# The Belt and Road Initiative: A Key Pillar of the Global Community of Shared Future (1)

## 共建"一带一路": 构建人类命运共同体的重大实践(上)

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#### **Preamble**

Over two millennia ago, inspired by a sincere wish for friend-ship, our ancestors travelled across grasslands and deserts to create a land Silk Road connecting Asia, Europe and Africa, leading the world into an era of extensive cultural exchanges. More than 1,000 years ago, our ancestors set sail and braved the waves to open a maritime Silk Road linking the East and the West, beginning a new phase of closer communication among peoples.

Spanning thousands of miles and years, the ancient silk routes were not only routes for trade but also roads for cultural exchanges. They made a great contribution to human progress. In the 1980s, the United Nations and some countries began to envisage the Eurasian Land Bridge, the Silk Road Initiative, and other plans, reflecting a common wish to engage in communication and cooperation.

In March 2013, President Xi Jinping proposed the vision of a global community of shared future; in September and October that year, he raised the initiatives of joining with others to build a Silk Road Economic Belt and a 21st Century Maritime Silk Road (Belt and Road Initiative, or BRI). The Belt and Road Initiative is a creative development that takes on and carries forward the spirit of the ancient silk routes—two of the great achievements in human history and civilization. It enriches the ancient spirit with the zeitgeist and culture of the new era, and provides a platform for building a global community of shared future.

Since its launch 10 years ago, thanks to the combined efforts of all parties, cooperation under the BRI framework has expanded beyond the borders of China to become an international effort. It has evolved from ideas into actions, from a vision into reality, and from a general framework into concrete projects. It has been welcomed by the international community both as a public good and a cooperation platform, and has achieved solid results.

Over the past decade, BRI cooperation has delivered real gains to participating countries. It has contributed to the sound development of economic globalization and helped to resolve global development challenges and improve the global governance system. It has also opened up a new path for all humanity to realize modern-

#### 前言

两千多年前,我们的先辈怀着友好交往的朴素愿望,穿越草原沙漠,开辟出联通亚欧非的陆上丝绸之路,开辟了人类文明史上的大交流时代。 一千多年前,我们的先辈扬帆远航,穿越惊涛骇浪,闯荡出连接东西方的海上丝绸之路,开启了人类文明交融新时期。

古丝绸之路绵亘万里,延续千年,不仅是一条通商易货之路,也是一条文明交流之路,为人 类社会发展进步作出了重大贡献。上世纪80年代 以来,联合国和一些国家先后提出欧亚大陆桥设 想、丝绸之路复兴计划等,反映了各国人民沟通 对话、交流合作的共同愿望。

2013年3月,习近平主席提出构建人类命运共同体理念;9月和10月,先后提出共建"丝绸之路经济带"和"21世纪海上丝绸之路"。共建"一带一路"倡议,创造性地传承弘扬古丝绸之路这一人类历史文明发展成果,并赋予其新的时代精神和人文内涵,为构建人类命运共同体提供了实践平台。

10年来,在各方的共同努力下,共建"一带一路"从中国倡议走向国际实践,从理念转化为行动,从愿景转变为现实,从谋篇布局的"大写意"到精耕细作的"工笔画",取得实打实、沉甸甸的成就,成为深受欢迎的国际公共产品和国际合作平台。

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ization, and ensured that the efforts of building a global community of shared future are delivering real results.

The Chinese government is publishing this white paper to present the achievements of the BRI during the past 10 years. It will give the international community a better understanding of the value of the initiative, facilitate high-quality cooperation under it, and ultimately deliver benefits to more countries and peoples.

## I. Proposed by China but Belonging to the Whole World

The world today is going through profound change on a scale unseen in a century. Problems and challenges continue to threaten the progress of human civilization. In response to a changing global situation and the expectations of the international community, and with the future and overall interests of humanity in mind, China proposed the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Committed to the Silk Road spirit, a great heritage of human civilization, the BRI connects the past, the present, and the future. This initiative was launched by China, but it belongs to the world and benefits the whole of humanity.

## 1. Rooted in history, the BRI carries forward the Silk Road spirit

At around 140 BC during China's Han Dynasty, Zhang Qian, a royal emissary, made a journey to the West from Chang'an (present-day Xi'an in Shaanxi Province), opening an overland route linking the East and the West. Centuries later, in the years of the Tang, Song and Yuan dynasties, silk routes boomed both over land and at sea, facilitating trade between the East and the West. In the early 15th century, Zheng He, the famous Chinese navigator of the Ming Dynasty, made seven voyages to the Western Seas, which boosted trade along the maritime silk routes.

For thousands of years the ancient silk routes served as major arteries of interaction, spanning the valleys of the Nile, the Tigris and Euphrates, the Indus and Ganges, and the Yellow and Yangtze rivers. They connected the birthplaces of the Egyptian, Babylonian, Indian and Chinese civilizations, the lands of the believers of Buddhism, Christianity and Islam, and the homes of peoples of different nationalities and races. These routes increased connectivity among countries on the Eurasian continent, facilitated exchanges and mutual learning between Eastern and Western civilizations, boosted regional development and prosperity, and shaped the Silk Road spirit characterized by peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit.

Symbolizing communication and cooperation between the East and the West, the millennia-old silk routes demonstrated that by upholding solidarity and mutual trust, equality and mutual benefit, inclusiveness and mutual learning, and win-win cooperation, countries of different ethnic groups, beliefs and cultural backgrounds could share peace and achieve development together. The Silk Road spirit is consistent with the ideal of "all states joining together in harmony and peace" long upheld by the Chinese nation, with the Chinese people's principles of amity, good neighborliness and "helping others to succeed while seeking our own success", and with the call of the times for peace, development and win-win cooperation.

The Communist Party of China is a major political party with a

10年来,共建"一带一路"不仅给相关国家带来实实在在的利益,也为推进经济全球化健康发展、破解全球发展难题和完善全球治理体系作出积极贡献,开辟了人类共同实现现代化的新路径,推动构建人类命运共同体落地生根。

为介绍共建"一带一路"10年来取得的成果,进一步增进国际社会的认识理解,推进共建"一带一路"高质量发展,让"一带一路"惠及更多国家和人民,特发布此白皮书。

## 一、源自中国属于世界

当今世界正处于百年未有之大变局,人类文明发展面临越来越多的问题和挑战。中国着眼人类前途命运和整体利益,因应全球发展及各国期待,继承和弘扬丝路精神这一人类文明的宝贵遗产,提出共建"一带一路"倡议。这一倡议,连接着历史、现实与未来,源自中国、面向世界、惠及全人类。

### (一) 根植历史, 弘扬丝路精神

公元前140年左右的中国汉代,张骞从长安出发,打通了东方通往西方的道路,完成了"凿空之旅"。中国唐宋元时期,陆上和海上丝绸之路共同发展,成为连接东西方的重要商道。15世纪初的明代,郑和七次远洋航海,促进了海上丝绸之路商贸往来。千百年来,古丝绸之路犹如川流不息的"大动脉",跨越尼罗河流域、底格里斯河和幼发拉底河流域、印度河和恒河流域、黄河和长江流域,跨越埃及文明、巴比伦文明、印度文明、中华文明的发祥地,跨越佛教、基督教、伊斯兰教信众的汇集地,跨越不同国度和肤色人民的聚集地,促进了亚欧大陆各国互联互通,推动了东西方文明交流互鉴,创造了地区大发展大繁荣,积淀了以和平合作、开放包容、互学互鉴、互利共赢为核心的丝路精神。

作为东西方交流合作的象征,千年古丝绸之路深刻昭示:只要坚持团结互信、平等互利、包容互鉴、合作共赢,不同民族、不同信仰、不同文化背景的国家完全可以共享和平、共同发展。 丝路精神与中华民族历来秉持的天下大同、万国咸宁的美好理念相契合,与中国人一贯的协和万 global vision, and China is a major country pursuing peaceful development. The BRI, which carries forward the Silk Road spirit in the new era, evokes the pleasant memories of the past and has fired many countries' enthusiasm for connectivity.

The BRI pays respect to history and tries to recreate the bustling scenes of untiring envoys and businessmen over land and countless ships calling at ports along the ancient silk routes. It is also navigating a way to the future by drawing wisdom and strength from the ancient silk routes and the Silk Road spirit. Enlightened by history, we will continue to move forward and integrate the Chinese Dream with the world's dreams, in order to realize the aspiration of all peoples for exchanges between civilizations, peace and tranquility, common development, and better lives.

## 2. In response to reality, the BRI resolves problems in development

Development holds the master key to solving all problems. Economic globalization has given strong momentum to the world economy. Over 500 years ago, after the ancient silk routes had been interrupted for more than a half century, the Age of Discovery arrived, fundamentally changing the course of human society. Since the advent of modern times, technological revolutions and development of the productive forces have made economic globalization a surging historical trend. In particular, since the 1990s, the rapid advance of economic globalization has greatly facilitated trade, investment, flows of people, and technological progress, making an important contribution to the progress of human society.

However, the economic globalization dominated by a few countries has not contributed to the common development that delivers benefits to all. Instead, it has widened the wealth gap between rich and poor, between developed and developing countries, and within developed countries. Many developing countries have benefited little from economic globalization and even lost their capacity for independent development, making it hard for them to access the track of modernization. Certain countries have practiced unilateralism, protectionism and hegemonism, hampering economic globalization and threatening a global economic recession.

It is imperative to address such global problems as sluggish economic growth, shortcomings in economic governance, and imbalanced economic development. It is no longer acceptable that only a few countries dominate world economic development, control economic rules, and enjoy development fruits.

The BRI targets development not only for China but for the world at large. Economic globalization remains an irreversible trend. It is unthinkable for countries to return to a state of seclusion or isolation. However, economic globalization must undergo adjustments in both form and substance. It should be made more open, inclusive, balanced and beneficial to all.

China has not only benefited from economic globalization but also contributed to it. As an active participant in economic globalization, China has achieved rapid economic growth through positive interactions with the rest of the world and explored a unique path towards modernization, expanding the options for other developing countries to achieve modernization. China's rapid economic growth and steady progress in reform and opening up has provided a strong driving force for global economic stability and growth as well as an

邦、亲仁善邻、立己达人的处世之道相符合,与 当今时代和平、发展、合作、共赢的时代潮流相 适应。

中国共产党是胸怀天下的大党,中国是坚持和平发展的大国。共建"一带一路"在新的时代背景下弘扬丝路精神,唤起人们对过往时代的美好记忆,激发各国实现互联互通的热情。共建"一带一路"既是向历史致敬,再现古丝绸之路陆上"使者相望于道,商旅不绝于途"的盛况、海上"舶交海中,不知其数"的繁华;更是向未来拓路,从古丝绸之路和丝路精神中汲取智慧和力量,沿着历史的方向继续前进,更好地融通中国梦和世界梦,实现各国人民对文明交流的渴望、对和平安宁的期盼、对共同发展的追求、对美好生活的向往。

#### (二) 因应现实, 破解发展难题

发展是解决一切问题的总钥匙, 经济全球化为 世界经济发展提供了强大动力。500多年前,在古 丝绸之路中断半个多世纪后, 大航海时代来临, 根本改变了人类社会的发展格局。近代以来,随 着科技革命和生产力的发展,经济全球化成为历 史潮流。特别是20世纪90年代后,经济全球化快速 发展,促进了贸易大繁荣、投资大便利、人员大 流动、技术大发展, 为人类社会发展进步作出重 要贡献。但是,少数国家主导的经济全球化,并 没有实现普遍普惠的发展, 而是造成富者愈富、 贫者愈贫, 发达国家和发展中国家以及发达国家 内部的贫富差距越来越大。很多发展中国家在经 济全球化中获利甚微甚至丧失自主发展能力,难 以进入现代化的轨道。个别国家大搞单边主义、 保护主义、霸权主义,经济全球化进程遭遇逆 流,世界经济面临衰退风险。全球经济增长动能 不足、全球经济治理体系不完善、全球经济发展 失衡等问题, 迫切需要解决; 世界经济发展由少 数国家主导、经济规则由少数国家掌控、发展成 果被少数国家独享的局面,必须得到改变。

共建"一带一路"既是为了中国的发展,也是为了世界的发展。经济全球化的历史大势不可逆转,各国不可能退回到彼此隔绝、闭关自守的时代。但是,经济全球化在形式和内容上面临新的