

President Xi Mobilizes China's Leaders for Silk Road Diplomacy

by William Jones

Dec. 1—Chinese President Xi Jinping assembled a large group of top national and regional leaders, as well as China's diplomats posted abroad, in Beijing on Nov. 29-29 for a "Conference on Work Relating to Foreign Affairs." His purpose was to brief them on China's New Silk Road diplomacy, which he described as a "win-win" approach for all nations, large and small. His remarks were in the spirit of the 1648 Treaty of Westphalia that ended the Thirty Years War: that each country should foster "the advantage of the Other." This approach is an explicit counter to the geopolitics of Washington and London, which leads only to war and economic collapse. The Westphalian policy, as Xi certainly realizes, is also the one that most benefits the nation that chooses to exercise it.

"We have advocated the building of a new type of international relations," Xi told the conference, "underpinned by 'win-win' cooperation; we have put forward and followed a policy of upholding justice and pursuing shared interests, and championed a new vision featuring common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security.

"We have endeavored to build a new model of major-country relations, put forward and practiced a neighborhood policy featuring amity, sincerity, mutual benefit, and inclusiveness, as well as a guideline on China's relations with Africa featuring sincerity, delivering outcomes, affinity, and good faith."

The conference was attended by top officials of the Chinese Communist Party's Politburo and Central Committee, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Commerce, the Ministry of Culture, the State Council, the People's Liberation Army General Staff headquarters, the Procuratorate, as well as officials from provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities; some enterprises and financial institutions under the direct management of the central government; ambassadors and representatives to international organiza-

tions; and commissioners of the Foreign Ministry to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the Macao Special Administrative Region.

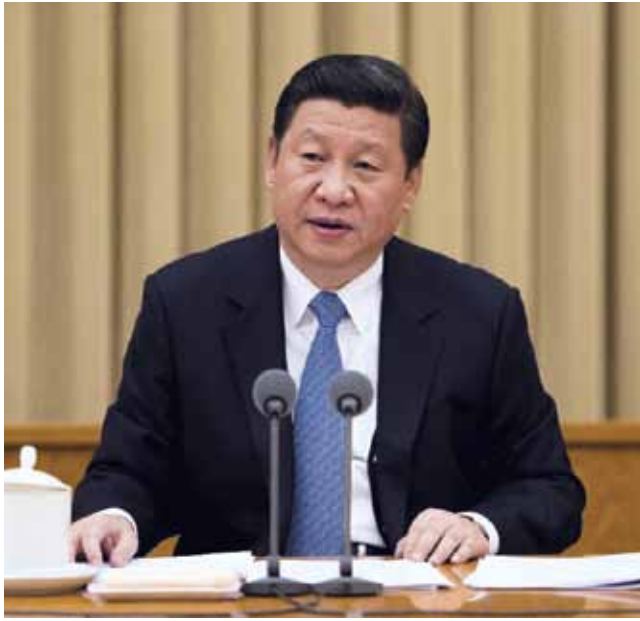
Xi's speech was a sober outline of both the new foreign policy potential opening up for China in the present world situation, and the threats to it. He urged Chinese officials to use this situation wisely in order to secure China's place in the world, a world which has not completely come to terms with China's rise as a major economic and political power.

International Tensions

As Xi was speaking, students in Hong Kong were being whipped up by political agitators, from both within and outside Hong Kong, to continue their attempts to completely shut down the Hong Kong economy until their demands are met to change the agreement on elections reached at the time the British turned over the former colony to China in 1997. Similar operations were ongoing in Ukraine, where the U.S. and NATO, working with fascist elements in Kiev, were doing their best to foment new "color revolutions" in Russia itself, one of the critical allies of China.

"We should be fully alert to the grave nature of international tensions and struggle," Xi said, "but we also need to recognize that peace and development, the underlying trend of our times, will remain unchanged. We should be keenly aware of the protracted nature of the contest over the international order. On the other hand, we need to recognize that the direction of reform of the international system will remain unchanged."

With the initiation of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the Maritime Silk Road projects last Summer, President Xi laid the basis for a new international order, one based on economic development and technological progress. The rapid economic growth of China, which has raised hundreds of millions of people out of poverty, would now be used to bring similar de-



Xinhua/Li Xueren

President Xi Jinping addresses a conference on diplomatic work, 2013.

velopment to China's neighbors and to the world at large.

Not mentioned explicitly, but critical to the outlook Xi presented, is the intensifying alliance between China and the other BRICS nations, especially Russia, for both defense against NATO/U.S. threats, and a development perspective for the world.

Opposition from London, Washington

This vision of a new Westphalian perspective has not, however, been welcomed by all. The Obama Administration, watchdog for the London-New York-based financial oligarchy, has responded with a chilly silence to President Xi's offer to join the new Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Silk Road Fund—an offer made personally by Xi to Obama in Beijing last month.

Xi stated at his press conference with Obama on Nov. 12: "These proposals and initiatives are open and inclusive in Asia; they are not exclusive. We welcome the active participation of the United States and other relevant countries so that together we can promote and share prosperity and peace in the Asia Pacific."

But the financial oligarchy is not happy to see its own bankrupt system undermined by the type of arrangements put together by China and its friends in the Asia-Pacific. They are prepared to fight tooth and nail to protect their system from any such "threats," and

seem willing to bring the world to the brink of thermo-nuclear war in that endeavor.

The Asia "pivot" of the Obama Administration—building up the U.S. Cold War alliances with Japan and others in order to contain China—and the fomenting of discontent in critical areas for China like Hong Kong and Xinjiang province, as well as NATO's war mobilization over Ukraine, are a part of that obstructionist policy. Thus the somber tone of President Xi's remarks to his colleagues.

The battle being conducted on the diplomatic front to win support for the New Silk Road policy is absolutely crucial in preventing that "battle" from being shifted onto the field of military conflict.

Championing the Developing Countries

President Xi's speech was meant to create a heightened awareness among the Chinese leadership and responsible party officials, as well as the diplomatic corps, of the tremendous importance of their endeavors. The attractive power of the Chinese initiatives, especially for the countries of the developing sector, which have endured the most devastating suffering from the futile attempt to bail out the bankrupt financial system, cannot be underestimated. Xi promised that even the least among these will not be forgotten, as witnessed by the amount of time he spent on a recent diplomatic mission to the Fiji Islands, as well as a large section of the South Pacific overall.

"We are firm in our position that all countries, regardless of their size, strength, and level of development, are equal members of the international community," Xi told the Beijing conference, "and that the destiny of the world should be decided by people of all countries. We should uphold international justice and, in particular, speak up for developing countries...."

"We should manage well relations with other major countries, build a sound and stable framework of major-country relations, and expand cooperation with other major developing countries. We should strengthen unity and cooperation with other developing countries, and closely integrate our own development with the common development of other developing countries."

"We should step up results-oriented cooperation, actively advance the building of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road, work hard to expand the converging interests of various parties, and promote win-win cooperation through results-oriented cooperation."

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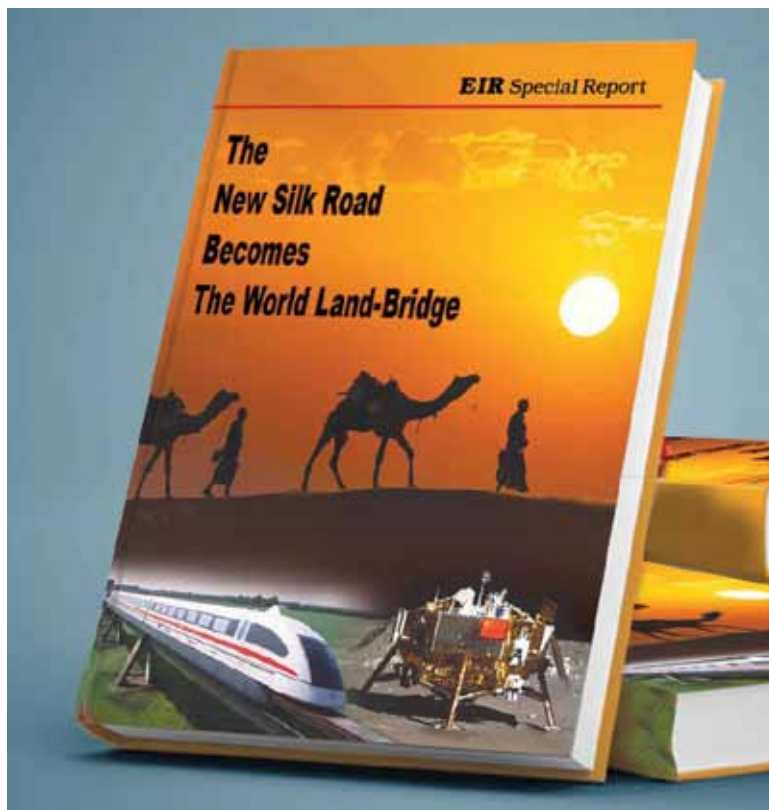
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