

UDC: 332.1

Aimei Zhang,

PhD student of the National University of Uzbekistan

Associate professor of the Jining Normal University,

China jnsfxyzam@163.com

ANALYSIS OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE AND THE STRENGTHENING OF THE SENSE OF COMMUNITY AMONG THE CHINESE PEOPLE

Abstract: The policies and actions of the Belt and Road Initiative and the consolidation of the Chinese national community consciousness are interdependent and mutually reinforcing dialectical relations.

Key words: China; Belt and Road Initiative; forging a sense of community for the Chinese nation; dialectical relationship; mutual promotion; policy.

Introduction. This article analyzes the relationship between the forging of the Chinese national community and the construction of the Belt and Road Initiative from different perspectives. The good development of the Belt and Road and the forging of the Chinese national community are dialectical relationships that interact and promote each other. The forging of the Chinese national community is conducive to the healthy and orderly development of the Belt and Road, and can provide internal driving force and positive factors for the good development of the Belt and Road. The good development of the Belt and Road can also provide an economic foundation and a stable external environment for the forging of the Chinese national community, promote the process and quality of forging the Chinese national community.

Literature Review. In general, international scholars focus on the global significance of China's Belt and Road Initiative, especially the exchanges and cooperation between China and the countries along the routes. Martin Jacques, a well-known British political economist, argues in his book "When China Rules the World: The End of the Western World and the Birth of a New Global Order"[1] (2010) that the Belt and Road Initiative is closely related to China's culture and history, which challenges the existing global governance order and represents China's vision. While they study the Belt and Road, they rarely discuss other relevant policies within China. Chinese scholars have shown interest in this aspect, but there are not many works related to it. For example, Wu Surigecang's paper "The Role of the Grassland Silk Road and Belt and Road Construction in Forging a Sense of Community among the Chinese People" [2]; Jiang Yan and Yang Liuyong's "Building the Chinese National Community in the Perspective of the Belt and Road"[3]; And Yu Wanhua's "On the Realization of Chinese Cultural Identity under the Belt and Road Initiative"[4]. They explore the relationship between the Belt and Road and the sense of community among the Chinese people, as well as the methods and approaches to forging the sense of community under the background of the Belt and Road. However, they have not conducted a comprehensive analysis and research on the relationship between the Belt and Road and the sense of community among the Chinese people. This article compares the outward-looking Belt and Road Initiative with the inward-looking policy of forging a sense of community among the Chinese people, and studies the overall and mutual relations of China's domestic and foreign policies in the new historical stage.

Research methodology. Based on existing research results, this article attempts to use comparative and comprehensive research methods, combined with the relevant research methods and theories of experienced historians and international political science scholars, to explore the overall and dialectical relationship between China's foreign policy "Belt and Road Initiative" and inward policy of forging a sense of community for the Chinese nation.

Analysis and results. China is a proponent and participant in the Belt and Road Initiative. In 2013, President Xi Jinping proposed the cooperation initiative to build the "Silk Road Economic Belt" and the "21st Century Maritime Silk Road," which became known as the Belt and Road Initiative. In March 2015, China's National Development and Reform Commission, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Commerce jointly released the "Vision and Action for Promoting the Building of the Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road," [5] which outlined the initiative's meaning and cooperation method, making it an important strategic plan for China's economic and social development. The 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in 2017 incorporated the principle of "consultation, cooperation, and benefit for all" and the advancement of the Belt and Road Initiative into the Party Constitution. China promotes the Belt and Road Initiative, using the historical symbol of the ancient Silk Road, which resonates with countries along the route, and raises the banner of peaceful development to actively develop economic cooperation partnerships with countries along the route. This is China's proactive action to integrate into the world, and it is an important strategy to achieve the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

China is participating in the development of the Belt and Road Initiative with the stance of the Chinese national community. The Chinese nation has a long history and has gradually formed a diverse entity through continuous communication and integration during its historical development. Despite various conflicts in history, from the debate between "夷" and "夏", to the concept of "brothers within four seas", from the unification of 华夏 and 夷, to the recognition of both as legitimate, from ancient disputes to modern times facing the destiny and common resistance against foreign invasion and oppression, national consciousness has gradually awakened, formed, and stabilized. Today's Chinese nation is a unified entity that is "culturally inclusive, economically interdependent, and emotionally close." At the National Unity and Progress Commendation Conference on October 27, 2019, Xi Jinping emphasized that the history of China is the history of various ethnic groups merging and converging into a diverse and unified Chinese nation, and the history of all ethnic groups jointly creating, developing, and consolidating the great motherland. The Chinese nation has its historical process of formation and development, and the ups and downs in history have become the memories of the gradual integration of the nation [6]. Today, the Chinese nation is the only name that represents the modern Chinese national community.

The sound development of the Belt and Road Initiative and the strengthening of the Chinese national identity as a community are a mutually reinforcing and dialectical relationship. The concept of a "community of shared future for mankind" proposed by General Secretary Xi Jinping is a product that combines traditional Confucian culture and modern international relations theory. Guided by this concept, China has put forward the Belt and Road Initiative, which aims to promote global sustainable development and build a community of shared future for mankind by strengthening interconnectivity and economic cooperation among different countries and regions. This idea also reflects the value of "all under heaven are one family" emphasized in traditional Chinese culture and has a philosophical foundation for strengthening the Chinese national identity as a community. The proposal of the Belt and Road Initiative is based on the historical background of the Silk Road, emphasizing the cultural connections and exchanges among countries along the route. This idea is in line with the Chinese philosophical concept of "harmony and coexistence", and provides a practical platform for the harmonious coexistence of Chinese and other ethnic groups and cultures, strengthening exchanges and mutual learning between Chinese and other cultures and ethnic groups, and further promoting the formation of a Chinese national community consciousness. The Belt and Road Initiative emphasizes the concept of win-win cooperation, stressing the equality, openness, transparency, and mutually beneficial cooperation among countries in economic cooperation, aimed at promoting the economic integration of the Eurasian continent through joint construction and sharing. This idea is in line with the Chinese philosophy of "altruism" and helps to strengthen exchanges and cooperation among ethnic groups and build a sense of community consciousness for the Chinese nation. In short, there is a philosophical

similarity and mutual promotion relationship between the Belt and Road Initiative and the strengthening of the Chinese national community consciousness.

Forging a sense of community among the Chinese people provides impetus and positive factors for the development of the Belt and Road Initiative. The initiative aims to promote economic cooperation and shared development among countries along the route, and to create a new type of international relationship based on cooperation and mutual benefit. Meanwhile, forging a sense of community among the Chinese people, based on history and culture, emphasizes the harmonious coexistence and shared development of China with all ethnic groups and peoples.

First, the consolidation of the sense of community among the Chinese nation is the cultural foundation and support for the development of the Belt and Road Initiative. As a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural country, China emphasizes the harmonious coexistence and cultural exchange among all ethnic groups. In the construction of the Belt and Road, China actively promotes cultural exchange and humanistic cooperation among ethnic groups and countries, enhances mutual understanding and respect among ethnic groups, promotes cultural diversity and exchange, and provides a cultural foundation and support for the good development of the Belt and Road.

Secondly, the consolidation of the sense of community among the Chinese nation is the historical heritage and spiritual strength for the development of the Belt and Road Initiative. China has a long history and rich cultural traditions, adhering to the traditional values of "harmony", "coordination", and "win-win". This traditional value has been fully reflected in the construction of the Belt and Road. China emphasizes that cooperation with other countries is based on equality, mutual benefit, and win-win cooperation. Through the inheritance and promotion of this spiritual strength, China provides a continuous historical heritage and spiritual strength for the construction of the Belt and Road.

Finally, the consolidation of the sense of community among the Chinese nation is an important embodiment of the value orientation and human destiny community of the Belt and Road development. The Belt and Road Initiative advocates the values of peace, development, cooperation, and win-win, which is also the spiritual connotation of harmonious coexistence and coordinated development emphasized by the consolidation of the sense of community among the Chinese nation. This value orientation and spiritual concept are consistent with the concept of building a human destiny community, that is, all countries and ethnic groups share the historical responsibility of maintaining global peace and promoting common development.

The coordinated economic and social development of ethnic regions is a strong guarantee for consolidating the sense of community of the Chinese nation and an inevitable requirement for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. "One Belt" involves 10 provinces and regions in China, including Shaanxi, Gansu, Qinghai, Ningxia, Xinjiang, Chongqing, Sichuan, Yunnan, Guangxi, and Inner Mongolia. "One Road" involves provinces such as Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Guangdong, Fujian, Hainan, Shandong, and Henan. These regions are the main areas for China's participation in the Belt and Road cooperation, as well as relatively underdeveloped areas, and thus have a heavier task of consolidating the sense of community of the Chinese nation. The necessary requirement for consolidating the sense of community of the Chinese nation demands the rapid development and construction of these regions. China has taken various measures to promote their rapid development, and the active policies and initiatives taken by these regions will become the driving force of China's Belt and Road development, promoting the development and construction of the initiative. The regions involved in the Belt and Road will play an important role in the cooperation and construction process and play a positive role. However, it must be clear that these regions belong to China and are part of China. Any behavior that separates a region of China from the rest of the country, even in the name of academic research in history or geography, should be guarded against.

The good development of the Belt and Road Initiative can provide an economic foundation for strengthening the sense of community of the Chinese nation. China's opening-up has mainly been focused on coastal areas, while the strategies of Western Development and Northeast Revitalization, though initiated, need to be accelerated. The Belt and Road Initiative will promote

the further formation and development of the opening-up pattern in western provinces and regions, expand their space and potential for foreign trade cooperation, and facilitate their development. The development of the regions involved in the Belt and Road Initiative will inevitably improve the economic level of various ethnic groups in these areas, laying an economic foundation for the sense of community of the Chinese nation.

The sound development of the Belt and Road Initiative can provide a stable external environment for strengthening the Chinese national identity. In November 2012, the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China explicitly proposed that China "advocate the sense of a community of shared future for mankind, take into account the legitimate concerns of other countries while pursuing its own interests, and promote the common development of all countries while seeking its own development, to establish a new type of balanced and equitable global development partnership." [7] The Belt and Road Initiative is based on the idea of a community of shared future for mankind, promoting friendly cooperation with countries along the route. In the process of cooperation and joint construction, China's respect for other countries and cultures will gain respect for Chinese culture and the concept of "Chinese national community." This will provide a more favorable international environment for strengthening the Chinese national identity.

"The Belt and Road" has become an important platform for China's foreign economic diplomacy in the new historical period, which will drive China to be more active in engaging with the external world. The countries along the Belt and Road are gradually becoming economic partners, jointly creating a community of shared interests, shared destiny, and shared responsibility characterized by political mutual trust, economic integration, and cultural inclusiveness. Cooperation and exchanges between these countries are becoming increasingly close and culturally integrated, which will enhance their cultural strength and the cohesion and stability of Chinese culture. To achieve their aspirations for a better life, people of all ethnic groups need to work together to maintain national security and social stability, resist the infiltration and subversion of various extreme and divisive ideologies, effectively respond to potential risks and challenges in the process of achieving the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, enhance the conscious identity of all ethnic groups with the Chinese nation, consolidate the ideological foundation for the development of ethnic relations in China, and promote the process of forging a sense of community with a shared future for the Chinese nation.

The sound development of the Belt and Road Initiative can promote the process and quality of forging the consciousness of the Chinese nation as a community with a shared future. Cultural identity is the deepest level of identity, and it is the root of national unity and the soul of national harmony. The recognition of Chinese culture is the main content of forging the consciousness of the Chinese nation as a community with a shared future. Since the proposal of the Belt and Road Initiative, more and more countries and regions have participated in it, and it has also promoted the development of global trade and investment. In this process, China has actively led and advocated the concept of win-win cooperation, while also paying attention to cultural exchanges with countries and regions along the route, and strengthening friendly exchanges between the Chinese and foreign peoples. This also helps to forge the consciousness of the Chinese nation as a community with a shared future and enhance the cultural confidence of the Chinese people. For example, in the construction of the Belt and Road, China attaches importance to the protection and inheritance of cultural heritage, while also strengthening cultural exchanges and cooperation, and promoting various cultural activities. This not only helps to promote economic development, but also to strengthen exchanges between the Chinese and foreign peoples, enhance mutual understanding, and raise China's position in world culture. In addition, the construction of the Belt and Road has also strengthened the common aspirations of the people between China and the countries and regions along the route.

"The Belt and Road" has the hinterland of central and western China as its core, radiating to many neighboring and surrounding countries, involving vast regions in China's northwest, southwest, northeast, and southeast coast. Almost all of China's cross-border ethnic areas are

covered by the "Belt and Road". These cross-border ethnic groups will participate in the process of cooperation and construction, such as China's Uyghur, Kazakh, Russian, and Dai ethnic groups. Due to factors such as ethnicity, religion, and language, they have more convenient conditions and communication foundations for cooperation with neighboring countries. However, as part of the Chinese nation, although there are many cross-border ethnic groups, these ethnic groups have already been integrated into Chinese culture due to historical changes, changes in political affiliation, and economic and cultural influences. In the process of external cooperation, the "Belt and Road" involves many countries and ethnic groups, and the differences in various cultures will compete, which will further gain psychological recognition from the people of all ethnic groups in China. In the construction of the Belt and Road, China upholds the principle of win-win cooperation, not only sharing its own advantages such as technology and funds with countries and regions along the route but also advocating common development. This helps to enhance trust between Chinese and foreign peoples, promote cultural exchange and integration, and thus strengthen the awareness of the Chinese nation as a community with a shared future. In summary, the construction of the Belt and Road provides broad space and opportunities for cultural exchanges, mutual understanding, and economic cooperation between China and countries and regions along the route, and also helps to enhance the cultural confidence of the Chinese people and promote the formation and development of the awareness of the Chinese nation as a community with a shared future.

Conclusion. The Belt and Road Initiative has played an important role in strengthening the sense of community among the Chinese nation. It embodies the cohesion and traditional spirit of the Chinese nation on a historical and cultural level, and is of great significance in enhancing the Chinese people's confidence and identity, as well as promoting harmonious international relations. This spirit and external environment will promote the unity and development of the Chinese nation, and drive the process of China-style modernization. From the perspective of national governance, the Belt and Road Initiative is a strategic move by China to promote its own development in the international arena, while strengthening the sense of community among the Chinese nation is a strategic move to foster a common national identity and cohesion in the domestic arena. The implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative requires the participation, cooperation, and consultation of all parties, and therefore requires the creation of an atmosphere of equal and mutually beneficial cooperation in the international arena, promoting the establishment of a new type of international relationship. To strengthen the sense of community among the Chinese nation, it is necessary to enhance communication and integration among various ethnic groups domestically, create common cultural values and ideological identity, and enhance ethnic unity and cohesion. Therefore, the theoretical relationship between the Belt and Road Initiative and the strengthening of the Chinese national community can be understood as a mutually reinforcing relationship between two levels: domestic and international. From an international political perspective, the Belt and Road Initiative aims to promote trade and cultural exchanges between countries in Asia, Europe, and Africa to achieve common prosperity and development, with the goal of achieving international peace and stability. Strengthening the Chinese national community means that China hopes to promote dialogue between different cultures at the regional and international levels, encourage exchange and mutual learning among diverse cultures, enhance understanding and friendship among countries, and achieve the goal of world peace and stability. Therefore, the theoretical relationship between the Belt and Road Initiative and the strengthening of the Chinese national community can be understood as a relationship between international peace, development, and cultural diversity.

REFERENCES

- [1]. Martin Jacques. when China rules the world: When the west collapses. Beijing: CITIC Press (2010)
- [2]. Wusurigakang's the role of Silk Road and Belt and Road construction in Volksgemeinschaft Chinese consciousness. Mongolian Studies (Mongolian edition) , No. 2020, No. 4. P.39-43, 123

- [3]. Jiang Yan and Yang Liu Yong, the construction of Chinese Volksgemeinschaft from the perspective of "Belt and Road".school party building and Ideological Education, vol. 612, November 2019, P.87-89
- [4]. Yu Wanhua, On the Realization of Chinese National Cultural Identity under the perspective of "Belt and Road". Chinese Character Culture. 2019, No.8 (total, 228) P.101-102
- [5]. Vision and Actions on Jointly Building Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road》 published by People's Publishing House. in March 2015.
- [6]. Speech at the National Conference on Ethnic Unity and Progress Commendation》 People's Publishing House. September 2019.
- [7]. On Firmly Taking the Road of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics and Striving for the Comprehensive Construction of a Moderately Prosperous Society》 published by People's Publishing House. on November 8th, 2012, P47.