

# The Development and Characteristic Analysis of China's International Relations Theory

Lifeng Zhang

Jinan University, Guangdong, Guangzhou 510000, China  
zhanglifeng\_0811@163.com

## ABSTRACT

This paper aims to analyze the development and characteristics of China's international relations theory. Firstly, it reviews the origin and evolution of China's international relations theory, then discusses its characteristics and main viewpoints during different historical periods. Finally, it examines the position and influence of China's international relations theory on the current international stage. Through a comprehensive analysis of China's international relations theory, this paper aims to deepen the understanding of China's thoughts and positions in international affairs, as well as its impact on the global political landscape.

## KEYWORDS

China, International Relations Theory, Development, Characteristics, Influence

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The development and characteristics of China's international relations theory have always been a topic of great interest in the academic and political arenas of international relations. As a country with a long history and rich cultural heritage, China's role and position in international affairs are becoming increasingly prominent, and its international relations theory has also attracted widespread attention. Reviewing the origin and development of China's international relations theory, it can be seen that during different historical periods, China's international relations thoughts and practices have undergone profound changes, reflecting China's continuous exploration and development in addressing international challenges and promoting global governance. This paper aims to systematically analyze the development and characteristics of China's international relations theory to provide a reference and reflection for a deeper understanding of China's role and influence on the international stage.

## 2. THE ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF CHINA'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORY

### 2.1. Review of the Origin of China's International Relations Theory

The origin of China's international relations theory can be traced back to ancient literature and ideological traditions. In ancient China, military texts such as "The Art of War" contain certain international relations thoughts, emphasizing strategies of winning through intelligence and winning people's hearts through virtue[1]. In Confucianism, the emphasis on harmony and governance by virtue also laid the foundation for the development of China's international relations theory. In modern

times, China's international relations theory gradually modernized. With the turbulence and changes in China's foreign relations in modern times, China's diplomatic thinking has also been continuously updated and developed. At the beginning of the 20th century, China's international relations theory was mainly influenced by Western realism theory, emphasizing the pursuit of power and national interests. However, with the advancement of China's modernization process and adjustments in diplomatic policies, China's international relations theory gradually diversified, absorbing various theoretical viewpoints such as Western realism and liberalism, forming a unique system of China's international relations theory. The origin and development of China's international relations theory reflect the inheritance of ancient Chinese wisdom and the practical exploration and theoretical innovation in China's modernization process. A review of the origin of China's international relations theory helps us to better understand the ideological origins and behavioral logic of China in international affairs[2].

## **2.2. Development of China's International Relations Theory**

The development of China's international relations theory is a process of advancing with the times and is influenced by historical background and national realities. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, China's international relations theory has experienced evolution and changes in multiple stages. In the early days of the founding of the People's Republic of China, China's international relations theory was mainly influenced by Marxism, emphasizing international class struggle and the fight against imperialism. The theories of "leaning to one side" and "three worlds" proposed by Mao Zedong represented the mainstream views of China's international relations theory during this period, the core of which was to uphold the unity of the socialist camp and fight against imperialism. After the reform and opening up, China's international relations theory gradually opened up to the outside world and began to absorb the achievements of Western international relations theory. Especially in the late 1980s and early 1990s, China's international relations theory began to incorporate the thoughts of realism and liberalism, emphasizing national interests and economic development, and proposed a diplomatic concept centered on peaceful development. Since the beginning of the 21st century, with the rise of China's international status and the acceleration of globalization, China's international relations theory has paid more attention to international cooperation and multilateralism, proposing the concept of building a community with a shared future for mankind and actively participating in the construction of the global governance system. In summary, the development of China's international relations theory reflects the continuous improvement and development of the socialist theory with Chinese characteristics and reflects the changes in China's role and position in international affairs. In the future, with the further enhancement of China's international status and changes in the international situation, China's international relations theory will continue to develop and innovate, making new contributions to promoting world peace and development.

## **3. MAIN FEATURES OF CHINA'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORY**

### **3.1. Unique Perspectives and Assertions of China's International Relations Theory**

China's international relations theory has exerted a widespread influence in the academic and practical realms of international relations due to its unique perspectives and assertions. Its uniqueness is mainly reflected in several aspects. Firstly, China's international relations theory emphasizes the core principle of peaceful development, advocating for achieving national development through peaceful and cooperative means. This ideology reflects China's long-standing aspiration for peace and pursuit of development, aligning with the contemporary world's common pursuit of peace and development. Secondly, China's international relations theory advocates for non-confrontational diplomacy in

international affairs, promoting the resolution of international disputes and conflicts through dialogue and consultation. This assertion contradicts traditional great power hegemony and embodies China's stance of pursuing peace and cooperation in international relations. Additionally, China's international relations theory emphasizes multilateralism and global governance, advocating for addressing global challenges through enhanced international cooperation and constructive engagement in global affairs. China actively promotes the construction of a community with a shared future for mankind, committed to building a more just, cooperative, and inclusive international order. Lastly, China's international relations theory proposes the concept of building a new type of international relations, emphasizing that countries should develop friendly and cooperative relationships on the basis of equality, mutual benefit, and respect, aiming to construct a new type of international relations centered around win-win cooperation. These ideologies and assertions provide important insights and references for international relations theory and practice, contributing to the advancement of a more peaceful, stable, and prosperous world[3].

### **3.2. Analysis of the Main Features of China's International Relations Theory**

The main features of China's international relations theory are manifested in its unique theoretical viewpoints and practical paths. Firstly, one of the main features of China's international relations theory is its emphasis on peaceful development. China advocates for achieving national development through peaceful and cooperative means, emphasizing that peaceful development aligns with the fundamental interests of all countries and is essential for maintaining a harmonious and stable international environment. Secondly, China's international relations theory emphasizes non-confrontational diplomacy. China advocates for upholding principles of peace, cooperation, mutual benefit, and win-win outcomes in international affairs, opposes resolving disputes through military means, and promotes the resolution of differences through dialogue and negotiation. Additionally, China's international relations theory emphasizes multilateralism and global governance. China believes that international affairs should involve the participation of all countries, advocates for enhancing international cooperation to address global challenges, and promotes the construction of a community with a shared future for mankind. Furthermore, China's international relations theory advocates for building a new type of international relations. China proposes that countries should develop friendly and cooperative relationships on the basis of equality, mutual benefit, and respect, aiming to construct a new type of international relations centered around win-win cooperation, and promote the construction of a more just, cooperative, and stable international order. In summary, the main features of China's international relations theory reflect China's stance and assertions in international affairs, making significant contributions to maintaining world peace and stability and promoting common development.

## **4. MAIN VIEWPOINTS OF CHINA'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORY**

### **4.1. Discussion on the Main Viewpoints of China's International Relations Theory**

The main viewpoints of China's international relations theory cover various aspects, reflecting China's stance and understanding of the world order in international affairs. Firstly, China's international relations theory emphasizes peaceful development as the core principle. China believes that peaceful development is the common pursuit of all countries, advocating for achieving national development through peaceful and cooperative means to create a harmonious and stable international environment. Secondly, China's international relations theory emphasizes the importance of adhering to non-confrontational diplomacy. China advocates for resolving international disputes and conflicts through dialogue, consultation, and peaceful means, opposes unilateralism and power politics, and promotes the maintenance of international peace and security. Additionally, China's international relations

theory emphasizes the strengthening of multilateralism and global governance. China believes that international affairs should be jointly participated in by all countries, advocating for enhancing international cooperation to address global challenges and promote the construction of a community with a shared future for mankind. Furthermore, China's international relations theory advocates for building a new type of international relations. China proposes that countries should develop friendly and cooperative relationships on the basis of equality, mutual benefit, and respect, aiming to construct a new type of international relations centered around win-win cooperation and promote the construction of a more just, cooperative, and stable international order. In summary, the main viewpoints of China's international relations theory reflect China's stance and ideological views in international affairs, providing important references for promoting international peace and development[4].

#### **4.2. Specific Manifestations and Analysis of China's Foreign Policy in China's International Relations Theory**

China's foreign policy in practice specifically embodies the viewpoints and principles of China's international relations theory. Firstly, in terms of peaceful development, China actively participates in international affairs, advocates for peaceful resolution of disputes, and maintains regional stability, demonstrating concrete manifestations of the peaceful development ideology. For example, China actively participates in United Nations peacekeeping operations, provides humanitarian aid, and contributes positively to regional and global peace and stability. Secondly, in terms of non-confrontational diplomacy, China insists on resolving disputes through dialogue and consultation to avoid unilateralism and power politics. For example, in the South China Sea dispute, China advocates for resolving disputes through negotiations and urges all parties to exercise restraint and refrain from the use of force. Additionally, in terms of multilateralism and global governance, China actively participates in international organizations and mechanisms, advocating for the construction of a community with a shared future for mankind. For example, China actively promotes global climate change cooperation and proposes the Belt and Road Initiative, providing new impetus for global governance and cooperation. Finally, in terms of building a new type of international relations, China strengthens cooperation with developing countries and promotes South-South cooperation, actively contributing to global development. In summary, China's foreign policy in practice embodies the core viewpoints and principles of China's international relations theory, making significant contributions to maintaining international peace and stability and promoting common development[5].

### **5. CHINA'S POSITION AND INFLUENCE ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORY**

China's international relations theory significantly influences the current international stage by providing crucial ideological support and theoretical guidance for addressing global challenges. Concepts like peaceful development, non-confrontational diplomacy, and multilateralism contribute to constructing a global framework of peace and cooperation. Moreover, it reflects China's role positioning as an emerging major power and supports its active participation in international affairs. Additionally, the promotion of China's international relations theory fosters mutual understanding and communication within the international community. China's engagement in international organizations, such as the United Nations, underscores its influence on the global stage. Furthermore, China's theory contributes to international relations by promoting diversification and modernization, advocating peaceful conflict resolution, and emphasizing multilateral cooperation. The concept of a new type of international relations proposed by China stimulates innovation and provides intellectual resources for a more just and stable international order. Overall, China's international relations theory plays a crucial role in theory, practice, and shaping the world order.

## 6. CONCLUSION

The developmental trajectory and characteristics of China's international relations theory showcase its unique position and influence in international affairs. Through a retrospective analysis of China's international relations theory, it is evident that it has formed a distinct theoretical framework and practical approach in areas such as peaceful development, non-confrontational diplomacy, multilateralism, and global governance, making significant contributions to upholding world peace and stability, and promoting common development. Looking ahead, with the further elevation of China's international status and changes in the international landscape, China's international relations theory will continue to play a crucial role, contributing to the construction of a more peaceful, stable, and prosperous world. Therefore, there is a need for deeper research and understanding of China's international relations theory, continuously expanding its application areas, and actively striving towards the establishment of a community with a shared future for mankind and the creation of a better world.

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