

National security aspects of the Chinese headway

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Absztrakt:

A Kínai Népköztársaság nemzetközi térnyerése a más nagyhatalmak esetében tapasztalt történelmi sajátosságokhoz képest szokatlan formában zajlik. A kínai migráns hálózatok stabil alapot teremtenek ahhoz, hogy a pekingi törekvések elősegítői legyenek. Ezeknek a hálózatoknak, valamint a kialakulásukat elősegítő vallási-filozófiai háttérnek a feltárása kiemelt nemzetbiztonsági szükségességgel bír.

Kulcsszavak: Kína, nagyhatalom, migráció, biztonsági kihívás, diaszpóra hálózat

Abstract:

The international headway of the People's Republic of China is going on in a different way from the other superpowers' historic peculiarities. The Chinese migrants' networks give a solid base to promote the intentions of Beijing. Discovering these networks and its religious-philosophical background fostering their formation has an outstanding national security importance.

Keywords: China, super power, migration, security challenge, diaspora network

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There are more and more signs of a particular practice of power-building in the international politics of the People's Republic of China. This policy is something out of the ordinary for the western World since it is not only peculiar, but cannot be handled either by the western type of democracies. Nowadays, the People's Republic of China is a kind of superpower which has completely reshaped the global security policy.

According to the terminology of the security policy of the 21st century the People's Republic of China is going to become a formation meeting the criteria of a superpower which is able to enforce its interest in different and variable forms not only nationally but globally² as well and it is very likely that it can preserve this capability at least for this century.

China is a country with the size of a continent, with all the problems and peculiarities, as the Chinese proverb says, "Everything is true of China and so is the opposite of everything" In this country of contrasts, just as the European mind imagines, medieval situations can occur, while at the same time the most advanced high-technology is also present.

The philosophical-religious system defined by Hans Küng³ – a special mixture of Confucianism, Taoism and Chinese Buddhism – has a fundamental impact on the role of the People's Republic of China in international politics.⁴ As a result, the rules set up by western states cannot be considered as fully compatible with China's international activities. Accordingly, China's development to become a superpower most probably will happen under very different circumstances than it historically happened earlier with other superpowers. In my opinion this is an special method of hybrid warfare.⁵

The family based mentality can lead to a result in the actions of a new type of superpower which can be very unusual in the international arena. Several states are not prepared to resist Beijing's increasing global advance under the conditions of the new type of "conquest". Beyond the well known facts such as the deterioration of domestic industry, China's global extension also entails national security risks. Some other fundamental aspects threatening the functioning of the political system also arise. Such threat could be, for example, if the Chinese minorities are treated in certain countries as nationalities or even the

² SZUNOMÁR Ágnes (2012): *Kínai külpolitika, kínai hatalmi politika: folyamatosság és változás. Külügyi Szemle. 2012/2. pp. 125.*

³ KÜNG, Hans – CHING Julia (2000): *Párbeszéd a kínai vallásokról. Palatinus Kiadó. Budapest.*

⁴ KASZNÁR Attila (2013): *A Kínai Népköztársaság a nemzetközi erőterben. Terror&Elhárítás 2013/2. pp 19.*

⁵ RESPERGER István (2016): *„Nomen est omen„ nevében a végzet(e)? – A hibrid fenyegetésekre adható válaszok, a kontrahibrid műveletek. Terror&Elhárítás 2016/1. pp 3.*

opposite situation. Both can be a source of social tensions never seen before. “The majority of Chinese migrant communities live in line with their very own – philosophical-religious – rules that greatly hinder, among others, the successful actions of immigration, social security, law enforcement and tax authorities.”⁶

China’s global expansion always goes hand in hand with the appearance and development of Chinese migrant communities with their own special mentality. These communities create a new type of superpower foundation that contributes greatly to the process of Chinese “empire building”. This form of “empire building” along the philosophical-religious – mostly Confucian – rules raises the possibility that superpowers developing in this kind of way are less exposed to the challenges than those built in accordance with western dogmas. Therefore it is possible that the People’s Republic of China might become a superpower which is more unpredictable for western societies than any other superpower before, and at the same time it might be a more stable and more unyielding player in international politics.

The out flux of the Chinese migrants and the way they maintain the contacts with each other and with their motherland in harmony with the common religious-philosophic values is a certain asset for Beijing in the process of building its worldwide economic power.

The development of the global network of the Chinese philosophical-religious system through the migrant communities can be considered as one of the key components in China’s global headway process. This religious network provides an ideal background for the migrant communities to support those who stayed home, their relatives and the Chinese state by conviction.

When analyzing the characteristics of the Chinese worldwide economic expansion we must be aware of the extremely special and unique way of its expansion. Based upon the same will which usually motivates any other country to do so, China has chosen its own way to satisfy the same basic demands – supply of raw materials, increasing its share in the markets. The further international headway of the People’s Republic of China can be forecasted without any risk. The restructuring of the opportunities of exploiting raw materials in the World during the past decades - they mostly have become Chinese assets - cardinally changed the relations of power and having questioned the competitiveness of the western societies. The People’s Republic of China has become the most important or primordial economic - in many cases even financial – partner in the inter-state (inter-governmental) relations. This peculiar ‘conquest’ significantly supported by the internal philosophical-religious environment and its presence in the communities of Chinese migrants and the East- and South-East Asian states seems to be unstoppable.

⁶ KASZNÁR Attila (2016): *Vallás és kormányzat Kínában. Bíbor Kiadó. Miskolc. 2016. pp. 176.*

From historical point of view the numerous communities of Chinese migrants living in different countries all over the World may also be considered as peripheries of an empire. These communities as it has been mentioned above have tight relations with the motherland maintain permanent links and operate as peripheral communities of the empire.

The implementation of the special Chinese form of being a superpower or an empire brings up some new kinds of security problems. The functioning of the Chinese communities following the model of a global network hides a significant risk for the national security of the hosting country.⁷

There is nothing to condemn in the expansion of the People's Republic of China, it shall be considered as a phenomenon within the process of the global historical evolution. Therefore, a rational, credible and trustworthy analysis and forecast upon solid real base focused on the national security interest of Hungary can be made just by putting aside the previous models of superpowers and using other methods taking into consideration the Chinese peculiarities of building an empire.

Examining the peculiar Chinese headway and its impacts it will be indispensable to answer the following wide-range questions of national security, economic and social character:

- Can China become a real superpower in the classical sense of the word, i.e. are the general rules applicable to superpowers compatible with China's rise?
- Does China really tread a special path as a superpower due to its philosophical-religious system? What is the difference between the Chinese way and the classic scenario?
- To what extent do the Chinese migrant communities and their ideological network contribute to building superpower positions of the People's Republic of China, and what special features do such activities have?
- Can this process be considered as a superpower's political game based on religion, or as a power's self-positioning struggle?
- Do the Chinese migrant communities have the willingness to integrate into the social structure of the hosting country, or do they behave differently, as an advanced bastion of China and as a religious-cultural conqueror?

⁷ DOBÁK Imre (2017): *Tömeges migráció a mobilkommunikáció tükrében. Szakmai Szemle 2017: (1) pp. 101-111.*

- If the Chinese communities live mostly by their own rules, to what extent will the intervention be more difficult in issues related to these communities on behalf of the immigration, social security, law enforcement and tax authority? How does this benefit the People's Republic of China in international politics?
- To what extent are western states prepared for the process of China's becoming a new type of superpower, and for the cooperation with such a superpower; do they recognise the imminent possible national security risks?

It is not easy to respond to these questions, it requires wide, never-done-before research including international fields which special professional aspects shall also be found.

Nevertheless, this network model can also make such competences to prevail which can make the People's Republic of China more successful when facing the new challenges of the changing world as for example the terrorism. The worldwide appearance of Chinese communities based upon a solid religious-philosophic base and having a determining role in the economy of the hosting country and protecting their own interests can play a significant role in thwarting the radical groups.⁸

The international expansion of the Chinese migrants' communities is a new phenomenon both in the evolution of the superpowers or empires and in the policy of the People's Republic of China as a superpower and concerning its security policy as well. It has a high probability that Beijing can achieve significant advantages from this peculiar situation in the struggle for the position of the leading country of the World. However, we should not disregard that being a superpower also means significant responsibility.

The appearance of a new superpower on the international arena can impact numerous interests. The rising of some nations and the decay of others significantly affects in every case the destiny of other nations. From the point of view of small nations such as Hungary it is indispensable to discover the peculiarities of the new determining protagonists of the international affairs in order to keep their relative stability, to assure their economic, social and national security interests,. It gives a chance to elaborate countermeasures, to meet the new challenges successfully and the changing international conditions. Actually, one of the key players of the changing global system is the People's Republic of China thus it is Hungary's utmost national security interest to carry out the widest possible researches related to China.

⁸ *BÁCS Zoltán György (2017): A radikalizáció és a terrorizmus kapcsolata, egyes formái, gondolatok a megelőzés lehetséges perspektíváiról. Nemzetbiztonsági Szemle MMXVII. V. évfolyam I. szám pp. 5-26*

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