

China-U.S. Relations

China-U.S. Relations: Manage and Control Strategic Competition

By Wang Qilong, China Newsweek



On November 8th, 2017, H.E President Xi Jinping and Mrs. Peng Liyuan accompanying H.E. President Trump and Mrs. Melania on a visit to the Museum of the Imperial Palace

Difficult to avoid strategic competitions between China and the United States with the development of China

Before Trump arrived in Beijing, CNN described the difficulty of his visit to China with "high risks". The economic and trade deficit, and the Korean nuclear issue are all the issues that the Trump Administration announced in high profile to be pushed forward with the assistance of the Asian five countries before his departure for the visit to them.

But from November 8th-10th, Trump's trip to China was surprisingly smooth, and its interaction with President Xi Jinping even seemed full of "tender feelings". Trump has repeatedly expressed his personal commendations and gratitude to Xi Jinping, thus the meetings between the two presidents in April this year in the United States continue to play a role as in a "chemical reaction".

During Trump's visit to China, the commercial contracts and two-way investment agreements signed between China and the

United States involve a total amount of up to US\$253.5 billion, so the U.S. trade deficit with China is alleviated somewhat. "This is indeed a miracle," Chinese Commerce Minister Zhong Shan described the long list as such in the bilateral economic and trade history. Even with the thorny issue of Korean Peninsula nuclear issue, China and the United States also reached some consensus, reaffirming their commitments to achieving a comprehensive, verifiable and irreversible goal of denuclearization of the Peninsula, and rejected North Korea's status as a nuclear power.

For the most attractive "historic successful visit" of the Trump's 12-day Asian tour, China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations former president Cui Liru attributes it to the Chinese well-conceived itinerary for President Trump's visit, and the strategic leading role played by the heads of state diplomacy in development of relations between the two countries.

"State visit +"

Chinese Ambassador to the United States Cui Tiankai, in a media interview on October 30th, revealed that China received President Trump and his party in line with "state visit +", i.e. in addition to the routine itinerary for state visits, including inspection of honor guards, formal talks and hosting state dinner, and there is some special arrangements by the Chinese side, such as a visit to the Museum of Imperial Palace, etc..

On the one hand, we need to ensure that the top leaders of the two countries have enough time to carry out strategic communication and dialogue at the highest level, which is crucial for development of bilateral relations. On the other hand, we also hope that President Trump and his family and escort will have more opportunities to learn about China's history, culture and understand the Chinese people better, and we will ensure opportunities for them as much as possible, Cui Tiankai said.

The "state visit +" was also providing an opportunity for Trump to enjoy the Chinese hospitality. With Xi Jinping meeting the press together on November 9th, he specifically mentioned that the visit to China was "impressive and unforgettable."

For this visit, Trump also showed his considerate preparations. At tea time during the Imperial Palace visit, he used the tablet computer to show to Xi Jinping and his wife a video of his granddaughter Arabella singing a Chinese song "the Land of Hope" and reciting Three Character Classic and poetry in Chinese.

The Trump family was openly fascinated by the Chinese culture showing a needs diplomacy toward China. Even in the selection of U.S. ambassadors, Trump designated Terry Edward Branstad, many years friendship with Xi Jinping, and former governor of Iowa, a U.S. major agricultural state, hoping to push forward the agenda of reducing trade deficit with China.

At the end of last June to take up his post, Branstad from home in Iowa brought a combined painting, which draws the scene of both Xi Jinping meeting with Branstad during a visit to the Kimberley farm in Iowa in the year 2012, and Xi Jinping's father Xi Zhongxun meeting with Rey, then the Iowa governor, leading a delegation on a visit to the United States, and there is also a scene of the vast expanse of farmland in Iowa.

This painting, named "two interesting stories," is now hanging in a prominent position on the wall of the Executive Office of the U.S. Embassy in China. On the eve of Trump's visit to China, Branstad held a small press conference at the U.S. Embassy. When China News Weekly reporter asked him about the origin of the painting, Branstad appeared very interested. He rose from his seat and went to the front of the picture, detailed every scene in the painting.

Ambassador Branstad treasures his long-term established friendship with President Xi Jinping, and also knows the role played by the long-term friendship. He describes the two meetings and 9 calls between President Trump and President Xi Jinping as "unprecedented".



On November 8th, Vice Premier Wang Yang of the State Council held talks with the U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ross in the Great Hall of the People, exchanging in-depth views on issues related to Sino -U.S. economic and trade relations. Then, Wang Yang and Ross together witnessed the signing of the commercial agreements between the two countries . Photographer Song Jihe

Balancing trade between China and the United States

The friendly relationship between Branstad and China seems to have indeed benefited the Trump Administration. The 34 commercial contracts and two-way investment agreements, worth US\$ 253.5 billion, signed by the two countries this time include two procurement agreements or letters of intent concerning China's import of soybeans from the United States, worth US\$1.6 billion and US\$3.4 billion respectively. This is a continuation of China-U.S. "100 day plan", and China has further expanded the imports of American agricultural products.

Energy projects cooperation is the largest item in this bilateral economic and trade agreements. China's National Energy Investment Refco Group Ltd and West Virginia, the U.S. signed the strategic cooperation framework agreement on the shale gas industrial chain development demonstration project, worth US\$ 83.7 billion, which is the largest single agreement in terms of monetary value in this round of contracts-signing. Zhou Shijian, a senior researcher at the Sino-U.S. relations study center of Tsinghua University said in an interview, shale gas as non-renewable energy, opening energy market of oil and gas involves national security considerations to a large extent, both sides of investment involved will be very cautious, and to have reached the agreements means both sides have a great resolve.

Regarding the projects and sum signed by the Chinese and American businesses, Chinese Commerce Minister, Zhong Shan, said at a briefing on November 9th that it has not only created a record of Sino-U.S. economic and trade cooperation, but also set a record in the history of world economic and trade cooperation. Some media analysis believe that, according to the World Bank's statistics in the year 2016, US\$253.5 billion is equivalent to annual GDP of Chile, or Finland or others, accounting for 1.4% of the U.S. 18-trillion dollar economy.

On the eve of departure for Asia, Trump also publicly stated that the U.S. trade deficit of

up to \$347.0 billion is "embarrassing" and "terrible". During his campaign for U.S. president, he frequently accused China on trade issues, claiming that "China has plundered a lot of job opportunities in the United States", and has threatened to include China in a currency manipulator and impose high tariffs on products exported to the United States from China. But in Beijing attending the Closing Ceremony of the Sino-U.S. Entrepreneur Dialogue, Trump criticized the previous administration for failure to turn around the deficit.

Although the uncertainty of Trump himself is relatively large, yet, there is a confinement of uncertainty, even if his so-called 'exit doctrine' is selective about the few withdrawals. Qin Yaqing, President of China Foreign Affairs University, told China News Weekly by saying that if Trump really practices "the United States First", then it would be impossible for him to carry out his campaign promises and make the U.S. economy grow without cooperation with China.

In addition to this long list in extensive areas related to the Belt and Road construction, energy, chemical industry, environmental protection, medicine, culture, infrastructure, smart city and other fields, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Zheng Zeguang also released the results of other economic cooperation, according to China's schedule and roadmap for expanding opening-up, including substantially liberalizing the market excess for financial sectors, such as banking, securities and insurance sectors, and gradually reducing automobile tariffs. Within the free trade pilot areas before June 2018, unfold pilot projects on lifting the restrictions on foreign capital shares for special vehicles and new energy vehicles. Meanwhile, the two sides will also maintain communication on the Sino-U.S. annual plan of economic cooperation or the medium - and long - term cooperation plan.

Manage and control strategic competition

During his Asian trip, in addition to economic and trade issues, Trump also

mentioned the North Korean nuclear issue many times. On the morning before flying to China, he made a speech in the South Korean Congress. Trump not only criticized the North Korean regime's willful development of nuclear weapons and ballistic missile projects, but also criticized North Korea's human rights issues in length. He also warned North Korea, "don't underestimate us. Don't try us." "We will defend our common security, our common prosperity and our sacred freedom."

Branstad also said that, before the urgent threat posed by the North Korean nuclear issue, trade issue can only be regarded as the next important issue. Since Trump took office in January this year, the frequency of North Korea's nuclear missiles tests have been accelerated and remarkable progress has been made. On September 15th, North Korea launched a ballistic missile flying over Japan, which then landed in the waters near Hokkaido. The South Korean military estimates that the longest range of the missile flight is about 3700 kilometers. This also means that Guam, the U.S. territory in the Pacific, is already within the range of the North Korean attack. At the beginning of September, North Korea had conducted the sixth nuclear test, claiming that detonated nuclear bomb is developed by North Korea itself. During his visit to Japan and South Korea, Trump and the leaders of Japan and South Korea agreed on the "maximum pressure" on the North Korea. Japan and South Korea have also introduced new unilateral sanctions against the DPRK.

From the official information, China and the United States have reached a consensus on the North Korean nuclear issue. At the meeting with the press together with Trump, Xi Jinping pointed out that the two sides reiterated their firm commitment to the denuclearization of the peninsula and the maintenance of the international nuclear non-proliferation system. The two sides will be committed to resolving the Peninsula nuclear issue through dialogue and negotiation, and are willing to work together with the parties concerned to explore ways to achieve a long-term security in the Peninsula and the Northeast Asia. And Trump said, "we agree not to copy many of the past

failures. We agree that it is necessary to fully implement all UN Security Council resolutions on North Korea and increase economic pressure until North Korea abandons its reckless and dangerous road.

Branstad is optimistic about the joint response of China and the United States to the North Korean nuclear issue. He pointed out that China and the United States have made substantial achievements in coping with the crisis and promoted relevant sanctions against North Korea. But he still believes that more efforts should be made.

In Cui Liru's view, Trump focused on coordination with the allies in dealing with the North Korean nuclear issue on this trip, and will help stabilize the situation through dialogue with China. "In case of crisis, how to prevent misjudgment is to communicate closely." Cui Liru told China News Weekly that bilateral relations between China and the United States have long gone beyond the bilateral category, and also involve regional and global issues. After China's development, regional issues also become more and more important in the Sino-U.S. relations, and chips are increasing, and the strategic competition between China and the United States is mainly in the Asia-Pacific region.

In his speech at the U.S. Air Force Base in Titian, Japan, on November 5th, Trump mentioned the Asia-Pacific policy of widespread concern. He said, we will seek new cooperation partners and opportunities to cooperate with our allies, and strive to establish an India-Pacific region based on freedom, justice and reciprocity. This is Trump's first public reference to the concept of "India-Pacific" too. Only 5 days later at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders' informal meeting, Trump further talked about his idea, and hoped the summit to assure the India-Pacific region more free and open, and drew the paradigm outline for the India - Pacific Ocean region, i.e. a world composed of strong, sovereign, independent countries, which will see prosperity and development in peace and trade.

Behind this policy statement is the request to the United States to act in the light of

U.S.-set standard rules. i.e. respect freedom of navigation and flight, respect the rule of law, respect sovereignty, free from coercion, and open market and private enterprises become the best mode for the entire region to increase prosperity and ensure freedom and independence for various regional countries. Tsinghua –Carnegie Center for Global Policy director Paul Haenle believes that the "free and open India-Pacific" strategy proposed by the Trump Administration can be seen as a sign that the United States is awakened in the face of China's growth. This strategy reflects the U.S. commitment to the maintenance of a rule-based order, the strengthening of its alliances and partnerships, and the promotion of good governance, market principles, democracy and human rights. The United States believes that the regions that respect these principles will ultimately be more secure, peaceful and prosperous.

However, the announced Trump's policy does not show a good prospect. University of International Relations professor Da Wei told China News Weekly that "India-Pacific" is an old phrase, the Obama Administration made the proposal but failed to make it a strategy, so the Trump Administration will possibly follow suite. "The Trump Administration's strategic thinking is not very strong, it will not set a goal for a certain region, and then carry it out, instead of adopting a comprehensive way of thinking, or thinking from big to small, from far away to near-by, but a thinking from a point to a point. Solve whatever crisis and whatever problems faced. Da Wei said, "India-Pacific" concept is currently pushed mainly by Japan, largely to hedge the Belt and Road Initiative. Compared with Japan's ambitions, the United States has not shown such strong momentum.

After Trump came to power, the steady development of Sino-U.S. relations exceeded many observers forecast. Da Wei attributes this

largely to the two governments management and control of the Sino-U.S. relations. Having come to power, the Trump Administration pays more attention to the North Korean nuclear issues and economic & trade issue, and both sides are also promoting the North Korean nuclear issue even though it is a difficult issue.

Da Wei also quoted the U.S. National Security Council, former senior director for Asian Affairs Jeff Bader as saying that the Sino-U.S. relations is now "Too Big to Fail" . Both China and the United States have realized that if the Sino-U.S. relations are bad, and the competition will become the mainstream, which will cause serious consequences.

Cui Liru told China News Weekly that with development of China, the strategic competition between China and the United States is more difficult to avoid. Cui Liru advocated that China and the United States should "manage and control the strategic competition" and make sure it does not get out of control, and that's the bottom line. The second level is to make competition no longer become "zero sum competition again". The third level is to turn competition into a kind of interaction between two sides cooperation.

Comparatively speaking, the Chinese side is now more optimistic about the development of Sino-U.S. relations. However, the United States has two different opinions on this relations, which argue fiercely with each other. Cui Liru believes that China through its own role will affect the future direction of this bilateral relationship. "Regarding Trump's visit to China, China has played a good leading role. China has generally increased the positive chips, making this heads of state dialogue and state visit more positive." Cui Liru said.

(Excerpts of the article in China Newsweek, No. 43, November 2017, pp.20-23)

Leading to a better future for China-U.S. Relations

--Highlights of the meeting between President Xi Jinping and President Trump in Beijing
By Li Zhongfa, Xiong Zhengyan and Hou Lijun, Xinhua News Agency

From November 8th to 9th, President Xi Jinping met with U.S. President Trump in Beijing. In the two days time, they had a friendly interactions and frank exchanges for more than 10 hours. The two heads of state shared strategic communications around the bilateral relations and major international and regional issues, and reached a series of important consensus, having planned new blueprint for development of the Sino-U.S. relations, and opened a new chapter in the relations between the two major countries.

Playing the most friendly host possible and showing the charm of the East

The meeting between the two heads of state, China and the United States, attracts world-wide attention. On the afternoon of 8, the Museum of Imperial Palace with more than 600 years of history seems more majestic and magnificent in the sunshine. President Xi Jinping and Mrs. Peng Liyuan chose to meet the visiting President Trump and Mrs. Melania here.

Before Bao Yun Building, the western architectural style inside the Forbidden City, President Xi Jinping and President Trump shook hands and exchanged greetings. With the help of media photographers, the first handshake of the two heads of state was immediately spread all over the world.

This is a historic meeting. Forty-five years ago, U.S. President Nixon made a historic visit to China. The two countries were shaking hands across the Pacific and melting the ice, changing the pattern of the world. Forty-five years later, under the strategic guidance of the two heads of state, the relations between the two countries are writing a new chapter in the era.

"President Trump's visit to China is of great significance, having not only drawn attention from China and the United States, but also from all countries of the world." President Xi Jinping

welcomes Trump's state visit to China on the occasion of his 1st Anniversary of the U.S. presidency. President Trump congratulated the successful conclusion of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China and Xi Jinping's re-election to the general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, and praised the achievements of China's economic development.

Bao Yun Building is filled with tea fragrance, a moving scene adding a lot of warmth to the high-level meeting. President Trump used the tablet computer to display the video of his granddaughter Arabella singing Chinese song, the Three Character Classic and poetry in Chinese. Xi Jinping and his wife praised the progress of Arabella's Chinese level and called her a little ambassador for China-U.S. relations. Last April, President Xi Jinping was invited to the summit with President Trump in the United States. President Trump had specially designed his granddaughter to perform for President Xi Jinping and wife Peng Liyuan.

Overnight, this "little star" video has become a hot topic in China.

Considerate and meticulous program showing the host hospitality.

The Imperial Palace, which bears the historical changes of the Chinese nation for several hundred years, is an indispensable window to understand the history and culture of China. Inside this huge compound, the two heads of state exchange views on the world in the past, present and future.

Visiting the first three Halls, watching the restoration of cultural relics and enjoying the performance of Beijing Opera, President Xi Jinping and wife escorted President Trump and wife all the time. In the sunshine, the Hall of Supreme Harmony seems grand solemn.

The Hall of Supreme Harmony, the Hall of Central Harmony and the Hall of Preserving Harmony contain "harmony" of China's

cultural tradition. President Xi Jinping introduced the architecture of the Imperial Palace together with the history of China to President Trump on the way.

Foreign media reported that President Xi Jinping had a considerate program arranged for President Trump's visit to China, reflecting the Chinese reciprocity, and facilitating the U.S. leaders to know China's history and culture closely.

This is a meeting to deepen friendship. It has been proved by practice that the forward moving Sino-U.S. relations requires the leadership by the heads of state diplomacy.

Through meetings, calls, and communication for a year to maintain close communications, President Xi Jinping and President Trump have frank exchanges, enhance mutual trust, and achieve a smooth transition and overall stable development of the Sino-U.S. relations after the U.S. new administration took office, having played a key role in the stable development of bilateral relations. The friendship between the two heads of state is crucial to the relations between two countries.

President Trump changed his social media's personal account background to the photo of the couple with the Peking Opera actors. He said to President Xi Jinping, it's a great honor to work with you, and we must work together to do great things for the United States and China.

Reach greatest consensus and guide the future

A grand welcome ceremony shows hospitality and respect. On the morning of 9, President Xi Jinping held a ceremony outside of the Great Hall of the People to welcome President Trump on the state visit to China. At the welcome ceremony, the two details arranged by the Chinese side were notable: the military band played the famous American Star Spangled March, and especially some American children who are studying and living in China participated in the welcome crowds. On the way to the meeting hall, artists dressed in traditional clothing played "folk music" for President Trump with a group of copper bells,

China traditional instruments; a group of Children chorus a children song "Joining Hands", adding more easy atmosphere to the meeting.

In both the small circle talks and large scale talks, the two heads of state are open and frank to each other and share in-depth exchanges, and made a top-level design for development of the Sino-U.S. relations into the future. "The Sino-U.S. relations is at a new historical starting point. China is willing to work with the U.S. side to respect each other, achieve mutual benefit, focus on cooperation, and manage and control differences, bring more tangible benefits to the two peoples, to peoples in various regions and the world at large. President Xi Jinping starts from a broad perspective.

For decades, the Sino-U.S. relations as vast river tides, although through twists and turns, yet has never changed the surging trend of rolling forward. Currently, the top leaders of the two countries are promoting greater development of this important bilateral relationship in the world. It is the historical responsibility shouldered by the leaders of the two countries to promote the healthy and stable development of the Sino-U.S. relations with constructive attitude.

Mutual trust is further enhanced - the top leaders of China and the United States agree with each other to continuously give play to the strategic leadership role of the heads of state diplomacy in the bilateral relations and promote the greater development of the Sino-U.S. relations.

The consensus is further condensed – the two top leaders achieve a number of important results in strengthening bilateral, regional and global cooperation.

The mechanisms are further improved - the 4 high-level dialogue mechanisms will be built into an accelerator to enhance mutual trust, incubators to foster cooperation, and management and control lubricants for differences between China and the United States, and play a positive role in pushing new and greater development of the Sino-U.S. relations.

Guidance leads to consensus and the results

are inspiring. After the talks, President Xi Jinping and President Trump witnessed the signing of cooperation documents on energy, manufacturing, agriculture, aviation, electricity and automobiles, etc. During President Trump's visit to China, the two countries signed the commercial and two-way investment agreements worth more than UAS\$250 billion.

"China's economic long-term prospects for growth are bright"; "The prospects for China to adhere to the reform and opening up are clear-cut"; "The prospects for China and the United States to expand economic and trade cooperation are broad", facing about 50 Chinese and the U.S. business representatives, President Xi Jinping made these three points on China economic situation and the Sino-U.S. economic and trade relations, passing the confidence in expanding cooperation.

As trade is between two sides, which benefits both sides. It is believed that with joint efforts of entrepreneurs and business circles of the two countries, the Sino-U.S. economic and trade cooperation will continue to write more successful stories on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, President Xi Jinping said.

The consensus is rooted in a profound understanding of cooperation between the two countries. President Xi Jinping said that the development of China and the United States is complementary, and does not run mutually exclusive, the success of each country is in the common interests of both sides. President Trump said that the United States and China now have better opportunities than ever to strengthen bilateral relations, improve the lives of the two peoples and enhance bilateral cooperation.

Draw a blueprint for the future and pioneer a new journey

The summit of the two heads of state has made a clear direction and a blueprint for development of the Sino-U.S. relations into the future, President Xi Jinping said with a strong tone at the joint press conference attended by both President Xi Jinping and President Trump in the Great Hall of People. Every journey begins with the first step. During the meeting of the two heads of state, the path of developing

the Sino-U.S. relations is clearer.

-- The area of diplomatic security concerns overall development of the Sino-U.S. relations and the level of strategic mutual trust between the two countries. The two sides should follow the direction set by the two heads of state to determine the roadmap for development of the Sino-U.S. relations, and dispel doubts on major and sensitive issues;

--Economic and trade cooperation is the stabilizer and ballast of the Sino-U.S. relations. The two sides should formulate and start the next phase of the economic and trade cooperation plan as soon as possible, and promote the Sino-U.S. economic and trade cooperation to move towards larger scale, higher level and wider fields.

-- Cultural exchange is a long-term undertaking like an older generation planting trees while an younger generation enjoying the shade, and the foundation concerning the long-term development of the Sino-U.S. relations. It is hoped that the two sides should implement well the Sino-U.S. two-way students, and cultural exchanges and cooperation projects, deepen mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples, and continuously inject vitality into the sustainable development of the Sino-U.S. relations.

-- law enforcement and cyber security concern the sense of security and happiness of peoples of the two countries, and are an important area of cooperation between China and the United States. It is hoped the two sides to carry out more cooperation around hunting those fugitives having fled abroad and their stolen gains, drug control and illegal immigration, the fight against cyber crime, and cyber terror, and protection of cyber network security.

At the moment, the Sino-U.S. relations are at a new historical starting point.

Looking at the world and facing the complicated and changing international situation, China and the United States share more common interests, shoulder more responsibilities and enjoy more cooperation space in maintaining world peace and stability and promoting global development and prosperity.

Both located in the Asia-Pacific, both China and the United States are the countries of important influence in the Asia-Pacific region. The Pacific is large enough to accommodate both China and the United States. The two sides should strengthen communication and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Affairs, cultivate a common circle of friends, shape a constructive interaction situation, and jointly safeguard and promote the regional peace and prosperity.

Looking at China and the United States, the common interests of the two countries is far greater than their differences; respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and respect each other's choice of development path and their differences. As long as we always take a constructive attitude, the two sides can seek common ground while reserving differences, pool commonalities and dispel differences, and promote cooperation.

The 19th Party Congress report points out that China would actively develop global partnerships, expand interests convergences, promote major-country coordinate cooperation, build major-country relations framework of

overall stability and balanced development, deepen relations with neighboring countries in accordance with the ideas of amity, sincerity, benefits, and inclusiveness as well as diplomatic principles of neighborly friendship and neighborly partnership, uphold the correct view of righteousness and interests, and really strengthen solidarity and cooperation with developing countries.

On the evening of 9, in the Great Hall of the People, at the state dinner hosted by President Xi Jinping and Mrs. Peng Liyuan in honor of President and Mrs. Trump, President Xi emphasized that as long as we stick to the spirit of persistence and perseverance, we will be able to compose a new historical chapter for the Sino-U.S. relations; China and the United States will make new contributions to the better future of mankind.

New era, new blueprint for a new voyage. We expect China-U.S. relations to lead to a better future.

(Excerpts of the article in People's Daily, November 11, 2017, P.3)

(Continued from page 36) believes that in this year the international security situation mainly presents five new features:

Firstly, the local turmoil and turbulence are more prominent, which strongly affects the original international security order. Secondly, the "Islamic state" (IS) is disintegrating, but international counter-terrorism has a long way to go. In 2017 terrorism continues its newly emerged features: decentralization, lone wolf, and spreading to the world. Thirdly, the regional arms race has been intensified, and the military competition among major countries has become more intense. Fourthly, major countries further strengthen their strategic deployment of cyber security, and promote the development of cyber space security. Fifthly, the surrounding areas

become one of concentrated area of the world's hot spots.

Meng Xiangqing believes that the future international turmoil and conflict trend becomes complex, and more difficult to solve; besides security cooperation between major countries gains some progress in non-traditional areas, confrontation and conflict in the field of traditional security are also growing, which should be given more attention; the impact of major-country competition and game-play on regional and global security becomes more and more significant; to reform and improve the global security governance system should be put on the agenda, which means both challenges and opportunities.

(Excerpts of the article in PLA Daily, 22 December 2017)

Cultural Exchanges Narrowing the Distance between the Peoples of China and the United States

By Zhang Niansheng and Zheng Qi, People's Daily Reporters

Library of Congress, built in the year 1800, has the largest collection in the world, with over 1 million books in Chinese. However, in the 1960s -1970s, there were only about 300,000 books in Chinese. The leap from 300,000 to 1 million, along with development of China-U.S. relations from the establishment of diplomatic relations to maturing relationship, which also reflects the rising interest of the U.S. circles in China.

Books become an important way for the cultural exchange

Dr. Wang Ji, President of the U.S.- China Policy Foundation, had worked in the U.S. Library of Congress for 47 years, is a witness to the soaring collection of Chinese books in the Library of Congress. The collection of Chinese books set a record of 1 million books, which was achieved as he was the director of the Chinese Department of the Library of Congress.

Full of pride, Dr. Wang Ji shared his experience with reporters. In the year 1969, when Library of Congress commemorated the 100th Anniversary of the Chinese book entry, he promised Mumford, then the Library curator, to make Chinese books collection more than 1 million, which surprised Mumford. In 2004, when Wang Ji retired from the directorship of the Chinese Department, his promise was achieved. Since the year 1869, the collection of Chinese books in Library of Congress has covered all disciplines, especially the humanities and social sciences, including rich Chinese classical literature and traditional Chinese medicine. There are about 4000 copies of local chronicles for the Ming and Qing Dynasties, about 2-300 of which are the only copies existent. In addition to publications in Mandarin, the Library also has a large collection of books in Manchu, Mongolian and other ethnic minority languages. Unlike ordinary libraries, Library of Congress is a subordinate to the Government of the United States, so the curator is appointed by the president and the employees are government employees. In addition to the collection of books, Library of Congress is also responsible for providing decision-making research for members of Congress and government departments.

Wang Ji told reporters that when he worked in the Chinese Department, he received about 150 researchers every month. These Chinese books provided an important reference for the U.S.

departments, educational research institutions and scholars. "In order to meet the increasing demand, the curator encourages us to purchase Chinese books every year in Beijing, Hong Kong, etc., and exchange books with the libraries there." In addition to books on humanities and social sciences, the U.S. Library of Congress also pays attention to the collection of books and periodicals on Chinese science and technology. "The Library buys Chinese science magazines and books annually and subscribes to 500 Chinese periodicals. We have all the periodicals published by the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

For the U.S. Federal Government and Congress, the Library's Chinese department is equivalent to a "think tank on China". Wang Ji still has fresh memory, before President Reagan visited China in 1982, his secretary called Wang Ji for recommending three thin reference books on Chinese culture to the president. Wang Ji selected the books as required. After President Reagan's visit to China, he sent a letter of thanks and a photo of his personal signature to Wang Ji.

"Without communication, there is no understanding, and the exchange of books is an important way of cultural exchanges between China and the United States." Wang Ji smiled and said that he witnessed the Sino-U.S. cultural exchanges grow from the trifle beginning to the prosperous expansion, my work is very meaningful".

The cultural exchanges between China and the United States are carried out constantly

Similar to Wang Ji's personal experience, the cultural exchanges between China and the United States are carried out in an unprecedented intensity. Whether in New York, Washington, D.C. or some remote rural areas, journalists have seen the great participation of the American people in Chinese cultural performances.

"What is the purpose of building the Great Wall in ancient China?" "What kind of tea is the specialty produced in Jiangsu?" Not long ago, the "Jiangsu Cup" Chinese speech contest in Washington area was held at Eliot International Relations Institute of University of George Washington. There are not only prepared speeches, but also answer impromptu and speak impromptu. Before the competition, John L. Holden, CEO of the U.S.-China Strong Foundation, delivered a fluent speech in Chinese. He told reporters that he began learning Chinese from the 1970s. At that

time, it was only for his personal interest that speaking Chinese seemed cool, he thought, and didn't expect it to be very useful now. "Today's American student learning Chinese will undoubtedly provide them with more possibilities for their future". John L. Holden believes that training a new generation of talents who can communicate with China in the United States will help enhance communications between the two countries, further eliminate differences and misunderstandings, and is an inevitable choice to enhance Sino-U.S. relations. The next goal of the U.S.-China Strong Foundation is to establish effective networks to connect students, Chinese teachers and future employers so as to further enhance the enthusiasm of American students in learning Chinese. The data shows that at present, the United States has opened 110 Confucius colleges, 501 Confucius classes, and Chinese-learning students have increased year by year.

Like the Chinese language, more and more traditional Chinese culture is coming into the United States. Virginia Museum of Art from November 18th, 2017 to March 11th, 2018 holds the "Brilliant Qin Dynasty -- Terracotta Army exhibition", which is one example. In the eyes of the American people who are interested in Chinese history and culture, the exhibition will be a cultural treat -- the exhibits are from 14 museums and archaeological institutes in Shaanxi Province, up to more than 130 pieces, including 10 genuine Terracotta Army figures, and more than 40 objects have never been exhibited in the United States.

In fact, similar major Chinese theme exhibitions have been launched in recent years in some major museums in the United States. In the year 2016, the Chicago Field Museum held a successful exhibition of Qin Terracotta Army, which increased visitors by 500,000 over the previous year. From March 27th to July 16th this year, the largest exhibition of Chinese culture and art was held in New York Metropolitan Museum, attracting more than 300,000 people to visit. In the eyes of museums circle in the United States, the Chinese Museum hardware and exhibits have reached the world advanced level. Many museums hope to carry out exhibitions of art exchanges with China.

Nair Gies, director of the Virginia Art Museum, loves Chinese art and has actively promoted Chinese culture to American audiences for many years. In his view, the American people know little about China's magnificent and brilliant art and culture. "Holding exhibitions related to the Chinese culture can help American people further know China and understand China." He told reporters that he has been to China a dozen times, and that the Chinese people are the most hospitable people in the world. "The common grounds

between China and the United States are more than that many Americans recognize, and we should further strengthen cooperation in various fields such as society and culture."

The weight of exchanges in humanity and culture is becoming heavier

In the current overall pattern of Sino-U.S. relations, the weight of exchanges in humanity and culture is becoming heavier and heavier. Both Governments of China and the United States regard the cultural exchanges and cooperation as an important part of the relations between the two countries and continue to promote it.

Not long ago, the action plans made by the first round of Sino-U.S. social and cultural dialogue have very rich contents in strengthening cultural exchanges and cooperation for both sides, involving education, culture, innovation and other areas, implementing the Sino-U.S. two way study "dual 100,000 plan"; supporting the mechanisms cooperation between University think tanks, and organizing the Sino-U.S. university think tanks dialogue every year; holding China-U.S. youth hit-off contest every year, and establishing China-U.S. youth hit-off exchange centers in the two countries; promoting Confucius colleges and Confucius classes in the United States, and working together to train local Chinese teachers in the United States; supporting cultural institutions to establish long-term cooperation mechanism, and holding "Sino-U.S. Cultural Forum"; promoting exchanges and cooperation between the two public cultural institutions such as libraries, museums, etc. and implementing the Sino-U.S. library management personnel exchange project; promoting the mutual visits of excellent art works between the two countries, and promoting the understanding of the two peoples to each other's culture...

According to statistics in the year 2016, a total of 5.3 million people traveled across the Pacific, with an average of over 10,000 people per day. About 300,000 Chinese students go to study in the United States each year, and 1 out of 3 foreign students in the United States comes from China, and over 14,000 American students come to China to study and exchange.

Culture comes from hearts, and goes straight to hearts of peoples. The exchanges in the social and cultural fields between China and the United States have effectively helped enhance mutual trust, eliminate misunderstanding and narrow the distance between the two peoples. As Li Shaoxuan, the gold medal winner of the Jiangsu cup -- Chinese speaking contest, said that learning Chinese and making friends with Chinese, you will find that Americans and Chinese are alike, who are all ordinary people.

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