

China's Peaceful Rise and Its Impact on Sino-U.S. Relations

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What are the implications of China's peaceful rise?

1. China's peaceful rise is the logic development of reform and opening-up at home, and it conforms to the trends of the new era: peace and development. Through peaceful rise, China wants to wake a case that the rise of a big country is not necessarily accompanied by war. It can be achieved by peace.
2. The overall peace and stability of the world since the end of the cold war makes China's peaceful rise possible, and in return, China's peaceful rise will promote the world's peace and stability. Hence, the mutual reciprocal relationship.
3. By peaceful rise China is going to integrate itself to international system and to become a responsible member of the world community.
4. Therefore, China's peaceful rise is directed against the notions of "China threat" and "China collapse" spread by some people with untold motives in recent years. With peaceful rise, China responds: China will rise instead of collapse; China's peaceful rise is an opportunity, not a threat.
5. China's rise is inevitable. China's rise is in peace, by peace or for peace. China's rise is an active contribution to the world's progress and prosperity.

Then, what is the impact of China's peaceful rise on Sino-U.S. relations?

1. From the strategic point of view, peaceful rise is the goal of China's strategic period of opportunities. China attaches great importance to Sino-U.S. relations because a good and stable bilateral relationship is necessary for the realization of China's peaceful rise. The USA is now undergoing a strategic period of adjustment. Since "9-11", American strategy has been focused on fighting against terrorism and preventing proliferation of the weapons of massive destruction. The USA also welcomes China's participation and cooperation. The two strategic periods (China's strategic period of opportunities and the U.S. strategic period of adjustments) overlap and provide new incentives for strategic consensus between China and the USA on international issues.
2. China's peaceful rise is conducive to further stability in Sino-U.S. relations. In line with peaceful rise, China has worked out three new diplomatic orientations: "priority, foundation and key". To stabilize Sino-U.S. relations is the key of the "key" (big-power relations). Both sides agreed that a better and more stable Sino-U.S. relationship is in interests of China and the USA, and is essential to the world's peace and progress. Despite difference over trade, Taiwan and human rights, both sides are more willing than ever before to narrow or solve those differences through dialogues. As to Taiwan issue, China's peaceful rise makes greater the possibility of its peaceful solution which is what the USA wants to see.

In Feb. 2004, President Hu said that China will firmly take the road of peaceful rise. Almost at the same time, he came up with a 16-character policy to Sino-U.S. relations: strengthen contacts, enhance understanding, broaden consensus and deepen cooperation. We can see that peaceful rise offers a new perspective to deal with differences and concerns, and therefore is positive to Sino-U.S. relations.

3. China's peaceful rise requires a stable relationship with neighboring countries. On the whole, this is one of the best periods of China's peripheral relations since 1949. China would like to cooperate with the USA on the issues of Japan, India, ASEAN, and Korea where the USA has vital interests. This cooperation, in return, will help improve and stabilize Sino-U.S. relations.
4. China's peaceful rise needs a favorable international environment. China would like all the more to coordinate with the USA in dealing with international disputes and crises through peaceful means, and in handling global issues, including both traditional and non-traditional security issues. To the end, China put forward the concept of new security: mutual trust, mutual benefits, equality and coordination. China is seriously practicing these principles and learning to be a responsible member of international community. It's our hope that the USA will learn how to accommodate a rising China. By doing so, mutual trust between China and the USA will be gradually built up, and the strategic foundation of Sino-U.S. relations will be further consolidated.
5. In sum, China's peaceful rise will help generate new momentum for the development of Sino-U.S. relations. Let's join efforts to make all this come true!