



ДИЈАЛОЗИ О КИНИ
对话中国
DIALOGUES ON CHINA

The 3rd International Academic Conference - Dialogues on China 2023

New Chinese Initiatives
for a Changing Global Security

CONFERENCE REPORT



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NEW CHINESE INITIATIVES FOR A CHANGING GLOBAL SECURITY

CONFERENCE REPORT



REPORT OF THE THIRD DIALOGUES ON CHINA INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC CONFERENCE

Prepared by

Katarina Zakić | Aleksandar Mitić | Nenad Stekić | Jovana Nikolić

...with an immense help of

Pavle Nedić
Stefan Bošković
Marina Radovanović
Nikola Vlajnić
Lara Marković
Slavica Jović

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Belgrade

November 9-10, 2023

www.dialoguesonchina.com



“The “Dialogues on China”, in their third edition, pursued a significant role in advancing global scholarly discourse regarding the contemporary developments in China’s political, economic, and security policies.”

“China’s new initiatives align with the country’s diplomatic philosophy, focusing on peace, stability, material prosperity, and spiritual wealth.”



“Countries with different geographical positions, histories, cultures, social systems, economic sizes and development stages can definitely seek common ground while putting aside differences, being harmonious despite differences, strengthening cooperation and seeking win-win results, in order to build together a world characterized by lasting peace, universal security, shared prosperity, openness, inclusiveness.”

“Contemporary political and economic circumstances are complex, dynamic, and conflicting, so it is crucial to analyse and understand international processes and flows from different angles.”



CONFERENCE ORGANISERS



Institute of International Politics and Economics

Institute of International Politics and Economics in Belgrade (IIPE) is one of the oldest research institutes in the Southeast Europe dedicated to conducting research on international relations, with critical and interdisciplinary perspectives. IIPE was founded in 1947 as a small group of researchers aimed at laying the foundations of Yugoslav International Relations. To the present day, IIPE carries out a wide variety of research encouraging development of new and innovative analysis of world politics.



Institute of European Studies, CASS, Beijing

The Institute of European Studies (IES) at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) was founded in May 1981 as the Institute of Western European Studies. It is a national institution of academic research on European political, economic, legal, social, cultural, external affairs and science and technology policy. IES has established extensive connections with foreign universities, think-tanks, foundations, and NGOs. It maintains close working relations with the European embassies and missions in Beijing.



China-CEE Institute

China-CEE Institute was established by CASS, registered as a non-profit corporation in Budapest, Hungary. The Institute of European Studies, CASS is responsible for organizing and managing it. The China-CEE Institute will build ties and strengthen partnerships with academic institutions and think tanks in Hungary and other Central and Eastern European countries. It welcomes scholars and researchers in CEE countries to carry out joint research, field studies, seminars, lecture series, some training programs for younger students, translation, publication, etc.

CONFERENCE SUMMARY

Key figures:

- ❖ 36 active participants
- ❖ 15 countries represented
- ❖ 5 plenary sessions
- ❖ 24 papers presented
- ❖ 70+ attendees

Supported by:

Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation of the Republic of Serbia

Venue:

Institute of International Politics and Economics

Dates:

November 9-10, 2023

REGISTRATION

CONFERENCE PLENARIES

Keynote Speech

PANEL 1: China in the New World Order

PANEL 2: New Chinese Initiatives and Global Security

PANEL 3: BRI – A Decade of China’s Assertiveness

PANEL 4: Global Impact of China’s Policies: Case Studies



Group photo: Conference participants with the IPE's Director, Prof. Dr. Branislav Đorđević, with H.E. Mr. Li Ming, Ambassador of the PR China to the Republic of Serbia, and with Amb. Irena Šarac, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia



ДИЈАЛОЗИ О КИНИ
对话中国
DIALOGUES ON CHINA

New Chinese Initiatives for a Changing Global Security

Belgrade, Republic of Serbia, November 9-10, 2023

AGENDA

DAY I (November 9, 2023)

TIME	EVENT	PLACE
08.30 – 08.50	Registration	Foyer, IIPE
09.00 – 09.30	OFFICIAL OPENING Conférencier: Dr. Katarina Zakić	Solemn Hall, IIPE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prof. Dr. Branislav Đorđević, IIPE, Director• Amb. Irena Šarac, Acting Assistant Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia• H.E. Li Ming, Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Extraordinary of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of Serbia• Prof. Dr. Feng Zhongping, IES, CASS, Beijing, Director (<i>via video link</i>)	
09.30 – 09.50	KEYNOTE SPEECH <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Ivona Lađevac, IIPE, Deputy Director: China's responses to the new world order	
09.50 – 09.55	GROUP PHOTO	Small Hall

TIME	EVENT	PLACE
09.55 – 11.00	PANEL 1: CHINA IN THE NEW WORLD ORDER Moderated by: Vladimir Trapara	Solemn Hall, IIPE
09.55-10.05	Bart Dessein : The ordering of the World: Western and Eastern Visions?	
10.05-10.15	Richard Sakwa : Is China revisionist? China, the political West, and the international system	
10.15-10.25	Kong Tianping : The Evolution of European security order and China: A tentative analysis	
10.25-10.35	Ladislav Zemanek : Eurasia in the 2020s: Between integration and division	
10.35-10.45	Stanislav Gubenko : Global Chinese initiatives and the emerging place of China in the international legal order	
10.45-10.50	Discussant : Dušan Proroković	
10.50-11.00	Discussion & Panel Closure	
11.00 – 11.20	COFFEE BREAK	Small Hall – IIPE Library

TIME	EVENT	PLACE
11.20 – 12.25	PANEL 2: NEW CHINESE INITIATIVES AND GLOBAL SECURITY Moderated by: Bogdan Stojanović	Solemn Hall, IPE
11.20-11.30	Najla Alzarooni: The application of the Global Security Initiative: China's mediation diplomacy in the Gulf	
11.30-11.40	Nenad Stekić: China's Global Development Initiative in the age of new multilateral paradigms	
11.40-11.50	Aleksandar Mitić: The strategic communication of China's Global Security Initiative	
11.50-12.00	Slobodan Popović, Ljiljana Stević: China's Global Security Initiative: Unravelling political slogan or empowering discursive force?	
12.00-12.10	Przemysław Ciborek: Promoting China's global initiatives in the United Nations	
12.10-12.15	Discussant: Slobodan Janković	
12.15-12.25	Discussion & Panel Closure	

12.25 – 13.20	LUNCH BREAK	Small Hall – IPE Library
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TIME	EVENT	PLACE
13.20 – 14.35	PANEL 3: BRI – A DECADE OF CHINA'S ASSERTIVENESS Moderated by: Marina Kostić Šulejić	Solemn Hall, IPE
13.20-13.30	Levente Horváth: BRI as a framework for the new world order	
13.30-13.40	Valentin Katrandzhiev: Chinese foreign and security policy and the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) from a comparative perspective	
13.40-13.50	Zhao Jizhou: The UK's role in the US-lead global alliance system and implications for global security	
13.50-14.00	Chaoting Cheng: China's foreign strategic capabilities demonstrated by the Belt and Road Initiative	
14.00-14.10	Aleksandar Gajić, Nikola Rajić: A decade of the BRI in Central Asia: Geopolitical perspective	
14.10-14.20	Pavle Nedić: South-East Asia between the US' and China's visions for the world	
14.20-14.25	Discussant: Miloš Petrović	
14.25-14.35	Discussion & Panel Closure	

TIME	EVENT	PLACE
14.40 – 15.55	PANEL 4: GLOBAL IMPACT OF CHINA'S POLICIES: CASE STUDIES Moderated by: Sanja Jelisavac Trošić	Solemn Hall, IPE
14.40-14.50	Jennifer Pédussel Wu, Clark Banach: Chinese port investments and their effects on bilateral trade	
14.50-15.00	Katarina Zakić: BRI investments in renewable energy: Outcomes and perspectives	
15.00-15.10	Zhang Haiyang: From a derived relationship to an independent relationship? A long-term perspective on China-Europe relations	
15.10-15.20	Ivica Bakota, Zvonimir Stopić, Senada Šelo Šabić: Assessing Sino-Croatian relations: From 'diamond' to cautious engagement	
15.20-15.30	Jelena Gledić: Can China Balance the Balkans? Perceptions and presence of global powers in former Yugoslav territories	
15.30-15.40	Jovana Dubonjac: Influence of Chinese soft power on strengthening the cooperation between Serbia and China within Belt and Road Initiative	
15.40-15.45	Discussant: Aleksandra Tošović-Stevanović	
15.45-15.55	Discussion & Panel Closure	

15.55 – 16.00	DAY 1 CONCLUSIONS AND CLOSURE Dr. Katarina Zakić	Solemn Hall, IPE
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19.00	Solemn Cocktail Reception for the participants of the Conference	Belgrade City Library 56 Kneza Mihaila St.
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DAY II	November 10, 2023	
09.00-13.00	Online panels	

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MINISTRY OF SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION

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OPENING CEREMONY

Moderated by:
Dr. Katarina Zakić

Speakers:
Prof. Dr. Branislav Đorđević
IIPE Director

Amb. Irena Šarac,
Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia

H.E. Mr. Li Ming
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of Serbia

Dr. Feng Zhongping
Director of the Institute of European Studies, CASS

The conference Opening Ceremony was moderated by **Dr. Katarina Zakić**, Head of the Regional „Belt and Road“ Centre of the IPE. During the opening ceremony, Professor Dr. Branislav Đorđević, the Director of the Institute, and Ms. Irena Šarac, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, delivered speeches. Additionally, H.E. Li Ming, the Ambassador of



Li Ming, the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of Serbia, and Dr. Feng Zhongping, Director of the Institute for European Studies of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, also addressed the audience.



Professor Dr. Branislav Đorđević, in his address, emphasized that the third annual conference within the “Dialogues on China” series contributes to a better understanding of contemporary international relations, economy, and security. He highlighted the

Institute’s mission to excel in scientific research on both domestic and international levels.



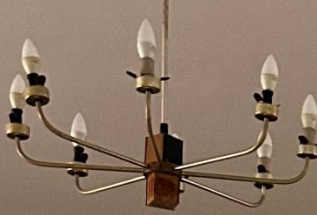
Ms. Irena Šarac, in her speech, referred to the recent “Belt and Road” Initiative Summit in Beijing, underlining the robust bilateral and economic ties between Serbia and the People’s Republic of China.

Ambassador **Li Ming** highlighted that China’s new initiatives align with the country’s diplomatic philosophy, focusing on peace, stability, material prosperity, and spiritual wealth. He emphasized China’s commitment to high-quality development for the improvement of living standards globally.



Dr. Feng Zhongping, in a video message, expressed confidence in the continued scientific cooperation between the two institutions and wished participants success.





ДИАЛОЗИ С КИНИ
對話中國
DIALOGUES ON CHINA

CONFERENCE ROOM

CONFERENCE ROOM

ATION

The background is a dark blue aerial photograph of a city skyline, featuring a prominent river and numerous skyscrapers. Overlaid on the left side are several white, wavy, line-art patterns that flow across the page. The text 'KEYNOTE SPEECH' is centered in the lower half of the image.

KEYNOTE SPEECH

KEYNOTE SPEECH

Dr. Ivona Lađevac, Institute of International Politics and Economics, Deputy Director

China's responses to the new world order

Dr. Ivona Lađevac, Deputy Director of the IIPE, delivered a keynote speech at the Dialogues on China 2023 conference, exploring China's responses to the new world

order. She started her speech with a note that in the first decade of the twenty-first century, China initially adhered to international rules and norms. However, as its economy expanded, Beijing transitioned into a more active role in global governance, showcasing its potential to both lead and challenge existing institutions and norms. China bolstered its influence through increased participation in international institutions, promotion of its growing impact, establishment of its own organizations, and occasional subversion of global governance rules.

Dr. Lađevac then introduced three new Chinese initiatives. Since September 2021, Beijing has introduced three "Global Initiatives" focusing on development, security, and civilization, alongside the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). These collectively form President Xi Jinping's "Community for a Shared Future" initiative, which Beijing touts as a plan for "world peace and stability" and "a strong driving force for global development".

The Global Security Initiative, outlined during the Boao Forum in April 2022, revolves around China's vision of shared, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security. While



specific details were not provided initially, subsequent developments revealed its aim to strengthen multilateral cooperation crucial for maintaining global security. The initiative addresses both traditional and non-traditional security threats, considering them as fundamental challenges. Key principles of the Global Security Initiative include a commitment to common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security, respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries, adherence to the goals and principles of the UN Charter, acknowledgment of the legitimate security concerns of all countries, commitment to peaceful dispute resolution through dialogue and consultation, and the maintenance of security in traditional and non-traditional domains.

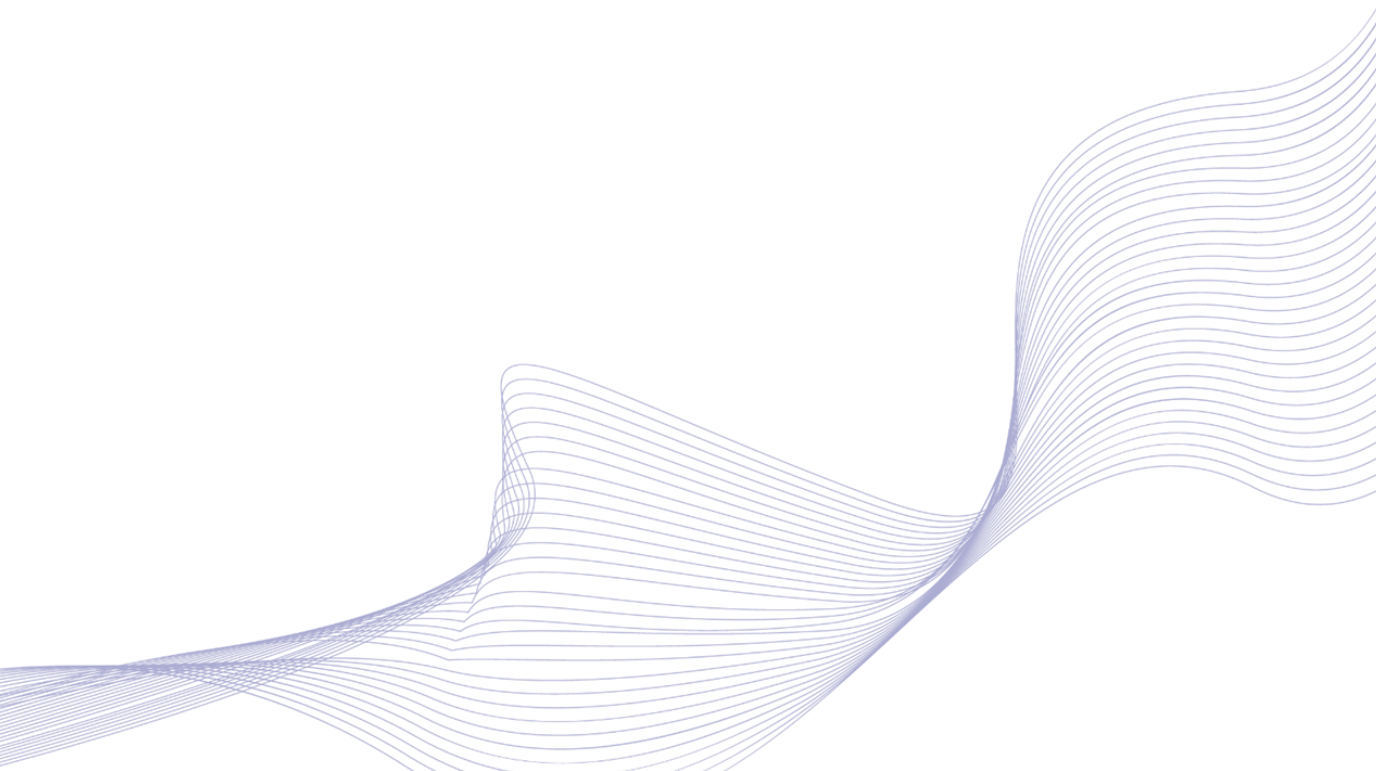
President Xi Jinping presented the Global Development Initiative (GDI) at the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. The GDI urges the international community to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for a more robust, greener, and balanced global development. Embracing a people-centered core concept and advocating open and inclusive partnerships, the GDI focuses on various development aspects such as poverty alleviation, food security, COVID-19 and vaccines, financing for development, climate change, green development, industrialization, digital economy, and connectivity. Nearly 70 countries have joined the Group of Friends, collaborating on these development goals.

The Global Civilization Initiative encompasses China's efforts and creations over the last decade. While economic and security elements were discussed earlier, this initiative, first presented by President Xi Jinping in March 2023, centers on the acceptance of cultural diversity.

Acknowledging that people are inherently different, the Global Civilization Initiative proposes a balanced approach between reducing diversity and promoting respect for cultural differences. It

emphasizes the need to preserve differences without sacrificing what is good.

In concluding her speech, Dr. Lađevac pointed out that in the current complex state of international relations burdened with numerous challenges, China remains committed to advocating the idea of creating a Global Community of Shared Future. This vision aims to lead the world away from disruptive forces, fostering a collaborative and harmonious global environment.



PANEL 1: CHINA IN THE NEW WORLD ORDER

Moderated by:

Dr. Vladimir Trapara

Discussant:

Dr. Dušan Proroković

Presenters:

Bart Dessein

Richard Sakwa

Kong Tianping

Ladislav Zemanek

Stanislav Gubenko

Timing:

09.55 – 11.00

Venue:

Solemn Hall, IIPE

PANEL 1:

China in the New World Order

During the initial panel, diverse facets of China's role in contemporary international relations were examined. A thorough exploration of Chinese influence within the evolving global order was undertaken through various theoretical lenses, including normative power, revisionism, sovereign internationalism, the rule of law, and European security.

At the outset, a clear distinction was drawn between the international system and international politics. Richard Sakwa underscored that the modern international system faces unprecedented challenges. Concerning the concept of revisionism, the pivotal question arose: would China disrupt the existing order, or would it integrate into it? The seismic shifts in international politics, stemming from the Ukrainian conflict, presented an opportunity for China and the Global South to assert themselves. Nevertheless, it was emphasised that China should still be regarded as an equal member of the international system, fiercely defending the prevailing UN-based order.



Examining the normative perspective, the influence of official narratives and the concept of the rule of law were delved into. Regarding the power of narratives, Bart Dessein noted that in contemporary world politics, the significance of the "one world"

narrative is waning in favour of the "bipolar world" narrative. China, recognising the potency of narrative construction, is positioning itself as an alternative power in the modern world order. Consequently, the People's Republic of China aligns with normative powers, standing alongside the EU, garnering undeniable support from the Global South. This underscores China's constructive role in diversifying multilateral forms of international cooperation, including entities such as BRICS.

Stanislav Gubenko underscored the far-reaching impact of new Chinese initiatives in the realm of international law. An alternative, socialist interpretation of the rule of law emerges as a framework more receptive to developing countries. Emphasising principles such as respect for state sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs, Chinese initiatives aim to establish rules for an emerging multipolar international system. Furthermore, the Belt and Road Initiative and subsequent Chinese efforts have left an imprint on public diplomacy, human rights, financial instruments, as well as the establishment of arbitration centres, such as the China-Africa Joint Arbitration Centre (CAJAC).

The influence of new Chinese initiatives was further elucidated through the lens of (re)shaping Eurasian integration. This not only mirrors China's economic ascent but also challenges the existing Western development model. Ladislav Zemanek expounded on this process by highlighting the clash between liberal internationalism, based on the Western understanding of an international rules-based order, and sovereign internationalism, rooted in the UN system. In this context, the ascendancy of sovereign internationalism in Chinese initiatives was portrayed as a tool in the struggle against Western hegemonism, with the strengthening of the Sino-Russian partnership playing a crucial role. As a consequence, the European security architecture is undergoing transformative changes, a topic further discussed by Kong Tianping, who underscored China's constructive role as an interlocutor in the Ukrainian conflict.



PANEL 2: NEW CHINESE INITIATIVES AND GLOBAL SECURITY

Moderated by:

Dr. Bogdan Stojanović

Discussant:

Dr. Slobodan Janković

Presenters:

Najla Alzarooni

Nenad Stekić

Aleksandar Mitić

Slobodan Popović, Ljiljana Stević

Przemysław Ciborek

Timing:

11.20 – 12.25

Venue:

Solemn Hall, IIPE

PANEL 2:

NEW CHINESE INITIATIVES AND GLOBAL SECURITY

The second panel of this year's Dialogues on China brought the participants closer to the topic of New Chinese Initiatives and Global Security. The conference panel gathered the following speakers: Najla Alzarooni, Senior Researcher, United Arab Emirates; Nenad Stekić, Research Fellow; Institute of International Politics and Economics, Republic of Serbia; Aleksandar Mitić, Research Fellow, Institute of International Politics and Economics, Republic of Serbia; Slobodan Popović, Research Associate, Faculty of Political Sciences, Republic of Serbia; Ljiljana Stević, Head of the Department of Sinology, Faculty of Philology, Bosnia and Herzegovina; and Przemysław Ciborek, Research Fellow, University of Lodz, Republic of Poland. The moderator of the panel was Bogdan Stojanović, Research Fellow, while Slobodan Janković, Senior Research Fellow, IPE, Republic of Serbia, took over the role of discussant.

The topic of the first presentation was the application of the Global Security Initiative of the People's Republic of China (PRC) through an analysis of its mediation efforts in the Persian Gulf. The central argument of the presentation was that Beijing's efforts are based on joint management of security dynamics with countries in the region. This approach produces an understanding of regional hotspots and encourages countries to overcome them. Joint management brings mutual benefits. By respecting their interests, regional actors become valuable and, more importantly, equal partners, simultaneously strengthening the reputation and international trust in the People's Republic of China on the regional and wider global stage. As a concrete case, Alzarooni cited Beijing's recent successful mediation efforts between Tehran and Riyadh, emphasising that such examples contribute to the "dewesternization" of the system of international relations.

The global development initiative in the era of multilateral paradigms was the subject of a presentation by Dr. Nenad Stekić.

Due to the inclusive method of the Initiative, Stekić underlined its compliance with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Stekić directed the attendees to three levels of analysis of this initiative: historical, theoretical, and practical. In the middle of the first, the rational spirit of Chinese philosophy on international relations is emphasized. The hegemonic stability theory, however, through the synergy of the internal and development of the relations of the People's Republic of China with external actors, is the basis of the second level. On a practical level, Stekić relied on many examples of poverty eradication, development of the green agenda, and China's contribution to the South-South Global Fund. In conclusion, the efforts to resolve the hotspots in Ukraine and Palestine, but also to intensify cooperation within the BRICS+ framework, were mentioned as the first more decisive steps taken by the People's Republic of China at the global level.

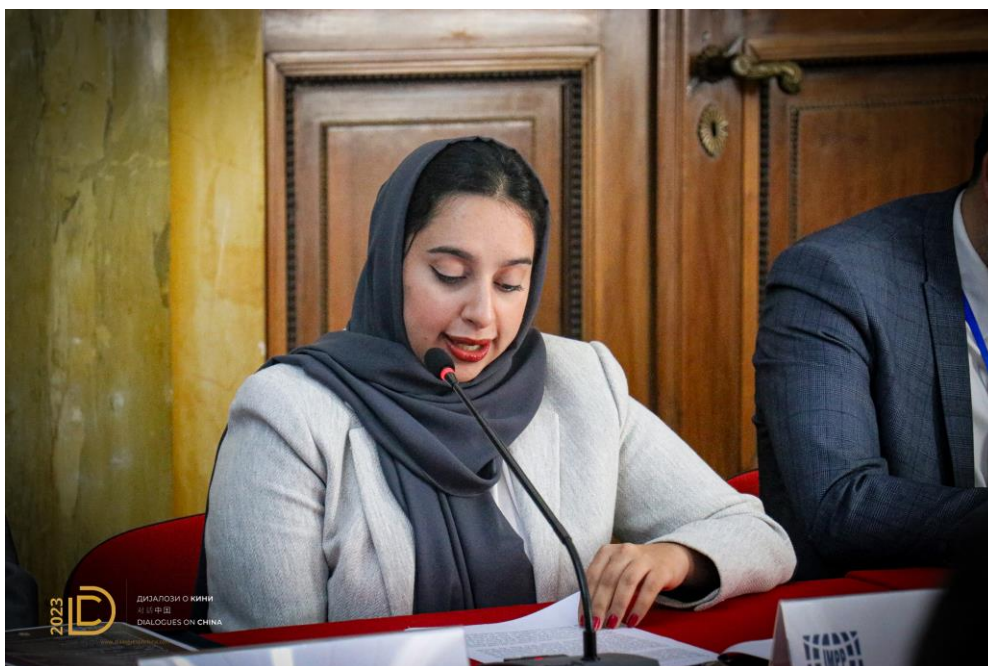
For the launch of the strategic communication of the Global Security Initiative, Dr. Aleksandar Mitić mentioned the importance of COVID-19 and the beginning of the conflict in Ukraine. Mitić linked the importance of these events to the need to find a new approach in dealing with the problems of regional and global security. The orientation of the Initiative towards a political solution to the crisis in Ukraine, the rejection of double standards related to territorial integrity of states, and the Cold War federal mentality is indicated. In observing the reactions to the content of the Initiative, Mitić underlined the support of the Global South and the opposition of Western countries, adding that their opposition represents the biggest challenge to embodying the Initiative on a global level.

Slobodan Popović and Ljiljana Stević approached the question of whether the Global Security Initiative is an exposure of a political slogan or a strengthening of the discursive power of the People's Republic of China. Popović pointed out that the Initiative stems from the Chinese understanding of the system of international relations in which revolution is rejected in favor of interconnection. Popović cited the transformation of China's economy into a

discursive power, according to which military alliances are not productive, but that diplomatic efforts have priority. Stević underlined the fruits of Chinese philosophy and the principle of a community of shared values. Evaluating it as important for China's discursive power, Stević stated that this principle represents the Chinese view of the system of international relations and that it is embodied precisely through its Global Security Initiative.

The last presentation within this panel focused on the promotion of Chinese initiatives in the United Nations. Ciborek underlined that the promotion of these initiatives in an organization of a universal character like the United Nations is a reflection of China's inclusive view of the system of international relations.

Summarizing the presentations of the panelists, Dr. Slobodan Janković pointed out that through global initiatives, we are witnessing the unequivocal growth of the People's Republic of China as a global actor. Janković concluded that this kind of dynamic will represent a challenge to the hitherto dominant international system led by Western countries.





PANEL 3: A DECADE OF CHINA'S ASSERTIVENESS

Moderated by:

Dr. Marina Kostić Šulejić

Discussant:

Dr. Miloš Petrović

Presenters:

Levente Horváth

Valentin Katrandzhiev

Zhao Jizhou

Chaoting Cheng

Aleksandar Gajić, Nikola Rajić

Pavle Nedić

Timing:

13.20 – 14.35

Venue:

Solemn Hall, IIPE

PANEL 3

A DECADE OF CHINA'S ASSERTIVENESS

The third panel's presenters discussed the achievements of China's assertiveness in the past decade. The first speaker was Mr. Levente Horváth on the topic BRI as a framework for the new world order. Mr. Horváth emphasised that every civilization has their own view on the world order and that we have shifted to a multipolar civilization. Usually, Western countries want to manage Third world countries. Asian countries had weak economies through the years, but the world is changing, and these countries now have opportunity to implement the idea of multipolar order. When he talked about the Chinese world order, he mentioned five principles of peaceful coexistence that refer to its mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty, mutual non-aggression, mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and cooperation for mutual benefit and peaceful coexistence. This year is the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), created to be the opponent to the strong Western headwind. BRI made great strides in the past decade, but much more needs to be achieved to be a good framework for a new world order.

Mr. Valentin Katrandzhiev had presentation on Chinese foreign and security policy and the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) from a comparative perspective. Mr. Katrandzhiev praised the good relations between Bulgarian Diplomatic Institute and the Institute of International Politics and Economics. During the speech, panelist underlined that China is unitary global actor in international relations. Also, it is important to understand the difference between EU and China, especially in the decision-making process. In China this process is centralized while in the EU we can see that everything is done at the intergovernmental level. Alongside this difference, there is also connection and cooperation between two actors in the field of preservation biodiversity, climate change and technology dialogue.

Mr. Zhao Jizhou talked about The UK's role in the US-lead global alliance system and implications for global security. During the speech, we could see the UK position in the US dominated alliance system, divided into five segments. In this paper, Mr. Zhao wanted to present a different perspective of alliance system in the challenging world. This panellist chose the UK as a world power benefiting from the alliance system.

China's foreign strategic capabilities demonstrated by the Belt and Road Initiative was presentation delivered by Mr. Chaoting Cheng, who stressed that China has gained global recognition for its attributes of robust flexibility, adaptability, attentiveness and responsibilities. USA and China are competitive in overall economic capabilities. Also, he stated that BRI is basically a geoeconomic strategy without using military/security, intelligence means while the US Indo-Pacific Strategy combines military/security, intelligence, diplomatic, economic, and technological means. Mr. Chaoting Cheng concluded that China has effectively employed a variety of means based on astute assessments of the international environment and the domestic situation to advance the BRI in a coherent manner.

In the presentation of Nikola Rajić on the topic of Decade of BRI in Central Asia: Geopolitical Perspective, the importance of the geopolitical significance of Central Asia was underlined. Central Asian countries are between the great powers and their interests. Rajić notes that the abundant agricultural, energy and mineral resources but the low level of infrastructural connectivity combined with the problem of access to the sea have led to CA countries reacting positively to BRI investments in their countries. One of the conclusions was that Russia seeks influence through the EEU and CSTO, while China focuses on economic results and avoids political dominance by incorporating Russia in the BRI transit.

Mr. Pavle Nedić in South-East Asia between the US' and China's visions for the world presentation showed the analysis of Southeast Asia countries to three initiatives: Global Security Initiative (GSI), Global Development Initiatives (GDI) and Global Civilization

Initiatives (GCI). This region lays between USA and China influence, as the two sides found it as interesting region for projecting their power. GDI has a positive response compared to GSI, and it has been proven through the implementation of various projects in all countries of the region. GCI is the most recent initiative that is delivered in keynote speech by Chinese President Xi Jinping this year. The idea is that every country should have their own way of improvement, which differs from the US position, whose intention is to make decisions that other countries will follow.



PANEL 4: GLOBAL IMPACT OF CHINA'S POLICIES: CASE STUDIES

Moderated by:

Dr. Sanja Jelisavac Trošić

Discussant:

Dr. Aleksandra Tošović-Stevanović

Presenters:

Jennifer Pédussel Wu, Clark Banach

Katarina Zakić

Zhang Haiyang

Ivica Bakota, Zvonimir Stopić, Senada Šelo Šabić

Jelena Gledić

Jovana Dubonjac

Timing:

14.40 – 15.55

Venue:

Solemn Hall, IIPE

PANEL 4: GLOBAL IMPACT OF CHINA'S POLICIES: CASE STUDIES

The fourth panel opened discussion on the multiple ways relations with China in security, economic, energy, and cultural sphere impact various countries around the globe. The presentations showed the similarities and differences in approaches countries take in their cooperation with China based on their own specific political and economic positions and standings.

Additionally, giving a perspective from the other side in these bilateral relations, at the panel were discussed the ways Chinese scholars see China-EU relations and different theoretical frameworks in which they situate them. The most relied upon is the systemic theory which explains the evolution from a bilateral Cold War system to a triangular US-China-Europe system. In terms of periodization, the evolution of the relationship can be traced through the Cold war, post-Cold War and the current period, starting with 2016.



Some of the most important conclusions were drawn on the effects of cooperation with China in the domain of maritime trade. It was shown that the effects on trade vary significantly based on the fact whether China only operates or owns a port, with the increase in trade being significantly larger in the second case. Furthermore, the rise of exports is much bigger than the imports, while the trade diverts towards China at the expense of trade with other partners. In the energy sphere, the issue of China's investments in the renewable energy was a topic of discussion. It was pointed out that China pledged to become a carbon-neutral country by 2060 which also has significant impact on developing countries it is investing in. It was shown how volume of Chinese investments within the BRI in renewable energy changed across the years, with the largest being in 2017. In terms of geographical placement, East Asia was the largest beneficiary.

The panel also discussed concrete case studies, focusing on Croatia and Serbia. The evolution of China-Croatia relations since the Croatia's independence was shown, with the focus on different perceptions of this relationship which was changing in accordance with the wider shifts in international relations. Still, the importance of the Pelješac bridge investment was highlighted.

Regarding Serbia, a detailed overview of Chinese influence in the country, including trade, infrastructure, culture and education was given, analysed through the prism of "soft power". The many effects the BRI had on development in Serbia have been presented. Another topic was the perception of China as one of Serbia's four pillars of foreign policy, compared to Russia, EU and the US. The results of the presented research showed that in cultural attractiveness China is ranked second after Russia. Additionally, the attractiveness of Chinese global initiatives was based on the fact that there are no strings attached with the support and participation.

MODERATORS AND DISCUSSANTS

Panel 1: China in the new world order

Moderated by: Vladimir Trapara

Discussant: Dušan Proroković



Vladimir Trapara is Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of International Politics and Economics, Belgrade and the Head of the Centre for Euro-Atlantic Studies. His main field of academic interest are Russia and the United States' foreign policies and relations. Besides, he deals with an array of other

significant international topics, as well as with IR theories and Serbia's foreign policy. Dr. Trapara has published three scientific monographs – *Time of "Reset": Russia-United States Relations from 2009 to 2012*, *Russia's Wars 1999-2019*, and *Russia and Ukraine: Origins of a Tragedy* – as well as over 50 scientific papers in journals and collections.

Dušan Proroković is Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of International Politics and Economics, Belgrade and the Head of the Centre for Eurasian Studies. His main areas of academic interest are geopolitics, international and regional security and international relations. Dr. Proroković authored four books: *Kosovo: Interethnic and Political Relations* (2011), *Geopolitics of Serbia: Position and Perspectives at the Beginning of the 21st Century* (2012), *German Geopolitics and Balkans: Goals of Middle European Continentalism* (2014), and *The Era of Multipolarity* (2017).

Panel 2: New Chinese initiatives and global security

Moderated by: Bogdan Stojanović

Discussant: Slobodan Janković

Bogdan Stojanović is Research Fellow at the Institute of International Politics and Economics, Belgrade. His main research interests are theories of international relations, geopolitics, role of weapons of mass destruction in international politics and intelligence studies. Dr. Stojanović co-authored book *The Balance of Nuclear Power between USA and Russia (USSR)* as well as dozen scientific articles. In December 2021, Bogdan published the first independent scientific book entitled *The Theory of Denuclearization: Why States Abandon Nuclear Weapons Programs?*.

Slobodan Janković is Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of International Politics and Economics, Belgrade and the Head of the Centre for Neighbouring and Mediterranean Countries. His main areas of academic interest include the Middle East politics, relations between big powers and the MENA region countries, Italian political history, Middle East peace process, borders in the Balkans and on migration trends. Dr Janković gives visiting lectures on the Middle East and Balkan politics at the master in Geopolitica e Sicurezza Globale, Department of Politics of the La Sapienza University, Rome and at the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade. He is the author of dozens of articles on Middle East, on Balkan politics and Italian contemporary history.



Panel 3: BRI – A decade of China’s assertiveness

Moderated by: Marina Kostić Šulejić

Discussant: Miloš Petrović

Marina Kostić Šulejić is Research Fellow at the Institute of International Politics and Economics, Belgrade. The areas of her academic interest are world order in the 21st century, defence and security policy. From 2018 to 2021, she served as the Secretary of the Editorial Board of the IIPE's journal *International Problems*. Dr. Kostić Šulejić has published a dozen research papers dealing with international institutions and world order, strategic and nuclear

arms control and non-proliferation, bilateral and regional relations in the Western Balkans, security issues in Serbia and its policy of military neutrality, as well as the EU enlargement policy.



Miloš Petrović is Research Fellow at the Institute of International Politics and Economics,

Belgrade. Domains of his academic interest include the European Union studies (focusing on integrative processes within EU enlargement and neighbourhood policies), as well as Eastern European contemporary politics and history. He authored two monographs and numerous scientific texts. His monograph *The escalation of the Ukrainian crisis: from the European Union's political illusion to the battle for post-Soviet Europe* was published by the Institute of International Politics and Economics. Dr Petrović is a secretary of the IIPE's scientific journal *International Problems* and a guest lecturer at the Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Belgrade.

Panel 4: Global impact of China's policies: Case studies

Moderated by: Sanja Jelisavac Trošić

Discussant: Aleksandra Tošović-Stevanović

Sanja Jelisavac Trošić is Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of International Politics and Economics, Belgrade and the Head of the Centre for International Law and Economics. Her main areas of academic interest include international economic relations, international trade, regional economic cooperation (Western Balkans), intellectual property, WTO and Serbia's accession to the EU. Dr. Jelisavac Trošić authored the books *Negotiations under GATT and WTO* and *Intellectual Property – International Trade of Intellectual Property Rights* and co-authored the book *Contemporary International Trade*. She published more than 100 papers.



Aleksandra Tošović-Stevanović

is Research Fellow at the Institute of International Politics and Economics, Belgrade. Her main professional areas of interest are contemporary global economic relations, international business operation, international trade, regional economic cooperation, competitive advantages, and innovations. Dr. Tošović-

Stevanović was a visiting professor at *Vienna International University* in Austria, as well as a visiting professor organised by the Erasmus+ Mobility Program at *Stanislaw Staszic University of Applied Sciences* in Poland, *West University of Timisoara* in Romania, *Technical University of the Middle East* in Turkey and the college *Powyslanski* in Poland. She is the author of more than 50 scientific papers, including one book and two monographs.



CONFERENCE IN THE MEDIA

The Conference drew a significant attention from the domestic media including a comprehensive coverage by the national broadcasting service – RTS as well as detailed information by the Xinhua agency.



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Serbia holds third international seminar on "Dialogue with China"

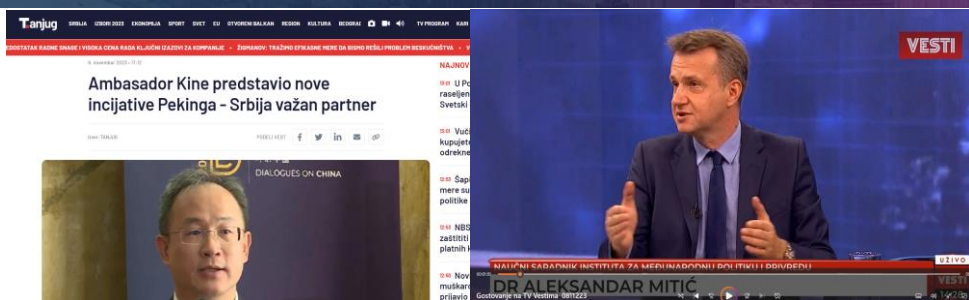
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Xinhua News Agency, Belgrade, November 10 (Reporter Shi Zhongyu) The third "Dialogue with China" international seminar was held on the 9th in Belgrade, the capital of Serbia. Dozens of experts and scholars from 15 countries attended the meeting and discussed China's role in today's changing world order.

The theme of this seminar is "China's New Initiative: Coping with Changing Global Security". The two-day conference was co-organized by the Serbian Institute of International Political Economy and the Institute of European Studies of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. It attracted people from China, Serbia, Germany, and the United Kingdom. Famous experts and scholars from Croatia and other countries participated.

Djordjevic, director of the Serbian Institute of International Political Economy, said in his opening speech: "This seminar aims to provide a platform for in-depth disc-

Xinhua Agency reported on the Dialogues on China. The news was read by more than 360.000 visitors.



Belgrade conference explores China's global initiatives

Xinhua · china.org.cn | November 11, 2023

Belgrade conference explores China's global initiatives

BELGRADE, Nov. 10 (Xinhua) -- International experts convened at the "Dialogues on China 2023" conference here on Thursday to take a deep dive into China's evolving global role, and its global initiatives on development,

FUTURE ENDEAVOURS

Conference Proceedings will be issued by the
end of November 2023.

The next, fourth *Dialogues on China*
international academic conference will be
held in October 2024.

CONFERENCE
PROCEEDINGS



2023

ДИДЛОЗИ О КИНИ
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The 3rd International Academic Conference - Dialogues on China 2023

New Chinese Initiatives
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