



# The Challenge of the Change of International Situation Faced by China in the Development of the New Era

**Haonan Ma**

Shandong Normal University, Jinan, Shandong, China.

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\***Corresponding author:** Haonan Ma, Shandong Normal University, Jinan, Shandong, China.

## Abstract

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, China's national strength, international status, and influence have been continuously improved, which directly threatens the traditional dominant position of Western countries headed by the United States in various fields. Under the background of the changing international situation, the development of China is facing severe challenges, and dealing with it is particularly important. The 20th Congress of the Communist Party of China held in 2022 injected valuable positive energy into the current changes and chaos. More and more third-world countries see the hypocritical nature of the Western countries headed by the United States, see the opportunity to seek development with China, and call for progress in the new order. Under the pressure of Western countries led by the United States, China once again wrote a magnificent stroke of China's modernization road. China keeps expanding its circle of friends in the sincerity of sharing prosperity with other countries.

## Keywords

New era, China development, International situation, Challenge

## 1. The international situation that China needs to face in the new era

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, great achievements have been made in the construction of Socialism with Chinese characteristics, and China has entered a new era of socialism with characteristics under the correct leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Jinping Xi at its core. In the new era, China is facing a great change that has never happened in a century.

### 1.1 Post-Cold War era

After the end of World War II, the world pattern with the two superpowers of the United States and the Soviet Union vying for world hegemony as the main body was formed in the Cold War era. Until the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991, the world pattern began to enter the post-Cold War era. In recent years, the international situation has undergone big changes, and the rise of unilateralism and protectionism has accelerated the trend of anti-globalization. The Western countries led by the United States began to suppress China in various ways. The current global order is still the global expansion of the capitalist system, which is characterized by the dominant position of Western countries in politics, economy, technology, military, and other fields. Therefore, the Western countries headed by the United States have the main right to speak in important global governance mechanisms. However, the comprehensive competition between China and the United States in the new era is not an arms race, a technology race, or a space race initiated by the United States and the Soviet Union for world hegemony during the Cold War.

On the contrary, the United States cooperates with its allies to suppress China to maintain its hegemonic position in the world. For China, this is a passive competition to safeguard national sovereignty, interests, and security as well as public interests and security (Li, C., 2022).

## 1.2 Post-pandemic era

The COVID-19 epidemic is the most serious global disaster in recent centuries, which has accelerated the evolution of the international situation and seriously affected the leading position of the United States in the international arena. In the three years of the epidemic, the superiority of China's socialist system was demonstrated. Under the correct leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC), medical workers and people made joint efforts to reduce the loss of economic development and maintain social stability in China.

With the popularization of vaccines and the support of national policies, countries around the world will finally overcome the COVID-19 epidemic around 2023 and face the post-epidemic era. In the post-epidemic era, China's international status and influence are constantly improving, the gap between China and the United States is constantly narrowing, and China will continue to expand its economic strength gap with other countries. Although the United States experienced a certain degree of economic contraction during the epidemic, the United States still has a greater advantage over most countries because the economic recession in major European countries and Japan is greater than that in the United States. As the largest digital economy in the world, the United States and China have made full use of their respective advantages in the field of digital economy (Qin, C.Z. & Shi, C.F., 2022).

## 1.3 Anti-globalization era

In the late 20th century, the world entered the era of globalization under the leadership of the United States. Because of the rapid development of the Internet industry and transportation industry, materials in the international market have entered a new era of cross-border transactions. Transactions between global markets are gradually expanding and upgrading. The global movement of goods, capital, and people exceeds any other period in history.

However, various complex factors have brought about the arrival of the era of anti-globalization. The outbreak of the global financial crisis in 2008 became the starting point of the era of anti-globalization. Many countries have gradually recognized the anti-globalization trend of thought because of the British referendum on Brexit and various unilateralism and trade protectionist measures implemented by US President Trump after he took office. The COVID-19 outbreak in 2020 and the Russian-Ukrainian conflict in 2022 marked the end of the globalization era in the past decades and the final arrival of the anti-globalization era. The era of anti-globalization has impacted most of the global industrial chains and supply chains, which undoubtedly brings severe challenges to China's export-oriented economy that relies on investment, consumption, and export. Therefore, the Fifth Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee in 2020 proposed to speed up the construction of a new development pattern with the domestic economic cycle as the main body and the international and domestic dual cycles promoting each other to cope with the impact and challenges brought by anti-globalization to China's economy. At the same time, it shows the world that China should be a nice country.

## 1.4 Intelligent age

The development of human society is a process of continuous evolution from low level to high level, and the driving force of human social change is the development and progress of social productive forces. From primitive society to feudal society, there was no qualitative leap in social productivity. After Britain launched the first industrial revolution, human society entered the age of steam. With the second industrial revolution initiated by the United States, Germany, and other countries, human society entered the electric power era. The third is the scientific and technological revolution, and human society once again entered the information age. With the continuous progress of technology, humans gradually began to develop toward intelligence. From offline trading to being able to use mobile phones for online trading and communication, this is another great progress for human beings because it represents the future and has unlimited possibilities. At the same time, everything is developing in the direction of intelligent digitalization.

## 1.5 The age of aging

It is a gradual and long development process for all countries in the world to enter the aging era, which generally

shows a trend of deepening fluctuations. The oldest capitalist countries such as France, Britain, and Norway, first entered the aging era because these countries had developed into highly industrialized countries as early as the beginning of the 20th century. Social productive forces have reached a higher level, and people's living standards and welfare levels have also improved day by day. Subsequently, countries that developed rapidly after World War II such as Japan and South Korea, entered an aging era. These countries seized the development dividend of economic globalization after World War II and used their advantages and government policy support to achieve rapid economic development to improve people's living standards and related welfare.

## 1.6 The era of East rising and West falling

Since the great discovery of geography, the development pattern of the world has shown a trend that the East obeys the West. As the Western capitalist countries headed by Britain completed two industrial revolutions and entered the imperialist countries, a world pattern of strong West and weak East was finally formed. Western capitalist countries constantly meet the needs of the development and expansion of domestic capitalism, plundering overseas colonies, dumping goods on them, establishing colonial institutions, and establishing multinational companies, leading to poverty and backwardness in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

In the era of globalization, the emerging third-world developing countries represented by China are gradually rising. Due to the inherent drawbacks of the capitalist system and the outbreak of the global economic crisis, Western countries are constantly being impacted and the world pattern centered on Western countries is gradually changing. The COVID-19 outbreak in 2020 and the conflict between Russia and Ukraine in 2022 completely disrupted the Western countries with huge potential crises. The government departments did not properly prevent and control the epidemic, and people's lives and health were seriously damaged. The strike movement is on the rise. Racial discrimination is deeply rooted and economic development continues to decline. However, the emerging countries headed by China can always reverse the situation, develop in a bad environment, search for new opportunities, and make the world development pattern begin to enter the era of East rising and West falling.

## 2. Challenges brought about by changes in the international situation

### 2.1 The fierce competition between China and the United States

In recent years, the world has undergone great changes. The conflict between Russia and Ukraine continues. The spread and disappearance of the COVID-19 epidemic and the rapid development of the fourth scientific and technological revolution are intertwined, which has changed the international situation. China's growing political, economic, cultural, scientific, diplomatic, and military strength has affected the dominant position of Western countries in various fields under the leadership of the United States. In the face of great global changes, the United States began to regain the Cold War mentality of geopolitical confrontation. Since the Biden administration took office, it has regarded China as a competitor. The United States believes that China is the only competitor that has the intention of reshaping the international order and has more and more economic, diplomatic, military, and technical forces to achieve this goal. In order to maintain its leading position and hegemonic position in the world, the United States began to unite its allies to target and suppress China in many fields.

In order to implement the competitive strategy in China, the United States is trying to build a mini-lateral mechanism in the Asia-Pacific region such as the Quadrilateral Mechanism of the United States, Japan, India, and Australia (QUAD), the Trilateral Security Partnership of the United States, Britain, and Australia (AUKUS), the Trilateral Cooperation of the United States, Japan, and Australia, and the Trilateral Cooperation of the United States, Britain, and South Korea. The United States took the initiative to coordinate the two major alliance systems to launch a great power competition against China.

In the field of culture, China is facing the threat of Western cultural invasion. The invasion of Western culture has caused the brain drain, the marginalization of traditional culture, the lack of national identity, and the erosion of vulgar cultural spirit. In addition, the Western media deliberately demonized China for ideological differences, led the public to hate China, and ignore its real situation, resulting in people's lack of understanding of China's development status in the West. Even many people still believe that the Chinese still have braids. This has also hindered the spread of China culture around the world, leading to increasingly serious anti-China sentiment in the West. For example, Luca Zaia, president of the Italian Veneto Region, claimed that the Chinese have no good hygiene habits and even argued that the Chinese eat live mice. Although China's economy has developed rapidly, the Chinese have

learned advanced Western systems and science and technology but culture needs the hard work and inheritance of several generations in a country. Since the reform and opening up, China's cultural development has not reached a cultural status that is compatible with the international economic status, and the development of spiritual civilization lags behind economic development. Although the excellent China culture is not worse than Western civilization, it is interpreted as cultural lag by some people who blindly like Western culture. For example, the United States and Europe frequently impose targeted asset sanctions on individuals and entities in China, and China's financial dependence on the risks and costs of the United States is an exclusive financial system headed by the United States and European countries. And, the United States and Europe vilify China's financial model and philosophy so it threatens China's national financial security.

## **2.2 China's economic development facing severe challenges**

Under the dual influence of the geopolitical crisis and COVID-19 epidemic, the international situation is severe and complicated, global trade and investment are weak, the world economy is developing slowly, and unstable factors are lurking. The instability of the world economy will have a multi-dimensional and deep-seated impact on China's economy because China's economic development is highly dependent on the stability of the world economy. If the United States fails to solve the imbalance of international payments, it may eventually lead to economic recession in China, the United States, and even the world. At the same time, the pattern of economic imbalance has had a significant negative impact on China's efforts to promote the reform of the RMB exchange rate mechanism, alleviate external economic shocks, and expand domestic demand. In the post-epidemic era, a series of frequent problems such as trade protectionism and trade friction in Western countries led by the United States have disrupted the adjustment rhythm of the economic imbalance pattern to a certain extent. And, external economic shocks will still bring many uncertainties to the external balance of China's economy.

Although China's economic growth rate has made remarkable achievements since the reform and opening up, there are still a series of structural problems represented by the industrial structure and employment structure behind it. The influence of the external imbalance pattern on the internal equilibrium of China's economy is mainly investment and overcapacity. Based on the transformation of China's economy, China's economy is facing great pressure. On the one hand, the global economic recession in the post-epidemic era is obvious. On the other hand, problems and contradictions such as overcapacity, polarization, and insufficient economic growth momentum accumulated in the process of economic transformation in China have become increasingly prominent. Secondly, China's external demand-driven economic growth model is no longer in line with China's economic development. This economic growth model relies heavily on demographic dividends and foreign investment to drive European and American countries. Finally, the constraints of factors of production on economic and social development in China have been significantly enhanced. In the aging era, China's social consumption rate rose while the savings rate fell, which is not conducive to the formation of capital factors. In the era of intelligentization, China lacks a management system for data flow, use, and protection. At the same time, the slow growth of domestic and international demand in the post-epidemic era has also strengthened the constraints on production factors (Liu, G.Z., 2023).

## **2.3 China's social development facing severe challenges**

Based on the changes in the international situation, the severe challenges that China's social development faces mainly include energy security, food security, environmental security, people's safety, national privacy security, people's livelihood security, and social structure stability. In terms of energy security, energy is an important material foundation and motive force for the sustainable development of Chinese society. However, China is facing unprecedented changes. The competition between China and the United States has become increasingly fierce, and the instability of the international situation has increased dramatically. China's energy security is facing serious challenges such as the serious shortage of important energy supply, the single supply in overseas energy markets, and the control and restriction of energy supply and transportation channels by the United States and its allies.

In terms of food security, China attaches great importance to national food security and has created a miracle of food security development. With the outbreak of COVID-19 epidemic, the arrival of the aging era, the development of rural urbanization, the decoupling between China and the United States, and the continuation of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, China's food security is facing severe challenges brought by the dual changes in the international and domestic situation, such as the shortage of food supply in China, the waste of food in China, the negative impact of the shortage of global food supply chain, the difficulties brought by COVID-19 to China's food imports, and the

fluctuation of food prices in China caused by the Russian-Ukrainian conflict. In terms of environmental safety, the environment is an important factor in maintaining the safety of people's lives and property in China. Since the reform and opening up, China has made great achievements in industrial construction but the expense is serious damage to domestic environmental security. In recent years, climate change has brought serious challenges to the environmental security of ecologically fragile areas, and global warming has brought severe challenges to the safety of people's lives and property and environmental security in China. In terms of personal safety and national privacy, several vicious triad incidents in China society have seriously threatened the lives and property of people in China. In recent years, the US National Security Agency has carried out tens of thousands of cyber-attacks on China while stealing more than 140GB of data. Juvenile delinquency is becoming more and more serious. In the post-epidemic era, the problems of urban and rural employment and unemployment are becoming increasingly serious. In terms of social structure stability, economic inequality is increasing.

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