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«The specifics of national practice in providing of international development and cooperation policy» (case of China)

Abstract. *In the article, the author considers the national models of modern international development and cooperation policy based on experience and specifics of China's approach. China's role and importance in contemporary international economic assistance programs is steadily increasing at bilateral and multilateral levels, including the appearance of such Global Initiatives as, Belt and Road, BRI (2013), Global Development Initiative, GDI (2021), and others. The global confrontation and fragmentation of international cooperation desperately require the elaboration of a new strategy for developed and developing countries. In this respect, the goal of this brief study is to deepen the knowledge on the mentioned topic among academic and business communities, students, and researchers, as well as NGOs. The historical roots of the foreign assistance policy of China, its content, principles, and philosophy present the integral parts of the publication. Special attention is devoted to the cultural component of the Chinese programs of international development policy, which differs them from other countries' practices.*

The author exploits mostly comparative analysis in his article as a theoretical method of study.

Keywords: *international development and cooperation policy, Chinese model of foreign assistance policy, Belt and Road Initiative, Global Development Initiative.*

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.32523/2616-6887/2023-144-3-47-52>

Received: 11.06.2022 / Accepted: 10.08.2023

Introduction

Understanding the relevance of the research of the identified problem in the context of current events in world politics, we consider it necessary to highlight its historical aspects. The long-standing history of the Chinese practice in providing international aid and cooperation policy consisted of various stages of the contemporary World's Politics and Economics development. In general, we think, it can be divided into the following phases:

From the 50's till 80's. There was no comprehensive strategy of foreign assistance and development policy. Assistance has been provided mainly through the «South-to-South

cooperation» dimension and case-by-case basis with other countries.

From the 80's till 2012. The break - of the Soviet Union and socialist countries system in combination with the opening of new markets and liberalization of foreign economic relations have substantially extended the range of the recipients of Chinese assistance and content of collaboration towards an increase of the development projects share in the Agenda of international cooperation

From 2012 till nowadays. New leadership and a new era of development in China and the introduction of the «Belt and Road» Initiative,, by the leader of China, President Xi Jing Pin has contributed to the elaboration of the renovated strategy of international development and cooperation

of China, including the establishment of local independent organization dealing with international development and cooperation program – «China International Development Cooperation Agency» in 2018. In 2021 the Chinese Government adopted the White Paper, titled «China’s International Development Cooperation in the New Era» - a basic program for future activity in this field. In 2021 the introduction of the Global Development Initiative was the continuation of active participation policy and contribution to the sustainable development of the World.

Methodology

The author exploits mostly comparative analysis in his article as a theoretical method of study. In the article, the analysis of the external policy models relies on the tradition of studying foreign policy based on behaviorism. Researching official documents concerning the sphere of foreign policy was an inalienable part of the research work. It is also necessary to note the importance of applying a historical analysis of the evolution of the Chinese model of foreign policy behavior.

The content and specifics of the Chinese model of international development and cooperation policy

At present, China’s international development/aid policy is on the rise, Foreign aid serves as an important instrument of China’s major-country diplomacy, a crucial component of China’s international strategy, and a significant arena for China to demonstrate its responsibility as a major country (Luo Zhaohui, China’s Foreign Aid and International Development Cooperation in Covid-19 Pandemic World CIDCA, China International Development Agency, 2022-06-14) [1].

Chinese global foreign aid expenditures increased steadily from 2003 to 2015, growing from the US’s 631 million in 2003 to the US’s 3 billion in 2015. Foreign aid and expenditures dropped sharply to US’s 2,3 billion in 2016, but have since rebounded to the US’s 2,94 billion in 2020 (China-Africa Research Initiative, John Hopkins University, 2023) [2]

China has its own understanding of international development and cooperation policy, that is different from the Western model of the mentioned policy. It has its own history, when during the 50s and 60s China, despite its limited resources and experience, used to provide assistance to poor, devastating countries as a gesture of «internationalism» and «solidarity» in their fight for liberalization and national independence. From the outset, even though China was itself short of funds, it started offering assistance to needy countries in support of their fight for national independence and liberation, and their effort to promote economic and social development, which laid a solid foundation for long-term friendship and cooperation with those countries (China’s International Development Cooperation in the New Era, the State Council Information Office of the People’s Republic of China, January 2021) [3]

China considers itself as a developing country. Unlike the Western approach based mainly on the North to South dimension, China’s priority in aiding goes to the traditional South to South direction. Development cooperation is a form of mutual assistance between developing countries. It falls into the category of South-South cooperation and therefore is essentially different from North-South cooperation. China is a staunch supporter, active participant, and a key contributor to South-South cooperation. It will continue to shoulder the international responsibilities commensurate with its development level and capacity, and further expand South-South cooperation, so as to promote joint efforts for common development, (China’s International Development Cooperation in the New Era, the State Council Information Office of the People’s Republic of China, January 2021) [4]

Following the abovementioned way of activity, China tries to avoid the definition, of foreign aid, and usually uses the term, international development cooperation, (but in some cases reflects this term), thus, focusing on wider and diverse contributions to the solution of social and economic problems of the developing countries. We can say – promoting «development for developing countries». This strategy surely does not exclude other forms of cooperation as urgent relief operations, urgent medical aid, and so on.

Since 2013, with the activation of the «Belt and Road» Global Project initiated by the President of China, H.E. Xi Jing Pin, and the joining of China the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the role of China has become greater and more influential in the global development program. President Xi has taken advantage of many major international occasions to announce a broad range of cooperation measures. These present China's approach, offer its vision and contribute its strength to resolving global development issues and implementing the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In response to the call of the times, China has been upgrading its foreign assistance to a model of international development cooperation, taking on new initiatives and achieving greater results in this new era. (China's International Development Cooperation in the New Era, the State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China, January 2021) [5]

In January 2021, the State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China presented a special Report on China's International Development Cooperation in the New Era (so-called «White Paper»), a document - extremely important for understanding the vision, principles, directions, priorities, and perspectives of the mentioned policy.

The mentioned White Paper of the Chinese Government defines international development cooperation as China's bilateral and multilateral efforts, within the framework of South-South cooperation, to promote economic and social development through foreign aid, humanitarian assistance, and other means. So, we can agree with the following observation, that the Chinese Government is adopting a more comprehensive understanding of its development efforts that includes important non-financial contributions, like intellectual support or technologies, and engagement with both bilateral and multilateral actors,, (by Zoe Jonhson, Raimund Zuhr «A New Era?» Trends in China s financing for international development cooperation, Donor Tracker Insights, May 10, 2021) [6]

As to levels/formats of cooperation, China provides a policy of a combination of bilateral and multilateral contributions with

traditional domination of two-way interaction. At the same time, an increased share of China's donations to international organizations and the enhanced importance of the country in the Global Governance Agenda, particularly during the pandemic crisis, justifies the fact of rising significance of the multilateral component of collaboration. Some examples: United Nations regular budget – China is the second-largest contributor after the United States second-largest contributor the UN Peacekeeping budget (between 2016-2020, China's share increased from 7% to 15%); donation to the World Health Organization reached 88 million US Dollars by 2019, an increase of more than 50% compared to 2014.

Alongside with the mentioned levels of cooperation, China has also introduced a triangular model of business relations. Triangular partnerships are a newer feature of Chinese development cooperation in which China collaborates with another country (usually a DAC donor) and supports a third country (by Anthea Mulakala, Ji Hongbo, Insights on China s 2021 White Paper on International Development Cooperation,, INAsia INSIGHTS AND ANALYSIS, February 17, 2021). Various international institutions are often invited by China as a part of this scheme of cooperation [7]

As to sectors of cooperation, China's priorities are linked with infrastructure, agriculture and trade, and relief and rescue operations. Some new fields such as health, climate, and education (training programs) become more important.

China has its own strategy for development finance based on various financial mechanisms. For example, the BRI includes commercial, non-commercial, financial, and non-financial contributions to development, some of which would be considered foreign assistance by China, some of which would qualify as ODA, and some of which could only be categorized as development finance more broadly (by Zoe Johnson, Raimund Zuhr «A New Era?» Trends in China s Financing for International Development Cooperation, Donor Tracker Insights, May 10, 2021) [8].

Chinese specifics of its international development and cooperation policy are closely connected with its cultural content,

national character, and philosophy of harmony. The fact that this aspect is fixed as the first provision of the mentioned White Paper is a clear manifestation of its paramount importance for the Chinese international cooperation Agenda.

Here are some abstracts in this regard from the White Paper:

Cultural and Philosophical Origins

China has a cultural foundation and national character that attach great importance to good faith, friendship, justice, and righteousness. This is an inherent force driving China's development cooperation, which is based on the following notions:

The Chinese nation's ideal of universal harmony. China pursues an ideal world where the Great Way rules for the common good, respects the principles of good neighborliness and harmony in relations with all other countries and advocates cooperation and mutual help. Deep-rooted in Chinese culture, these are the firm beliefs that inspire China's development cooperation. Upholding the belief that all countries are members of a global village with a shared future, China advocates fairer and more equitable international relations and steadfastly contributes to global development.

The Chinese idea of repaying kindness with kindness. The Chinese people will always remember the support and help that China has received from other countries and international organizations. Chinese culture admires those who return the favor of a drop of water in need with a spring of water. China is willing to share its successful experience without reservation to boost development in other places and benefit more countries and people.

China's Approaches to Development Cooperation (based on provisions of the White Paper)

Promoting a global community of shared futures is the mission of China's international development cooperation. Humanity shares a common stake in development, and world stability and prosperity cannot be achieved

unless developing countries can progress. By helping other developing countries reduce poverty and improve their people's lives, China works together with them to narrow the North-South gap, eliminate the deficit in development, establish a new model of international relations based on mutual respect, equity, justice, and win-win cooperation, and build an open, inclusive, clean, and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security, and common prosperity.

Pursuing the greater good and shared interests, with higher priority given to the former, is the underlying guideline. This represents one of China's cultural traditions and embodies its belief in internationalism. Under this guideline, China strives to make the cake of prosperity bigger and hopes developing countries will advance faster to share the opportunities and benefits offered by open development. Observing the principle of mutual benefit for win-win outcomes, it offers as much assistance as it can while taking into consideration the interests and needs of other developing countries.

South-South cooperation is the focus. In spite of China's tremendous achievements, two realities have not changed: China is in the primary stage of socialism and will remain so for a long time to come, and China is still the world's largest developing economy. China's development cooperation is a form of mutual assistance between developing countries. It falls into the category of South-South cooperation and therefore is essentially different from North-South cooperation. China is a staunch supporter, active participant, and key contributor of South-South cooperation. It will continue to shoulder the international responsibilities commensurate with its development level and capacity, and further expand South-South cooperation, so as to promote joint efforts for common development.

Belt and Road cooperation is a major platform. The Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road are significant public goods China offers to the whole world and a major platform for international development cooperation. China has joined hands with other countries to promote policy, infrastructure, trade, financial, and people-to-

people connectivity, to build the Belt and Road into a path towards peace, prosperity, opening up, innovation, green development, cultural exchanges, and clean government.

The newly introduced 2021 Global Development Initiative (GDI) of China should modernize the large-scale program of cooperation with the developing countries and contribute to the improvement of their social-economic performance during post-pandemic times.

Conclusion

The analysis of this issue allows to draw the following findings:

- The Chinese model of international development and cooperation policy reflects a special case in international economic relations, when a developing country (based on international status classification) assists the other developing economies and unlike the Western approach (mostly North to the South direction), particularly promotes South to South dimension of partnership.

- China's model also includes the combination of bilateral and multilateral (the United Nations Agencies and Funds) approaches to international aid policy, but the triangular mechanism has recently become more advanced.

- The cultural component in the Chinese development programs, in our opinion, presents an essential integral part of cooperation. This element differentiates these programs from other international practices.

- Infrastructural projects, the financial sector, medical emergency relief operations (especially during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis), training programs for human resources, etc. can be considered among the most important fields of cooperation.

- Despite the high expectations of the Developing World from the mentioned Chinese Global Initiatives (BRI and GDI), their successful implementation depends on the availability of financial and other resources for development projects and prospects of completion of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis and the crisis in Ukraine.

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Давид Апциаури

Қазақстан және Пекин халықаралық бизнес және экономика университеті, (UIBE), Қытай

«Халықаралық даму және ынтымақтастық саясатын қамтамасыз етудегі ұлттық практиканың ерекшелігі» (Қытай мысалында)

Аңдатпа. Мақалада автор Қытайдың тәжірибесі мен көзқарасының ерекшеліктеріне негізделген заманауи халықаралық даму мен ынтымақтастық саясатының ұлттық үлгілерін қарастырады.

Қытайдың қазіргі заманғы халықаралық экономикалық көмек бағдарламаларындағы рөлі мен маңыздылығы екіжақты және көпжақты деңгейлерде, соның ішінде «Бір белбеу – бір жол» BRI (2013), Global Development Initiative, GDI (2021) және т.б. Жаһандық қарама-қайшылық пен халықаралық ынтымақтастықтың бөлшектенуі дамыған және дамушы елдер үшін жаңа стратегияны әзірлеуді қажет етеді. Осыған байланысты ол осы қысқаша зерттеудің мақсаты: академиялық және іскерлік

қауымдастықтардың, студенттер мен зерттеушілердің, сондай-ақ үкіметтік емес ұйымдардың аталған тақырып бойынша білімін тереңдету болып табылады. Қытайдың сыртқы көмек саясатының тарихи тамыры, оның мазмұны, принциптері мен философиясы басылымның құрамдас бөліктері болып табылады. Қытайдың халықаралық даму саясатының бағдарламаларының мәдени құрамдас бөлігіне ерекше назар аударылады, бұл оларды басқа елдер тәжірибесінен ерекшелендіреді. Автор өз мақаласында зерттеудің теориялық әдісі ретінде негізінен салыстырмалы талдауды пайдаланады.

Түйін сөздер: халықаралық даму және ынтымақтастық саясаты, сыртқы көмек саясатының қытайлық моделі, белдеу және жол бастамасы, жаһандық даму бастамасы.

Давид Апциаури

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«Особенности национальной практики обеспечения политики международного развития и сотрудничества» (на примере Китая)

Аннотация. В статье автор рассматривает национальные модели современного международного развития и политики сотрудничества, основанные на опыте и специфике китайского подхода. Роль и значение Китая в современных программах международной экономической помощи неуклонно возрастают на двустороннем и многостороннем уровнях, включая появление таких глобальных инициатив, как «Пояс и путь», «Один пояс, один путь» (2013 г.), «Инициатива глобального развития», GDI (2021 г.) и других. Глобальная конфронтация и фрагментация международного сотрудничества отчаянно требуют разработки новой стратегии для развитых и развивающихся стран. В этом отношении цель этого краткого исследования – углубить знания по упомянутой теме среди академических и бизнес-сообществ, студентов и исследователей, а также НПО. Исторические корни политики внешней помощи Китая, содержание, принципы и философия составляют неотъемлемую часть публикации. Особое внимание уделено культурной составляющей китайских программ политики международного развития, отличающей их от практики других стран. В своей статье автор использует преимущественно сравнительный анализ как теоретический метод исследования.

Ключевые слова: политика международного развития и сотрудничества, китайская модель политики внешней помощи, инициатива «Пояс и путь», Инициатива глобального развития.

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Давид Апциаури – Елші, Қазақстан және Пекин халықаралық бизнес және экономика университетінің (UIBE) Қытай) профессоры, Қытай.