Realistic Challenges and Designing Proper Coping Strategies for Building a Community of Shared Future for Mankind\*

Ren Jie[[1]](#footnote-1) BURAD BİR KENAR NOTU VAR

[Abstract] Building a community of shared future for mankind together is a realistic requirement and the only choice for the survival and development of human beings. Building such a community not only represents the general trend of historical development, but also is of a historical necessity. However, this goal cannot be achieved overnight, and it needs to go through a long-term and tough process. Under realistic conditions, building a community of shared future for mankind faces not only the challenges resulted from the differences in strategic thinking, in cultural values and in comprehensive strength between countries around the world, but also the conflicting core interests. It is necessary to rationally and objectively understand these challenges, and we should put forward targeted coping strategies, seek opportunities in crises, and open up new situations while facing profound changes, better draw on advantages and avoid disadvantages, and advance the building a community of shared future for mankind substantively, and stably.

[Keywords] Community of shared future for mankind, national strategic thinking, comprehensive national strength, core interests of a country

As an important part of Xi Jinping Thought on socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era, Xi Jinping proposed the concept of a community of shared future for mankind, as a strategic and forward-looking global governance plan and vision, which profoundly reflects the CPC’s deep understanding of the laws of human social development and highlights the Chinese sense of historical mission and responsibility to “seek for world harmony”.

With the deepening globalization and changing global environment, the concept of the community of shared future for mankind has become increasingly popular in international community and widely accepted by countries, and it has been written into the important documents of UN Security Council and Human Rights Council, as the greatest common divisor that embodies the common values and joins efforts to create a better life for mankind. This great vision, which was hailed by Peter Thomson, president of the 71st Session of the UN General Assembly, as “the only future for mankind on this planet”[[2]](#footnote-2), profoundly answered the question of “what” the people around the world are most concerned about, and “how” to deal with it. Xi Jinping stressed, “Great visions can be realized only through actions. Actions hold the key to building a community of shared future for mankind.”[[3]](#footnote-3) From the day the vision was proposed, China has been trying to promote the practice of building a community of shared future for mankind. China first proposed the Belt and Road initiative and actively boosts international cooperation along the Belt and Road insisting on the principle of achieving shared growth through consultation and collaboration. Facing the global pandemic of COVID-19, China advocated and actively practiced the concept of a community of shared future for mankind in joining efforts to fight against the pandemic together, and to forge a new form of international relations featuring mutual respect, fairness and justice, and win-win cooperation. In the process of joining hands to build a community of shared future for mankind, China should grasp the general trend of historical development, and strengthen the confidence in the vision with the progress made, while fully understand the long-term, arduous nature of such practice and the realistic challenges it faces. As Xi Jinping pointed out, “Building a community of shared future is an exciting goal, and it requires efforts from generation to generation.”[[4]](#footnote-4) From the perspective of the huge differences in strategic thinking and cultural values held by various countries, there is still a long way to go to build a community of shared future. Given the fact that the world is experiencing a profound change unseen in a century, although it’s the general trend for the world to become more diversified, equitable and cooperative, there is bound to be many unpredictable changes during the building of a community of shared future for mankind, causing realistic challenges. A correct understanding of these realistic challenges can be helpful to seek opportunities in crises and open up new situations in the midst of changes, so as to better advance the practice of building a community of shared future for mankind substantively and stably.

I. Challenge One: Differences in Strategic Thinking and Cultural Values of Countries around the World

Building a community of shared future for mankind was initially proposed as an overall goal of China’s diplomacy. The vision now has gone beyond national boundaries and become the value orientation of human social development in the future, since it is highly accepted and recognized by the international community. Now there is trend of multilateralism for world politics, meaning countries choose different political systems and paths of development basing on their own conditions and cultural traditions. On January 25th, 2021, Xi Jinping delivered a special address at World Economic Forum Virtual Event of the Davos Agenda, and he said, “No two leaves in the world are identical, and no histories, cultures or social systems are the same. Each country is unique with its own history, culture and social system, and none is superior to the other. The best criteria are whether a country’s history, culture and social system fit its particular situation, enjoy people’s support, serve to deliver political stability, social progress and better lives, and contribute to human progress. The different histories, cultures and social systems are as old as human societies, and they are the inherent features of human civilization. There will be no human civilization without diversity, and such diversity will continue to exist for as long as we can imagine.”[[5]](#footnote-5) However, contained in global political multi-polarization and cultural diversity there are common values humans are pursuing. For example, all the people in various countries around the world yearn for peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy and freedom, and for a better life, and these common pursuits are important prerequisites for the vision of a community of shared future for mankind gaining acceptance and recognition by the international community. Even with these in common, building a community of shared future for mankind will surely require crossing the huge gaps and bridging the quite different national strategic thinking and cultural values.

Firstly, the understanding of freedom, equality and democracy is specific and different among countries around the world, and even diametrically opposed just because of the different state systems and ideologies. For example, the United States has always boasted that it is the freest and most democratic country in the world, but it has an understanding of freedom and democracy far different from most developing countries. In their view, the US-style freedom makes them free at their will to dominate the world, withdraw from international conventions and organizations and tear up agreements, interfere in the internal affairs of other countries and export the American democracy. According to the majority of developing countries, the freedom means they can choose their own political system, their own leaders and their own development path based on their own national conditions. No country in the world will oppose the common values of freedom, democracy, equality and fraternity. What people oppose are empty talks based on abstract human nature, and the neo-colonialist practices of some Western countries who forcibly export democracy, prop up “proxies” and interfere in the internal affairs of other countries in the name of “universal values”.

Secondly, different nations and countries have developed different thinking logic and cultural values, providing logic bases for strategic judgments, and strategic judgments in turn are the basic guidance for a country to formulate its national strategies. In this sense, the thinking logic has a profound and direct impact on a country’s national strategies. The United States and other Western countries follow the logic of binary opposition, insist on the thought of zero-sum game, and have a strong sense of “preordained mission” and “saving the world”. In the eyes of US politicians, the world is distinctly dichotomous, namely, the “free world” represented by the United States and the “evil world” represented by the enemies of the United States. And it is a glorious mission that the United States bears to eliminate the “evil” countries, in order to spread American liberty and democracy around the world, and to achieve universal “Pax Americana”. On the issues concerning national interests, the United States has always upheld the zero-sum logic of either winning or losing, or earning or losing, and believes that it is impossible to form win-win or multi-win relations. Such thinking logics and cultural values determine that the United States, when viewing and dealing with international issues China involved in, is accustomed to measuring China’s corn by its own bushel, and misunderstanding and misinterpreting the strategies of China. Therefore, though China frequently explained in great detail its determination, sincerity and confidence in the commitment to peaceful development and the building of a community of shared future for mankind, the United States still follows its own bigoted course, and insists on the strategies to prevent and contain China as if China is its number one strategic rival.

Thirdly, differences in strategic thinking can lead to miscommunication. The US customary mindset of dualistic opposition and zero-sum game has become a huge obstacle for the effective communication between China and the United States. In the United States, there may be different views on the ways to contain China, but there is a definite consensus that the growing strength of China constitutes the greatest threat and it’s necessary to contain China. After Trump took office, “America First” and “Putting American Interests First” became the guidelines for US national actions, leading to frequent shameless behaviors like “backpassing” and “cutting off supplies” during the global fight against the pandemic. The US government acted as if it “is physically living in the 21st century, but with a mindset belonging to the past, constrained by zero-sum Cold War mentality”.[[6]](#footnote-6) As Xi Jinping commented, “the Pacific Ocean is big enough for China and the US.”[[7]](#footnote-7) But what the United States has done proves that it cannot tolerate China, especially an increasingly influential China. Such “incompatibility” is rooted in the US’ outdated Cold War mentality and the logic that a rising power was bound to seek hegemony. Bearing such a belief in mind, surely the United States would not treat China in an objective and fair way. Some US elites believe the vision of a community of shared future for mankind reflects “the aim of China to dominate the Asian order, alter the existing order, and advance a China-centered security order,” and embodies the ancient Chinese view of “All Under Heaven” and the Chinese dream of an empire, which is irreconcilable with then-US President Donald Trump’s view of the world landscape.[[8]](#footnote-8) According to the US media, the Belt and Road Initiative, an important practical platform for building a community of shared future for mankind, “is 'a typical example of geopolitical events, with an ambition even greater than the Marshall Plan and the eastward enlargement of EU.” [[9]](#footnote-9) In 2018, the Center for New American Security (CNAS), a leading US think tank, released a report titled Power Plan: Addressing China’s Belt and Road Strategy, which concluded that China wants to achieve economic, diplomatic, and military goals using the Belt and Road Initiative.[[10]](#footnote-10) After winning the presidential election, Joe Biden continued Trump’s policy countering the Belt and Road Initiative. In March and April 2021, Biden, along with British Prime Minister Johnson and Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, proposed a global infrastructure development plan led by “democratic countries”. On June 13th, 2021, at the closing ceremony of the G7 Summit, Biden proposed an initiative called Build Back Better World (B3W). This initiative, with the core objective of “helping middle- and low-income countries develop infrastructure,” is essentially an alternative to the Belt and Road Initiative. The vast difference in strategic thinking between the United States and China has resulted in limited willingness and effectiveness in strategic communication between the two countries, which would turn into a huge obstacle to the building of a community of shared future for mankind.

II. Challenge Two: There are Gaps of Comprehensive Strength between Countries around the World

Now the world is experiencing profound changes unseen in a century. On one hand, as the new scientific and technological revolution and the industrial revolution deepen, the relations among countries across the world has been growing close, and the process of globalization continues to move on and deepen. On the other, there are waves of counter-globalization and anti-globalization, as well as intertwined traditional and non-traditional security threats which are difficult to distinguish. It can be said, in an era of change which is full of contradictions, humans come to a cross again. While trying to understand the changes unseen in a century, people want to know what exactly is “changing”, besides deeply feeling the existence of “contradictions”? Which “changes” in this era are of important significance?

From the international perspective, the change in international power dynamics is profoundly affecting the future course of the world, and the changes in global governance pattern and system depends on the change in international power dynamics. From a “contesting bi-polar” pattern to “mono-polar” pattern of single dominating superpower, now the world is continuously evolving on the basis of “one super and many major powers”. To the evolving world pattern, the changes in global economic landscape are of decisive significance. In recent years, the economic power contrast between groups of developing countries and developed countries has changed significantly. Generally speaking, the overall economic power of developing countries is on the rise and that of developed countries is declining. In terms of the total economic volume, developing countries has accounted for half of the global economic contributions. In terms of the purchasing power parity, the developing countries now has occupied a larger share in total economic output than developed countries, and its ratio continues rising. Meanwhile, developing countries have become an important motive force source to world economic growth, and provide a growing consumer market thanks to the huge population and expanding middle class. On the contrary, the shrinking population and the “squeezed” middle class in developed countries have a clear negative impact on the economic growth, social structure and consumer market.[[11]](#footnote-11) The economic power dynamics between developing and developed countries has directly affected the global governance landscape. For example, developing countries are increasingly demanding a larger share in International Monetary Fund, participation in international rulemaking, and reform of the existing unfair and irrational international order, all of which are strengthening the position of developing countries who are used to be marginalized in the established international system and can only “take it or leave it”.

As the largest developing country in the world, China is moving to the center of the world stage as a responsible major power. China has a stronger capability and will to make positive contributions to changing the unfair and irrational international order and to improving the global governance system. In line with global historical trends, and from a long-term perspective, China made the proposal of building a community of shared future for mankind as a new global governance vision, which has an objective and realistic basis.

Although international power dynamics today is in favor of building a community of shared future for mankind, it does not mean that such a community will come true naturally. The community of shared future for mankind is both ideal and practical, and it is a dialectical unity of inevitability and process. To realize this vision, it requires all countries around the world to join hands and work together, and to follow the basic principle of achieving shared growth through consultation and collaboration. However, the gaps in comprehensive strength between countries around the world result in many practical difficulties for the implementation of the principle. On one hand, the shifting world economic landscape has not yet fundamentally changed current comprehensive strength balance between the East and the West. The economic power is an important embodiment of the comprehensive strength of a country, but it does not mean all. Comprehensive strength is also reflected in military power, political and cultural influence, and so on. In the case of China and the United States, although the total economic output of China accounts for 70% of that of the United States, there is still a considerable gap between the two countries in per capita national income, balanced development, military power, political and cultural influence, etc. Therefore, it is not objective to say that “China will become a world leader” and “the era of China has come”. On the other, the differences in national strengths make it difficult to practice the principle of achieving shared growth through consultation and collaboration, since the implementation of this principle requires all participating countries are equal in international standing. In other words, the principle of achieving shared growth through consultation and collaboration can only be carried out when countries can participate in international affairs on an equal footing, no mater they are big or small, rich or poor, strong or weak. But in reality, it is attributed to the difference in comprehensive national strength and the strategic relationship between major powers that small, poor and weak countries are in a weak position in international affairs.

III. Challenge Three: Conflicts of Core Interests among Countries around the World

The pursuit of interests is the basic drive of human activities. Marx once said, “what the people strive for, are related to their interests,” [[12]](#footnote-12) and “the economic relationship of every established society is first manifested in interest”[[13]](#footnote-13). At the same time, the idea takes root in interest, and “the ‘idea’ always disgraced itself insofar as it differed from the ‘interest’.”[[14]](#footnote-14) In this sense, the building of a community of shared future for mankind is based on the common interests of mankind. As Xi Jinping said at the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly, “peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom are shared values of humanity, and the noble goals of the United Nations.”[[15]](#footnote-15) Maintaining peace and development, ensuring fairness and justice, and defending democracy and freedom are in the common interests of all mankind. The idea of the community of shared future for mankind is based on maintaining and realizing the common interests of all mankind. Now the world faces deficits in governance, trust, peace and development. In order to eliminate these deficits, and secure sustainable development and the most fundamental common interests of mankind, it’s necessary for various countries to join hands and build a community of shared future.

The real problem, facing the building of a community of shared future for mankind, is the conflicts of core interests between countries. At present, sovereign states are still the most basic actors in international society. One state has its own core interests, which are bound to be different from those of another and may lead to certain contradictions and conflicts. For example, the national core interests of China include national sovereignty, national security, territorial integrity, national unity, the stability of national political system and general social situation, and basic guarantees for sustainable economic and social development. The core national interests of the United States, or “permanent national interests,” are to sustain the world hegemony, to control global strategic resources, and to maintain dominance and primacy in specific strategic regions. The differences in national core interests are due to various factors, including historical experiences, cultural traditions and institutional demands of each country. On one hand, no matter how greatly the core interests of various countries conflict, the threats to the shared interests of mankind also endanger the core interests of all countries, such as peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy and freedom which are both the shared interests of mankind and the national interests of different nations and countries. On the other, the shared interests of mankind are given different priorities in core interests of various countries, which lead to conflicts among these core national interests. For European countries, where peace has been basically guaranteed and economic development and social modernization have reached a high level, the issues of “post-modernity” are relatively prominent and become the core issues of concern, such as social justice, immigration and refugees, national identity, and the exchange and integration of civilizations in Europe. In the United States, the widening gap between the rich and the poor, the prevalence of ethnic nationalism and populism, and the increasing social division have become severe problems in its domestic political life. In the Middle East and North Africa, security issues are of top priority, while sectarian strife, foreign intervention, and regime change are unique regional problems that seriously affect local political stability and economic development. Many African countries are focusing on the long-standing problem of poverty, and the improvement of state systems and institutions. Some countries in Latin America are still stuck in the “middle-income trap” and the stubborn problems corruption, and “fence-riding” politics.[[16]](#footnote-16)

The recognition of differences and conflicts in core national interests does not necessarily form an obstacle to building a community of shared future for mankind. The vision becomes possible because that all nations and countries are growingly interconnected as the globalization deepens, and joining hands to build a community of shared future for mankind is a necessity for survival and development in the future, which is in line with the shared interests of nations and countries. Hedley Bull, a representative of the English school of international relations theory, proposed that “a group of states, conscious of certain common interests and common values, forms a society in the sense that they conceive themselves to be bound by a common set of rules in their relations with one another, and share in the working of common institutions”.[[17]](#footnote-17) Such common interest, common will and the need to establish common rules are the prerequisites for building a community of shared future for mankind. Moreover, only based on better local development can nations and states carry out international cooperation on the building of a community of shared future. In this sense, the community of shared future for mankind will eliminate the external opposition between the community and nations and states, and it is not a simple and loose organization of nations and states, but a higher-level union.

IV. Coping Strategies: Advancing the Practice of Building a Community of Shared Future for Mankind Stably and Substantively

Building a community of shared future for mankind is both a major trend of historical development and an ideal and realistic historical process full of difficulties and challenges. As Xi Jinping stressed at the High-level Dialogue between the Communist Party of China and World Political Parties held on December 1st, 2017, “Obviously, as a historical process, efforts to build a community with a shared future for mankind cannot be completed overnight, nor will such a process be a smooth sailing. Persistent and arduous efforts are called for. To build such a community, we must be ready to work for the long haul. We should not give upon our dream when the reality around us is too complicated; nor should we stop pursuing our ideals when they seem out of our reach.”[[18]](#footnote-18) It is the only way to advance the practice of building a community of shared future for mankind stably and substantively by addressing these realistic challenges with joint efforts of countries around the world.

First, China tell well the story of the community of shared future for mankind. China’s stories are important embodiments of Chinese thought and Chinese culture. Judging from the results achieved so far, “storytelling is the best way of international communication”[[19]](#footnote-19). Telling well China’s stories can effectively help present a true, multi-dimensional and panoramic view of China to the world, and it is an important step to eliminate the huge gap in thinking logic and cultural values between China and the West, and to minimize the miscommunication caused by differences in strategic thoughts. To tell the story of the community of shared future for mankind well, attentions should be paid to the following aspects.

It needs figure out the accurate translation of “人类命运共同体”. Initially, the translation of “a community of common destiny” was commonly used in the official documents, and two other versions of “a community of shared destiny” and “a community of shared future” were popular, too, since the Chinese word “命运” directly corresponds to the English word “destiny”, which means something that is destined to happen or “the mandate of heaven”, “ultimate fate” and other supernatural forces that determine what will happen to people in the future, so neither version of “a community of common destiny” or “a community of shared destiny” cannot accurately reflect the original intention and meaning of Xi Jinping’s vision. Then, taking into account the habits of native English-speaking countries and their official documents, the concept of “人类命运共同体” was translated as “a community of shared future for mankind”, which better and appropriately expresses the connotation of “人类命运共同体” that human beings work together to build a better future upholding the principle of achieving shared growth through consultation and collaboration. Clearly, translation is an important part of the cultural exchange and mutual appreciation between China and the Western countries, and it calls for great attention to the translation of some important concepts related to the programs and initiatives of China. At the early stage of concept formation and dissemination, the government should translate and introduce the concepts strictly following the translation criteria of fidelity, fluency and elegance, to avoid rigid and casual direct translations and encourage authentic works better reflecting the essence and implication of the concepts.

It needs innovative ways and means to tell the stories well. The main purpose of storytelling is to persuade people with facts, impress them with images, infect them with emotions, and influence them with reasons, which requires the integration of “expressing oneself” and “reasoning the others” to ensure the communication effect. Besides, to tell and spread China’s stories well, China should actively express itself through carefully selected and organized diversified topics and content, while fully consider the cultural background, history and tradition, customs and habits of foreign audiences, and focus on the commonalities of Chinese and foreign cultures, to get it better understood and recognized and to stimulate emotional resonance with stories told by Chinese and foreigners. Technically, China should make full use of modern digital information technology and concentrate advantageous resources, to establish convergence media centers and media groups with strong global influence. In terms of communication methods and channels, China should give full play to public and diplomatic media, and “make good use of press release mechanism, high-end think tank dialogues, major events and important exhibition platforms, traditional Chinese festivals, overseas cultural fronts, and various cultural forms”[[20]](#footnote-20), to broaden cultural communication channels and improve global understanding of Chinese culture, ideas and wisdom in the community of shared future for mankind.

It needs to strengthen the discourse for better telling the story of the community of shared future for mankind. The right of discourse reflects the initiative power of a country in the international arena. Till now, the Western countries still dominate world opinion. The community of shared future for mankind is an idea, proposition and plan that reflects the position, wisdom and values of China, and in order to “make the vision a good start to tell China’s stories and a glittering brand for the world to know China”, China needs to clarify the thought behind the vision of a community of shared future for mankind and the “道” (“道” both means a doctrine and a way) it contains. China should integrate “道” into its stories, and enlighten the world in a fascinating way, and guide the audience toward the vision. Telling the story of the community of shared future for mankind means to explain China’s practice with China’s theory, and then perfect the theory, in order to demonstrate China’s ideas more clearly and loudly, and to make voice of China more creative, appealing and credible to the external world.[[21]](#footnote-21)

Secondly, the international community should fulfill its commitment to safeguard the legitimate rights and interests and space for development of developing countries. The growing strength is the prerequisite and foundation for developing countries to make louder voices and participate in rule-making and global governance. At the World Economic Forum Virtual Event of the Davos Agenda on January 25th, 2021, Xi Jinping stressed that the international community should keep its eyes on the long run, honor its commitment, and provide necessary support to developing countries and safeguard their legitimate development interests; equal rights, equal opportunities and equal rules should be strengthened, so that all countries would benefit from the opportunities and fruits of development. On this basis, the international community should help developing countries build up the development capacities. Development, in the final analysis, is the job of individual countries. It is therefore necessary for them to formulate their own development strategies that fit their endowment and their national conditions. The international community has a duty to “help developing countries with capacity building and provide them with support and assistance tailored to their actual needs”. The international community should improve the international environment for development, such as securing a sound external institutional environment, and pushing “international financial institutions to step up their governance reform, and multilateral development agencies to increase their supply of development resources”. The international community should update the partnership for development, driving developed countries to honor their commitments and live up to their obligations in a timely manner. The international community, while maintaining the role of South-North cooperation as the main channel, should work to deepen South-South and tripartite cooperation, and encourage the private sector and other stakeholders to play an even larger role in the partnerships.[[22]](#footnote-22)

Due to the global outbreak of the pandemic of COVID-19, many developing countries are facing a higher debt risk, which results in heavier burdens and slow and sluggish economic recovery, and greatly challenges the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement. To address the debt crisis in 27 emerging market economies and 9 least developed countries, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres released a policy brief on March 29, 2021, entitled Liquidity and Debt Solutions to Invest in the Sustained Development Goals: The Time to Act is Nowhere. In this brief, Guterres proposed a three-pronged approach for the debt crisis, namely a debt standstill, targeted debt relief, and addressing structural deficiencies of the international sovereign debt architecture. He hoped that this approach would urge the international community to provide developing countries the necessary and additional liquidity support, helping them better cope with the pandemic, promote economic recovery, and ensure the sustainable development goals would be achieved as scheduled.

Thirdly, China should uphold multilateralism and continue to promote regional cooperation. “Multilateralism is about having international affairs addressed through consultation and the future of the world decided by everyone working together.” “To uphold multilateralism in the 21st century, we should promote its fine tradition, take on new perspectives and look to the future. We need to stand by the core values and basic principles of multilateralism. We also need to adapt to the changing international landscape and respond to global challenges as they arise. We need to reform and improve the global governance system on the basis of extensive consultation and consensus-building.”[[23]](#footnote-23) The growingly stronger developing countries are of an important factor in pushing the world evolving from unilateralism and unipolarity toward multilateralism and multipolarity. Only with improved comprehensive strength of developing countries can democracy in international relations be promoted, multilateralism be put into practice, and good global governance be achieved. Meanwhile, the multilateral cooperation among developing countries will not only boost their own development, but also balance out the wave of anti-globalization to a certain extent. The spread and recurrence of the pandemic of COVID-19 has exacerbated global unrest, ethnic conflicts and national rivalries, causing a rise in protectionism and supporting the trend of de-globalization. To counteract the trend of de-globalization, three major multilateral diplomatic events were held one after another in November 2020, including the 12th BRICS Summit, the 27th APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting, and the 15th G20 Leaders’ Summit. Fifteen countries including 10 ASEAN countries, China, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand and Australia, officially signed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), marking the largest free trade agreement in the world. The RCEP has solidified the credibility of China as a defender of global multilateralism. The global pandemic of COVID-19 is a serious challenge to peaceful human society unprecedented in recent years. The pandemic has accelerated the process of the profound global changes unseen in a century, and resulted in a greater need for multilateral cooperation. Facing the challenge of the global pandemic, China has been advocating and practicing multilateralism, and actively promoting international cooperation on the vaccines. The positive influence China exercises on the world has strengthened the confidence of all countries in the victory over the pandemic through joint and cooperative efforts.

Fourthly, China should call for the international community to jointly explore the practice of building a community of shared future for mankind and promote the establishment of a new international political and economic order. As individual countries around the world have their own national core interests, firstly, China should always respect and try to understand the different interests and concerns of countries due to different historical experiences, cultural traditions and institutional aspirations. On the premise of mutual respect and understanding, China should reinforce communication, to seek common ground while reserving differences, to reach consensus on reforming and improving international rules and the international governance system, and to work together toward the goal of achieving good global governance. Besides, China should make voices through all important international organizations and major international events, to elaborate the core connotation and world significance of the community of shared future for mankind, and to clarify the necessity and inevitability of the vision, which is in line with the core interests of all nations and states. In other words, only a community of shared future for mankind can better help countries safeguard and realize their core interests. Meanwhile, it is necessary for China to advocate the international community to jointly explore and promote the practice of building a community of shared future for mankind, turning the vision from an ideal into the common cause of all countries across the world.

Fifthly, China should safeguard the core interests of all countries, especially developing countries, not only by relying on appeals and pleas, but also through actually boosting the international political and economic order to become fairer and more rational. Only a new fair and rational international political and economic order can effectively protect the core interests of developing countries and secure their legitimate rights and interests as well as reasonable space for development. In addition, China should draw together the developing countries, form close cooperative ties with them and take actions together, to huddle together for warmth and for the rights to participate in the formulation of major international rules. It is also an effective way to cope with the challenges of Western powers and prevent the infringement of the core interests of small and weak countries.

In short, regardless of the differences in strategic thinking and cultural values between countries, as well as the gaps in comprehensive strength, and differences related to core interests among countries, faced by the threats to fundamental human interests of survival and security, peace and development, all countries should and must give priority to the shared interests of mankind, which is not a stopgap measure, but an inevitable choice for human survival and development. At present, the global pandemic of COVID-19 has not come to an end, and all countries around the world should abandon narrow calculations for national interests, narrow considerations for political strategies and ideological prejudices, and join hands to build a community of shared future for mankind, since it is the only choice for human survival and sustainable development.

1. Ren Jie, a professor at School of Marxism, University of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and a researcher at Academy of Marxism of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. \* The article is of the achievements of the phased and major scientific research planning project of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences’ innovative projects, Study on China’s Peaceful Development and the Building of a Community of Shared Future for Mankind (2019-22).

   The Concept of a Community of Shared Future for Mankind Became a Broad Consensus, *People’s Daily*, February 14th, 2017. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. *Xi Jinping: The Governance of China, Volume II*, Beijing: Foreign Languages Press, 2017, p. 541. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. *Xi Jinping: The Governance of China, Volume II*, Beijing: Foreign Languages Press, 2017, p. 548. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Xi Jinping, Let the Torch of Multilateralism Light up Humanity’s Way Forward, Special Address At the World Economic Forum Virtual Event of the Davos Agenda, *People’s Daily*, January 26th, 2021. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Xi Jinping: *On Adherence to Promoting the Building of a Community of Shared Future for Mankind*, Beijing: Central Party Literature Press, 2018, p. 111. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. *A Series of Important Speeches by General Secretary Xi Jinping*, Beijing: Xuexi Publishing House, People’s Publishing House, 2016, p. 269. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Please refer to Gao Wanglai’s Perception, Comments and Analysis of a Community of Shared Future for Mankind by Overseas Elites, Contemporary World and Socialism, Issue 3, 2019. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Shi Zehua, The Belt and Road: How New Paradigms Transcend Old Thinking, Hongqi Wengao, Issue 1, 2019. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Report of a US think tank (CNAS), Power Plan: Addressing China’s Belt and Road Strategy, http://www.cggthinktank.com/2018-10-12/100076515.html. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Please refer to Zhang Yunling, Profound Changes Unseen in a Century: What Will Change, *World Affairs*, Issue 10, 2019. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. *Complete Works of Marx and Engels, Volume I*, Beijing: People’s Publishing House, 1995, p. 187. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. *Collected Works of Marx and Engels, Volume III*, Beijing: People’s Publishing House, 2009, p. 320. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. *Collected Works of Marx and Engels, Volume I*, Beijing: People’s Publishing House, 2009, p. 286. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. *Speeches by Xi Jinping on Summit Meetings Commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Founding of UN*, Beijing: People’s Publishing House, 2015, p. 15. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Please refer to Wang Jisi, In a World Facing the Profound Changes Unseen in a Century, Global Times, March 7th, 2019. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Hedley Bull, *The Anarchical Society: A Study of Order in World Politics*, translated by Zhang Xiaoming, Shanghai: Shanghai People’s Publishing House, 2015, p. 15. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Xi Jinping: *On Adherence to Promoting the Building of a Community of Shared Future for Mankind*, Beijing: Central Party Literature Press, 2018, p. 513. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. *Excerpts of Speeches and States of Xi Jinping on Socialist Cultural Construction*, Beijing: Central Party Literature Press, 2017, p. 212. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. *Excerpts of Speeches and States of Xi Jinping on Socialist Cultural Construction*, Beijing: Central Party Literature Press, 2017, p. 213. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. Please refer to *Questions and Answers of Learning Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era*, Beijing: Xuexi Publishing House, People’s Publishing House, 2021, p. 331. [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. Xi Jinping: *On Adherence to Promoting the Building of a Community of Shared Future for Mankind*, Beijing: Central Party Literature Press, 2018, pp. 249-50. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. Xi Jinping, Let the Torch of Multilateralism Light up Humanity’s Way Forward, Special Address At the World Economic Forum Virtual Event of the Davos Agenda, *People’s Daily*, January 26th, 2021. [↑](#footnote-ref-23)