

In the Name of God, the Most Merciful, the Most Kind



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Making Diversity Work for Us

So as to live peacefully within a diverse society, it is necessary to develop mutual tolerance and respect. Without these factors it would be very difficult to tighten the social bonds. The diverse societies have inhabitants from different cultural, historical, religious, ethnic or sectarian backgrounds. Such societies, though have the advantage of being diverse and culturally rich, are very much vulnerable to conflicts as well. As there are groups of people with different ideologies and practices there are possibilities that they there may be frequent clashes and disturbances. Therefore, it is necessary in such societies that different groups should accept one another's existence.

The tolerance for others can be best developed by realizing the fact that others have their reasons to be what they are. They have their own backgrounds and values and their own practices that have developed within them through their distinct history. However, human beings are not able to do so in so many cases. They, in fact, become the victims of extreme ethnocentrism. They observe and understand others in their own perspectives and try to judge them as per their own values, which does not give proper and just result. They have their analysis and understanding based on their own frame of reference, which is bound to be biased as they do not care for the objective truths.

The biased and ethno-centric approach towards others is bound to result in clashes and chaos. Such a scenario is largely detrimental and can be utilized by others for their personal benefits. History approves the fact that the heterogeneous societies that have had clashes among their different groups were dominated by others who have not only strengthened those clashes through political means but have in fact pursued their own motives. In short, the societies that have such clashes are politically utilized by others and they suffer great loss as a result.

It is, therefore, essential for heterogeneous societies to develop a culture of co-existence. A sense of belongingness to a large body; may be a feeling for attachment to some national feelings, can solve the issue to a certain level. Binding themselves to national levels, the heterogeneous groups in the society may give up their trivial matters and start thinking in broader perspective. They have to be taught to understand that it is only through collective efforts that they can make their survival possible in today's society. Their collective efforts can turn into a synergy that will provide them the possibilities of facing the overgrowing challenges of life with success and dignity.

One of the best ways to coexist in a heterogeneous society is finding out the similarities among different groups instead of identifying the differences and making them the bone of contention. In fact, the similarities among different human groups are always more than the differences. One of the largest similarities among all the groups of human beings is that they are human beings and share the same earth to live on.

However, such concepts have been only considered ideal and impracticable. In reality, human beings are divided into different strata and they have so many disparities. There are fights among them and they use lethal weapons in their fights that kill hundreds of people at a time. Every group, in pursuit of proving itself better or correct, makes machinations to annihilate others. Others are aliens, foreigners, infidels and wrong-doers. Religions and social and political ideologies that must bring people together have, in fact, made them stand much apart and divided. This is really pathetic and does not show at all that human beings are the best of creatures and have the intelligence and gumption.

Afghanistan is also one of the societies that are heterogeneous to a certain extent. There are people from different ethnic groups who have their sub-cultures. Though they have embellished Afghan society with variety but at the same time there have been instances when these groups have had clashes among one another. These clashes resulted in civil wars and influenced Afghan society negatively to a great extent. The other countries that had their interests in Afghan society used these clashes for their political purposes and further added fuel to the fire.

However, today Afghan society is standing in a different position. It has an opportunity of developing a peaceful life for its people. At this crucial juncture, it is really necessary that Afghan society must stand united and face challenges as a strong nation. It must not let the differences among different groups to dominate their national integration. The younger generation can play a tremendous role in this regard. They are educated, and they have already experienced the consequences of decades of instability and wars; therefore, they can better decide which way to opt - coexistence or no existence.

They have to understand that the different groups in the country are basically different parts of the same body and without the support of any of them it would not be able to make the body complete and make it work and function properly. Otherwise, the socio-political circumstance may prove to be very much cruel and they may blow away, like light straws, all those who are divided.



Introduction to Xi Jinping's thought on Diplomacy And Its Impacts to Afghanistan (Part 1)

By Liu Jinsong

Not long ago, the medical team of Chinese Red Cross Foundation came to Kabul and took many Afghan children with Congenital Heart Disease to China for treatment. This project is a humanitarian rescue network co-established by the Chinese central and local government, humanitarian agencies, hospitals and enterprises. Many Chinese doctors voluntarily sacrificed their weekends and holidays to make surgeries for these Afghan children free of charge. They have saved more than 20 children last year, and will bring surprise and happiness for another more than 100 families this year. A couple of days ago, I had the pleasure to call on H.E. President Ghani, and reiterated that China paid great attention to His Excellency's assistance request to China and the international world regarding the severe drought in Afghanistan. The Chinese side decided to provide emergency food assistance and disaster-relief materials, for the sake of our tradition mutual help and assistance as well as our strategic cooperative partnership. China will also positively consider building a flood disaster early warning system for Afghanistan, providing technical support and training programs for the Afghan side to cope with natural disasters.

All these measures are demonstrations of Xi Jinping's Thought on Diplomacy in Afghanistan as well as China-Afghanistan relations. The Thought is now guiding and promoting the China-Afghanistan relations and will bring concrete benefits for our two peoples.

Xi Jinping's Thought on Diplomacy was formerly announced in the Central Conference on Work Relating to Foreign Affairs this June. It is an important component of Xi Jinping's Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, which was established in the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in last October. The Thought is a systematic theory, just like a mansion with ten pillars, which can be named as "ten insist on":

First, insist on upholding the authority of the CPC Central Committee to strengthen centralized and unified Party leadership over external works, the main diplomatic power is in the hands of the CPC Central Committee.

Second, insist on pursuing China's major-country diplomacy to accomplish the mission of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Third, insist on building a community with a shared future for mankind to promote world peace and common development.

Fourth, insist on enhancing strategic confidence to build a socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Fifth, insist on promoting the Belt and Road Initiative in accordance with the principle of achieving shared benefits through extensive consultation and joint contribution.

Sixth, insist on pursuing peaceful development featuring mutual respect and win-win cooperation.

Seventh, insist on fostering global partnerships by pursuing a broad-based diplomatic agenda.

Eighth, insist on steering reform of the global governance system to uphold fairness and justice.

Ninth, insist on upholding China's sovereignty, security and development interests which represent the country's core interests.

Tenth, insist on forging and developing China's distinctive diplomacy by drawing on its fine tradition and adapting to the changing times.

The Thought is based on the objectives and stage of China's development, as well as China's basic judgment on situations home and abroad.

The stage of China's development: on the one hand, China has already been the second largest economy, the largest industrial country, the largest goods trader and the country with the largest foreign currency reserves in the world. The life of Chinese people has stepped from shortage to abundance, from poverty to moderate prosperity. As socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era, the principal contradiction of the Chinese society has evolved to the contradiction between the people's ever-growing needs for a better life and unbalanced as well as inadequate development.

On the other hand, China remains in the primary stage of socialism, and is still the world's largest developing country. There is still a large gap between China and western countries. China's per capita GDP is just one sixth of that in the US and ranks only 71st in the world. Our people living under the poverty line are equal to the total population of Afghanistan. China has yet to achieve the

national reunification. Its innovation capacity is not strong enough. China still faces many problems in the fields of employment, education, medical treatment, housing, pension, environment protection and so on. China has stepped on its tough stage to forestall and defuse major risks, carry out targeted poverty alleviation, prevent economic and financial risks and control pollution.

The goal of China's development is: to build a moderately prosperous society in all aspects till 2020; to realize primary socialist modernization by 2035; to construct a comprehensively great modern socialist country by 2049, when we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the PRC. It is estimated by some scholars that by that time, the per capita GDP of China will be more than 30,000 US dollars, which is the level of moderately developed countries. In this process, the Chinese military will primarily realize mechanization by 2020, primarily realize modernization by 2035, and will be world-class armed forces around 2049.

China has 3 basic judgments on the situations home and abroad: First, China is increasingly moving closer to the world's center stage. China's much more closely related with the outside world, and the interaction is deepening. In the past 10 years, China has contributed one third of the world's economic development, and the foreign trade also contributed more than one third to China's economic growth.

Second, the world is undergoing major transformation and adjustment, but peace and development remain the call of our day. China is in the best period of its development in modern times, but risks, challenges and uncertainties have increased significantly. "The black swan is flying all over the sky, and the black rhinos are running everywhere". The Cold war mentality and power politics are still wandering around. The unilateralism, protectionism and populism are raging around. The trend of opposing free trade and economic globalization is surging. And non-traditional security threats, such as terrorism, refugee crisis, major disasters and infectious diseases, are getting worse. China's development is in its critical period of climbing and swaying. Human beings are once again at the crossroads on the history.

Third, the world's multi-polarization, economic globalization, social information, cultural diversification developed extensively. A new round industrialization and technology revolution is on the way.

Emerging Market countries and a vast number of developing countries are rising up rapidly, which promoted the international power structure to be a much more balanced one. This trend will have twists and turns, but will not reverse fundamentally.

Diplomacy is a continuation of internal affairs. It must reflect the change of national power and the international environment.

Based on the above-mentioned judgments, the Chinese diplomacy in the new era must adapt to the changes that China has stood up, grown rich, and is becoming strong, and should continuously enhance its citizen's sense of fulfillment, happiness and security, and keep in mind both internal and international imperatives. The Chinese diplomacy should serve the purpose of creating favorable conditions for comprehensively deepening reform and opening-up, building a moderately prosperous society, creating a more favorable international environment including fostering a global partnership network as well as a generally stable and balanced framework of major-country relations, promoting a more stable and friendly neighborhood environment, and enhancing solidarity and cooperation with other developing countries, as China was, is and will always be a member of the developing countries.

Xi Jinping's Thought on Diplomacy is a development based on inheritance. It has the following distinctive features:

First, it has a clear goal. The overall goal of Chinese diplomacy is to forging new-type international relations and building a community with a shared future for mankind. This is the flag and image of the Chinese diplomacy, which combined the features of idealism and realism, answered the question of where the humankind should be heading, and provide a Chinese plan for tackling global challenges. The nature of the plan is to build an open, inclusive, clean, and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security, and common prosperity. Building a community with a shared future for mankind has been incorporated into relevant UN resolutions.

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Can Turkey Rewrite the Crisis-Management Rules?

By Mohamed A. El-Erian

Whether by accident or design, Turkey is trying to rewrite the chapter on crisis management in the emerging-market playbook. Rather than opting for interest-rate hikes and an external funding anchor to support domestic policy adjustments, the government has adopted a mix of less direct and more partial measures - and this at a time when Turkey is in the midst of an escalating tariff tit-for-tat with the United States, as well as operating in a more fluid global economy. How all this plays out is important not only for Turkey, but also for other emerging economies that already have had to cope with waves of financial contagion.

The initial phases of Turkey's crisis were a replay of past emerging-market currency crises. A mix of domestic and external events - an over-stretched credit-led growth strategy; concerns about the central bank's policy autonomy and effectiveness; and a less hospitable global liquidity environment, owing in part to rising US interest rates - destabilized the foreign-exchange market.

A political spat with the US accelerated the run on the Turkish lira by fueling a self-reinforcing dynamic. And all of this occurred in the context of a more uncertain and - aside from the US - weakening global economy.

In keeping with the traditional emerging-market-crisis script, Turkey's currency crisis spilled over onto other emerging economies. As is typically the case, the first wave of contagion was technical in nature, driven mainly by generalized outflows from Turkey's currency and bond markets. The longer this contagion continues, the greater the concern that it will lead to more disruptive financial and economic outcomes. As such, central banks in several emerging economies - as diverse as Argentina, Hong Kong, and Indonesia - felt compelled to take counter-measures.

What has followed is what makes this episode of emerging-market crisis different, at least so far. Rather than sticking with the approach taken by numerous other countries - including Argentina earlier this year - by raising interest rates and seeking some form of support from the International Monetary Fund, Turkey has shunned both in a very public manner, including through strident remarks by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

Facing an accelerated exchange-rate depreciation that, at one stage, almost halved the lira's value, Turkey has taken a variety of measures that attempt to simulate - albeit partially - the traditional approach that emerging economies have tended to follow in the past.

Domestically, it tightened funding conditions and, at the same time, provided liquidity to domestic banks, along with regulatory forbearance. It made it harder for foreigners to access lira liquidity, thereby squeezing speculators that had shorted the currency.

It promised to deal with credit and fiscal excesses while ruling out capital controls. Externally, the government has mobilized at least \$15 billion from Qatar to

be used for direct investment in Turkey. And, in the midst of all this, the government also found time to retaliate against the doubling of tariffs on Turkish metal exports by US President Donald Trump's administration.

The question is whether this response will be enough to act as a circuit breaker, thus giving the Turkish economy and its financial system time to regain their footing. This is particularly important because continued currency turmoil would tip the economy into recession, raise inflation, stress the banking system, and increase corporate bankruptcies.

With this comes the toughest question of all for the government: Can it bring about recovery without renegeing on its pledge not to raise interest rates or approach the IMF? It is possible, but not probable.

Absent additional measures, it is unlikely that a critical mass of corrective steps has been attained in Turkey. While the domestic policy adjustments provide short-term relief for the currency, they may be neither comprehensive nor sufficient as yet to return Turkey to a promising path for inclusive economic growth and durable financial stability.

On the external side, the funding from Qatar, assuming it materializes fully and in a timely fashion, appears small relative to Turkey's gross external funding needs. It also doesn't come with the IMF imprimatur that reassures many investors. And it is far from clear how this money will make its way into the economy to maximize the potential for currency stabilization.

And then there is the trade skirmish with the US.

Like other countries, it is only a matter of time until Turkey comes to the same realization as others about confronting the more protectionist stance adopted by the US. Because of its size and systemic influence, and assuming it remains willing to incur the risk of suffering some damage in the process, the US is destined to win a tit-for-tat tariff escalation. As such, the best approach is what the European Union decided to do last month: seek a way to pause the skirmish while working on the longer-term underlying issues.

Rather than rewriting the game plan for crisis management in emerging markets, Turkey may well end up confirming it. One hopes this will lead to the restoration of financial stability and growth as the government looks to reverse its stance on central-bank independence, interest-rate policy, and perhaps even the IMF.

The alternative - persisting with the current approach and, in the process, running the risk of turning technical dislocations into much more damaging longer-term economic and financial disruptions - would also prove problematic for other emerging economies.

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