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The history of Chinese–Russian relations’ development since 1990s

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Abstract. *The article deals with the challenges that the Chinese-Russian relations have faced recently. Over the past 30 years, the partnership between China and Russia has continued to develop steadily and got stronger progressively under the joint governance and initiative of both states’ leaders. Therefore, the purpose of the article is to reveal and evaluate the current economic situation and the prospects for economic and trade relations between China and Russia by analyzing four economic stages. In order to achieve the goal, the following tasks have been set: - to discuss Chinese-Russian historical regional cooperation; - to compare the four stages of cooperation history; - to analyze the present situation, the problems and obstacles that arose and their solutions. The relevance of the topic is connected with the Sino-Russian economic and trade cooperation development, which is gaining peace nowadays. The author discusses both the history of Sino-Russian relations’ development and the problems that have appeared since 1992. The conclusion has been drawn that the trade relationship with Russian companies is to be promoted steadily and progressively. However, the foreign trade companies of China should not only cooperate with Russian foreign enterprises in order to strengthen the concept of cooperation, but also improve the image of Russian business in China. Furthermore, it is important to strengthen the awareness of both quality and law. The states should pay greater attention to the process of the in-depth implementation of the Asian-Pacific Economic development strategy.*

Keywords: China; Russia; Sino-Russian history; trade and economic cooperation; economy; WTO

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История развития китайско-российских отношений в 1990-х гг.

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Аннотация. В статье рассматриваются вызовы, с которыми китайско-российские отношения столкнулись в последнее время. За последние 30 лет партнерство между Китаем и Россией продолжало неуклонно развиваться и постепенно крепнуть под совместным управлением и инициативой лидеров обоих государств. Поэтому цель статьи состоит в том, чтобы выявить и оценить текущую экономическую ситуацию и перспективы торгово-экономических отношений между Китаем и Россией путем анализа четырех экономических этапов. Для достижения цели поставлены следующие задачи: обсудить китайско-российское историческое региональное сотрудничество; сопоставить четыре этапа истории сотрудничества; проанализировать текущую ситуацию, возникшие проблемы, препятствия, и пути их решения. Актуальность темы связана с развитием китайско-российского торгово-экономического сотрудничества, которое в настоящее время набирает обороты. Автор обсуждает как историю развития китайско-российских отношений, так и проблемы, возникшие с 1992 года. Сделан вывод о том, что торговые отношения с российскими компаниями следует развивать неуклонно и поступательно. Однако внешнеторговые компании Китая должны не только сотрудничать с российскими зарубежными предприятиями в целях укрепления концепции сотрудничества, но и улучшать имидж российского бизнеса в Китае. Кроме того, важно повышать осведомленность как о качестве, так и о законе. Государствам следует уделить больше внимания процессу углубленной реализации стратегии Азиатско-Тихоокеанского экономического развития.

Ключевые слова: Китай; Россия; Китайско-русская история; торгово-экономическое сотрудничество; экономика; ВТО

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Introduction. China and Russia, as friendly neighbors are linked by mountains and rivers, and not only have close geographical relations, but also have strong economic interdependence and complementarity. The potential market of bilateral trade is huge. Especially in recent years, the leaders of China and Russia frequently have exchanged visits, and the relations between China and Russia have made great progress in various fields [1]. While promoting the steady development of the strategic partnership between the two countries, the economies of the two countries are growing and the scale of trade is expanding. The two countries have carried out comprehensive and in-depth cooperation in energy, science, technology, finance and other fields achieved fruitful results. For China, the largest developing country, and Russia, which is on the way to rejuvenation, evaluating the current situation and prospects of the economic and trade relations between the two countries will help the two countries achieve

their respective strategic goals and move towards common prosperity. The development of bilateral trade between China and Russia has roughly gone through the following four stages.

The *first* stage of cooperation history, from 1992 to 1993, was a new period for Russia to seek foreign development after the collapse of the Soviet Union. The trade between China and Russia was mainly through government agreement trade and barter trade between enterprises. During this period, the main reason for the rapid development of bilateral trade was that after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Russian government adopted radical reform measures and quickly liberalized prices, but domestic goods were very scarce and needed to be imported from China [2, pp. 19–28]. In addition, China encourages trade with the former Soviet Union and Eastern European countries, and promotes a large number of Chinese consumer goods to enter the Russian market, resulting in a substantial increase in trade volume. However, this kind of growth is not the result of the natural development of trade, so it lacks stamina.

In the *second* stage, from 1994 to 1996, the bilateral trade between China and Russia gradually changed from barter trade to spot trade, and the trade scale decreased. In 1996, the bilateral trade volume was only US \$6.84 billion. The main reason for this situation is that in 1993, Russia greatly increased import tariffs, which reduced the profits of China's exports and inhibited exports to a certain extent. At the same time, Russia greatly reduced export tariffs and encouraged exports, which led to the rebound of China's imports to Russia in 1995 and 1996 [3].

The *third* stage of history is from 1997 to 1998. This period is mainly due to the continuous impact of the above reasons, and the bilateral trade volume continues to decline. In 1997, the trade volume was US \$6.12 billion, down 10.5% from the previous year. In 1998, it dropped to US \$5.48 billion. However, during this period, the local border trade between the two countries developed rapidly. In 1998, the volume of border trade increased by more than 20% over 1997, accounting for about one third of the total trade volume between the two countries.

The *fourth* stage of cooperation history has been since 1999 up to the present period. This is the most optimistic period for bilateral trade. The bilateral trade volume has stopped falling and rebounded, maintaining rapid growth for many years (with an average annual growth rate of 31.1%). It exceeded 10

strategy, we should seize the favorable opportunity of Russia's accession to the WTO, highlight the advantages of various parties, vigorously expand the Russian market, and promote the in-depth development of regional cooperation between China and Russia.

Conclusion. To establish a new image of Russia, over the years, Chinese-Russian regional cooperation has made gratifying achievements, but disharmonious notes often appear, such as misunderstanding, fraud and other non-standard behavior [18]. Among them, the integrity of the Chinese people and the quality of Chinese goods are also frequently seen in Russian newspapers. At present, Russia attracts foreign investment by developing vigorously the eastern region [19]. As the leader of the Asian-Pacific economic development, China should give full play to the advantages of the media, improve its own image, reshape its integrity and attract Russia's greater attention in the process of the country's in-depth implementation of the Asian-Pacific Economic development strategy and the framework of the country's implementation of the foreign image strategy, so as to effectively boost the in-depth development of regional cooperation between China and Russia.

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