

CHINA - A STRONG ACTOR ON THE INTERNATIONAL GEOPOLITICAL SCENE

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Abstract: The realisation of the security state is one of the attributes of an efficient governance and a premise of a durable development of a nation. The realisation of the national security suppose, among other things, the assurance of a protection of vital information which, by law, have to be the object of a strict dissemination from the point of view of beneficiaries who are empowered or authorized to have access to them. As regards the security of the Chinese State, the main objective is to defend national development interests, and to firmly defend the state sovereignty. The objectives pursued by Chinese strategic leaders are to increase regional importance and to increase its influence in the international sphere. To achieve these goals, China requires a strong economy, diplomacy and military power. Moreover, the analysis of Chinese strategic documents highlights another important aspect: the necessity of a strong army, capable to fight, to discourage potential adversaries, and to protect China's interests at any distance.

Keywords: global powers, strategic interests, influence regions, economic development.

Introduction

In the chinese conception, the war is not the continuation of the policy, by military means, contrary, the policy is a a continuation of a war, and this brings to the conclusion that the most effective way to obtain the victory is to wage the war by by political means. Such a vision is build on the idea that the war is permanent because the confrontation in economic or political plans is also permanent, and an armed fight have to be avoided, because a direct fight doesn't build, but, contrary, is destructive.

In accordance with this vision, in 2019 it was drafted "The White Paper on China's National Defense in the New Age", a document which explains the defensive policy of the national defense. According to this document, the basic goal of China national defense is the firm defense of sovereignty, security, and nationa development interests, without pursuing the hegemony, expansion or spheres of influence.

According to the researcher Shi Qingren from the Military Sciences Academy of the People's Liberation Army, the document clearly demonstrates "the defensive nature of politics" [1].

The strategic chinese priority aims an impetuous economic development, the acces to resources and to different markets.

The economic development, the tehcnological progress and the information tehcnology are the lonely capable to ensure a credible defensive capacity. In the chinese doctrine, the base of the security policy is the development of a strong economy, principle that corespond to a inherited concept from the period of the last yers of Manchu Empire, respectively: a „strong country for a strong army”.

The practical application of the security principles agreed by China materialized in its efforts to prevent or to limit a border conflict. Of course, after the Gulf War from 1991 and even more after that from 2003, China proposed to be able to solve a local conflict by military means, also.

1. China's geopolitical interests in the South-East of Asia

The strategic tension between China and Japan is aggravated by the fact that both depend by the hydrocarbs import. Behind the dispute between them, having as subject the islands of Senkaku/Diaozu, five coral inlands in the Oriental China Sea, the issue of oil potential is emerging around these islands. Due to the strategic location of these islands, China would be capable to control the vital maritime ways for the Japanese imports of hydrocarbs, but also the regional, intraregional and intercontinental maritime traffic, especially that one practiced by USA [2].

The occidental analysts appreciate that the influence of China in South-East Asia is to be growing. But, also, it is well known the fact that the same goal was proposed by India - another power in Asia, which has with China some misunderstandings at common borders.

For China, India constitutes, par excellence, the Asian enemy, representing the demographic, geopolitical and political-intellectual counterweight for China.

Due to its bases from Burma, Beijing already has an opening to the Indian Ocean, where India has geopolitical interests.

The competition between these two big Asian giants is in a continuous search for allies.

For example, in the last years, the relations between India and Israel, have grown closer. Furthermore, there are information according to which the Israeli-Indian forces make military trainings. Also, there are information about a possible future deployment of a Israeli military base on the Indian territory, practically trying to approach from the USA side, considering the Israeli-American strategic partnership [3].

China try to strengthen relationships with Pakistan [4], supporting Pakistan position in the Kashmir and Jammu regions. Thus, China is using the Pakistani interest for the Chinese modern nuclear technology in order to improve its future nuclear power. At all these, we could add the common contracts in the economic-military sphere, adopted in a big measure by the Pakistani part. In the future, Pakistan could start, helped by China, the building of a very important strategic-military port, which would offer to China the possibility to dislocate the maritime forces just at the exit from Persian Gulf.

For Pakistan, Gwadar will represent a golden mine: 40% of oil naval traffic passes through the area, and the road and rail links being completed will connect it with other parts of the country, with Afghanistan and Central Asia. Another advantage is the distance to its traditional enemy, India.

For China, the port will be a transit terminal for the oil imported from Iran and Africa, to the Xinjiang province. Strategically, China try to diminish the American influence in the region [5].

Such a perspective, in the opinion of several experts, could offer big influences over military power, not only in the South region, also in the Eastern part of Asia.

2. Political-military consequences of the approach between Russia, China and India

Geoeconomic evolution of China substantially contributed to strengthen its position of emerging power at the global level. The consequences are multilaterals. China is, in present, one of the biggest economy of the world, characterized by sustained growth rates. Also, China is country where one-fifth of world's population live and this an indicator which must always be taken into account. Furthermore, China has a special position within the world due to the fact that it is a very significant nuclear power of the world. From the point of view of global governance, China is a permanent member in the Security Council of United Nation Organisation.

All these economical, political and military elements are in favor of China, and thus, these elements meet the characteristics of an important strategic player, not only at the level of a regional power, but also as a global power.

In this context, a russian-chinese strategic partnership has emerged, given that the old USA administration no longer view China and Russia as partners, but as strategic competitors.

The offensive position of the United States of America was exposed without reservation by the american ex-State Secretary Colin Powell, on the occasion to visit Taskent in December, 2001. On this occasion, Powell underlined that the american interests in Central Asia extend far beyond the Afghan conflict, statement that was interpreted by Russia and China as a recognition of American strategic plans on a long term in the Eurasian space, including the control of the vast energy resources in the area [6].

The external policy of the United States of America, during the successive administrations of the two presidents, Bush, had as result the assertion of the Russian Federation's will to be recognized as a partner in addressing and resolving the problems facing humanity today.

This point of view was unequivocally expressed by Vladimir Putin, the ex-president of Russian Federation, in 2007, during his speech in Munich in front of occidental powers representatives.

Russia's return as an important player in the global political game, but also China's promotion of its geoeconomic and geopolitical interests had an economic and military counterpart by creating of the Organisation for Cooperation Shanghai (OCS), an organisation thought of by China as a reply to the advance of North Atlantic Organization towards Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

The Organisation for Cooperation from Shanghai was founded in 2001, as an international organisation with full rights and having as goal the intensification of military and economic cooperation between founding members: Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Tadjikistan, and Kyrgyzstan.

By the agreement from Shanghai, China cooperates in security domain with all its neighbours that resulted from the dissolution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The motivation for setting up this organization referred to the security interests of Central Asia, interests which are related to the need to maintain peace and stability in the region. For China, this means the possibility to reduce the number of troops from its western border, as well as the commitment of the Central Asian governments to prevent Uyghur separatists from raiding or smuggling weapons into the Xinjiang-Uyghur Autonomous region.

To this, it is added Beijing's interest in Russia and United States of America not to take advantage of these events, in order to consolidate the presence in region, especially near its borders.

At the meeting from 2005, the member states of the Organization for Cooperation Shanghai demanded the removal of the American bases from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan. Uzbekistan, which was criticized for human rights violation, quickly complied. Also, there were eliminated the american bases from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Later, the situation regarding the situation of the base from Kârgistan was revived, in the context of, on the one hand, the relations between the USA and the Russian Federation improved, and on the other hand, the post-Soviet republics from Central Asia started to observe the economic advantages that result from maintaining a positive relation with the Russian Federation, but also with the United States of America.

The Organisation from Shanghai is opened to new members. During the meeting from Shanghai from June 2006, there were invited some leaders outside the Organisation [7], among them being the Afghan president and the Iranian leader, Ahmadinejad. The latter's anti-American speech and Iran's stated desire to join the Organization for Cooperation from Shanghai confirm the impression of Western officials that this institution aims to become a tool to block American influence in Asia.

At the middle of August, 2007, in Biskek, the Kyrgyz capital, it took place the Organization for Cooperation from Shanghai summit. On this occasion, Vladimir Putin made more many concrete proposals, the most impotant one being that Russia was going to invest \$ 2 billion in huge oil reserves from Central Asia. Three countries (Russia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan) among the six members of the members of the organization (China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tadjikistan), have large reserves of oil and natural gas, while China is a very large consumer.

On 18th of august 2007, Vladimir Putin, the Russian president, together with Hu Jintao, the president of China, and with the states presidents from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tadjikistan assisted at military maneuvers without precedent, made by the six member countries of Organization for Cooperation from Shanghai, described by the France Press Agency as a real show of force in front of the Western world

On 29th of February, 2008, Bolat Nurgaliev, the Secretary General of the Oragnization for Cooperation from Shanghai, stated that anti-terrorist exercises as „Peace Mission 2007”, organized for the first time by this organization, will take place

regularly. He also stated that the member states of the Organization for Cooperation from Shanghai do agree to organize regularly this kind of exercises, once every two years.

The member states of the Organization from Shanghai consider that it would be indicated to grant Afghanistan the observer status of that organization. On 26th of May, the head of Afghan diplomacy, Dadfar Şpanta, visiting Moscow, stated, after consultations with his Russian counterpart that the bilateral relations development with Russia, but also with all member states of the Organization for Cooperation from Shanghai, constitutes the primary axis of Afghan foreign policy.

On July 25th, 2008, at the meeting of the heads of foreign ministries of the countries that are part of the OCS, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs attended the activity, means Serghei Lavrov from Russia, Zang Jieshi from China, Ednan Karabaierov from Kyrgyzstan, Khamrokhon Zarifi from Tadjikistan.

Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan were represented by deputy foreign ministries, Ervan Ermekbaiev, and Ilkhom Negmatov. The main purpose of the meeting was the examination of the statement from Dusanbe which should reflect the positions of members regarding the role of OCS in the world and in the Central Asia region.

Others objectives, to which references were made, were: the formulating of common answers in the face of global threats and challenges, the achieving of a security cooperation with the states and international organizations that are interested and the strengthening of a partnership in the economic and humanitarian fields, but also the Afghan problem. The results for 2007 were also evaluated, and the next objectives were set, discussing, among other things, about the possibility of expanding the organization.

The establishment of the Organization for Cooperation from Shanghai is the concrete prove, in military and political plan, that a new geostrategic space has opened up between China, Russia, the Middle East, South Asia, just if this regional ensemble is still insufficiently defined.

Conclusions

The key strategic documents do not deviate from the principles stated by the Sun Tzî strategist more than two millenia ago, in his famous work, *The art of the war*. China applied these principles - which are, generally speaking, principles of indirect strategy - in all the wars in which it participated. Chinese strategic culture is thousands of years old and has not changed over the millennia, only modernized. Therefore, it is said that in China everything that can be seen can be misleading. China is the country with the largest population and with the oldest culture, and its values systems have a distinct and discreet place in the universal culture. Chinese contribution to the planet's civilization, despite the specificity of Chinese philosophy (which presents itself as a philosophy of the self) is immense.

Currently, China is a booming state and capable of becoming a superpower in the not-too-distant future. The cheap labor and, at the same time, a sales market of about 1.3 billion consumers, attract the largest multinational companies. According to some estimates, China has the sixth largest economy in the world and the third largest defense budget.

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