

Application for the IX Conference on Strategic Studies

Title: Technological Transition and Systemic Contradictions: Analysis of the China-West Conflict

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Application Text

Introduction

In recent decades, relations between China and the West, which were previously based on mutually beneficial cooperation, have encountered serious contradictions. The main contradiction lies in the changing economic and technological balance of power, leading to a global reorganization of the international order. These contradictions reflect systemic imbalances in the world economy, manifesting through various geopolitical and economic tensions. Their resolution requires a transition to a multipolar world order and enhanced international cooperation to create a more balanced and equitable global system. The complex dynamics at play underscore the necessity of a multifaceted approach to understand the root causes and potential solutions to these emerging challenges.

Research Issue

The primary issue of the study is the conflict between China and the West, its causes, and its consequences for the global economy and international order. This conflict can be seen as a reflection of deeper systemic issues within the international system, such as economic inequality, technological competition, and the shifting dynamics of global power. The object of the study is the global economic order, while the subject is the technological transition and systemic

contradictions between core and peripheral countries. Analyzing these aspects provides insight into the broader implications for international relations and global stability.

Aim and Objectives

The aim of the study is to analyze the causes and consequences of the technological transition and systemic contradictions in China-West relations, as well as to develop recommendations for forming a sustainable multipolar world order. To achieve this aim, the following tasks are set:

1. **To explore the economic and technological basis of China-West interactions, focusing on historical and contemporary dynamics.** This involves examining the evolution of trade relationships, investment flows, and technological exchanges that have shaped the current state of affairs.
2. **To analyze the cyclicity of the world economy and the role of innovations in driving economic and geopolitical shifts.** Understanding the cyclical nature of economic development and the impact of technological innovation is crucial for predicting future trends and potential disruptions.
3. **To examine changes in economic relations following the 2008-2009 global financial crisis and their long-term impacts.** The financial crisis marked a significant turning point in global economic relations, necessitating a closer look at its lasting effects on China-West dynamics.
4. **To assess China's strategic transition to high-tech production and its implications for global economic power structures.** China's move towards high-tech industries represents a fundamental shift with wide-reaching consequences for global competition and economic balance.
5. **To analyze the US response to China's pursuit of technological leadership and the broader geopolitical ramifications.** The US has implemented various strategies to counter China's rise, which have significant implications for global economic policies and international relations.

Methodology

The research methodology is based on the approaches of international political economy, which examines the interaction of economic and political factors on a global scale. This interdisciplinary framework allows for a comprehensive analysis of the complex and interconnected issues at play. Methods of comparative analysis, historical approach, and systemic analysis are used to provide a thorough and nuanced understanding of the topic. This

approach ensures that the study encompasses a wide range of factors and perspectives, leading to a more holistic understanding of the issues.

Global Inequality and Economic Development

Consumption and production economies are characterized by significant global inequality. Core countries, based on innovations and human capital development, utilize the resources of peripheral and semi-peripheral countries through unequal exchange. These countries produce raw materials and perform assembly operations, creating resources for the core countries. Such inequality is a driver of global economic development but also a source of persistent tensions and conflicts. The unequal distribution of benefits from globalization exacerbates these tensions, leading to calls for a more just and balanced international system. Addressing these disparities is essential for creating a more equitable and sustainable global economy.

Cyclical Nature of the World Economy

The world economy develops cyclically, going through upward and downward waves lasting 20-30 years. Upward waves are characterized by the introduction of new technologies that increase production efficiency, create new markets, and transform socio-economic structures. Downward waves, on the other hand, are associated with resource distribution imbalances, leading to slower growth rates and economic stagnation. Schumpeter's concept of creative destruction plays a crucial role in this process, as it fosters the spread of new technologies and the formation of a new structure in the world economy. This cyclical nature of economic development highlights the importance of innovation and technological advancement in maintaining economic dynamism and addressing systemic contradictions. Understanding these cycles can help policymakers and stakeholders better navigate future economic challenges and opportunities.

Post-2008-2009 Crisis Developments

Changes in China-West relations after the 2008-2009 crisis led to significant economic restructuring. The decline in demand for Chinese exports and the problem of excess production capacity posed challenges for China, prompting the government to implement various measures to stimulate the domestic economy. State stimulation of demand and supply helped overcome the crisis's effects and focus on capital-intensive sectors. This period also saw China increasingly assert its economic influence globally, through initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), aimed at enhancing infrastructure connectivity and economic integration across Asia, Africa, and Europe. The BRI represents a significant strategic shift, reflecting China's ambitions

to play a central role in global trade and infrastructure development. These initiatives have profound implications for global economic relations and regional stability.

Strategic Transition of China

China seeks to transition from labor-intensive production to high-tech sectors, ensuring its economic sovereignty and long-term sustainability. The Belt and Road Initiative promotes the strategic relocation of low-value-added production to less developed countries, allowing China to concentrate on developing innovative technologies. This strategic pivot is essential for China to avoid the middle-income trap and continue its ascent in the global economic hierarchy. The focus on high-tech industries, including artificial intelligence, renewable energy, and advanced manufacturing, positions China as a formidable competitor in the global technological landscape. The development of these sectors is crucial for maintaining China's economic growth and enhancing its global influence. This transition requires substantial investment in education, research and development, and infrastructure to support high-tech industries.

US Response to China's Technological Leadership

The US response to China's pursuit of technological leadership has manifested in a trade war and restrictions aimed at curbing China's technological development. These measures include tariffs on Chinese goods, restrictions on Chinese technology firms, and efforts to limit China's access to advanced technologies. These actions contribute to increasing global contradictions in the field of artificial intelligence and the technological race, highlighting the strategic importance of technological dominance in contemporary geopolitics. The escalating competition between the US and China in this domain underscores the broader geopolitical struggle for influence and control in the 21st century. This competition is not only about economic power but also about setting global standards and norms in emerging technologies. The outcome of this rivalry will significantly shape the future of international relations and global economic policies.

Need for a New Approach to International Cooperation

Contradictions between China and the West reflect global imbalances and require a new approach to international cooperation. Forming a multipolar world order and strengthening international cooperation are necessary for sustainable global development. Such a framework would allow for a more equitable distribution of economic benefits, reduce geopolitical tensions, and address the root causes of systemic contradictions. This requires a commitment to multilateralism, dialogue, and the pursuit of common goals in areas such as climate change,

global health, and technological innovation. International institutions and frameworks must be adapted to reflect the changing dynamics of global power and to facilitate cooperative approaches to global challenges. By fostering a more inclusive and balanced global governance system, the international community can work towards achieving long-term peace and prosperity.

List of Relevant Literature

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