

The Strategy Of Peaceful Rise

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Abstract

The fact that China has operated under the tenet of a peaceful rise since 1978 is noteworthy. The notion of a peaceful rise was originally intended by China to disprove their theory of danger. Although there were some who disagreed with the idea, some political figures, such as Hu Jintao, the general secretary of the Communist Party, and Wen Jiabao, the prime minister of China, embraced it and frequently used it, particularly during his visit to USA at the end of 2003. This was what motivated Zheng to convert him to the theory of rise Al-Salami, which he supported with the theory of convergence of global interests, where the theory is based on analyzing the relationship between soft power and global peace through convergence in global interests and not through traditional theories such as balance of power or deterrence

Keywords: china, peaceful ascent, international order, power shift.

Introduction

By the fall of the Soviet Union at the beginning of 90s and the establishment of the unipolar system, led by USA, which had enormous advantages over the other powers, these powers had a difference in orientations with the new hegemonic power. Due to the vast supremacy, these nations made an effort to conceal their variances since a great power often acts in a way that involves planning. During that period, several theories appeared at USA, some of which suggested preparing to confront the green enemy, which is Islam, and others suggested getting ready to confront the yellow enemy, which is China. At that time, China, in addition to its emergence as a rising economic power, crystallized the concept of the Chinese threat that has spread in the West since the 1990s. Later, it became a theory, and was agreed upon in the

American media, which accused China that its national identity was based on the enmity of the West. It was natural for China to reassure USA and not to raise its fears so that it would not fall into the trap of American theorizing and become the first enemy for US. It was unable at that time to bear the burden of confrontation. (Bakir, 2022).

The success achieved by the reform and opening-up policy made the Chinese leaders more intent to foreign insights of China's behavior and goals. In the 1990s, Chinese diplomats looked for addressing and rebuilding China's international view after the Tiananmen event, missile tests, and military exercises near Taiwan. The Tiananmen Square protests, known as the 4th of June event in China, were student-led demonstrations that occupied Beijing's Tiananmen Square during 1989. For the

Tiananmen event, forces armed with rifles escorted by tanks triggered on protesters and those attempting to obstruct the army advanced to Tiananmen Square. The protests began on the 15th of April and were suppressed forcibly on the 4th of June when the government declared martial law and sent the People's Liberation Army to take parts of central Beijing. Numerous hundreds to thousands of people have reportedly died and thousands more have been injured, according to estimates. Concerns about Chinese conduct were being raised by these events. China began to adjust its regional diplomacy first and focus on partnership and confidence building with Asian countries. In 2002, Zheng Baijian paid a visit to US with a delegation from the Communist Party. The delegation met several senior officials of Bush administration. Senior officials featured Brzezinski and Henry Kissinger to confer US views on China's developing role in world affairs. It turns out that US officials have slight confidence in China's future development and its effects on worldwide stability. There are many doubts that will complicate the relationship between the two countries (Bonnie and Evan, 2007).

After returning to Beijing, Zheng Baijian gave the Central Committee a thorough report in which he expressed his worries about how the US perceived China's rise to power. The formation of a working committee to create a thorough theory of peaceful rise was approved. In 2003, Zheng Baijian delivered a lecture entitled "The New Path to China Peaceful Rise and the Future of Asia" at Bao's Forum. It revealed China development. He made it apparent that this route is not just a means of endeavoring for success; also a means of upholding peace and avoiding hegemony. (Bakir, 2016).

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theory of danger. Although there were some who disagreed with the idea, some political figures, such as Hu Jintao, the general secretary of the Communist Party, and Wen Jiabao, the prime minister of China, embraced it and frequently used it, particularly during his visit to USA at the end of 2003. This was what motivated Zheng to convert him to the theory of rise Al-Salami, which he supported with the theory of convergence of global interests, where the theory is based on analyzing the relationship between soft power and global peace through convergence in global interests and not through traditional theories such as balance of power or deterrence (Al-Hafiz, 2022).

Owing to the fact that China has never released any statement that expansively construed the strategic goals of the country and means to realize them, neither in the past nor in the present. It is possible to consider a peaceful rise as a strategy which is part of the Chinese comprehensive strategy. The peaceful rise is the most suitable term that captures the long-standing understanding of the Chinese leadership and political designs for national development. A secure international environment will provide China with opportunities to achieve its goals. The implementation of the reform and opening-up policy laid a solid foundation for a peaceful rise. As a result, China was a developing country when it was in the early stage of socialism, which no longer behaves as a constant opponent of the international system. Instead, it became an active participant and beneficiary of it as it paid increasing attention to resolving international disputes by diplomatic means. It has settled most of its territorial issues by diplomatic means, thus laying the groundwork for resolving its territorial maritime disputes in a similar manner, even with regard to the question of Taiwan, which is directly related to China sovereignty. China has shown intent towards a peaceful solution with it. (Al-Madani, 2016)

Therefore, the theory of peaceful rise is based on a unique strategy intended to gradually advance China to the stage of a major player in the international system without endangering or violating the rules of the international system, as well as to reassure other powers of the peacefulness of the Chinese approach. It intends to make China a partner in promoting world peace, and emphasizes that China does not need to challenge the current world order. China will join USA in the ongoing economic globalization as a result of shared interests. China is as a responsible player in the world by its leaders. Yet, the world cannot rely on China pledges. (Sujian, 2006).

Zheng introduced three basic principles of the peaceful rise theory. (Bonnie and Evan, 2016)

1. China should steadily move forward to complete the continuous reform process that focuses on the socialist market economy.
2. China should take advantage of other civilizations to make sure of cultural support for its peaceful development.
3. China should balance the interests of the various parts and ensure coordinated development between the urban and rural areas, between people and nature, and between society and the economy, in order to make a suitable setting for a peaceful rise.

The notion of peaceful rise of China seeks to demonstrate to the West, and USA in particular. It differs from previous emerging powers that have chosen to be aggressive and of conflict to achieve their objectives. It attempts to show that it can obtain the required resources, money, and technology peacefully, and that China would open up to the world market. The maintenance of the system stability and the development of a secure environment are therefore in everyone's best interests. China, in turn, will promote world

peace, and will create opportunities rather than a threat to the global system. Thus, Zheng's theory of peaceful rise has become a largely liberal argument. This means that economic globalization and interdependence make it needless and unwelcome for China to take a non-peaceful path of advancement. (Wang, 2009)

The strategy of peaceful rise provoked a set of official interactions at the internal and external levels. The Chinese Foreign Ministry was hesitant to adopt this idea for fear that it would conflict with its principal goal of seeking to prevent China from engaging in any aggressive activities. This theory was also opposed by some groups within China, most notably the current of President Jiang Zheming or the pragmatic nationalists who adhere to the ideas of Deng Xiaoping. Deng Xiaoping emphasizes concealment of capabilities, so they prefer to use the term "peaceful development" because of their concerns about the potential misgivings of Western countries when China talks excessively about the rise. Based on that, it could be said that the transition from peaceful rise to peaceful development was a victory for real nationalism over pragmatic nationalism. This indicates that the Chinese new leaders are becoming more conscious and assertive towards Western countries. By pledging not to challenge the current system, China has enhanced its chance of being accepted as a rising power by the United States of America, the European Union and Japan (Xuewu, 2005).

The emergence of China as a significant power has been acknowledged on an international scale, particularly in US, Korea, and Japan. The elite and general populace in such nations are prepared to view China as a benign force that will not jeopardize their interests and can work with them rather than against them. Moreover, there are some reasons to be uneasy about the Chinese rise. The rise of China has reshaped power in the region and in the world. The mentioned countries

have a complex superiority in dealing with the Chinese. But with the continuous superiority, this superiority complex faces increasing challenges (Wang, 2006).

It is worth noting that the great spread of the concept of peaceful rise, especially within China, has put the Chinese leaders who adopted this theory in front of major criticisms that can be clarified as follows (National Institute for Defense Studies, 2005).

1. The concept of peaceful rise is weak, which prevents China and weakens its ability to deter Taiwan independence. Adopting the theory will restrict the Chinese policy options in dealing with the issue of Taiwan.
2. The peaceful rise may not be possible as it is a tough task to achieve, because that theory lacks historical precedent and the external environment is unfavorable.
3. The peaceful rise will impose restrictions on developing and improving the military power.
4. The term “rise” will increase the fears of China neighbors and be seen as provocative.
5. Slogans are not politics for many scholars and verbal promises that China will not struggle for hegemony are not enough to convince the world that China will not threaten their interests.
6. The term of peaceful rise contradicts to the directives of Deng Xiaoping, which shows that China should hide its capabilities and be more modest (Bonnie, 2016).

Since President Xi Jinping assumed the presidency in 2013, China's foreign policy has undergone a significant adjustment in response to these accusations. In his address to the Communist Party of China's 19th National Congress in 2017, he outlined the contours of the

change. President Xi Jinping stressed that China has achieved great success as it rose. The country became richer and stronger. It is time to take center and global stage and make a greater role to humanity. This suggests that it is unjustified for China to be away of global leadership, which underlies Xi Jinping's intent to take on a more proactive method to global affairs. He had a resilient belief in the national renewal of his country, which is known as the Chinese Dream. The Chinese Dream: The Chinese Dream is a term closely linked with Chinese President Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China. Xi began promoting the term as a slogan during a high-profile tour of an exhibition at the National Museum of China in November 2012, shortly after taking over the party leadership. The essence of the Chinese dream is, in the words of the president himself, a wealthy and influential country that revitalizes the nation and promotes people's well-being. Besides the dream, the cornerstone of Xi Jin's thinking is his advocacy of the principle of the Four Secrets, which he put forth systematically in 2018. The Four Secrets is a principle that was incorporated into the Communist Party Constitution of 2017 and advocated in 2018. It includes four directions of trust on the way “confidence in the direction of socialism with Chinese characteristics and confidence in its future.” “trust in theory” is the trust in the scientific, true and original nature of a theory Socialism with Chinese attributes “Trust in the System” is the trust in the advanced and superior nature of the Chinese socialist system. “Trust in Culture” is a complete affirmation of the value of Chinese culture and belief in its vitality. He stressed that China and its citizens ought to have faith in the socialist path, theory, system, and culture. China's trust has encouraged its leaders to act more decisively, so the waning effect of the strategy of peaceful rise and development became evident. China has vastly indicated its resolve to China aspirations to a rising authority. The foreign policy of China was

reoriented towards a more insistent path in foreign affairs with Xi Jin's so-called "wolf warrior" diplomacy as well as his defense of the Chinese Dream. China has recently adopted a new diplomacy described as "wolf warrior" diplomacy. Chinese officials are taking a more assertive stance against criticism of their country. AFP reported that the days of China's "shadow diplomacy" are over. It is the diplomacy promoted by the late Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, who said that Beijing should "hide its strength and slow down". (Berlie, 2022)

It could be said that the Belt and Road Initiative was the Century Project of China which was one of the most important programs set by Chinese President Xi Jinn in 2013, which included the new land and sea Silk Road. The invitation by China to the Belt and Road Initiative, according to the Chinese president, aimed to promote a new kind of global ties featuring win-win cooperation with Belt and Road countries. According to the Chinese president, this view of China was not related with out-of-date geopolitical maneuvers, because China has no intentions of interfering in the internal affairs of other countries, exporting China's social order, or imposing China's will on others. On the other hand, some regard President Xi Jinping as the architect of China's current globalization and have the sincere will to improve the Belt and Road Initiative. (Berlie, 2022).

The American McKinsey Institute supports a global view for China in which China has made clear that it wants to take the lead on global issues through guiding principles, educating, and preparing the workforce for the adjustments of labor market, and prioritizing investment in human capital. In addition, digital infrastructure and devices are brought to other developing countries and to lead global innovation in areas, especially artificial intelligence. If China adopts a leadership role, it will move towards encouraging a wave of

investment and enhancing global confidence in the future of globalization. (McKinsey, 2018)

The shift in Chinese foreign policy and its geo-economic attack from Washington's point of view has led to the destabilization of the position of USA as a hegemonic authority in the Asia-Pacific region. Therefore, several strategies have been developed, starting with the Obama administration, which launched the Rebalancing Strategy, and aimed at demonstrating the continued commitment of USA to the Asia-Pacific region in a variety of military, economic, and diplomatic fields. It focused on containing China by relying on US friends and allies in the region. (Tow and Steward, 2015)

After the 2016 victory of US President Donald Trump in the presidential elections, Trump administration released the Indo-Pacific Oceans strategy. This strategy also focuses on China as a strategic opponent and revisionist force attempting to form up a world that is incompatible with American values and interests. By comparing China Belt and Road Initiative and the US-led "Free and Open Indo-Pacific Oceans strategy, it is clear that clash is the main feature of the long-term strategic competition between China and US. The vast confident Chinese leadership no longer need to reassure the world on the peaceful and non-threatening nature of China "rise". The tension between US and China is likely to perpetuate, as an effect of the vital conflict of strategic interests between the two sides in the coming decades. (Jiaiswal, 2021)

Accordingly, it can be said that the launch of the Belt and Road Initiative, along with President Xi Jinping's call for Asia and Pacific Ocean, does not reflect China obligation to help people get advantages around the world through economic incorporation and unified development. Alternatively, China Belt and Road Initiative can be interpreted as an indication of Beijing's rising confidence in its ability to present

China's route to economic growth as a competing development model on a global scale. In addition, the divergent "worldviews" stated by US and Chinese leaders denote a divergence and ultimately leading to a conflict of core strategic interests between China and US. On the one hand, China no longer desires to join the US-led world relations. On the other hand, the United States no longer considers China's integration to be desirable or viable in current situation. Chinese officials frequently view wolf-warrior diplomacy as more advantageous, possibly even essential, to advancing China's fundamental national interests and thwarting foreign meddling. It may be claimed that the more self-assured Chinese leadership is convinced that it is no longer essential to advocate for "peaceful rise and peaceful development" by portraying China's rise as naturally "peaceful" and "non-threatening."

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