

Never Forget History and Maintain Peace**Never Forget History and Safeguard Peace**

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On September 3, 2015, China solemnly held a gathering in Commemoration of 70th Anniversary of the Victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War. Chinese President Xi Jinping in his important speech emphasized that “in the interest of peace, we need to foster a keen sense of a global community of shared future, all countries should jointly uphold the international order and system underpinned by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, build a new type of international relations featuring win-win cooperation and advance the noble cause of global peace and development”. He announced that China will cut the number of its troops by 300,000, which fully shows China's sincerity and aspiration to join hands with the rest of the world to maintain peace, pursue development and share prosperity. “Peace will prevail” in President Xi Jinping’s speech is bound to further strengthen the CPAPD’s confidence and determination in pursuit of peace.

I. Never forget history and maintain peace.

September 3, 1945 is the day that will forever be etched in the memory of people all

over the world. The Chinese people, having fought tenaciously for 14 years, won the great victory of their War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression, marking the full victory of the World Anti-Fascist War. On that day, the world was once again blessed by the sunshine of peace.

The Second World War launched by the Japanese militarists and German fascists is the darkest and most tragic page in human history, and has brought unprecedented catastrophe to the cause of peace and development of the whole mankind. Their aggressiveness and savageness are unprecedented. The Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War were a decisive battle between justice and evil, between light and darkness, and between progress and retrogress. In that devastating war, the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression started the earliest and lasted the longest. In defiance of aggression, the unyielding Chinese people fought gallantly and finally won total victory against the Japanese militarist aggressors, thus preserving China's 5,000-year-old civilization and upholding the cause of peace of mankind. This remarkable feat made by the Chinese nation

was rare in the history of war. President Xi said in the speech that “the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression is the first complete victory won by China in its resistance against foreign aggression in modern times. This great triumph crushed the plot of the Japanese militarists to colonize and enslave China and put an end to China's national humiliation of suffering successive defeats at the hands of foreign aggressors in modern times. This great triumph re-established China as a major country in the world and won the Chinese people respect of all peace-loving people around the world. This great triumph opened up bright prospects for the great renewal of the Chinese nation and set our ancient country on a new journey after gaining rebirth.” This great victory proves the truth of history: “Justice will prevail! Peace will prevail! The people will prevail!”

During the war, with huge national sacrifice, the Chinese people held the ground in the main theater in the East of the World Anti-Fascist War, thus making a major contribution to its victory. China fought against and contained the main forces of the Japanese militarists for a long time, wiped out more than 1.5 million Japanese invasion troops accounting for about 70% of the Japanese military casualties in the Second World War. It played a decisive role in the complete destruction of the Japanese aggression. In their war against Japanese aggression, the Chinese people received extensive support from the international community. The Chinese people will always remember what the people of other countries did for the victory of their War of Resistance. Ravaging through Asia, Europe, Africa and Oceania, that war inflicted over 100 million military and civilian casualties. China suffered over 35 million casualties. According to the exchange rate in 1937, China suffered more than US\$100 billion direct economic losses, and more than US\$ 500 billion indirect economic losses. The best way to honor the heroes who gave their lives to uphold freedom, justice and peace and mourn the loss of innocent lives brutally taken during the war is to make sure that this historical tragedy will never repeat again.

II. Past experience, if not forgotten, is a guide for the future.

History is the best text book. Only have a correct understanding of history, can we create a better future. Seventy years after the Chinese People won the resistance against Japanese aggression, Japanese government and some right-winger forces are still trying to run against the tide, defy justice, attempt to reverse the verdict of history of aggression and exhaust its resources to build up its military, against which the international community should keep vigilant.

President Xi Jinping pointed out that human history suffers inevitable twists and turns and enjoys inevitable continual progress. History is written in the hearts of the people, which should not and can not be erased. The history of yesterday is not simply written by people today, but the people today cannot break away from the history of yesterday in order to seize today and start tomorrow. History will gradually back away, but the enlightenment and lessons of history, whether we admit them or not, will always remain. Either peoples of these countries bravely fighting in the war of aggression or those waging the war in those years, either the people experiencing through those years or those born afterwards, should all adhere to the correct outlook on history and keep in mind the enlightenment and lessons of history.

This history is too painful to recall, however only by firmly keeping in mind and facing up to this history, can we draw a lesson from it, and constantly remind people of cherishing, and safeguarding world peace and firmly opposing all rhetoric's and deeds of denying and of distorting the history of aggression, firmly safeguarding the human conscience and justice so that the light of peace will be able to shine forever over the planet where the mankind lives.

Peace is hard won and must be defended. We commemorate the 70th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War to rekindle the yearning for and commitment to peace. It is

also our sincere hope that all countries draw more wisdom and strength from history, stick to peaceful development and work together to build a promising prospect for world peace.

III. All countries should make efforts to build a new type of international relations featuring win-win cooperation to maintain peace.

President Xi Jinping pointed out that “in the interest of peace, we need to foster a keen sense of a global community of shared future. Prejudice, discrimination, hatred and war can only cause disaster and suffering, while mutual respect, equality, peaceful development and common prosperity represent the right path to take. All countries should jointly uphold the international order and system underpinned by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, build a new type of international relations featuring win-win cooperation and advance the noble cause of global peace and development.” Politically, foster a new thinking of building constructive partnerships. International relations, in the traditional sense, are often about making a choice between alliance and confrontation. To build partnerships, however, is to find a new path of having dialogue without confrontation and becoming partners without forming alliance. As President Xi Jinping puts it, countries, with or without agreement, could all be partners. It is true that political alliance does exist, and China respects countries' right to independently choose their foreign policy. Meanwhile, we hope that parties may, by acting upon the trend of the times, explore a new type of partnership that is more inclusive and constructive, that is not targeted at a hypothetical enemy or against a third party. Economically, foster new prospects of common development. All countries should foster a true sense of community of shared interests and work to secure the greatest common interests possible in seeking common development. Such is the vision in mind when the Chinese Government puts forward the initiatives of building the "Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk Road", which has already received positive response from about 60 countries. Inspired by the ancient Silk Road

spirit, the "One Belt and One Road" initiatives is designed to embrace the tremendous need for cooperation among countries concerned on prioritizing development of infrastructure facilities for transportation on the Eurasian Continent. The “One Belt and One Road” initiatives will be beneficial to every participating country and its people. On the security front, we need to commit ourselves to building a world of security for all. We must make sure that the cold war mentality, in whatever form, should give way to a shared commitment to common, cooperative, comprehensive and sustainable security. Disputes between countries should be addressed through dialogue and consultation instead of the use of or threat of force. By doing so, can we ensure that peace and security are enjoyed and safeguarded by all countries in the world. Culturally, we should promote inclusiveness and mutual learning between civilizations. The world we live in is home to over 200 countries and regions and more than 2,500 ethnic groups and various religions, and is thus blessed with a remarkable cultural diversity. Each civilization is proudly unique of its own and all add to the common asset of the human race. China's promotion of building a new type of international relations featuring win-win cooperation is to make sure that all countries and their people jointly enjoy dignity, share development results and security in the world.

IV. China will remain committed to peaceful development and will never seek hegemony or expansion.

President Xi Jinping mentioned the word “peace” 18 times in his speech from the perspective of Chinese history, tradition, reality and development, and stressed Chinese people's strong confidence in cherishing peace and firm determination in maintaining peace. President Xi Jinping solemnly promises that in the interest of peace, China will remain committed to peaceful development. “We Chinese love peace. No matter how much stronger it may become, China will never seek hegemony or expansion. It will never inflict its past suffering on any other nation.” Right now,

the Chinese people are working in unison under the strategic plans to comprehensively complete the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects, and to comprehensively deepen reform, advance law-based governance, and enforce strict Party conduct. Our objective is to realize the "dual-centenary" goals for China's development and for realizing the Chinese dream of great national rejuvenation. What China needs most is a harmonious and stable domestic environment and a peaceful and tranquil international environment. Turbulence or war runs against the fundamental interests of the Chinese people. China will steadfast pursue the independent foreign policy of peace, the path of peaceful development, the win-win strategy of opening-up, and the approach of upholding justice while pursuing shared interests. China will work to promote a new type of international relations of win-win cooperation and will always remain a staunch force for world peace and common development.

President Xi Jinping announced in his speech that China will cut the number of its troops by 300,000. This announcement fully shows China's sincerity and aspiration to join hands with the rest of the world to maintain peace, pursue development and share prosperity, and also demonstrates China's active and responsible attitude to push forward the international arms control and disarmament. This is the 11th massive military cut since the founding of the new China. China initiatively cut its troops' number for several times since 1980s by 1 million, 0.5 million and 0.2 million to a total number of 2.3 million scale. After the new cut of 0.3 million, China will reduce its total troops' number to 2 million. There is no country like China in the world to cut its troops in such a big number and for so many times. This fully shows China's confidence in its military modernization and a promise of

maintaining world peace and a forceful blow to the so called "China threat". Of course, after the cut by 300,000, the number of the Chinese troops still remains one of the largest in the world. As a big developing country, China is still confronted with multiple complex security threats, with survival security and development security, traditional and non-traditional security threats intertwined together. Thus, the Chinese People's Liberation Army is entrusted with the arduous mission to maintain China's national unity, territorial integrity and development interests. At the same time, the PLA also carries out the military operations other than war including domestic emergency rescue and disaster relief, international peacekeeping and international rescue. China also has to cope with the threats of regional terrorism, separatism and extremism activities. So, China needs to maintain a certain scale of its troops, which is completely for the purpose of defense. In a big country as China, its military of 2 million is not very big. The ratio of military to the national population and the per-serviceman share of China's defense expenditure compared with that of some other countries are rather low. A handful of countries deliberately play up "China threat", which is groundless and irresponsible.

The year of 2015 is the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament. During the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War, we feel proud of our long-time efforts of promoting peace, security, arms control and disarmament. Looking forward to our future mission, we feel much honored. Peace is the common aspiration of mankind and is our committed pursuit.