

Research on the Impact of Big Country Agent Strategy on the "the Belt and Road"

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Abstract: The major initiatives of the "Silk Road Economic Belt" and the "21st Century Maritime Silk Road" have become the broadest platform for international cooperation in line with the trend of economic globalization, and an initiative in line with the world's multipolar development, cultural diversity and social informatization. The proposal of the "the Belt and Road" has made the world economy more globalized, more efficient in allocating resources and more deeply integrated into the market. The principle of the "the Belt and Road" initiative is to discuss, build and share together, promote infrastructure construction and connectivity, strengthen economic policy coordination and development strategy docking, promote coordinated and inter-connected development, achieve common prosperity, and jointly build a community with a shared future for mankind. However, in the context of the implementation of the agent strategy by major countries, the "the Belt and Road" has been greatly affected in terms of economy, culture, resources, finance, security, etc. This paper comprehensively analyzes the profound impact of agent strategy on the "the Belt and Road" initiative worldwide, and it can be seen that the "the Belt and Road" is based on the position of China and countries along the Belt and Road, comprehensively strengthening economic cooperation among countries along the Belt and Road, and promoting high-quality economic and trade cooperation among countries along the Belt and Road.

1 Introduction

Since the implementation of the "the Belt and Road" initiative for more than nine years, positive progress and a series of major achievements have been made, a wide range of infrastructure networks and economic and trade patterns based on industrial chains and supply chains have been formed, a number of landmark livelihood projects have been created, and the sense of gain and happiness of the people in the co construction country has been enhanced [1]. At present, China has signed more than 200 cooperation documents with 149 countries and 32 international organizations to jointly build the "the Belt and Road", covering connectivity, trade, investment, finance, society, science and technology, humanities, people's livelihood and other fields. Moreover, the "the Belt and Road" initiative has been discussed in the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council for many times, and has been included in relevant resolutions. The General Assembly resolution has gradually transformed the "the Belt and Road" initiative from concept to action, from vision to reality, and is building the broadest international cooperation platform conforming to the trend of economic globalization, so that the joint construction of the "the Belt and Road" can better benefit the people of all countries.

China has become a major trading partner of more than 140 countries and regions, with the total volume of trade in goods ranking first in the world, attracting foreign capital and foreign investment ranking first in the world, forming a pattern of opening up to the outside world in a wider range, broader fields and at a deeper level.

2 Threats and challenges facing the "the Belt and Road" in the context of agent strategy

Some western countries led by the United States have always been wary of the "the Belt and Road" initiative. Psychologically, there are always people who are used to viewing China from a negative perspective and even want to curb its role and influence; In terms of action, a few countries are determined to build a "small courtyard and high wall" and a "parallel system", and are keen to engage in exclusive "small circles" and "small groups" [2]. Since the Biden administration took office, in order to respond to the "the Belt and Road" initiative, the United States, Europe, Japan and other countries have significantly strengthened policy coordination. In March 2021, Biden, in a call with British Prime Minister Johnson, proposed

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that democratic countries should jointly launch and formulate infrastructure plans similar to the "the Belt and Road" construction to compete with China, which is the means and methods of American agent strategy.

In Asia, the United States has also accelerated its return. In May 2022, Biden successively paid a visit to South Korea and Japan, attended the four party leaders' meetings in Tokyo, including Japan, the United States, Australia and India, and officially announced the launch of the US led "Indo Pacific Economic Framework". The member countries include 13 countries, including the United States, South Korea, Japan, India, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam and Brunei.

Faced with the rapid rise of China, the United States began to change its attitude towards India and actively develop the US India relationship, trying to shape India as a balance of power in the Asia Pacific to hedge against China's rise. Since then, the US India relations have been warming up, and the diplomatic and security interactions between the two countries have been particularly close. Some analysts pointed out that one of the key factors for the US and India to approach is to jointly prevent and contain China. In recent years, the United States has begun to make a contribution to the "Indo Pacific" strategy, trying to bring India into the alliance network that the United States has carefully organized in the Asia Pacific region. India is a key country in the US "Indo Pacific Strategy", because the other two partners, Japan and Australia, are both formal allies of the United States. If India and the United States form allies, the United States can further implement its agent strategy by containing and suppressing China's "the Belt and Road" through India.

In the face of the COVID-19, the US strategic framework for China has shifted from traditional "contact+containment" to simple "containment" [3]. As a global challenge, how to properly respond to the epidemic is supposed to be an opportunity to repair China US relations, but the US side has taken the opposite approach and squeezed China even further. From "dumping the pot" China, the rumor of "virus source" was fabricated and spread, which made Asian countries who liked the United States deeply believe in the practices of the United States government and are willing to step forward to suppress and contain China for the United States, fully demonstrating that the United States government and means to contain China has become the clear strategic orientation of the United States, and the strategic position that regards China as the main strategic opponent is not to shift from the epidemic situation, but to form a broad consensus in its country. The confrontation between China and the United States has become more prominent.

In recent years, the United States, alone or together with its allies, has put forward competitive energy and infrastructure construction initiatives with the "the Belt and Road Initiative", significantly increased capital investment in the "Indo Pacific" region, and strengthened cooperation with financial institutions in Japan and Australia [4].

In 2019, the US Department of Defense issued the Indo Pacific Strategy Report, which emphasized the need to accelerate the development and forward deployment of the

US Army's multidisciplinary task force, establish cooperation by using the security force assistance team, strengthen the capability of transnational teams, and deepen the relationship between the Indo Pacific region and its allies. In order to solidify its position in the Indo Pacific region, the United States has clearly established a regional partnership network in the Indo Pacific region to expand effective cooperation between the United States and its allies in world competition, crises and conflicts. This includes strengthening the alliance with Japan, South Korea, Australia, Thailand and the Philippines; Expand cooperation with Singapore, Taiwan, China, New Zealand and Mongolia; Focus on the defense partnership with India in South Asia, and seek new partnerships with Sri Lanka, Maldives, Bangladesh and Nepal; In Southeast Asia, we focus on relations with Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, Laos and Cambodia. Among these countries, there are regional powers, medium powers, and countries and regions occupying key geographical positions. Strengthening cooperation with these countries and regions will obviously enhance the United States' agent strategic presence in the "Indo Pacific" region, and will balance China's expansion of influence not only from the sea, but also from the land.

In particular, the networking of regional security relations will enable the United States to break through the traditional "hub and spoke" system based on bilateral cooperation and build a strategic encirclement circle for China, thus worsening China's surrounding environment and bringing lasting and huge security pressure to the construction of the "the Belt and Road".

The conflict between Russia and Ukraine is a major event that affects the world pattern and the international order. The purpose of using the conflict between Russia and Ukraine is to curb China's development while suppressing Russia. In particular, China's proposal of the "the Belt and Road" has brought benefits to more than 100 countries along the line in the world. The stable geopolitical environment required for the construction of the "the Belt and Road" will also be threatened by the implementation of the proxy strategy. The United States and the West have increased their attacks on the "the Belt and Road" in terms of political system and ideology while playing games with Russia. The United States enhances the importance of South Pacific in its strategic layout, increases investment, strengthens military deployment, and increases economic and social assistance [5].

The goal of the U.S. agent strategy to deter the rising countries is to form a network system to encircle the opponents by using the agent as the fulcrum to extend its power, consume and consume the resources and strength of the rising countries, create trouble for the potential opponents, and constrain the ability and will of the latter to become the revisionist challenger. Make the challenger involved in the military conflict and support its enemies in the conflict, so as to use the hands of other countries to achieve the strategic purpose of weakening their opponents. The route of American agent strategy is to deal with the rising countries with the help of national and sub-national agents. Find regional allies or partner countries as agents, put regional countries at the critical point of disputes and conflicts, disperse the strategic resources and

concentration of the rising countries, increase the complexity of the surrounding security environment of the rising countries, support the regional opponents of the rising countries to exercise strategic control, and build a united front for control. The agents of sub-national actors are also the policy levers of the United States, supporting the rise of domestic opposition forces to subvert or separate activities, and hoping to weaken the opponents by using internal agents to carry out destructive activities. At the same time, in the third world, we should support agents to check and balance the local power of rising countries. The United States uses its local agents to deal with the policy initiatives carried out by the challenger countries in the Third World, involving supporting the opposition to fight against the current regime supported by the rising countries and supporting the anti-government forces supported by the pro-American regime to suppress the rising countries. The goal is to push back the power of the rising countries and maintain the leading power of the United States in specific regions. At the same time, the United States agent strategy aims to avoid direct war between hegemonic countries and rising countries, and the opposing relationship between the two sides is controllable.

3 China's coping strategies

The current global economic risks, security risks and debt risks are very prominent, but China's economic development is resilient and has a lot of room for manoeuvre. We should firmly grasp the geo economic value of the "the Belt and Road", regardless of the gains and losses of one place at a time, take a good and steady step in the construction of the "the Belt and Road" for a period of time in the future, optimize the construction ideas, and work steadily.

First, we should grasp the main theme of seeking progress while maintaining stability. In 2022, the central government proposed specific tasks for the joint construction of the "the Belt and Road": consolidate the foundation of connectivity cooperation, steadily expand new areas of cooperation, orderly carry out overseas investment cooperation, and effectively prevent overseas risks. This reflects the general requirements of the CPC Central Committee for making progress while maintaining stability in economic work, and is also the essence and main tone of the "the Belt and Road" construction.

The second is to establish the "the Belt and Road" path and rules for joint consultation, construction and sharing, and propose China's plan in terms of innovation of investment and financing modes, sharing of achievements and sharing of risks^[9]. Pay more attention to economic and social benefits. We should put training in the project and further make real investment. In the face of epidemic situation, climate change and the general trend of digital economy development, new growth points should be cultivated, and healthy "the Belt and Road", green "the Belt and Road" and digital "the Belt and Road" should be promoted. For example, Europe is currently facing a serious energy crisis and is accelerating the adjustment of its energy structure. China can seize the opportunity of new energy industry entering Europe, take the initiative in plan-

ning, promote China EU cooperation in photovoltaic, lithium battery and other fields, and negotiate to reactivate nuclear energy and other projects

Third, on the basis of joint discussion, joint construction and sharing, more emphasis is placed on solidarity and cooperation. Considering the comprehensive impact of the current international situation, we need to put more emphasis on the values of solidarity and cooperation. In the face of the interweaving and overlapping of the unprecedented changes in a century and the epidemic situation in the 20th century, the international voice of solidarity and cooperation is growing, but it has not become the policy choice of some major countries^[8]. On the contrary, major countries have repeatedly emphasized the "priority of their own countries", which has boosted political conservatism, trade protectionism, populism, anti globalization and other practices, thus leading to the rise of the "security dilemma" in international politics. The uncertainty of international cooperation has increased significantly, and the international system faces serious risks of disorder^[6]. Whether we are dealing with the epidemic that is still raging or recovering the global economy that is mired in a deep quagmire, we should stick to the road of solidarity and cooperation, and use practical actions to solve the Western criticism of our so-called "selfishness". Specifically, in the external communication link, to emphasize the concept of solidarity and cooperation, we need to find more common words and interests between China and the "the Belt and Road" countries^[10].

Fourth, avoid the EU turning to the United States and deepen trade cooperation between China and the EU. China should continue to strengthen ties with the EU through multiple channels and ways, and correctly establish cooperative relations with EU countries. First, China should further open its market, give EU enterprises more relaxed market access conditions, give more pre-access national treatment, and open more investment restrictions to increase the stickiness of EU enterprises to China. The second is to strengthen cooperation in the fields of climate neutrality and low-carbon transition, especially to accelerate the convergence of green classification standards between China and the EU, and launch the negotiation on the standardization of green bonds between China and the EU. Third, strengthen cooperation between China and the EU in the field of digital economy and digital governance, and support the EU in seeking digital autonomy. Fourth, promote the docking of the EU's "Global Networking Europe" strategy and the "the Belt and Road" initiative, and carry out infrastructure connectivity.

Fifth, expand new space for international cooperation and ensure energy and food security. In terms of energy: First, take the Russian-Uzbekistan conflict as an opportunity to speed up negotiations with Russia, purchase more oil and natural gas at more preferential prices, significantly increase China's strategic reserves, and further expand the Sino-Russian and Sino-Kazakhstan onshore oil and gas pipelines. Second, we should pay close attention to the situation in Central Asia to prevent the infiltration of the United States, causing political turmoil and damaging the operation of oil and gas pipelines. Third, negotiate with Russia on agricultural cooperation, encourage Russia to further expand the planting area of soybeans and other

crops lacking in China, and promise to conduct centralized procurement under the premise of ensuring quality, so as to reduce the dependence on imports from the United States. Fourth, in order to avoid the high import costs and the restrictions of other countries on grain exports, more land can be purchased or leased in eastern Russia and other overseas areas suitable for farming for large-scale grain production.

4 Conclusion

At the 29th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, President Xi Jinping stressed that we should strengthen economic and technological cooperation, accelerate digital green coordinated development, promote the transformation and upgrading of energy resources, industrial structure and consumption structure, and promote green economic and social development. To this end, we need to further spread the "the Belt and Road" initiative and make up for the shortcomings of "heart to heart communication" in a timely manner on the premise that "hard connectivity" and "soft connectivity" are both well done. The "the Belt and Road" initiative has made great contributions to the transformation of the economic development model of countries and regions along the Belt and Road and the improvement of people's living standards, enhanced political mutual trust, and reached new consensus in the development process. The "the Belt and Road" initiative provides a new way to solve problems and disputes. In the process of building its development, we should gradually enrich its content, expand its scope, and realize the Chinese Dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation at an early date. The "the Belt and Road" initiative is a practice of translating ideas into reality. In the era of economic "weakness", deepening the development of the "the Belt and Road" initiative has important theoretical value and practical significance [7]. At present, the agent strategy is one of the main means adopted by western countries. China is in the period of strategic development opportunities. The "the Belt and Road" strategy not only brings development opportunities to China, but also brings rare development platforms to surrounding countries. The impact of the agent strategy on the "the Belt and Road" should receive our high attention.

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