thoughts on international relations such as “new international order”, “new security concept” and “democratization of international relations”, which provided a good social environment for China’s modernization. During the period of socialist modernization, the CPC, with Comrade Hu Jintao as the main representative, took harmony, joint construction and development among countries as the basic principles, put forward Marxist diplomatic thoughts on international relations, such as “peaceful development” and “building a harmonious world”, which provided the ideological basis for China’s anti hegemonism and unilateralism, and at the same time contributed China’s strength to the diversified development of the international community. In the new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics, the Chinese Communists, with Comrade Xi Jinping as the main representative, have put forward Marxist diplomatic thoughts on international relations such as “a community of a shared future for mankind” and “the Belt and Road Initiative” based on the new type of relations between countries and the community of a shared future for mankind, pushing the development of Marxist international relations theory to a new height.

2.2 The new realm of sinicization and modernization of Marxist international relations theory

Xi Jinping’s diplomatic thought is the latest stage of the sinicization and modernization of Marxist international

relations theory. Xi Jinping's diplomatic thought is a major achievement of epoch-making significance in the construction of China's diplomatic theory.¹ Xi Jinping's diplomatic thought combines China's specific reality with the excellent traditional Chinese culture, enriching and developing Marxist international relations theory. Since the 18th CPC National Congress, the international situation has been complex and changeable. Xi Jinping, guided by Marxism, has led the Chinese Communists to accurately grasp the laws of historical development and the international development situation in the new era, and put forward a series of new ideas, theories and perspectives with Chinese characteristics. As an important part of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, Xi Jinping's diplomatic thought has further enriched and developed Marxist international relations theory.

Xi Jinping's diplomatic thinking is the latest achievement and realm of sinicization and modernization of Marxist international relations theory, which deeply considers and answers a series of major theoretical and practical issues such as what kind of world China should promote, what kind of international relations China should build, what kind of diplomacy China needs, and how to carry out diplomacy. Xi Jinping's diplomatic thoughts and his ideas on the pattern of relations between major powers are characterized by their high-level, profound, and far-reaching vision. (Yang, 2023) Xi Jinping pointed out that in practice, we have accumulated useful experience and profound understanding. In foreign affairs, we must adhere to the overall domestic and international situation, adhere to strategic self-confidence and maintain strategic determination, adhere to promoting diplomatic theory and practice innovation, adhere to strategic planning and global layout, adhere to safeguarding the core interests and major interests of the country, adhere to win-win cooperation and the combination of justice and benefit, and adhere to bottom-line thinking and risk awareness. (Xi, 2020, pp.426-427) The Chinese Communists, with Xi Jinping as the main representative, fully grasp the situation of the great changes that have not occurred in the world for a hundred years, take Marxist standpoints, views, and methods as ideological guidance, stand on the position of historical materialism and dialectical materialism, combine with China's specific reality and excellent traditional Chinese culture, and center on the people to explore a Marxist international relations theory with Chinese characteristics. Xi Jinping's diplomatic thought is the crystallization of the combination of Marxist international relations theory and practice, and is a new leap in the sinicization and modernization of Marxist international relations theory.

¹ In-depth study Xi implementation of Xi Jinping's diplomatic thought, and constantly create a new situation of major country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics. Qiushi.com, 2020.

3. THE PRACTICE OF MAJOR COUNTRY DIPLOMACY WITH CHINESE CHARACTERISTICS IN THE NEW ERA

The practice of China's diplomatic policy with Chinese characteristics in the new era is guided by Marxist international relations theory and has been continuously enriched and developed. The theoretical generalization and concise expression of China's diplomatic practice is the basic task of China's international relations theory construction. Without the basic research object of China's diplomacy, the Chinese school will become a tree without roots and a river without a source. (Qiu, 2019) To develop the theory of major country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics in the new era, we must adhere to innovation while maintaining integrity. Thomas Kuhn's five criteria for good scientific theories are helpful for correctly assessing the situation. They should be self-consistent, have a wide coverage, be able to present phenomena in an orderly and consistent manner, and be able to effectively predict phenomena or relationships between phenomena. (Kuhn, 2012, pp.15-16)

3.1 propose relevant international relations theories such as the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence

The CPC, with Comrade Mao Zedong as the main representative, put forward Marxist diplomatic thoughts on international relations, such as the "Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence". In the early days of the founding of the People's Republic of China, Comrade Mao Zedong regarded the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence as the fundamental principles of China's foreign policy and made them the core content of China's diplomatic theory. China actively advocates the establishment of a new international political and economic order based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. Peaceful coexistence and non-interference in each other's internal affairs are the core of the new international political order; Equality, mutual benefit, and common development are the core of the new international economic order. "The reason why the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence have remained strong and have strong vitality is fundamentally because they are in line with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, the essential requirements for the development of international relations, and the fundamental interests of people around the world."

3.2 propose theories and ideas related to international relations such as good neighborliness and friendship

People of the CPC, with Comrade Deng Xiaoping as the main representative, put forward such Marxist diplomatic thoughts on international relations as "peaceful development" and "good neighborliness and friendship".

Comrade Deng Xiaoping, based on the basic theory of Marxism, put forward the proposition of developing international relations with Chinese characteristics through in-depth analysis of the international development situation at that time. Comrade Deng Xiaoping's Marxist diplomatic thought on international relations effectively promoted the development of China's reform and opening up.

3.3 Put forward the relevant international relations thought theories such as the new international order

The communists represented by Comrade Jiang Zemin put forward Marxist diplomatic thoughts of international relations such as "democratization of international relations", "new international order" and "new security concept". On the basis of comprehensive observation and analysis of the changes in the international situation, Comrade Jiang Zemin profoundly revealed the opportunities and challenges brought by economic globalization to China, actively advocated the establishment of a new international political and economic order and the democratization of international relations, played a constructive role in international relations, demonstrated China's responsibility and responsibility as a major power, and won more and more respect internationally.

3.4 propose relevant international relations theories such as peace, development, and cooperation

People of the CPC, with Comrade Hu Jintao as the main representative, put forward such Marxist diplomatic thoughts on international relations as "peaceful development" and "building a harmonious world". Hu Jintao deeply realized that the international situation at that time was in a period of great development, transformation, and adjustment, and peace, development, and cooperation were more in line with the international development trend. World multipolarity and economic globalization are deepening, multilateralism and democratization of international relations are deeply ingrained in people's hearts. Only by adhering to open cooperation and mutual benefit can countries promote mutual development and achieve win-win outcomes.

3.5 put forward a series of international relations theories such as the new type of international relations

The Chinese Communists, represented mainly by Comrade Xi Jinping, have put forward Marxist diplomatic ideas on international relations such as "new type of international relations", "community of a shared future for mankind", and "One Belt and One Road". Xi Jinping's diplomatic thoughts, adhering to the "two integrations", have enriched and developed Marxist international relations theory to a certain extent, forming a series of

new ideas, theories, and perspectives, and pushing the development of Marxist international relations theory to a new height.

4. THE NEW ERA OF MAJOR COUNTRY DIPLOMACY WITH CHINESE CHARACTERISTICS HAS OPENED UP A NEW REALM OF MARXIST INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORY

First, Xi Jinping's diplomatic thought is an important embodiment of the sinicization and modernization of Marxist international relations theory. Xi Jinping's diplomatic thought is guided by Marxist international relations theory, adheres to the basic principles of Marxist international relations theory, inherits and develops Marxist international relations theory, has distinctive characteristics of the times, and promotes the practice of major country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics. It is an important manifestation of the sinicization and modernization of Marxist international relations theory.

Second, Xi Jinping's diplomatic thoughts are in line with Marxist international relations theory. There is no specific theory of international relations in Marxist classics, but there are many works that discuss international relations theory, such as *The New Rhine*, *The German Ideology*, and *The Communist Manifesto*. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the diplomatic thoughts put forward by Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping, Jiang Zemin, Hu Jintao, Xi Jinping and other party and state leaders have enriched and developed Marxist international diplomatic theory. They are not only the inheritance and development of Marxist international relations theory, but also enrich and improve the development of Marxist international relations theory. They inject new soul into Marxist international relations theory and are an important manifestation of the sinicization and modernization of Marxist international relations theory. Third, Xi Jinping's diplomatic thoughts embody the Chinese characteristics and wisdom of Marxist international relations theory. The combination of Xi Jinping's diplomatic thoughts with China's specific reality and the excellent traditional Chinese culture has promoted the innovation and development of China's diplomatic theory. Xi Jinping's diplomatic thought guides the innovation of China's diplomatic theory and practice in the new era, and helps the Chinese international relations theory circle to lead the trend of international relations theory. (Ou, 2023) A series of new theories and new perspectives on international relations, such as "new international relations", "the the Belt and Road", "a

community with a shared future for mankind”, demonstrate China’s wisdom, mark China’s imprint, reflect Chinese characteristics, further enrich and develop the Marxist theory of international relations, which is an important embodiment of the sinicization and modernization of the Marxist theory of international relations. Fourth, Xi Jinping’s diplomatic thought is a concrete manifestation of the Marxist worldview and methodology of state relations theory. Xi Jinping’s diplomatic thinking uses Marxist scientific worldview and methodology to scientifically judge the international situation of the unprecedented major changes in the world in the past century, accurately grasp the opportunities and challenges brought by the changes in the relationship between China and the world, and adhere to starting from reality and seeking truth from facts; It has answered the questions of the world and the times about where the world is going and where mankind is going. It has created a path of great power diplomacy with Chinese characteristics, provided a favorable international environment for promoting the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation with Chinese path to modernization, and is an important embodiment of the sinicization and modernization of Marxist international relations theory.

REFERENCES

- China Institute of International Studies. (2004). *On the five principles of peaceful coexistence: Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the birth of the five principles of peaceful coexistence*. Beijing: World Knowledge Publishing House.
- Gilpin, R. (1989). *Political economy of international relations*. Beijing: Economic Science Press.
- In-depth study Xi implementation of Xi Jinping’s diplomatic thought, and constantly create a new situation of major country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics*. (2020). Retrieved from Qiushi.com
- Kuhn, T. (2012). *The structure of scientific revolutions: Fourth edition*. Beijing: Peking University Press.
- Ou, Y., et al. (2023). The new development of Xi Jinping’s diplomatic thought on Marxist international relations theory. *Modern International Relations*, 08.
- Qiu, S. (2019). Theoretical and practical significance of China’s major country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics in the new era. *New Horizons*, 3, 81-87.
- Xi, J. P. (2020). *Xi Jinping on governing the country: Volume III*. Beijing: Foreign Languages Press.
- Yang, J. M. (2023). Xi Jinping’s diplomatic thought guides the construction of a new pattern of major power relations. *Social Sciences I. Series*, 05.