# Promoting the Development and Progress of Human Civilization through Exchange and Mutual Learning

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## **Table of Contents**

Introduction ······1
Chapter One: A Historical Review of Exchange and Mutual Learning
among Civilizations
1. Interaction, Exchange, and Integration: Forging the Glorious History of Chinese
Civilization ·····2
2. Mutual Communication, Interaction, and Learning: Creating a Brilliant Tapestry
of World Civilizations4
3. Exchange and Mutual Learning among Civilizations: Stimulating Inexhaustible
Driving Forces for the Progress of Civilization
Chapter Two: The Dilemmas Facing the Development of Human
Civilization ·····8
I. Economic Stagnation: Undermining the Momentum for the Progress of Civiliza-
tion 8
2. Political Instability: Threatening the Foundation of the Development of Civilizations
3. Global Cultural Conflicts: Disrupting the Consensus on the Values of Civilizations
Chapter Three: China's Proposal for Deepening Exchange and Mutual Learning among Civilizations
I. Supporting Global Development to Strengthen the Foundations of the Progress of Civilization
2. Promoting World Peace to Maintain the Order of the Coexistence of Civiliza-
tions
3. Guiding Dialogue and Exchange to Expand the Space for Cooperation among Civilizations 18
Chapter Four: Pooling Global Forces for Exchange and Mutual Learn-
ing among Civilizations21
I. Strengthening International Exchange and Cooperation to Draw a New Blue-
print for Interaction among Civilizations
2. Promoting Reforms in Global Governance to Shape a New Order for the Devel-
opment of Civilizations · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
3. Achieving Overall Human Interests to Build a Beautiful New Home for Civiliza-
tion23
Conclusion ······25
Compilation Notes

#### Introduction

The history of human civilization is a history of diverse civilizations coexisting and advancing together. More than 5,000 years ago, Chinese civilization began actively engaging with civilizations around the world, learning from one another and showcasing their unique cultural splendor. Over 2,000 years ago, Zhang Qian, an envoy of the Western Han dynasty, embarked on a groundbreaking journey to the Western Regions, initiating a grand epic of exchange and mutual learning among civilizations. The Silk Road thus became a bond linking the common progress of China and the rest of the world. From the exchange of bronze cultures between East and West to the formation of the Amber Road and the opening of new sea routes, the interaction, mutual learning, and integration of different civilizations have jointly created a brilliant tapestry of human history.

To understand the contemporary world, we must trace the origins of history.

Amid global changes of a magnitude not seen in a century, humanity once again stands at a historical crossroads. In the face of sluggish economic recovery, intensifying political turmoil, and escalating cultural clashes, the rhetoric of a "clash of civilizations" grows increasingly rampant. In such a situation, we must ponder the future direction of human civilization.

China has always grasped the trends of the times, shouldered great responsibilities, and followed the righteous path. It advocates a vision of civilization characterized by equality, mutual learning, dialogue, and inclusiveness. China emphasizes letting exchange prevail over estrangement, mutual learning over clashes, and inclusiveness over cultural superiority. This approach provides more options for addressing the dilemmas of the development of human civilization and promoting the coexistence and common prosperity of world civilizations. China has proposed the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative, injecting lasting momentum for shared prosperity, bringing more positive energy for peaceful development, and making greater contributions to advancing world modernization and the cause of human progress.

Diversity spurs interaction among civilizations, which in turn promotes mutual learning and further development. In the face of global challenges, nations must work together to enhance exchange and mutual learning among civilizations and deepen international cooperation to foster a just and equitable international order and promote shared human values.

With the mighty force propelling the advancement of human civilization, we will guide people around the world onto a new path of lasting peace, stability, and prosperity, thereby promoting the development of a human community with a shared future.

① Xi Jinping: On the Party's Propaganda and Ideological Work, Central Party Literature Press, 2020, p. 406.

#### Chapter One:

## A Historical Review of Exchange and Mutual Learning among Civilizations

Chinese civilization has been renowned for its openness and inclusiveness since ancient times, embodying a broad-mindedness that embraces all. It excels in drawing on the strengths of others, integrating diverse elements, and synthesizing them into a harmonious whole, thereby forging a glorious history. The history of human civilization is long and eventful, with different civilizations jointly painting a series of brilliant and dazzling pictures through mutual communication, interaction, and learning. Both Chinese and foreign histories have shown us that the prosperity of civilizations and the progress of humanity depend on seeking common ground while reserving differences, embracing diversity, and fostering exchange and mutual learning among civilizations.

## 1. Interaction, Exchange, and Integration: Forging the Glorious History of Chinese Civilization

Chinese civilization, with its long history and profound essence, has served as a rich source of nourishment for the enduring vitality and growth of the Chinese nation, as well as the bedrock of confidence that enables China to stand proudly among the nations of the world. Spanning over five thousand years, this long history has nurtured a profound cultural and civilizational heritage, embedding the cultural genes passed down through generations. This legacy ensures that Chinese civilization always engages in dialogue, exchange, and integration with other civilizations in an open and inclusive manner, with a broad-mindedness that embraces all. It showcases vibrant vitality by drawing on diverse strengths and achieves inheritance and innovation through exchange and mutual learning.

#### • Harmony without Uniformity and Harmonious Coexistence

Harmony without uniformity and harmonious co-existence are the values cherished by Chinese civilization in its interaction, exchange, and integration with other civilizations. In Chinese civilization, cultural differences have never been seen as sources of confrontation and conflict. Instead, the impact and integration of various diverse cultures have shaped a value system that increasingly respects the diversity and equality of different civilizations. As recorded in "The Doctrine of the Mean" in *The Book of Rites*, "The ways run parallel without interfering with one another; all living things grow side by side without harming one another." Chinese historian Qian Mu noted,

"The Chinese people have always held a grand ideal of the unity of man and nature, believing that all the strange and new things seen and encountered from the outside can be integrated, coordinated, and harmonized into one." The mainstream ideology of the Chinese nation has always advocated harmony without uniformity, working together with one heart, and harmonious coexistence.

Sima Xiangru's "harmonious integration" in "opening up the southwestern ethnic groups" in the Western Han dynasty and the "peace-promoting marriage" when Princess Wencheng was married far away to Xizang in the Tang dynasty reflect the Chinese nation's long-cherished values of harmony, peace, and integration. During the heyday of the Tang dynasty, envoys, international students, and merchants from all directions came to China, where foreign civilizations collided and blended, complementing and enriching each other. Throughout its long historical development, the Chinese nation has embraced the principle of "harmony without uniformity" to resolve conflicts and bridge differences and the philosophy of harmonious coexistence to promote the harmonious and mutually enhancing coexistence of different civilizations.

#### • Openness and Inclusiveness in Embracing Diversity

The grandeur of Chinese civilization lies in its ability to embrace diversity and harmonize with all nations. Throughout thousands of years of historical development, the fine cultures of various ethnic groups and regions have competed, collided, interacted, integrated, and sublimated, forming an organic whole of Chinese culture that is diverse yet integrated and interconnected. From the establishment of the Zhou rituals to the unification of the Qin and Han dynasties, Chinese culture gradually took shape and developed into a pattern of "the people of the five cardinal directions (east, south, west, north, and the center) jointly inhabit and share the world." From King Wuling of Zhao's adoption of exotic dress and mounted archery to Emperor Xiaowen of Northern Wei's Sinicization reforms, from "every household in Luoyang learning exotic music" to "songs in Han language resounding across vast Qiang lands," from ethnic minorities in border areas adopting "elegant songs and Confucian attire" to the prevalence of "exotic clothing and hats" in Central Plains, through the grand process of ethnic integration, the diverse cultures of various ethnic groups have merged into the long history of Chinese civilization through extensive exchanges, interactions, and integration.

Chinese civilization originated on the vast land of China, yet it has been shaped and enriched through continuous exchanges and mutual learning with other civilizations. It is an actively open system of civilization.

In the Han dynasty, Zhang Qian's mission to the Western Regions opened the Silk Road, creating a gateway for exchanges between China and the outside world to the west. During the Tang dynasty, Xuanzang's pilgrimage to India facilitated the in-depth

① Qian Mu: An Introduction to the History of Chinese Culture, SDX Joint Publishing Company, 1988, p. 162.

dissemination of Buddhism in China. In the Song dynasty, active overseas trade promoted economic development in neighboring countries. The Ming dynasty saw Zheng He's seven voyages to the Western Seas, which expanded trade and cultural exchanges across vast areas in Southeast Asia and Africa. In modern times, the spread of Western knowledge to the East, the New Culture Movement, and the introduction of Marxism into China exemplified this legacy.

Since ancient times, the Chinese nation, with its broad-mindedness that embraces all and harmonizes with all nations, has widely absorbed and drawn from the essence of external civilizations. This legacy of openness and inclusiveness has allowed Chinese civilization to thrive and renew itself through continuous integration and mutual learning.

#### • All Achieving Harmonious Coexistence and Great Unity All Under Heaven: The Ultimate Goal of Chinese Civilization in Promoting Cultural Exchange and Mutual Learning

"Each appreciating its own beauty, as well as the beauty of others; all achieving harmonious coexistence and ultimately Great Unity all under heaven." This principle of coexistence among different civilizations was proposed by Chinese sociologist Fei Xiaotong.

"Each appreciating its own beauty" means that different nations and ethnic groups should promote and celebrate their own civilizations. "Appreciating the beauty of others" refers to the broad appreciation and learning from the strengths of other civilizations. "All achieving harmonious coexistence" suggests that different nations and ethnic groups should respect and embrace each other, thereby fostering the common prosperity of human civilization.

The concept of "Great Unity" originates from the Confucian classic, *The Book of Rites: The Evolution of Rites.* It paints a beautiful vision of an ideal society for humanity cherished by the Chinese nation. Over thousands of years of historical practice, Chinese civilization has been created and perpetuated with a sentiment of "All under heaven" and the ideal of "Great Unity."

"Great Unity All Under Heaven" represents the loftiest political ideal in traditional Chinese culture. It embodies the profound concern of the Chinese civilization for the destiny of humanity and also the ultimate goal of the Chinese nation in promoting exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations.

#### 2. Mutual Communication, Interaction, and Learning: Creating a Brilliant Tapestry of World Civilizations

No civilization exists as an isolated island, cut off from others. Instead, every civilization is in constant contact, exchange, and interaction with others. Throughout world history, different civilizations have only been able to evolve and progress through exchanges, mutual learning, and drawing on each other's strengths.

#### • Connectivity Broadens the Horizons of Human Civilization

Encounters initiated the exchange and mutual learning among human civilizations. Ancient trade routes such as the Silk Road, the Tea Road, and the Spice Road facilitated the interconnection of civilized countries across the Eurasian continent, propelling the global popularity of silk, tea, ceramics, and spices. The Amber Road connected the North Sea, the Baltic Sea, the Black Sea, and the Mediterranean, linking the north and south of Europe and extending eastward, fostering material and cultural exchanges between European countries and between the two continents. The Age of Great Voyages ushered in an era of unprecedented global connectivity. Rapid advancements in technology and the sweeping process of globalization have significantly shortened the distances between different geographical units, accelerating the evolution of global civilization.

#### • Interaction Expands New Horizons for Human Civilization

Throughout their development, civilizations have inevitably enriched, enhanced, and refined themselves through interactions, exchanges, and competitions with others. In the history of human civilization, such interactions have often marked significant milestones of progress. The Byzantine civilization inherited the traditions of ancient Greece and Rome and innovated in many fields, including architecture, medicine, and art. Modern European civilization combined the legacies of ancient Greece, Rome, and the medieval period, creating a new industrialized civilization through breakthroughs in politics, economics, society, and technology. The interaction of civilizations fosters progress, creating ripples of significant events throughout history and making the tapestry of world civilization more vibrant and diverse.

## • Mutual Learning Cultivates the Fruitful Achievements of Human Civilization

Throughout human history, the development of any influential civilization has inevitably involved absorbing and integrating diverse elements. Starting in the 8th century, the Graeco-Arabic translation movement (9th - 10th centuries), which synthesized Greek, Roman, Persian, and Indian cultures, inaugurated The Islamic Golden Age (8th - 13th centuries) in the Arab world, laying the groundwork for the later European Renaissance. During the Sui and Tang dynasties, Japan dispatched missions to China many times to closely interact with the Chinese civilization and to promote a series of comprehensive political, social and cultural reforms, such as the Taika Reform. In modern times, China has adopted many "Japanese-coined Chinese terms," with words like revolution, society, philosophy, economy, and capital becoming prevalent in the Chinese language. After World War II, European countries championed the harmonious coexistence and mutual learning of diverse cultures, facilitating European integration while respecting cultural diversity. For millennia, civilizations have engaged in

exchanges and mutual learning, collectively enriching the vibrant garden of human civilization.

# 3. Exchange and Mutual Learning among Civilizations: Stimulating Inexhaustible Driving Forces for the Progress of Civilization

Various civilizations, through their interactions, blending, and mutual learning, have complemented and enriched each other, collectively writing a splendid chapter of harmonious coexistence and shared progress. Throughout history, the advancement of civilizations through exchange and mutual learning is not a mere coincidence but a general rule dictated by the evolution and inherent nature of civilizations.

## • Exchange and Mutual Learning: An Objective Requirement for the Coexistence of Diverse Civilizations

Diverse civilizations are the essence of the world. The development of human civilization is a "symphony" composed of various cultures, not a "solo" of a single one. Historical experience shows that differences in history, culture, and social systems among countries have persisted throughout history. Without diversity, there would be no human civilization. Each nation's and ethnic group's civilization is unique, each with its value for existence. Only by upholding equality and respect and discarding arrogance and prejudice can different civilizations thrive and grow through dialogue and harmonious coexistence.

Civilization is colorful, equal, and inclusive. The premise for exchange and mutual learning among civilizations is equality. Regardless of the size or strength of a country or ethnic group, its thoughts and culture should be acknowledged and respected. Claiming "civilization superiority" and considering one's civilization as superior to others is disrespectful and only hinders the progress of human civilization.

A mature and confident civilization should not feel uncomfortable with differences, nor should it seek to transform, assimilate, or replace them with its own. History has repeatedly shown that any attempt to resolve the differences between civilizations through force will fail and bring disaster to the world.  $^{\odot}$ 

## • Exchange and Mutual Learning: The Underlying Logic for Sustaining the Vitality of Civilizations

The lifeblood of any civilization lies in its exchange and mutual learning with the outside world. Long-term isolation leads to decline. Every civilization, regardless of its origin or the social soil in which it emerged, is fluid and open. This is a key principle in the spread and development of civilizations. Throughout its evolution, Chinese

① Xi Jinping: Speech at the Opening Ceremony of the International Symposium Commemorating the 2,565th Anniversary of Confucius' Birth and the 5th General Assembly of the International Confucian Association, People's Publishing House, 2014, p. 9.

History teaches us that only by transitioning from internal to external interactions can a nation break free from geographical constraints and expand its global perspective, therefore remaining vibrant and moving forward with confidence in the evolution of human civilization.

## • Exchange and Mutual Learning: The Inevitable Path to the Common Prosperity of World Civilizations

Throughout human history, a clear pattern has emerged: enclosure, seclusion, and isolation are often associated with low levels of social productivity, whereas openness, exchange, and cooperation are closely linked to advanced productivity. Great civilizations have emerged along major rivers such as the Nile, the Euphrates, the Tigris, the Ganges, the Yellow River, and the Yangtze River. One reason is that these rivers served as "highways" for early human migration, trade, and communication. Through frequent spiritual and intellectual exchanges, humanity developed ideas, accumulated wisdom, and created cultural forms, laying the common foundation for the flourishing of early civilizations.

Post-World War II, economic globalization deepened the international division of labor, expanded global markets, accelerated technological diffusion, and optimized the allocation of global capital, talent, information, and technology. This led to increasingly close interactions among people and civilizations, propelling human civilization to unprecedented heights.

The exchange and mutual learning among civilizations promote the harmony and common prosperity of world civilizations. This is not only an echo of world civilization history but should also be the common pursuit of all humanity in the 21st century.

## Chapter Two:

## The Dilemmas Facing the Development of Human Civilization

At present, he challenges faced by human society are ultimately challenges to the development of civilization. In the present era, despite prominent achievements in economy, science and Technology, and culture, humanity faces an interwoven and changing array of new global issues and complex contradictions. These include economic stagnation, increasing political instability, and frequent cultural conflicts, plunging human civilization into palpable dilemmas. Once again, human civilization finds itself standing at a critical crossroads.

## 1. Economic Stagnation: Undermining the Momentum for the Progress of Civilization

Economic development serves as the driving force behind the progress of civilization. Currently, the global economic recovery is sluggish, with insufficient momentum, pronounced distribution imbalances, and numerous emerging risks and challenges. These factors have dampened the drive for progress, casting a shadow over humanity's future.

#### Global Economic Challenges and Structural Contradictions

The momentum of global economic development has weakened, with prominent deep-seated structural contradictions. Since the 2008 financial crisis, and especially after the COVID-19 pandemic, global economic conditions have remained sluggish, with weak market demand and declining manufacturing activity. The World Economic Outlook report released by the International Monetary Fund in January 2025 projects global economic growth of 3.3 percent for both 2025 and 2026, below the historical average of 3.7 percent (2000 – 2019). While the medium-term baseline risks are tilted to the downside, the short-term outlook is characterized by varying risks. <sup>©</sup>

To exacerbate matters, structural contradictions and divergent characteristics in areas such as consumption, employment, and inflation have become more evident, further dragging down global economic growth. These issues have also led to social unrest, environmental pressures, and technological divides, among other problems. These interwoven issues have exacerbated conflicts and antagonisms between countries, hindering the depth and breadth of cultural development and exchange among civilizations.

#### Global Economic Imbalances and Growing Wealth Disparities

① International Monetary Fund. World Economic Outlook, October 2024, https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/Issues/2024/10/22/world-economic-outlook-october-2024.

Global economic development is becoming increasingly imbalanced, with widening wealth disparities. In the wave of globalization, economies have become interdependent and interconnected, forming a complex and tightly-knit network. However, this network is not always harmonious or balanced, and global economic imbalances have become increasingly pronounced. Researches show that the global wealth gap has not narrowed but widened, with 60 percent of the world's population becoming poorer—equivalent to nearly 5 billion people growing poorer. According to World Bank data, approximately 700 million people worldwide live in extreme poverty, surviving on less than \$2.15 a day, while around 3.5 billion people live in moderate poverty, with daily expenses below \$6.85. ©

The growing economic disparity leads to the imbalanced development of civilizations. Against the backdrop of widening wealth gaps, some countries, leveraging their strong economic foundations and technological advantages, have taken a leading position in the development of civilizations, with their languages, lifestyles, and values gaining global influence. In contrast, many developing countries, due to insufficient economic strength, often find their cultures marginalized.

#### • Global Economic Challenges and Increasing Unpredictability

Global economic development is fraught with risks, challenges, and growing unpredictability. In recent years, profound changes in the global economic landscape, combined with international political instability, frequent natural disasters, and prolonged pandemic influences, have significantly increased economic unpredictability. This is evident in the vulnerability of global supply chains, heightened inflationary pressures, increased volatility in energy and resource prices, rising trade protectionism, greater financial market volatility, and mounting debt pressures in emerging markets.

In January 2025, Ms. Kristalina Georgieva, International Monetary Fund Managing Director, stated that the economic policies of the new U.S. administration, particularly its trade policies, will bring greater uncertainty to the global economy in 2025.<sup>20</sup>

Looking ahead, the stability of global economic development still faces multiple challenges and shocks. The lack of a sense of security not only undermines collective actions for mutual support to overcome difficulties but also significantly weakens the impetus for exchange and mutual learning among civilizations.

## 2. Political Instability: Threatening the Foundation of the Development of Civilizations

A stable and open political environment serves as the foundation for the develop-

① World Bank Group, "Ending Poverty for Half the World Could Take More Than a Century," Oct. 15, 2024, https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2024/10/15/ending-poverty-for-half-the-world-could-take-more-than-a-century. ② IMF President: "Global Economy Faces Greater Uncertainty Due to US Trade Policy," Xinhua News Agency, January 11, 2025.

ment of civilizations. It creates conditions for the exchange and mutual learning between different civilizations. Conversely, a turbulent political environment not only disrupts social stability but also hinders interaction and integration between civilizations, leading to cultural decline and stagnation in development. "Today, peace and development have become the prevailing trend, but the world is far from tranquil. War is the sword of Damocles that still hangs over mankind."

## Evasion of Responsibility and Disruption of Global Governance by Certain Major Powers

In the context of increasingly complex global issues and surging challenges, global governance platforms are frequently being "instrumentalized" or even "weaponized," significantly diminishing their effectiveness. Multilateral mechanisms are under strain, and the logic of global governance is undergoing a "negative shift," increasingly lagging behind contemporary demands and even failing in some areas. Meanwhile, certain major powers, driven by self-interest, are pursuing unilateralism and protectionism, neglecting or evading their responsibilities in global governance. They exacerbate international confrontations and divisions through economic sanctions and military interventions, severely undermining the multilateral international order centered on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, dragging the world into a vortex of disorder.

The irresponsible actions of certain major powers have disrupted channels of exchange among civilizations, hindered the openness and dialogue among different civilizations, weakened confidence in global cooperation, and eroded the foundation of mutual learning. Consequently, establishing a community based on cultural trust and shared values has become increasingly difficult.

## Ongoing Regional Conflicts and Local Wars, Frequent Global Geopolitical Crises

"Everywhere we look, peace is under siege." Currently, regional conflicts and local wars are flaring up one after another, with the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the situation in the Middle East continuously causing spillover effects. Many people are suffering from the ravages of war, and maintaining world peace remains an arduous task.

According to a report released by the non-governmental organization "Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project," global political violence incidents increased by 25 percent in 2024 compared to 2023, with one in eight people worldwide facing conflict and over 220,000 people losing their lives. The British think tank International Institute for Strategic Studies reports that the intensity and lethality of armed violence are also on the rise, with a 37 percent increase in deaths and an approximately 17 per-

① Xi Jinping: On Adhering to Promoting the Building of a Human Community with a Shared Future, Central Party Literature Press, 2018, p. 248.

<sup>2</sup> Historical Choices at the Crossroads: Looking Back on the World in 2024, Xinhua New Agency, December 29, 2024.

<sup>3</sup> Armed Conflict Location & Event Data (ACLED). Conflict Index: December 2024, December 2024, https://acleddata.com/conflict-index/.

cent increase in the overall mortality rate per incident year-on-year.

In the New Agenda for Peace, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres highlighted that the world faces risks such as the changing nature of armed conflict, persistent violence beyond conventional warfare, and the weaponization of new technologies. Continuing regional conflicts and local wars disrupt social stability, deplete resources, create humanitarian crises, and pose the potential risk of humanity falling back into war, casting a shadow over the future of human civilization.

## • The Rise of Terrorism Threats Challenges Global Security Order

Currently, the geopolitical distribution of terrorism is undergoing significant changes, no longer confined to a few countries or specific regions but spreading rapidly worldwide. Terrorist attacks are occurring frequently, with violence and extremist ideologies proliferating through information technology, posing severe challenges to global security.

According to the 2024 Global Terrorism Index released by the Institute for Economics and Peace, an Australian think tank, terrorism remains a serious global threat. As of 2023, the number of deaths caused by terrorism increased by 22 percent, reaching 8, 352—the highest level since 2017.<sup>3</sup>

The expansion of terrorism disrupts the safety and stability of human society, obstructs normal exchanges and cooperation between civilizations, and poses a significant threat to cultural diversity and the inclusivity of values. As a result, the foundation for global exchange and mutual learning among civilizations is becoming increasingly fragile.

## • Growing Non-Traditional Security Risks Threaten Human Survival

Beyond traditional security, non-traditional security risks are increasingly extending into various fields, including economy, technology, finance, culture, society, and the environment, characterized by intensified confrontations and rising conflicts. Energy crises, food crises, and public health crises continue to escalate, weakening basic survival guarantees and limiting sustainable development. Cyberattacks and information leaks erode the foundation of trust and cooperation, hindering technological progress and exchange among civilizations. Environmental pollution and global warming damage the living environment, threatening the shared home of humanity. These risks greatly impede trends of global multi-polarity, economic globalization, IT application, and cultural diversity.

In this era of globalized risks, any security hazard in one field can transform from a single risk into a compound crisis, with local issues spreading globally, creating interactive shocks among nations. If human civilization cannot strengthen cooperation and co-

① The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS). The Armed Conflict Survey 2024: Editor's Introduction, December 2024, https://www.iiss.org/publications/armed-conflict-survey/2024/editors-introduction/.

② The United Nations: New Agenda for Peace, July 2023, pp. 4-5.

<sup>3</sup> Institute for Economics & Peace. Global Terrorism Index 2024: Measuring the Impact of Terrorism, February 2024, http://visionofhumanity.org/resources.

ordination, it will be challenging to achieve common development and progress in an era with shared risks.

## 3. Global Cultural Conflicts: Disrupting the Consensus on the Values of Civilizations

Globalization has facilitated cultural exchange around the world, yet in the convergence and clash of civilizations, value conflicts persist. The threat to cultural diversity looms large as protectionist, isolationist, and populist ideologies continue to rise. Human society faces the threat of ideological fragmentation and the difficulty of building consensus.

#### Persistent Value Conflicts: The Resurfacing of "Civilization Superiority" and "Clash of Civilizations"

Some countries, long holding their cultural values as the standard, belittle or even interfere with other cultures. They attempt to alter the social structures and ideologies of other nations through cultural sanctions, infiltration, and other coercive or subtle means. This hegemonic "cultural export" not only erodes the cultural independence and continuity of the targeted nations, but also hampers the basic avenues of mutual understanding and communication, erecting barriers to international dialogue.

## • Cultural Diversity Under Threat and Global Civilizations Facing the "Standardization" Trap

As globalization advances, every civilization or nation is swept into the world current, unable to forge ahead alone. The collision and fusion of different cultures and values should ideally drive human progress. However, the invasion of dominant cultures has eroded the cultural identities of many nations and ethnic groups, leading to phenomena like cultural nihilism. In the modernization process, subordinate cultures are gradually assimilated or marginalized, turning the exchange and mutual learning of civilizations into mere replication.

In this process, some countries and ethnic groups have lost their cultural subjectivity, making it challenging for them to find development paths that suit their unique national conditions. Consequently, their development lags, unrest occurs frequently, and the survival of their civilizations faces significant challenges. This impacts the diversity of world cultures and increases the risk of global civilization falling into the trap of "standardization."

## • The Rise of Anti-Globalization: Undermining the Dialogue among Civilizations

In recent years, this anti-globalization sentiment has spread beyond politics and economics, extending into the cultural sphere. The superposition of diverse and multi-di-

mensional differences and conflicts has led to increasingly intense cultural competition and conflicts. The resurgence of protectionism, isolationism, and populism has disrupted and even dismantled global cultural cooperation mechanisms, exacerbating misunderstandings, alienation, and hostility between different cultures.

To ensure the inheritance, innovation, and development of civilization, it is crucial to maintain an open and inclusive attitude. Perceiving differences of civilizations as threats and becoming adversarial due to these differences creates "isolated zones" in inter-civilization exchanges, exacerbates conflicts, undermines shared values, and impedes the progress and development of civilizations.

## Chapter Three:

## China's Proposal for Deepening Exchange and Mutual Learning among Civilizations

"Civilization is a matter of practice." As the world undergoes accelerated evolution in the midst of major changes unseen in a century, it is necessary to transcend barriers and conflicts with broad-mindedness and care for the future of humanity. In the face of global issues such as development gaps, peace deficits, and clash of civilizations, China upholds the concept of civilization characterized by equality, mutual learning, dialogue, and inclusiveness. It consistently acts as a builder of world peace, a contributor to global development, a defender of the international order, and a provider of public goods. Through exchanges and mutual learning with the world, China provides new impetus for development, new wisdom for governance, and new visions for civilization, working together with the international community to build a human community with a shared future.

## 1. Supporting Global Development to Strengthen the Foundations of the Progress of Civilization

Development, as the material foundation and rightful essence of human civilization, carries humanity's aspirations and pursuit of a better life. China continuously shares the benefits of its development with the world, contributing robust growth momentum and strengthening the foundation for the progress of human civilization.

#### • Promoting global development through China's development

"China can only do well when the world is doing well. When China does well, the world will get even better." For over 70 years, China has achieved the "two miracles" of rapid economic growth and long-term social stability, which are rarely seen globally. By addressing its own development issues, China makes a significant contribution to global development.

China provides strong impetus to world economic development. China's contribution to global economic growth has remained at around 30 percent for several consecutive years, making it a key driver of global economic growth. In the global economic land-scape, China's roles as an "engine" and "ballast stone" are becoming increasingly prominent. According to calculations by Bloomberg based on the latest economic forecasts from the International Monetary Fund, China will be the largest contributor to global

① Marx and Engels Collected Works (Volume 3), People's Publishing House, 2020, p.536.

② Xi Jinping: "Building an Open, Inclusive and Interconnected World For Common Development--Keynote Speech at the Opening Ceremony of the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation", People's Publishing House, 2023, p. 5.

economic growth from 2024 to 2029, accounting for about 21 percent of the total. $^{\odot}$ 

China shares enormous market dividends with the world. As Chinese modernization is progressing vigorously, over 1.4 billion Chinese people are advancing towards a modernized society, creating a market roughly equivalent to the combined scale of existing developed countries. Through platforms such as the China International Import Expo and the China International Consumer Products Expo, China offers more opportunities for countries to share its vast market. Research by the International Monetary Fund indicates that China's economic growth has positive spillover effects on other regions. A one percentage point increase in China would, on average, increase the level of output in other economies by 0.3 percent. <sup>2</sup>

China provides a new philosophy for global economic development. In its practice of high-quality development, China has creatively put forward the significant theory of new quality productive forces, promoting institutional innovation and evolution in production relations. The new quality productive forces are creating more development opportunities for international partners. The economic theories and practical methods inherent in these forces offer valuable insights and references for human society to explore better ways of economic development.

As former Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong has said, on many counts, China's growth is a tremendous boon, both for itself and the world.<sup>®</sup>

#### Providing Chinese Solutions to Global Challenges

With its rapid development and growing international influence, China deeply engages in global affairs, offering Chinese solutions to global challenges in thought, concept, and action.

Poverty reduction is an integral part of the international economic governance system. After achieving the complete eradication of absolute poverty domestically, China has closely linked its growth with global development. To date, China has helped numerous developing countries implement over 6,000 livelihood projects. Chinese hybrid rice has been introduced to nearly 70 countries across five continents, Juncao technology has taken root in over 100 countries, agricultural technology demonstration centers have been established in more than 30 countries, and poverty reduction cooperation projects have helped many poverty-stricken rural areas to embark on the path to prosperity.

Climate change is crucial for the future of humanity. In 2020, China made a significant commitment to peak carbon emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. This means that China, as the world's largest developing country, will achieve the

① "Bloomberg: China will be the top contributor to global growth over the next five years, with its share bigger than all Group of Seven countries combined," Xinhua News Agency, April 20, 2024.

<sup>2 &</sup>quot;China to continue sharing development achievements with world: FM spokesperson," Xinhua News Agency, December 21, 2023.

<sup>3 &</sup>quot;When China does well, the World Will Get Even Better - The Historical Logic of China's Contributions to the World in the 70 Years since the Founding of New China," Xinhua News Agency, June 27, 2019.

highest reduction in carbon emission and reach carbon neutrality from carbon peak in the shortest time in global history. To achieve the "dual carbon" goals, China has established the world's largest carbon market. Its installed capacity for hydropower, wind power, solar power, and biomass power generation is the highest globally, and its production of new energy vehicles has topped the world for ten consecutive years.

#### Providing Public Goods for Common Human Development

As its role in global development becomes increasingly significant, China is introducing more global public goods that embody Chinese wisdom and serve the development of all humanity.

Adhering to the Silk Road spirit of peace, cooperation, openness, inclusiveness, mutual learning, and mutual benefit, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has become a widely welcomed global public good and cooperation platform. To date, over 150 countries and more than 30 international organizations have signed cooperation agreements to join the BRI.

In response to the recent anti-globalization trends, such as "small yard, high fence" and "decoupling and breaking chains," China proposed the Global Development Initiative (GDI) in 2021. Since then, the number of countries and regions responding to this initiative has steadily increased. In eight key areas, more than 30 cooperation platforms have been established, nearly \$20 billion in development funds secured, and over 1,100 projects launched, covering all 17 of the United Nations' sustainable development goals.

## 2. Promoting World Peace to Maintain the Order of the Coexistence of Civilizations

On barren land, no great tree of peace can grow; in a landscape of continuous warfare, no fruits of civilization can blossom. The world needs peace just as humanity needs air to live, and all living things need sunlight to grow. In an era marked by increasing "peace deficits," China initiated a vision for common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security. China not only consistently follows a path of peaceful development but also actively engages on a global scale to promote peace and prevent conflicts. It endeavors to create platforms and conditions that foster the peaceful coexistence and inclusive exchange of civilizations.

#### Consistently Practicing Peaceful Development

China is the only major country that has enshrined peaceful development in its Constitution and the Party Constitution of the ruling party, elevating it to a national will. China remains committed to resolving territorial sovereignty and maritime rights disputes with relevant countries through negotiation and consultation. It has peacefully settled land boundary issues with 12 of its 14 neighboring countries through negotiation.

China has faithfully fulfilled its responsibilities and missions as a permanent member of the UN Security Council. It is the second largest contributor to the UN regular budget and peacekeeping assessment, and the largest contributor of peacekeeping troops among the permanent members of the Security Council. Over the past three decades and more, having sent more than 50,000 personnel to UN peacekeeping operations in over 20 countries and regions, China has become a key force in UN peacekeeping. <sup>(1)</sup>

#### Actively Playing the Role of a Responsible Major Country

To build a peaceful and secure future, major countries must set an example by breaking geopolitical cliques and going beyond conflict-driven factions, acting as "propellers" of world unity and "ballast stones" of international peace.

Facing ongoing international hotspot issues, China is committed to playing the role of a responsible major country. In response to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, China has repeatedly dispatched special envoys to mediate, seeking consensus to end the war and paving the way for peace talks. Since the escalation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, China has called for an immediate ceasefire and increased humanitarian aid, facilitating reconciliation dialogues among Palestinian factions in Beijing. On regional hotspot issues, China remains persistent and tireless in playing a constructive role, pushing for a political solution to the Korean Peninsula issue and facilitating the signing of a cease-fire agreement among Myanmar parties in Kunming, China.

#### • Leading Global Security Governance Reform

China upholds the fundamental principles of international relations based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, maintaining an international order grounded in international law. Building on this foundation, China has proposed the Global Security Initiative and is actively working to transform this initiative into practical actions, offering Chinese wisdom to further improve global security governance.

China firmly supports the core role of the United Nations in international affairs and advocates for necessary and reasonable reforms of the Security Council to enhance its authority and efficiency, thereby strengthening its ability to address global threats and challenges. China actively promotes security cooperation and exchanges within frameworks such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), and the East Asia cooperation mechanisms. It continues to develop a series of international security dialogue platforms, including the Beijing Xiangshan Forum and the China-Africa Peace and Security Forum.

In the realm of non-traditional security, China leads international security governance in emerging fields. Through enacting the world's first legislation on generative artificial intelligence and issuing documents such as the *Global AI Governance Initia*-

① The State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China: "A Global Community of Shared Future: China's Proposals and Actions," September 2023.

tive and the Shanghai Declaration on Global AI Governance, China shares its extensive experience in AI governance with the world, making a series of positive contributions to global AI governance.

## 3. Guiding Dialogue and Exchange to Expand the Space for Cooperation among Civilizations

Diversity is intrinsic to human civilization. It is diversity that facilitates interactions between civilizations. Confronted with the challenges posed by interactions among heterogeneous civilizations, China has unequivocally introduced the Global Civilization Initiative. This initiative collectively champions the respect for the diversity of world civilizations, the promotion of universal human values, the preservation and innovation of the heritage of civilization, and the enhancement of international exchange and cooperation among civilizations. It offers a profound response to the pivotal questions of "how different civilizations can coexist" and "the direction of human civilization."

#### • Establishing Platforms for Dialogue Among Civilizations

Exchange is a positive affirmation of the value and significance of different civilizations. China is committed to promoting dialogue and exchange among different civilizations and development models, drawing on each other's strengths through competition and comparison and pursuing common development through exchanges and mutual learning.

China endeavors to make cultural exchanges and mutual learning a bridge to enhance friendship among people of all countries, a driving force for the progress of human society, and a bond to maintain world peace.

In recent years, China has hosted the Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations and has celebrated over 30 large-scale cultural and tourist "years" (festivals), such as the China-Italy Year of Culture and Tourism, the China-Greece Year of Culture and Tourism, and the China-Spain Year of Culture and Tourism. It has promoted the steady development of 16 multilateral exchanges and cooperation mechanisms, such as the meeting of BRICS ministers of culture, as well as 25 bilateral cooperation mechanisms, actively expanding the space for dialogue among civilizations. <sup>©</sup>

In June 2024, the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted China's proposal to establish International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations, designating June 10th as its annual observance. The unanimous support of the international community for the establishment of this day fully demonstrates that the Global Civilization Initiative aligns with the trend of the times and meets the needs of the era.

## Jointly Advancing the Inheritance and Innovation of Civilization

① The State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China: "A Global Community of Shared Future: China's Proposals and Actions," September 2023.

To the development of human civilization, Inheritance and innovation are what two wheels to a vehicle or two wings to a bird. It is only through the dialectical unity of inheritance and development, as well as abandonment and innovation, that civilization can sustain its vitality.

As a country with a civilization of over 5,000 years, China shares its experience in the protection, inheritance, and utilization of cultural heritage with the world. China actively promotes international cooperation in the field of cultural heritage and has carried out extensive and effective cooperation with many countries in areas such as joint archaeology, protection and restoration of historical sites, application for and management of world cultural heritages, and museum exhibition exchanges.

On numerous occasions, China has deployed expert teams to assist in significant heritage preservation projects, such as the Angkor Monuments in Cambodia and the Bogd Khan Palace in Mongolia. China has collaborated on joint archaeological ventures in over ten countries, including Kenya, Bangladesh, Egypt, and Uzbekistan. In addition, China has engaged in technical cooperation with nations like Serbia to support applications for world cultural heritage status. These efforts have greatly contributed to the protection of global cultural heritage, safeguarding the cultural treasures shared by all humanity.

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between China and Japan, the Palace Museum of China hosted a special digital exhibition, "The World of the Gu Gong Imperial Palace," in Japan. Utilizing advanced technologies such as VR and 8K ultra-high-definition 3D imaging, the exhibition vividly showcased the beauty of the Forbidden City's cultural relics to the Japanese audience. China's innovative approaches to creatively transform and develop its rich traditional culture demonstrate the nation's wisdom in preserving and advancing civilization.

#### • Promoting People-to-People Cultural Exchanges

Cultural exchanges and mutual learning require strong guidance and support from the state, but the foundation always lies with the people. China actively builds mechanisms for implementing the Global Civilization Initiative, continuously promoting broader international people-to-people exchanges and cooperation.

International tourism, as a global phenomenon of cultural exchange, can greatly enhance the interaction and integration of different civilizations worldwide. Since 2024, China has continuously expanded the list of visa-free countries, implementing unilateral visa-free policies for 38 countries and creating more convenient payment, language, and travel environments for inbound tourists. In 2024, there were 20.115 million visa-free entries by foreign nationals into China through various ports, a year-on-year increase of 112.3 percent.

A series of significant initiatives announced by China to promote cultural exchanges between China and other countries have been successively implemented, such as "inviting 50,000 young Americans to China on exchange and study programs in the next

five years" and "promoting the number of French students studying in China to exceed 10,000 in the next three years, and double the scale of European youth exchanges in China." Groups of young people from Europe and the United States have come to China for exchanges and study, planting the seeds of friendship in their hearts. The increasingly close cultural and people-to-people exchanges, like trickling streams, converge into a surging river of interactions among civilizations.

① Xi Jinping: "Galvanizing Our Peoples into a Strong Force for the Cause of China-U.S. Friendship — Speech at Welcome Dinner by Friendly Organizations in the United States," People's People's Publishing House, 2023, p. 8.

<sup>2 &</sup>quot;Xi Jinping's Speech at the Joint Press Conference with French President Macron," Xinhua New Agency, May 6, 2024

# Chapter Four: Pooling Global Forces for Exchange and Mutual Learning among Civilizations

In today's world, multiple crises and challenges are intertwined, bringing human society to another historical crossroads. What is happening to our world, what should we do, and where is humanity heading? These pivotal questions demand answers, as they bear directly on the future and fate of humanity. In the face of unprecedented challenges, no single country can solve them alone. Humanity's fate has never been as closely linked as it is today, and human civilization has never required exchange and mutual learning as urgently as it does now. We must unite global forces to initiate global action, global response, and global cooperation. This will create new spaces for exchange among civilizations, inject fresh vitality into global governance, and make greater contributions to the overall interests of humanity.

## 1. Strengthening International Exchange and Cooperation to Draw a New Blueprint for Interaction among Civilizations

The world is home to over 200 countries and regions, more than 2,500 ethnic groups, and a multitude of religions. The diversity of human civilizations adds a kaleidoscope of colors to our world. Diversity fosters exchange, exchange nurtures integration, and integration leads to progress. While there are differences in the paths chosen by Western and non-Western civilizations, and mental barriers and communication obstacles still exist among different cultures, the exchange of civilizations and cultural integration remain the aspirations of the people and the prevailing trend of our times.

## Deepening Bilateral and Multilateral Exchanges and Cooperation

The interactions, exchanges, and integration of civilizations play a fundamental and lasting role in promoting economic and trade cooperation, political mutual trust, cultural exchange, mutual understanding among peoples, public opinion consensus, and improvement of international relations among countries. All nations should grasp the laws of the progress of civilization, understand the direction of historical development, and conform to the trends of the times by adopting new concepts of win-win, multiwin, and all-win outcomes. This should replace the outdated mindset of zero-sum games and winner-takes-all. By respecting each other's sovereignty and cultural traditions, countries can deepen bilateral and multilateral exchanges and cooperation, creating more models of exchange among civilizations among nations of different sizes, sys-

tems, and cultures.

## • Extensively Carrying Out International Cultural Exchanges and Cooperation

The key to good relations between countries lies in the friendship between their peoples, which is rooted in mutual understanding. As the world enters a new period of turbulence and change, humanity needs to overcome problems such as cultural prejudices and misunderstandings more than ever. By upholding a spirit of openness and inclusiveness, we can promote deeper mutual understanding and cooperation, seeking common ground while reserving differences, complementing each other's strengths, and allowing each civilization to appreciate its own unique beauty while achieving the harmonious coexistence of all. Therefore, it is especially necessary to strengthen international cultural exchanges and cooperation, continuously expanding cooperation channels in fields such as culture, arts, sports, and education. By building and improving global networks for cultural exchange and dialogue among civilizations, we can create opportunities for people from different countries to meet, understand, and connect with each other, jointly promoting the innovation-driven development of human civilization.

When "people of all countries make concerted efforts, turn pressure into impetus, turn crises into opportunities, replace confrontation with cooperation, and replace monopoly with benefits-for-all," it will undoubtedly open a new chapter of cultural exchange, integration, and mutual understanding among countries around the world.

#### 2. Promoting Reforms in Global Governance to Shape a New Order for the Development of Civilizations

In today's world, conflicts and wars have led to humanitarian crises in numerous countries. Food and energy security face severe threats, and economic globalization is encountering significant setbacks. The world stands at a pivotal historical juncture, choosing between peace and war, prosperity and decline, unity and confrontation. Only by establishing a fair and just international order and improving the global governance system can we set ourselves on the right path for civilized development.

#### • Joining Hands on the Path of Peaceful Development to Improve Global Security Governance

The flames of war continue to spread, disasters keep striking, injustice and division inflict wounds, and tensions and mistrust persist and intensify... In a world fraught with upheaval, no country can achieve absolute security by acting alone, nor can any country attain stability from another's chaos. The more tumultuous the world becomes, the more we must uphold the banner of peace, development, cooperation, and

① "Xi Jinping: Excerpts from Discourses on Major Country Diplomacy with Chinese Characteristics," Central Party Literature Press, 2020, p. 228.

mutual benefit.

Countries should actively address the root causes of international conflicts. Through cross-civilization exchanges, we can plant the seeds of peace in the hearts of people worldwide, allowing a forest of peace to flourish. Nations should actively implement a new concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security. By promoting peaceful resolutions to international differences and disputes, we can work together to bring more stability and certainty to our turbulent times, ultimately achieving lasting global peace and development.

## • Promoting a Universally Beneficial and Inclusive Economic Globalization to Improve Global Economic Governance

Economic globalization has led to the prosperity of trade, convenience in investment, the movement of people, and technological advancements. However, it has also accumulated various problems and drawbacks, with some forces attempting to reverse global supply chains, value chains, and industrial chains. Tougher times call for greater confidence. We should join hands to promote a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization to the benefit of various countries and communities. <sup>®</sup>

Countries should adhere to open policies and firmly oppose protectionism and the building of walls and barriers. We should strive to establish a fair, reasonable, and transparent system of international trade and economic rules, fostering an open, inclusive, and non-discriminatory environment for international economic cooperation and allowing people from all countries to share the benefits of economic globalization and global economic growth.

Delicious soup is made by combining different ingredients. Humanity shares a common stake and should pull together through thick and thin. The appropriate international order and global governance system that benefits the world and its people should be determined through consultation among all nations, not dictated by a single country or a few. The reform of the global governance system is a collective responsibility of the international community. We must uphold the principles of consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits, transforming proposals for global governance reform into a consensus among all parties, leading to unified action.

## 3. Achieving Overall Human Interests to Build a Beautiful New Home for Civilization

Humanity lives in a global village and sails on the same ship. Facing common chal-

① "President Xi Jinping attended the 16th BRICS Summit and delivered an important speech," Xinhua News Agency, October

<sup>2)</sup> Xi Jinping: "Written Speech at the APEC CEO Summit," Xinhua News Agency, November 15, 2024

<sup>3 &</sup>quot;Xi Jinping: Excerpts from Discourses on Major Country Diplomacy with Chinese Characteristics," Central Party Literature Press, 2020, p. 228.

<sup>(4)</sup> Xi Jinping: On Adhering to and Promoting the Building of a Human Community with a Shared Future, Central Party Literature Press, 2018, p. 384.

lenges and striving for a better future requires the power of civilization and shared values to guide us forward. All countries should work together to promote the building of a human community with a shared future to achieve the overall interests of all humanity.

While countries differ in history, culture, systems, and levels of development, people across the globe share common values: peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy, and freedom. Peace and development are the shared endeavors of all peoples, fairness and justice are their common ideals, and democracy and freedom are their universal pursuits. These six core elements of humanity's common values span across individual, societal, national, and global dimensions. They embody the commonalities in the value connotations and value realizations among different civilizations, which is beneficial in uniting the will and strength of all humanity to jointly address various global challenges and achieve the overall interests of humankind.

Humanity lives in a world of diverse cultures, races, skin colors, religions, and social systems, where people from different countries form an intertwined and interdependent community of shared future. The concept of building a human community with a shared future converges the greatest common denominator of humanity's aspirations for peace, development, and stability, drawing the largest circle of common ground among countries with varying cultural backgrounds and levels of development. Promoting the building of a human community with a shared future will bring the people of this blue planet closer together into a diverse and united community of civilizations, allowing people worldwide to share in the light of civilization and create a prosperous future together.

Promoting humanity's common values and building a human community with a shared future embody a forward-thinking reflection on the forms of human civilization and an accurate understanding of the trends in human development and progress. They will undoubtedly bring together the powerful synergy of global civilizations, propelling human society toward a bright future.

① Xi Jinping's Collection of Diplomatic Speeches (Volume II), Central Party Literature Press, 2022, p. 355.

<sup>② Xi Jinping: On the Publicity and Ideological Work of the Communist Party of China, Central Party Literature Press, 2020, p.
80.</sup> 

#### Conclusion

The vast river of civilization runs ceaselessly, with its glorious chronicles captivating our hearts.

History has eloquently demonstrated that the interaction, exchange, and integration of civilizations are the grand paths aligned with historical reason. From the primitive era of eating raw food to the age of agrarian farming, from the Industrial Revolution to the Information Society, exchange and mutual learning have been the threads running through the development process of human civilization. They have accompanied the advancement of every nation and ethnic group, illuminating the way for different civilizations to shine together and to make the world a more beautiful place.

Chinese civilization has long been renowned for its openness and inclusiveness, continuously renewing itself through mutual learning and integration. Rooted in its rich and splendid history, China views the world with the philosophy of "each appreciating its own beauty," treats other civilizations with the mindset of "appreciating the beauty of others," and engages with the world by "achieving harmonious coexistence of the beauty of all." This makes China a vital force in promoting exchange and mutual learning among civilizations.

The development of history, the prosperity of society, and the progress of humanity are inseparable from the nourishment and guidance of civilization.

In the current era, human interactions across the globe are deeper and more extensive than ever before. Countries are more frequently and closely interconnected and interdependent than at any point in history. As different civilizations clash and converge, there is a greater need than ever to break down barriers to interaction, promote exchange and dialogue, and foster harmonious coexistence.

Every step toward dialogue reduces the chance of conflict, and every gesture of inclusiveness bridges gaps. Only by developing together through mutual respect and achieving win-win cooperation by seeking common ground while embracing differences can we build an open and inclusive world of civilizations. Only by drawing wisdom and nourishment from diverse civilizations and fostering innovative growth can we ensure that the essence of all civilizations benefits the world and humanity, achieving the overall interests of humankind.

A just cause finds great support, and a journey with many companions gets far. Through the exchange and mutual learning among civilizations, along with cooperation among countries, the torch of peace is passed down through generations, the momentum for development remains uninterrupted, and the radiance of civilizations illuminates our world. Let us work together to create a brighter future for human civilization.

#### **Compilation Notes**

This think tank report titled *Promoting the Development and Progress of Human Civilization through Exchange and Mutual Learning* is led by Fu Hua, president of Xinhua News Agency and chairman of the Academic Committee of its National High-Level Think Tank (NCR). Lyu Yansong, editor- in- chief of Xinhua News Agency, serves as the deputy team leader, and Ren Weidong, deputy editor-in-chief of Xinhua News Agency, is the executive deputy team leader. The research team members include Liu Gang, Cui Feng, Feng Wuyong, Liu Hua, Fu Yan, Chen Gang, Zhang Liang, Qin Yanyang, Dou Shuqi, Min Fangzheng, Wu Xiaoyang, Fan Shihui, Xiong Congru, Yang Yimiao, Guo Honghai, Cheng Zheng, Wang Hui, and Luo Ting.