

Abstracts

China's Strategic Needs for Africa in the Context of World Restructuring

Zhang Hongming

Abstract: Currently, the international system is undergoing profound changes. With the intensification of China – US strategic game, international politics is returning to the era of great power competition. As a rapidly rising global power, China is not only the most active factor influencing the change of international relations, but also injects powerful momentum into the restructuring of the world pattern. At the same time, the changes in the external environment are reshaping the relationship between other members of the international community and China, thus redefining China's international identity. As the “regional strategy” of China's national strategy and international strategy, Africa's position has not changed. However, with the adjustment of US policy towards China at the strategic level and the change of China's external environment and international situation, the importance of Africa's fundamental position in China's overall diplomacy has become more prominent. The focus of China's engagement in Africa together with its priority demand for Africa should also be adjusted against the background that the US is stepping up to repair its relations with allies to consolidate its diplomatic “base” and trying to introduce big power competition into Africa through “value identity”, thus squeezing China's diplomatic space. In a transitional environment, in addition to expanding and safeguarding China's interests in Africa, China's engagement in Africa also needs to cooperate with the strategic actions of China's overall diplomacy plan.

Key words: world pattern; great power competition; China – Africa relations; priority demand

Myth and Truth: China's Middle East Policy

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Abstract: During the Cold War, the great power competitions and the periodic international political interests were the main factors that decided China's Middle East policy. After the Cold War, great power competition was almost removed from the decision – making of China's Middle East policy, and the influence of

international political interests increased, while the importance of economic interests became increasingly prominent. China's political, economic and military cooperation with Middle Eastern countries has made steady progress. At present, the global competition between China and the United States is heating up. In the Middle East, the United States is constantly taking hostile rhetoric and deeds to counter China, and the speculation about the "Great competition between China and the United States" and "China replacing the United States" in the Middle East is gradually rising. In this regard, China should not only guard against the return of great power confrontation to the Middle East, but also appropriately reduce the dominant influence of international political interests on the decision-making of China's Middle East Policy. More importantly, transformation of China's Middle East policy is in urgent need, which include grasping the meaning of overall national security concept, focusing on long-term goals, promoting the organic combination of political, economic, and security measures, and gradually forming a relatively stable, independent and intrinsically consistent overall policy in the Middle East. This is the only way to safeguard China's long-term national interests.

Key words: China diplomacy; China's Middle East policy; Sino-American relations; overall national security concept

Let Facts Talk: On China's Infrastructure Cooperation with the Middle East
Zhang Chuchu

Abstract: China's infrastructure construction in the Middle East is an important element of China's overall collaboration with the Middle East, an important path for China to promote common prosperity of developing countries, and an important foundation to build a community of common destiny for all mankind. This article combines quantitative and qualitative research methods, and finds that China's infrastructure cooperation with the Middle East presents five trends: the improvement of cooperation mechanisms, strengthening of cooperation between the two sides, increase of project categories, diversification of collaborative agents, and broadening of financing forms. We argue that China's infrastructure collaboration with the Middle East is characterized by the multipolar, development-oriented, mutual benefit ideas, whereas Western countries' infrastructure diplomacy is characterized by the unipolar, security-oriented, and self-interested ideas. At

present, China's infrastructure cooperation with the Middle East countries has achieved fruitful results, but it still faces multiple risks such as political risks, security risks, legal and public opinion risks. In this context, it is important to deal with the risks from four dimensions: enhancing the controllability of risks, strengthening China's discourse influence, promoting two-way interaction, and promoting the tripartite cooperation system.

Key words: infrastructure cooperation; the Belt and Road Initiative; the Middle East; inclusive cooperation; mutual beneficial cooperation; developmental cooperation; risk control

The China – Arab States Expo: Origin, Contribution and Outlook

Yang Zishi

Abstract: The China – Arab States Expo is a new mechanism of China – Arab States economic and trade cooperation under the framework of the China – Arab States Cooperation Forum. After 10 years of exploration and practice, China – Arab States Expo has become an important platform for China and Arab countries to jointly build the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The major contribution of the China – Arab States Expo is that it enriches the connotation of China – Arab collective cooperation, provides an example mechanism for the local level to expand international economic and trade cooperation, and promotes a more balanced and effective pattern of local cooperation with Arab countries in a certain sense. In the context of the overall upgrade of China – Arab relations to a “strategic partnership”, the high-quality BRI cooperation between China and Arab countries has ushered in a period of strategic opportunities for accelerating development. In the new era, China – Arab States Expo should seize the critical period for the further development of China – Arab ties, uphold the concept of promoting Community with a Shared Future for China and Arab States, continue to take on historical responsibility of consolidating and expanding bilateral trade and economic cooperation, fulfill the duties as a practitioner of the state's overall diplomatic strategy, a facilitator of national enterprises participating in China – Arab cooperation, and an integrator of information about the Arab world, finally making new contributions to “Dual Circulation” on markets and resources between China and the Arab States.

Key words: economic and trade cooperation between China and Arab states; China –

Arab states Expo; the Belt and Road Initiative; Ningxia

Characteristics, Evolution and Impact of Social Media in Social Movements in the Arab World

She Gangzheng & Jing Jiayi

Abstract: In the past ten years, the Arab world has witnessed two waves of social movements, and in both cases social media has played an important role. On the basis of reviewing related researches on social media and social movements, this article adopts an interdisciplinary approach that combines political sociology and communication, trying to reveal the changes in the Middle East over the last decade through the three-dimensional analysis of “tools – people – content” with a particular focus on important characteristics, evolution, and impact of social media. In the context of upgrade from the PC Internet driven by “social network” to the Mobile Internet with “scene” as the core, the popularization of smart phones and videos in communication tools, the fact that women continue to speak out in the adversity of increasing gender gap, as well as the intensification of information warfare in terms of content and the “weaponization” of the platform have become prominent features of social media in current social movements in the Arab world. In the face of the current situation of technology monopoly and information flows manipulation by the West in general and the United States in particular, the Arabs need to take a more comprehensive and cautious approach to media technology empowerment, and find a way to secure their independence regarding public discourse. All these findings could help us better grasp the issues and direction of social governance in Arab countries.

Key words: Middle East upheaval; Arab countries; social movements; social media; communication technology; media environment

Bank Misr and the Building of Egyptian Economic Nationalism (1920—1939)

Li Fangzhou

Abstract: Bank Misr, an important economic institution in Egypt between the two World Wars (1920—1939), was established in 1920 by the famous Egyptian entrepreneur, Tal’ at Harb, who aimed to utilize bank capital to create new industries and realize the independence and diversification of economy. Bank Misr was built under the background that Tal’ at Harb’s nationalism came into being,

when Egypt entered the world market and when its economy stepped in a new era. The financial practice of the bank is a historical attempt to construct Egyptian economic nationalism. Bank Misr developed the history paradox of “super politics”, leading it to the developmental crisis. Though Bank Misr couldn’t realize Tal’ at Harb’s primary goals, its initiated practice of Egyptian economic nationalism played an important role in driving the independence of Egyptian economy and establishing the position of the country in economic development and developing economy in Arab countries.

Key words: economic nationalism; Egypt; Bank Misr; Tal’ at Harb

Turkey Sending Troops to Libya and Its Influences in the Context of the New Maritime Policy

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Abstract: Once a maritime superpower of the Mediterranean Sea, the Black Sea and the Red Sea, Turkey’s economic, industrial and military strength has grown rapidly since the 2010s, and with the discovery of massive amount of natural gas at the Eastern Mediterranean, the power struggle between global and regional powers have become more intense. After more than a century of low – profile development in the continent, Turkey proposed the “Blue Homeland” from a pragmatic perspective, made a new maritime policy, tried to expand its maritime sphere of influence, and confronted global and regional powers to protect its own economic and geopolitical interests. To beef up maritime presence, Turkey improved the legal status of the exclusive economic zone, signed maritime and military agreements with the Government of National Accord of Libya and launched military intervention, so as to counter the international powers like the EU, Russia and Egypt. The reconstruction of the power landscape at the Eastern Mediterranean is likely to usher in long – term conflicts, and military tension or international negotiations based on new scenarios are also likely to take place.

Key words: international relations of the Middle East; Turkey; Eastern Mediterranean; “Blue Homeland”; Libya; military action

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