

МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЕ ОТНОШЕНИЯ INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

research article

DOI: 10.48612/RG/RGW.27.1.1

China's 'Three Global Initiatives' within the Framework of the 'Community of Shared Future for Mankind' Concept

Li Jingcheng ✉

Shenzhen University, Shenzhen, China

✉ jc.li@szu.edu.cn

Abstract. *The global geopolitical and geo-economics' situation is rapidly deteriorating, posing risks and challenges to development, security, and global governance. Ongoing hostilities threaten regional and global security, hinder human development, and cause irreversible damage. The concept of the Community of Shared Future for Mankind reflects China's commitment to a peaceful and mutually beneficial environment, offering a framework and practical measures to address international issues. The Community of Shared Future represents the direction for global development, aiming for common prosperity, sustainable peace, and mutual learning among civilizations. The paper examines three global initiatives of China in the development, security and civilisation fields, with an emphasis on the issue of strategic leadership in the realisation of the the "Community of Shared Future". Inductive and synthetic research methods are applied to uncover the facts, starting from the preconditions of world development and moving on to the need for a global conceptual framework and practical ways to realise it. The study shows that implementing the three global initiatives is strategically crucial for creating a Global Community of Shared Future. The basic principles, central vision and practical way of implementing the three initiatives were examined. The Global Development Initiative promotes commonness, cooperation, inclusiveness, openness, and innovation. The Global Security Initiative addresses the common security needs of the international community. The Global Civilization Initiative showcases China's willingness to engage with the world community, promoting equality, mutual appreciation, dialogue, and understanding of different civilizations. The findings indicate that the three global initiatives complement each other in achieving lasting peace, universal security, shared prosperity, openness, inclusivity, purity, and virtue. The initiatives furthered the conceptual framework for building a Community of Shared Future and demonstrated practical options for modernisation and development in addressing contemporary global challenges and promoting pluralistic models of global governance.*

Keywords: China's Political Philosophy; China's Diplomacy; Shared Future for Mankind; Global Development Initiative; Global Security Initiative; Global Civilization Initiative

Funding: The research was carried out with the support of the National Social Science Fund of China (No. 22CGJ048).

For citation: Li Jingcheng. China's 'Three Global Initiatives' within the Framework of the 'Community of Shared Future for Mankind' Concept. *Russia in the Global World*. 2024. Vol. 27. Iss. 1. P. 7–23. DOI: 10.48612/rg/RGW.27.1.1

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научная статья

УДК: 327

DOI: 10.48612/rg/RGW.27.1.1

«Три глобальные инициативы» Китая в рамках концепции «Сообщества единой судьбы человечества»

Ли Цзинчэн ✉
Шэньчжэньский университет, Шэньчжэнь, Китай
✉ jc.li@szu.edu.cn

Аннотация. Геополитическая и геоэкономическая ситуация в мире стремительно обостряется, создавая риски и проблемы для развития, безопасности и глобального управления. Продолжающиеся военные действия угрожают региональной и глобальной безопасности, препятствуют развитию человечества и наносят непоправимый ущерб. Концепция Сообщества единой судьбы человечества отражает приверженность Китая мирному и взаимовыгодному окружению, предлагая рамки и практические меры для решения международных проблем. Сообщество единой судьбы представляет собой направление глобального развития, нацеленное на всеобщее процветание, устойчивый мир и взаимное обучение цивилизаций. В данной статье рассматриваются три глобальные инициативы Китая в области развития, безопасности и цивилизации с акцентом на проблематику стратегического лидерства в реализации «Сообщества единой судьбы». Для выявления фактов используются индуктивный и синтетический методы исследования, начиная с предпосылок мирового развития и заканчивая необходимостью формирования глобальных концептуальных рамок и практических путей их реализации. Исследование показывает, что реализация трех глобальных инициатив имеет стратегически важное значение для создания Глобального сообщества единой судьбы. Рассмотрены основные принципы, центральное видение и практические пути реализации трех инициатив. Инициатива глобального развития способствует развитию общности, сотрудничества, инклюзивности, открытости и инноваций. Инициатива глобальной безопасности направлена на удовлетворение общих потребностей международного сообщества в области безопасности. Инициатива глобальной цивилизации демонстрирует готовность Китая взаимодействовать с мировым сообществом, поощряя равенство, взаимную признательность, диалог и понимание различных цивилизаций. Результаты исследования показывают, что три глобальные инициативы дополняют друг друга в достижении прочного мира, всеобщей безопасности, общего процветания, открытости, инклюзивности, чистоты и добра. Инициативы обогатили концептуальные рамки построения Сообщества единой судьбы и продемонстрировали практические варианты модернизации и развития в решении современных глобальных проблем и продвижении плюралистических моделей глобального управления.

Ключевые слова: политическая философия Китая; дипломатия Китая; сообщество единой судьбы человечества; инициатива глобального развития; инициатива глобальной безопасности; инициатива глобальной цивилизации

Финансирование: Работа выполнена при поддержке гранта Национального фонда социальных наук Китая (No. 22CGJ048).

Для цитирования: Ли Цзинчэн. «Три глобальные инициативы» Китая в рамках концепции «Сообщества единой судьбы человечества» // Россия в глобальном мире. 2024. Т. 27. Вып. 1. С. 7–23. DOI: 10.48612/rg/RGW.27.1.1

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Introduction

The world is currently experiencing significant changes, unlike any seen in the past century. In particular, over the last decade, the international geopolitical and geoeconomic environment has rapidly escalated and shifted towards an environment beyond the control of the global community, represented by the United Nations. As a result, risks, challenges, and volatility have emerged in the areas of development, security, and civilizational governance. Although their forms may differ, they share common features in exerting influence over global processes of peace and development. These features include hegemonism, power and military policy, continuous interference in the internal affairs of other countries, creating new hot spots in world regions, trade obstacles in the world economy, promoting ideological and military confrontation, and ultimately leading to real conflict. This domination of the world's resources of strategic importance for industry and existence is a cause for concern. The current geopolitical landscape is marked by conflicts between Ukraine and Russia, as well as between Palestine (Hamas) and Israel. Hostilities in the Middle East, particularly in Yemen and Lebanon, involve the US and its allies such as the UK, and are partly concerned with Iran and Pakistan. This situation highlights the intensification of strategic rivalry and confrontation of interests between the world and regional powers. Ongoing and prolonged military actions pose a significant threat to regional populations and the international security, reduce the opportunities for human development, and cause irreparable damage to the civilizational history of the peoples of these regions and of humanity as a whole.

However, it is important to highlight the impact of the previous pandemic on socio-economic development. The pandemic has brought significant issues to the forefront during its spread and duration. For example, measures such as lockdown and self-isolation, along with actions taken to protect territories, have led to a mindset of limiting interactions with others. The potential consequences of this situation include increased misunderstandings, friction, and conflicts in international relations, as well as a rise in de-globalization, heightened protectionism, and unilateralism in politics, economics, and trade. These repercussions extend beyond regional conflicts to encompass global energy and food crises. Additionally, the free flow of goods and supply chains have been significantly impeded and harmed. Despite the lifting of restrictive measures in most countries, there are still risks of both traditional and non-traditional natures. These risks are evident in the developmental imbalances between the East and West, as well as between developing and developed countries. Global cooperation remains fragile, and political dialogues are facing instability and unreliability.

Against this background, China, as a significant actor in international relations with substantial political and economic interests beyond its borders, reiterates its long-standing concept of the Community of Shared Future for Mankind, which was proposed to the world in 2013. Under this concept, countries are encouraged to work together to create true multilateralism and address global and regional challenges in development, security, and civilization.

The topic of this article was chosen purposefully. It is the creation of a Community of Shared Future for Mankind, which points out the right direction for the development of the world community, leading to common development, lasting peace and security, and mutual learning among civilizations. The researcher aims to investigate the issue of 'strategic guidance' in the implementation theory of the Community of Shared Future for Mankind, what are China's global initiatives on development, security and civilization, what are their forms of reflection, and how do they relate to the concept of the Community of Shared Future itself.

Methods and Materials

This study utilizes the inductive method to uncover the facts of individual events, from the preconditions of global development to the necessity of forming

conceptual frameworks and practical ways to implement them. The main theoretical and documentary bases of China's global development, security, and civilization initiatives are analyzed using a synthetic method to reconstruct the scientific discourse of each initiative. The comparative toolkit is used to identify the advantages and potential opportunities for interfacing with global development initiatives and projects.

The scientific literature on the 'Community of Shared Future for Mankind' is quite extensive and complete among Chinese authors such as Wang Yiwei [1], Shao Fajun [2], but it is also of great interest and focus in political and foreign policy discourse [3]. Due to the origin of the three global initiatives in China, there is a large and rapidly updated scholarly and journalistic literature base that is accessible to readers outside of China [4].

Russian authors attempt to demonstrate the multifaceted nature of the Community of Shared Future in their works, examining the basic idea of the shared future [5], approaching this concept from the perspective of Chinese diplomacy in the new era [6], considering the concept as the "engine of Eurasian development" [7], and many other works devoted to the Community of Shared Future from the perspective of state and global governance. Regarding studies on global development, security, and civilization, Russian scholars prioritize the security initiative. The researching of V.E. Petrovsky and A.A. Perminova present the main views of Chinese political scientists and conclude that the Chinese security initiative would share the Russian approach to global and regional security governance [8]; on the other hand, China has taken a position as a state that offers peace initiatives in times of conflict [9].

Results

The concept of the Community of Shared Future for Mankind is deeply rooted in the political philosophy of both ancient and contemporary China. Since the early 21st century, China has actively promoted peaceful development, as articulated in the White Paper on China's Peaceful Development (2011): Countries of different systems and different types and at various development stages are in a state of mutual dependence, with their interests intertwined [10], emphasizing the global interconnectedness of people. President Xi Jinping first introduced the concept in a speech at MGIMO University in 2012, and by the end of that year, it was officially adopted as policy in the Report of the 18th CPC Congress. Over the past decade, the concept has evolved. In 2015, Xi

Jinping presented a five-point proposal during his speech at the general debate of the 70th session of the UN General Assembly. He further outlined five goals for peace in his speech at the UN Office at Geneva in 2017, signaling a consistent expansion in the depth and scope of the vision [11].

The concept of Community of Shared Future for Mankind is frequently encountered in various multilateral forums involving China. Moreover, this concept has been incorporated into key Chinese documents on multiple occasions, emphasized by the country's leaders and foreign representatives. As stated at The Central Conference on Work Relating to Foreign Affairs in November 2023, the establishment of a Global Community of Shared Future for Mankind aims for an open, inclusive, clean, and beautiful world of lasting peace, universal security and common prosperity, promoting global governance through broad consultations and joint contribution for the greater good, guided by the principle of applying the common values of humanity, with the foundation of fostering a new type of international relations, strategically led by the implementation of the Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative, and Global Civilization Initiative, with the Belt and Road Initiative serving as the platform for action [12].

Global Development Initiative

In September 2015, a new agreement containing 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) and 169 targets was approved at the United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development, replacing the Millennium Goals set in 2000 [13]. Eight years later, in September 2023, the Summit on SDGs took place during the high-level week of the United Nations General Assembly. The new report on the SDGs for 2023 presented at the Summit indicates that out of 36 goals considered, only 2 are on track to be achieved, and progress towards 8 goals is deteriorating [14]. It is evident that the implementation of SDGs is progressing too slowly and inconsistently, and under current conditions, the majority of SDGs will not be achieved by the 2030 deadline.

In September 2021, President Xi Jinping put forward the Global Development Initiative (GDI) during the debate of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly, with its six key principles being [15]:

- 1) development as a priority;
- 2) people-centered approach;

- 3) benefits for all;
- 4) innovation-driven development;
- 5) harmony between man and nature;
- 6) results-oriented actions.

The GDI calls for the creation of a global development community, promotes concerted efforts by the international community to address common development challenges, advances the restoration of global economic-trade and politico-consultative relationships post-pandemic, and aims to accelerate the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Agenda for the period up to 2030. The six principles outlined in the GDI have current significance for global governance and the practice of contemporary multilateralism in order to navigate through complex situations and ensure greater stability in an unsettled and rapidly changing world.

At the High-Level Dialogue on Global Development in June 2022 [16], President Xi Jinping proposed to establish a development model based on inclusive and balanced development, coordination and inclusiveness, win-win cooperation, and common prosperity. The Chair's Statement [17] was published after the Dialogue, detailing the key concepts and principles of implementing the GDI, specifying cooperation directions in eight key areas, proposing 32 practical measures by China and other partners to implement the Initiative, enriching the action frameworks.

The Global Development Initiative has received a positive response and support from numerous countries and international organizations. In January 2022, the "Group of Friends of the Global Development Initiative" was established at the UN headquarters in New York, with the participation of about 70 countries. On the occasion of the second anniversary of the Global Development Initiative in April 2023, a high-level meeting on showcasing new progress of the GDI was held at the UN headquarters [18], during which representatives and experts from different countries comprehensively analyzed the principles and global significance of this initiative and its results. Over the course of two years, China has carried out a series of major events to implement the Initiative, including the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund and the Global Development Promotion Center, and actively contributed

to efforts to increase contributions to the United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund (UNPDF) and the creation of an open project pool.

In accordance with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, under the GDI eight key areas of cooperation have been established, including poverty reduction, food security, pandemic control, development financing, climate change, and the digital economy. As a result, the GDI has garnered support from over 100 countries, as well as the United Nations and other international and regional organizations. Over 100 early harvest collection projects have been implemented, benefiting more than 60 developing countries. Furthermore, the GDI has been included in a number of cooperative documents between China and Central Asia, ASEAN, Africa, Latin America, and Pacific island countries, totaling more than 20 nations.

The right to development, as stated in the United Nations approved Declaration on the Right to Development (1986), emphasizes that this right is "an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development," and underscores the need for international cooperation - " States have the duty to take steps, individually and collectively, to formulate international development policies with a view to facilitating the full realization of the right to development" [19]. Being a new type of international public product, the GDI embodies commonness, collaboration, inclusiveness, openness, and innovation. China has provided assistance to the development of more than 160 countries, is joining efforts with over 150 countries for the joint construction of the "Belt and Road Initiative", and continues to collaborate with more than 100 countries and international organizations to promote the GDI [20].

Global Security Initiative

"Global development is impossible without a peaceful and stable international environment" [21]. In April 2022, President Xi Jinping delivered a keynote address at the annual Boao Forum for Asia, proposing a Global Security Initiative (GSI). The initiative has the following goals and visions [22]:

1) Adhere to the concept of common, comprehensive, collective, and sustainable security and jointly ensure peace and security worldwide;

2) Respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, respect the paths of development and social systems chosen independently by the peoples of all countries;

3) Adhere to the UN Charter, reject the "Cold War" mentality, oppose unilateralism, refrain from bloc politics and confrontational alliances;

4) Attach importance to the legitimate security concerns of all countries, uphold the principle of indivisible security, build a balanced, effective, and sustainable security architecture, and oppose building national security at the expense of the security of other countries;

5) Resolve disputes and differences between countries through dialogue and consultation, supporting all efforts conducive to peaceful crisis resolution, refraining from double standards, and opposing the abuse of unilateral sanctions and "long-arm jurisdiction";

6) Maintain security in both traditional and non-traditional areas, as well as work together on regional disputes, terrorism, climate change, cybersecurity, biosafety, and other global issues.

The Chinese GSI is based on "the question of our time": what concept of security the world needs and how all countries can achieve common security [23]. The GSI reflects the common needs of the international community in the field of security in new conditions and responds to the common aspirations of the international community for peace, cooperation, and development.

In February 2023, the Chinese government released The Global Security Initiative Concept Paper [24], which fully presents six key concepts and principles of China in the field of global security:

- A comprehensive, all-encompassing, cooperative, and sustainable security concept;

- Respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries;

- Adherence to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter;

- Giving high importance to the legitimate security concerns of all countries;

- Resolving differences and disputes between countries through dialogue and consultations and peaceful means;

– Comprehensive security assurance in both traditional and non-traditional spheres.

The conceptual document proposes the creation of a global security community and systematically explores key areas of cooperation in the field of international security across 20 domains, including the role of the UN and leading powers in security, preventing nuclear war and arms races, promoting political resolutions to international conflicts, supporting mechanisms for regional security cooperation, maintaining regional security in the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America, focusing on non-traditional security such as food and energy, as well as security cooperation in emerging areas such as biology, artificial intelligence, the global ocean, and outer space.

The GSI emphasizes that humanity is an indivisible security community, and its formulated concepts and principles demonstrate China's determination and responsibility to the international community, promoting reforms in the global security governance system and the creation of a Community of Shared Future for Mankind.

Global Civilization Initiative

After the pandemic, the global economy has finally embarked on the long-awaited recovery. However, recent years have seen an activation of the Cold War mentality under the guise of "America First" and "civilizational supremacy" policies, leading to a blatant interference in the domestic affairs of world countries, escalation of geopolitical tensions, and military actions in many regions. In this context, a number of countries strongly advocate the concept of "diplomacy of values," encompassing both the politico-economic and cultural-ideological vision of a Western-centric world order. As noted by the Chinese scholar Wang X., security is a prerequisite for development, development is the driving force for security, and civilization is the foundation for development and security. At the same time, development and security are the path along which civilization advances and moves forward [25]. The egocentric policies significantly hinder normal exchange and communication between human civilizations.

China, as a modern global power with a millennia-old civilization, utilizing ancient wisdom and political philosophy, presents its own view of civilizations. For example, in March 2014, at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, China's leader called on the world community to promote exchanges and

mutual understanding between civilizations, considering their diversification and uniqueness [26]. China's approaches to inter-civilizational dialogue with a Confucian orientation have been recognized by the international community as a "new civilizational paradigm" [27].

In order to strengthen humanitarian exchanges and promote mutual understanding among different peoples and cultures of the world, China is committed to developing global mechanisms such as the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA), the Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations (CDAC), as well as ongoing humanitarian cooperation within BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). This has become an important component of multilateral cooperation in contrast to politics and economics. It is within these multilateral platforms that China's position on promoting understanding of human civilizations repeatedly articulates and embodies new realities in the realization of true multilateralism, from the establishment of an Asian Community of Shared Future to the Global Civilization Initiative.

Another prominent example is the Chinese reconciliation of Iran and Saudi Arabia. On March 10, 2023, the two countries signed a historic agreement in Beijing to restore diplomatic relations, presenting an application of Chinese philosophy in addressing acute global issues with "historic, political and civilizational differences." Exactly five days later, on March 15, the CPC in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-level Meeting took place, during which General Secretary Xi Jinping delivered a speech introducing the concept of "Global Civilization Initiative" (GCI) for the first time [28]. This initiative becomes the third significant opponent of the "three global initiatives," following the Global Development Initiative and Global Security Initiative, which China offers to the world community as an international public product. The GCI is based on four basic principles:

- 1) Respect for the diversity of world civilizations;
- 2) Promotion of the common values of all humanity;
- 3) Giving significance to the heritage and innovations of civilizations;
- 4) Strengthening international humanistic exchanges and cooperation.

Apparently, the GCI was put forward in response to post-pandemic instability in the global order, expressing China's readiness to open up and continue dialogue and cooperation with the global community, emphasizing equality, mutual

appreciation, dialogue, and inclusiveness in the process of bringing civilizations and peoples closer. Faced with new challenges, the GCI advocates for the preservation of traditional values and historical and cultural heritage through modern innovative means, and countries should make joint efforts to multiply the results of humanitarian exchanges and mitigate the consequences of clashes and conflicts between civilizations. Implementation of the GCI could contribute to multipolarity and the prosperity and development of the world.

Conclusion

In the face of the improbability of the future development of the global system and significant geopolitical and geoeconomic shifts, in response to the question of our time – "What is wrong with the world and what are we going to do about it?" – The Chinese concept of Community of Shared Future for Mankind embodies China's comprehensive vision of contemporary modernization and civilizational appreciation among the peoples of the world. It proposes a series of long-term strategic programs, starting with the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and extending to three global initiatives in the areas of development, security, and civilization. The year 2023 marked the tenth anniversary of the BRI, and at the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) more than 150 countries and 40 international organizations came together to deepen international cooperation and practice a model of intercivilizational connectivity. International interactions through the BRI have opened new chapters of golden development. As for the implementation of the Global Civilization Initiative, it is impossible without coordination with Global Development and Security Initiatives, given the close interconnectedness of the global community. In view of a strong world, universal security, common prosperity, openness and inclusiveness, purity and beauty, the three global initiatives complement each other. They have not only enriched the conceptual basis for the creation of a Community of Shared Future for Mankind, but also demonstrated practical modernization and development options for addressing current global issues and promoting pluralistic models of global governance.

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Сведения об авторах / Information about authors

Li Jingcheng – PhD, Assistant Professor, College of International Studies, Institute of Area and International Communication Studies at Shenzhen University.
E-mail: jc.li@szu.edu.cn

The author declares no conflict of interests.

Ли Цзинчэн – доктор наук, ассистент-профессор Института международных исследований, Института регионоведения и международной коммуникации. Шэньчжэньский университет.

E-mail: jc.li@szu.edu.cn

Автор заявляет об отсутствии конфликта интересов.

*Статья поступила в редакцию 12.02.2024. Одобрена после рецензирования 19.02.2024. Принята 23.02.2024.
Received 12.02.2024. Approved after reviewing 19.02.2024. Accepted 23.02.2024*