

Abstract

The term "China's peaceful rise" was first introduced at the 2003 annual session of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA)¹ and has become a hot topic drawing international attention. This thesis focuses on the changing relationship between Russia and China, especially in the period after the collapse of USSR. The new Russia and China have built their strategic partnership on diplomatic, military, and economic aspects during the period of China's rise. During this period both countries also faced a transforming climate in their societies, with a different ideological environment, different forms of inner-party life and a different "style of work" being formed and changed rapidly at every decision-making moment.

In the history of Sino-Soviet relations we can easily see that Mao Zedong won control of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and lead it to victory by repeatedly defying Stalin's advice, which also contributed to the formation of a Chinese Communist leadership that is highly conscious of those differences. Since the beginning of the new Russia, the so-called "peaceful rise of China" theory as a matter of course has been highly doubted. This thesis shows that many of the factors currently improving Sino-Russian relations are unlikely to sustain the current positive relationship and instead are likely to cause a divergence in their relationship, which is understood by looking at hidden factors from apparent clues that might cause a divergence between the two countries in the near future.

Keywords: China, Russia, International Relations, Sino-Soviet Relations, "China's peaceful Rise"

¹ Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) annual conference holds every year in Boao, a small scenic town in China's southernmost island province of Hainan. During the two-day conference, the representatives held discussions on Asian integration, China's peaceful rise, energy, corporate governance as well as real estate and automobile industry.