

Balance and Edge: New China in the 1950s and 1960s Foreign Policy Review

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Abstract

In the early years of the founding of the People's Republic of China, in the face of severe external environment, New China first carried out contacts and exchanges with socialist countries led by the Soviet Union, promoted the development of the country's foreign relations, strengthened the strength of the international communist movement, broke the economic blockade and political isolation of China by Western countries actively, and sought the support and sympathy of the world's progressive forces and peace-loving people, so as to create a peaceful international environment for the economic recovery and nation-building of the new China.

Keywords

New China; Diplomacy; Sino-US Relations; Sino-Soviet Relations; World Revolution.

1. Try to Get Rid of the Shackles of "Leaning to One Side"

After the founding of New China, the socialist Soviet Union was the first to recognize the new Chinese regime and established formal diplomatic relations with New China. In 1949, China and the Soviet Union signed the "Sino-Soviet Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance Treaty." China fully fell to the side of the socialist camp represented by the Soviet Union. China learned from the Soviet Union's country-building experience and paid great attention to the Soviet side's opinions in foreign affairs. Maintain the central role of the Soviet Union as the "big brother" of socialist countries. The "leaning to one side" foreign policy has not only established and consolidated the relationship between China and the socialist countries headed by the Soviet Union, but also dispelled the political illusions of Western countries and enabled China to initially gain a foothold in the international community. The Soviet Union's construction experience and various aids have played a positive role in the growth and expansion of New China, but this relationship is not completely equal, but the relationship between the big brother and the younger brother. In many cases, China has to sacrifice some of its own. China's dissatisfaction and dissatisfaction with the Soviet Union has also grown day by day, and China-Soviet relations will inevitably appear turbulence, from sweetness to rupture.

With the death of Stalin and the convening of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1956, the ideological differences between the Chinese and Soviet parties became more and more obvious. In response to the ideological confusion caused by Mao Zedong's total denial of Stalin in socialist countries, China has successively published "On the Historical Experience of the Dictatorship of the Proletariat" and "Revisiting the Historical Experience of the Dictatorship of the Proletariat" from the perspective of safeguarding the overall situation. This article analyzes the causes of personality cult in an objective and calm manner, comprehensively evaluates Stalin's life and demerits, and at the same time tactfully criticizes the Soviet Union's comprehensive denial of Stalin's erroneous views. This has also aroused Mao Zedong's dissatisfaction and believed that China was sang the opposite deliberately. However, Sino-Soviet relations were generally good at this time. The two sides trusted and supported each other. The Soviet Union promised to provide China with technical

materials and samples for making atomic bombs. Mao Zedong also enthusiastically praised Soviet socialism during his visit to Moscow in 1957. The glorious achievements in construction are said to share a common destiny with the Soviet Union and the entire socialist camp. However, in 1958, the Soviet Union used the Chinese navy construction as an excuse to obtain joint ownership of the radio station built on Chinese territory at the cost of paying most of the cost of the construction of the radio station. After all, China has the common goal of defending socialist countries and opposing imperialism." As an excuse, it is suggested to establish a common submarine fleet between China and the Soviet Union, so that Soviet submarines can use Chinese ports for refueling, and the crew on board can go ashore for vacation. Its coveting of Chinese territory and the purpose of controlling China militarily. Since the Opium War, the heavy disaster brought by colonialism to China is far from imaginable by other countries. China's independence is based on more than one hundred years of bloody struggle against colonists. The country's independence and territorial issues are absolutely irrelevant. Allow the bottom line to be challenged. On the eve of the founding of the People's Republic of China, Mao Zedong said, "China must be independent, China must be liberated, and China's affairs must be handled by the Chinese people themselves, and no imperialist countries will allow any further interference."The Soviet Union imposed its own interests on China's interests and tried to control China from all aspects. They will agree. After opposition and negotiations, the Soviet side eventually regressed, but this inevitably casts a heavy shadow on Sino-Soviet relations. After he took office in the Soviet Union, Hao Luchev, in order to ease relations with the United States and pursue its peaceful development strategy, promoted political slogans such as "peaceful coexistence", "peaceful competition", and "peaceful transition" everywhere, and pursued to dominate the world with the United States in order to solve the Taiwan issue. Ambiguous attitude to please the United States. After the Sino-Indian border conflict, the Soviet Union took a neutral stance while accusing China of unilaterally provoking the conflict with the aim of destroying U.S.-Soviet relations. While China was very indignant at this brutal act, it also had to doubt whether the Soviet Union was It has deviated from Marxism-Leninism and moved towards revisionism. On the occasion of commemorating the 90th anniversary of Lenin's birth in 1960, the Communist Party of China publicly stated that "Lenin's view that violent revolution and imperialism are the eve of the proletarian revolution is not outdated. Imperialism is the root of all modern wars and the mortal enemy of the revolutionary people, helping people of all countries. The revolutionary struggle of the Communist Party of China should be the inescapable responsibility of the victorious communist country."Disagreements between China and the Soviet Union became more and more numerous. In the summer of 1960, the Soviet side unilaterally ceased assistance to China, withdrew 1,390 experts working in China within one month, and tore up 343 expert contracts and contract supplements. The abolition of 257 scientific cooperation projects has greatly reduced the supply of complete sets of equipment and key components in various equipment. Soviet treachery brought China's economic construction After a huge impact, the alliance between China and the Soviet Union was completely broken. In the face of the great power chauvinism of the CPSU, the central leadership of the Communist Party of China with Mao Zedong's core resolutely counterattacked, continuously published articles and launched major debates, comprehensively refuted the revisionist arguments of the CPSU, and reiterated that Leninist imperialism is war, and war is inevitable. Leading to the revolution, only revolution can stop war. At the same time, it emphasized the need to draw a clear line from the Soviet Communist Party from the ideological to organizational aspects in the international communist movement. During the border armed conflict with the Soviet Union, China also firmly implemented self-defense. Fight back. However, in this fierce Sino-Soviet diplomatic contest, China does not have a comparative advantage in strength, and its tactics and means are relatively blunt. It puts forward the tasks of anti-imperialist, anti-revisionist, and anti-reactionary groups in the international class struggle. At

the same time, it is believed that the truth of Marxism-Leninism and the center of world revolution have moved from Moscow to Beijing, and that the CCP should replace the leading position of the CPSU in the international communist movement and act as the standard-bearer of the world revolution. While trying to get rid of the shackles brought by the "leaning to one side" foreign policy since the founding of the People's Republic of China, China is trying to get out of the shadow of the Soviet Union and establish its own right to speak in foreign exchanges, but the ideological differences between the two countries and their diplomatic work The confusion has caused China's relations with many other socialist countries to become abnormal, and it has also lost some opportunities to improve its own situation.

2. Attach Importance to Improving Relations with the United States

After the founding of the People's Republic of China, it chose to "lean to one side" in its foreign policy, ally with the Soviet Union of socialist countries, and jointly oppose the capitalist country represented by the United States. The formulation of the "lean to one side" foreign policy is a habitual choice of the Chinese revolution with the task of overthrowing imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucratic capitalism. As Comrade Mao Zedong said, "Leaning to one side is Sun Yat-sen's 40 years of experience and the Communist Party's 20 years of experience. What experience teaches us is that we must lean to one side in order to achieve and consolidate victory"[[[] Mao Zedong. On the People's Democratic Dictatorship. Selected Works of Mao Zedong (Volume 4) [M]. Beijing: People's Publishing House, 1991, 1472.]], also in the US-Soviet Cold War situation, there is no choice but to oppose the two poles. The newly established People's Republic of China is both poor and white. It is faced with the urgent need to develop domestic production and construction. It also lacks socialist transformation and construction and experience in handling international affairs. At this time, the United States pursues an anti-communist policy and adopts a policy of containment against China. The two camps of ism and capitalism are opposed. There is no third path for China to choose. China can only fall to the Soviet Union. But this does not mean that China has completely abandoned its relationship with the United States, especially as China and the Soviet Union have more and more differences on how to evaluate Stalin, jointly build a long-wave radio station, and the Soviet Union's attitude towards the Sino-Indian border conflict. With the coming bigger, based on its own interests and needs, China's policy toward the United States, although on the surface, has maintained a consistent tough line, but still attaches great importance to finding opportunities to improve its relations with the United States.

As the most powerful country in the world at the time, the United States provided great financial and military assistance to the Kuomintang group headed by Chiang Kai-shek during the War of Liberation, although the war ended with a total victory of the Communist Party and the defeat of the Kuomintang against Taiwan. However, the United States has never completely given up its support for Jiang and its suppression of New China. The United States neither recognizes the new regime of the People's Republic of China and imposed a blockade and embargo on the New China economically, in an attempt to use high-handed methods to make the New China helpless or even to collapse. At the same time, it remains hostile to China on diplomatic issues such as China's entry into the United Nations . The hostility and obstruction of the United States put the new China in a state of being coerced and restrained, whether in the unification of its own regime or in the field of activities in international affairs. But even when China and the United States are unable to negotiate smoothly in ideological or practical exchanges, Chinese leaders are clearly aware that China is very weak both in terms of national power and economic foundation. "China is still just a little finger." , Unable to compete with the United States, but need to deal with it. At the end of 1953, China and India negotiated on the relationship between Tibet. Premier Zhou Enlai put forward the five principles of peaceful coexistence for the first

time when meeting the Indian delegation, namely, mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression and non-interference. Internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence. After the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence were put forward, China's relations with neighboring countries improved rapidly, and more and more countries established diplomatic relations with China. China began to break through the US's isolation and blockade policy against China. During the Geneva Conference in 1954, Chinese representatives took the initiative to contact the United States. The representative contacted and showed goodwill, saying that several US Air Forces captured in China could be released. The Chinese leaders represented by Mao Zedong believe that the relationship between socialist countries and imperialist countries is mostly "cold war coexistence", that is, although there are local wars, there has never been a world war. This does not deny "peaceful coexistence". On the contrary, Mao Zedong expressed his hope that "Cold War coexistence" could be transformed into "peaceful coexistence" on various occasions. In fact, China attaches great importance to the official or nongovernmental public opinion of Western countries on China, and it also looks forward to a suitable opportunity to improve Western countries' prejudice against New China. From 1960 to 1961, former British Field Marshal Montgomery was invited to visit China twice. Montgomery, as a military leader of the same fame as Eisenhower of the United States during World War II, received high treatment during the visit. Mao Zedong asked him about his views on American policy. He agreed with Montgomery's view of easing relations between the East and the West. He introduced the difficulties and difficulties of China's revolution and economic construction. He said that although China has a strong armed force to defend itself, China does not want to use war to resolve the conflict between China and the United States. problem. It can be seen that the Cold War coexistence is only from the perspective of safeguarding the Chinese revolutionary position. Because of the harsh international environment China was in at that time, China had to increase its vigilance against the possibility of an imperialist United States launching an offensive against socialist China, regardless of whether it is the Cold War coexistence or peaceful coexistence, China hopes that the world can maintain a relatively stable order so that it can have time to concentrate on construction.

In 1957, the "People's Daily" published an editorial and put forward the slogan of "Great Leap Forward." The output of major industrial products surpasses the United Kingdom and catches up with the United States (the so-called "catch up with the United States"). Under this call, local industries blossomed everywhere. For example, there were a total of 13 counties in Anqing, Anhui Province, and as of May 1958, there were 19,418 social-run factories. Immediately afterwards, the country quickly set off a frenzy of large-scale steel smelting and people's communalization movement, and various undertakings such as culture, education, transportation, health, post and telecommunications were all carried out by the people. By the end of 1959, the steel production task was announced to be over-fulfilled, and the original high-level agricultural cooperatives had all become people's communes of "one large and two public, and the integration of government and society". The country's agricultural output was also high and high, even reaching rice acres. With an exaggeration of over 30,000 catties, the county-wide communist pilot unit represented by Xushui County has emerged, and other parts of the country are also making efforts to transition to socialism to varying degrees, forming a run into communism. Fanaticism. In such a vigorous construction atmosphere, Mao Zedong and other central leaders have great expectations for the "Great Leap Forward" and hope that they can catch up with the United States as soon as possible through the Great Leap Forward, and even engage in the "Continuous Great Leap Forward" to maintain the gap between China and the United States. The state of peace and avoiding war with the United States due to confrontation is also one of the indispensable conditions to ensure the smooth progress of the Great Leap Forward.

The 1960 election coincided with the U.S. election. Kennedy, the dominant candidate at the time, expressed his attention to China on various occasions. He criticized the U.S. Republican government's policy toward China and opposed the U.S. over helping Taiwan. He declared that as long as China abandons its hostility to the United States and With a belligerent policy, the United States should establish peaceful relations with China and live in peace with China [[[Yang Kuisong. History of the Founding of the People's Republic of China 2[M]. Jiangxi: Jiangxi People's Publishing House, 2009, 222.]]. Encouraged by this, after Kennedy took office, through the Chinese ambassador to Poland Wang Bingnan, he expressed to the United States that the Kennedy administration would "make achievements in the progress of Sino-US relations" and that the United States could take the initiative, "Can we do something first? Contribution", and Kennedy has made many friendly expressions, and even said that food assistance can be provided to China when necessary. But facts have proved that Kennedy's expression of goodwill to China may be, to a large extent, only a campaign strategy. Due to the constraints of the international environment and the opposition of domestic Republicans who are hostile to China, the United States cannot fundamentally change its hostility to China. Foreign policy. In his first public speech on China policy after taking office, Kennedy said: Continue to fulfill his political and security commitments to the Taiwan authorities and oppose Red China to replace the Taiwan authorities into the United Nations. This is a reminder of the Sino-US relations that are just beginning to loosen up. The hammer shattered China's new expectations of the United States. After that, the United States continued to pressure China on issues such as Vietnam and India, and supported the Taiwan Kuomintang government to tentatively attack the southeast coastal areas of the inland. These actions greatly increased the Chinese government's sense of crisis. China issued a severe statement to warn the United States. In order to protect itself, one side had to strengthen its combat readiness and regard the anti-American struggle as the main target of foreign struggles, while at the same time assisting the revolutionary parties of other countries in the world, hoping to form an international pattern beneficial to China as the world's revolutionary power grows.

3. Aid the World Revolution and Strengthen the Revolutionary Force

Faced with the threat and pressure of the two superpowers of the United States and the Soviet Union, as well as the Leninist view of "imperialism is war" and the basic experience of the Chinese revolution, the question of whether a new world war will break out immediately has been shrouded like dark clouds. To China. Mao Zedong summoned Anna Louis Strong, former U.S. officials Frank Coe, Israel Epstein and other foreign friends in 1964 to ask them their views on U.S.-China relations and whether the U.S. would launch a world war. Epstein introduced that American public opinion generally believes that the Soviet Union is the immediate enemy of the United States and China is the long-term enemy of the United States. Mao Zedong's view is that the United States has been too long for the United States for a long time, but the current conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union is inevitable. This shows China's worries about the threat of American war. In this crisis-filled situation, on the one hand, China is actively preparing for war, and on the other hand, it has begun to provide large-scale assistance to Asian, African and Latin American countries in their anti-imperialist and hegemonic revolutionary struggles, and will gradually aid the revolutionary struggles of Asian, African and Latin American countries and carry out world revolutions As the key task of foreign policy throughout the 1960s, it is hoped that the revolutionary struggles of all countries in the world can stop the possible world wars caused by the US-Soviet struggle for hegemony and thus maintain world peace. On the one hand, China gave great financial support to foreign revolutionary parties and foreign organizations. According to statistics, foreign aid expenditures accounted for 2.79% of fiscal expenditures in 1962, 2.87% in 1963, and 3.15% in 1964, reaching 1.25 billion yuan.

On the other hand, the communist parties and revolutionary groups in Asia, Africa and Latin America are invited to send people to China to learn the theory, experience and military technology of armed struggle. Many revolutionaries from backward countries come to China for training and return to China to organize violent revolutions after completing their studies. . China's support for foreign revolutionary forces in such a state of weak national strength is not only to firmly fulfill its internationalist obligations and revolutionary ideals, as Mao Zedong said: "Whether it is the Communist Party or the nationalist, as long as we truly oppose imperialism, we just support", It was also a response to the harsh international environment at that time. In 1965, the U.S. aggressively attacked Vietnam. While fulfilling its commitment to fully support Vietnam, China agreed to send support troops, volunteer soldiers, various technical personnel, and provide one billion yuan in economic assistance to Vietnam, while expressing to the U.S. through various channels that only the U.S. Without bombing China, China will not send troops to Vietnam to take the initiative to fight the United States. This clearly shows that China is trying its best to avoid war, but only strategically chooses to stop the war through local confrontation. From the above facts, it can be seen that the formation of the Cold War pattern after the war inevitably brought ideological colors to the diplomacy of New China. China initially pursued a one-sided foreign policy toward the Soviet Union, but did not completely give up contact with the United States. Instead, it used various opportunities to try to convey to the United States the message that China and the United States can talk and negotiate. The United States is also constantly trying to ease its relationship with China. However, under the world's bipolar structure, the consistency of ideology has surpassed national interests and has become an important criterion for judging the position of the enemy and ourselves. Both China and the United States cannot get rid of excessive speculation about each other when they are in contact. On the one hand, the Soviet Union tried to use the strategy of peaceful development to dominate the world with the United States and moved towards the "revisionism" that China resented. On the other hand, it carried out brutal acts of great power chauvinism against China, which aroused great dissatisfaction among the Chinese people. . The New China, which was established after arduous struggles, is waiting to be revived. It lacks the experience of interacting with the Western world. It also needs to do a good job in domestic economic construction while ensuring national security, facing the threat of the Soviet Union's war in the North and the United States' presence in Southeast Asia. The dual pressure of containment against China has formed, and China has struggled to find a balance in it. Although its diplomatic attitude is inevitably radical in a tense situation, it is this kind of extremely tense but flexible foreign policy that has shown the world to the world. Since China's system and mentality are definitely different from the old China that was humiliated by others, the Chinese people have the firm determination to safeguard sovereignty and independence, and they also have the confidence that they will never be violated.

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