

# Thinking Big in a New Normal World



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*"The new normal world is fast approaching, and one may divine a profound shift as it will be a hegemon-free world."*



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# history allows no distortion

- 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II
- be a good occasion to reaffirm our shared commitment to peace and stability
- the world never reached a unified idea on how to confront the coming future

# a Quo Vadis moment

- conventional wisdom believes that a hegemon-dominated world is good for global peace and stability
- however, the facts tell an otherwise story
- the world witnessed one war after another, such as Iraqi war, Afghanistan war, and Libyan war

# a disturbing trend

- the world, nevertheless, witnessed one war after another, such as Iraqi war, Afghanistan war, and Libyan war
- 4 of the P5 have all engaged wars or conflicts one way or another
- a hegemony-dominated world lacks the balance and checks. It is easy for the hegemony to abuse its power and throw its weight around

# a hegemony-free world

- the new normal world is fast approaching, and one may divine a profound shift as it will be a hegemony-free world
- The world's center of gravity is increasingly shifting toward Asia, shaping a multipolar world

# seeking an alternative

- the emergence of the G-20 rather than the diminishing G-8 or G-7, has become the premier forum for discussing and monitoring international economic cooperation
- the rise of BRICS

# pivot hurts stability

- US's pivot toward Asia promised to bring stability to the region, but ironically, the United States alliance in Asia seems to have caused nothing but negative effects
- it not only deepens disunity in Asian countries but also weakens the regional willingness for economic cooperation



# a community of shared destiny

- explore policies for long-term peace and stability, and jointly promote development and prosperity
- with interests and security so closely intertwined, the world will swim or sink together and it is increasingly becoming a community of shared destiny

# China and US as Co-progressive partners

- no bilateral relationship, however, affects world security more than the emerging competition between China and the US
- one may fear that China's continuing rise may soon result in a classic rivalry between reigning hegemon and ascending challenger
- US must get used to China's rise

# avoid the Thucydides' trap

- to build a new model of great power relations with the United States
- signed treaties of good-neighborliness, friendship and cooperation with 8 of its neighbors and is holding discussion to sign the same treaties with ASEAN
- the Silk Belt and Road initiative and the AIIB are to boost Asia's infrastructure improvement, interconnectivity and regional cooperation

# peaceful settlement of disputes

- with 14 neighbors on land and 8 across the sea, China knows only too well that it depends on Asia for peace and development
- opting for peaceful settlement by parties directly concerned is a valuable experience learned by China through handling boundary and maritime issues in the past six decades
- China has settled boundary issues with 12 out of 14 land neighbors

# "dual-track" approach

- follows the "dual-track" approach
- fully and effectively implement the DOC and conclude a COC at an early date
- adopted the updated Code for Unplanned Encounters at Sea (CUES) at the Western Pacific Naval Symposium in 2014
- signed MOUs with the US on Notification of Major Military Activities Confidence-Building Measures Mechanism and regarding the Rules of Behavior for Safety of Air and Maritime Encounters

# constructive player or a filibuster

- the US is changing from a hegemon to a swinging power
- “Don’t do stupid things.” President Obama once said
- but does Washington listen
- refused to deliver the reform of IMF and WB reform

# get the future right

- China was criticized for not doing anything in the past. Critics describe China as a free rider enjoying the benefits but do very little
- ironically, China is now criticized for probably doing too much
- how to set China-US relationship onto the right path is consequential
- the challenges are best and can only be handled through a set of co-progressive policies



# Thank you

- Welcome your comments and questions.