

# ABSTRACTS

## **International Relations Theory with Chinese Characteristics and Xi Jinping's Diplomatic Thought—A Panel Discussion**

*XU Jian et al.*

**ABSTRACT:** In partnership with the Institute for World Political Parties Studies of the CPC's International Department, the Shanghai Federation of Social Science Associations, and the Shanghai Association of International Studies, the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies hosted a symposium on Xi Jinping's Diplomatic Thought and the Communist Party of China's Theoretical Innovation in Foreign Relations on May 29, 2021. The following is a summary of the views of some expert participants at the symposium. The vision of humanity as a community with a shared future is an important guiding principle for the construction of international relations theory with Chinese characteristics. Xi Jinping's diplomatic thought, taking shape amid fundamental changes in the global political and economic landscape, builds on Chinese diplomatic practices since the found of the People's Republic, reflects the themes of our times, and upholds common values of mankind. Dual circulation is Beijing's new economic strategy that defines China's relations with the outside world under new circumstances and aims at reaching a new development stage featuring greater resilience and higher quality. With regard to maritime affairs, Beijing's new approach to maritime security involves advancing the maritime silk road, building a maritime community with a shared future, and working toward a maritime superpower. International relations theory with Chinese characteristics, Xi Jinping diplomatic thought in particular, will guide the conduct of China's foreign relations in years to come.

**KEYWORDS:** Chinese diplomacy, international relations theory with Chinese

characteristics, dual circulation, methodology, global governance

## **Brussels' Strategic Choices amid China-U.S. Competition and EU-U.S. Policy Coordination on China**

*ZHAO Huaipu*

**ABSTRACT:** With the competition between China and the United States intensifying, Europe is the key variable affecting the course of China-U.S. interaction and the dynamics of the strategic triangular. The EU regards the contest between Beijing and Washington as a major challenge that cannot be avoided, and takes no sides in a bid to achieve “strategic autonomy.” At the same time, it seeks to play a moderating role between the two superpowers in order to hedge against potential risks and protect its own interests to the greatest extent. However, the EU is not impartial and its moderating role is more reflected in strengthening policy coordination with the United States on China. The basic framework of policy coordination and cooperation between the United States and Europe vis-à-vis China has taken shape, which can be roughly summarized as follows: economic and trade as well as scientific and technological competition; investment and export control restrictions; military deterrence and preparedness; human rights pressure and confrontation; strategic coordination to jointly cope with the Belt and Road Initiative. Transatlantic policy coordination has been helped by the Biden administration’s consistent effort to repair and revive EU-U.S. relations after four years of chaos under President Trump. However, the structural contradictions of the EU-U.S. relationship and divergent strategic interests in China will inevitably limit the coordination between the two sides. For Brussels, transatlantic coordination is mainly a means rather than an end, which makes the formation of an anti-China alliance very difficult if not impossible.

**KEYWORDS:** China-U.S.-EU relations, China-U.S. competition, EU strategic autonomy, policy coordination on China

## **The European Economic and Monetary Union: Reforms amid A Structural Dilemma**

*GUAN Xin*

**ABSTRACT:** After the European Sovereign Debt Crisis broke out in 2009, the European Union reached a consensus to reform the European Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) under the multi-level governance model. The crisis itself, the growing EU consensus, and the coordination of the European Commission are the main reasons for launching the reform of the EMU. In terms of reform goals, the reform's ultimate goal is to reduce potential economic risks. To this end, the EU has adopted a series of measures such as improving the functions of the European Central Bank and other institutions, strengthening the role of the Financial Union, and tightening bank regulation and supervision. The positive results of the reform, including promoting the economic recovery of the Eurozone, reducing nonperforming loans, and strengthening the coordination of member states' fiscal policies, highlight the resilience of the multi-level governance model in EU economic governance. However, the difficulties faced by the reform, such as slow progress, poor completion, and unsatisfactory reform results, reflect the negative impact of structural problems represented by decentralization of goals, powers, and responsibilities under the multi-level governance model. In a more profound sense, the reform dilemma caused by the multi-level governance model also implies the EU's collective action dilemma and severe inequality. In the long run, issues such as the decentralization of goals, powers, and responsibilities under the multi-level governance model may have a persistent and adverse impact on European integration.

**KEYWORDS:** European debt crisis, European Economic and Monetary Union, multi-level governance, structural problems

## **A Comparative Study of Chinese and U.S. Approaches to International Institutions—The Perspective of Issue Leadership**

*LING Shengli and WANG Yanfei*

**ABSTRACT:** Amid growing China-U.S. strategic competition, the contest for leadership in international institutions have also intensified. Beijing and Washington have taken differing approaches in this regard. Existing studies approach China-U.S. contest over leadership from three perspectives: power, institution, and status. From the perspective of power competition, leadership contest over institution building is subordinate to the contest over power distribution. The institutional competition perspective emphasizes the role of

institutional competition and institutional balancing, while the status competition perspective focuses on the country's pursuit of international status. There are still some deficiencies with those perspectives. Based on the perspective of issue leadership, this paper explores the logic behind the different strategies. In an emerging multiplex world, the power competition has become less effective, and there is more international institutional competition between the two countries. The Trump administration pursues unilateralism, while the Obama and Biden administrations prefer exclusive multilateralism. The purpose is to enmesh China in a intricate web of international institutions and maintain U.S. international leadership. China is committed to inclusive multilateralism and seeks to enhance international leadership while safeguarding its own right to development. However, the contest over leadership in institutions between the two countries is not zero-sum. The diversity and difference of issues make the competition less intense than the power competition. In the future, the issue leadership competition will become an important form of strategic competition. Beijing and Washington do not have to confront each other on all issues. Instead, they can strengthen the issue leadership in different issues according to their comparative advantages, and finally create a situation where China and the United States have their own advantages and balance against each other.

**KEYWORDS:** Sino-U.S. strategic competition, international institutions, issue leadership, global governance

## **NGOs and the Implementation of America's China Strategy**

*SUN Haiyong*

**ABSTRACT:** Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) are one of the tools of the U.S. foreign strategy. Although many American NGOs have played an active role in transnational environmental protection, poverty alleviation, and other issues, a large number of American NGOs and local NGOs the government supports have become weapons for the United States to interfere in other countries' internal affairs and safeguard America's political and economic interests. This is evidenced by the activities of the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and the NGOs it supports around the world. During the implementation of the U.S. strategy toward China, American NGOs not only play an important role in policy initiatives and public opinion shaping, but also participate fully in the confrontations with China in various fields. On the one hand, these NGOs are

deeply involved in the Xinjiang and Hong Kong issues. They promote subversive activities by providing financial support, action guidance, and even directly engaging in violent activities. On the other hand, U.S.-supported NGOs are actively engaged in economic and technology wars against China to undermine the Belt and Road Initiative and the business environment of Xinjiang, as well as the internationalization of Chinese technology enterprises. As the U.S. escalates its confrontation with China and its strategic leverage is dwindling, the U.S. government will further encourage NGOs to play a more prominent role in ideological and geopolitical confrontation, economic and technological competition with China. At the same time, some American NGOs also have some influence in promoting cooperation with China, which will create favorable conditions for maintaining and expanding the space for dialogue and cooperation between the two countries.

**KEYWORDS:** China-U.S. relations, American China strategy, NGOs, American foreign policy

## **Institution Building for Global Governance in an Emerging World Digital Economy**

*PAN Xiaoming and ZHENG Bing*

**ABSTRACT:** Digital economy has been gaining momentum since the outbreak of Covid-19, driving a new round of worldwide integration, even though growing trade protectionism in advanced economies have set back globalization in recent years. The emerging global digital economy is further widening the gaps between the developed and the developing countries and those between different regions. Advances in digital technology has intensified the competition among countries and pose new challenges for global economic governance. Efforts are being made to build up the rules for international digital economic governance, focusing on better e-commerce regulation through multilateral and regional free trade agreements. Yet, with the rapid progress of global digital economy, the international community should further coordinate their efforts in multiple dimensions and at multiple levels, to accelerate steps to establish international rules and institutions for digital economic governance, so as to enable digital economy to achieve inclusive global economic growth. China, as an emerging digital power, should play a more active leadership role in establishing rules and institutions for digital economic governance by updating e-commerce rules

through multilateral, regional, and bilateral negotiations, facilitating digital economic policy coordination among countries, and deepening cooperation with partners on digital technology and digital infrastructure. China, along with other countries, should also make full use of the opportunities brought by digital economy to further boost world economic growth.

**KEYWORDS:** globalization, digital economic governance, global supply chains, e-commerce rules

### **Sino-U.S. Clean Energy Competition and Cooperation and Beijing's Policy Response**

*LI Xinlei*

**ABSTRACT:** The clean energy policy of the United States, like its climate policy, is shaped by domestic party politics and displays cyclical changes, affecting cooperation and competition between China and the United States in the green industry. The Biden administration's climate and clean energy policies are closely linked and coordinated, and take shape within U.S. domestic and foreign policy making process. The Biden administration attempts to revive U.S. leadership in global clean energy governance by building on progress made in the Obama years and creating a club-style clean energy alliance. The Sino-U.S. clean energy cooperation mechanism has shown certain resilience and increased tolerance for non-state actors. Bilateral consensus on issues such as the climate crisis and green recovery provides an important opportunity for closer clean energy cooperation. However, the Biden administration regards China as a significant competitor in green industry, implements the green multilateral confinement strategy toward China, vigorously promotes the Transatlantic Green Trade and Technology Alliance, and engages in a race against China on information infrastructure building. In this context, China should focus on strengthening cooperation and expanding partnerships under the Sino-U.S. climate consensus, break through the "green confinement" through multilateral coordination, build up its own capability, engage in inclusive competition, and make clean energy cooperation a crucial link for Beijing and Washington to promote good global climate and energy governance.

**KEYWORDS:** clean energy, cooperation, competition, green development, carbon neutrality