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JIANG BO and MEN HONG HUA

Better interpreting China's path

As China advances its economy and national strength, its role in shaping a new world order is increasingly being recognized. Thus its strategies for the future have attracted attention from the international community and may also affect strategic adjustments in other major countries.

However, there are also doubts about its development, and concepts such as the "China threat" and "China collapse" have damaged the nation's image. Thus, it is vital to ensure the discourse on China's path remains positive.

From the theoretical perspective, China's path has evolved from the inheritance and promotion of Chinese historical tradition, a new development of Marxism, as well as a response to negative world opinions. It conforms to the idea of peaceful development characterized by mutual benefit, the path that China has pursued since an-

cient times, and enriches Chinese theories on diplomacy and international relations.

From the practical perspective, China's path has presented a strategic approach for future development, offering guidelines on internal and foreign affairs. It helps enhance national strength, laying the foundation for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation; elevate China's international influence, injecting vigor into the innovation of global development models; improve the environment for international trade and investment, building a fairer political and economic order around the world; and promote global peace and common development, thus fulfilling China's responsibilities as a great power.

China's path has been the most successful modernization path in non-Western countries so far and is acclaimed as the most remarkable

fruit of world socialism. Its aim is to independently build socialism with Chinese characteristics on the background of economic globalization (rather than being divorced from the process) and allow more than 1.3 billion Chinese people to realize modernization on a socialist basis.

China's path is also an unprecedented and brand new road in the history of emerging powers in modern times. It is important to deepen the study of China's path by connecting it closely with Chinese approaches to reform, opening-up and modernization. China's path must also be linked with history, the current global situation and prospects for world economic, political and cultural development.

At present, China has entered a "new normal" in terms of economic growth and a critical stage for overall reform. It is now faced with the urgent problem of developing its

strategic layout. With expectations of Chinese development from both the global economy and public opinion, China should also make innovation a top priority both in theory and practice.

Studies of China's path require reviewing the history, observing the current situation and looking into the future at the same time. Thus, it is important to learn from Chinese traditions, conduct scientific theoretical analysis, and optimize strategic design when identifying the cultural basis of China's path and planning realistic routes for it. From historical, theoretical and strategic perspectives, further innovation can be achieved in this area.

As China is making increasing contributions to the international community, it is exactly the right time to elevate discourse on China's path. Studies in this respect have been conducted extensively around the world, and there is fierce competition over this discourse. In view of the spread of the "China threat" and "China collapse," it is vital for China to uphold the right to interpret China's path. Thus, a major task facing Chi-

nese academia is to tell the stories of China with confidence and passion, which requires in-depth thinking by the best minds.

In scientific research institutions in China, there are experienced scholars of philosophy and social sciences as well as other disciplines. These institutions should take greater responsibility for the studies of China's path and the promotion of positive discourse. Also, it is important to leverage the advantages of colleges and universities and encourage teachers and researchers to study China's path. Moreover, they should enhance cultural exchanges with other countries and the international competitiveness of higher education.

At the same time, China should construct its own discourse system in philosophy and social sciences, carry forward excellent traditional culture and unleash innovation in order to lay a solid theoretical basis for the development of China's path.

Jiang Bo is vice-president of and Men Honghua is a professor from Tongji University.

ZHENG DAHUA

Solidarity key to victory in War of Resistance against Japan

The Chinese people's victory in the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression is widely believed to have been a turning point in the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. This has manifested in many ways. One is that the war awakened the self-awareness of the Chinese nation. And the idea that the Chinese nation is a united community of all Chinese ethnic groups was finally established and recognized during the war.

This perspective on the self-awareness of the Chinese nation is rarely spoken of. In my opinion, however, this self-awareness represents the very foundation of this crucial turning point.

The Chinese nation was formed very early but had weak self-awareness. As Chinese ethnologist Fei Xiaotong said, the Chinese nation in ancient times was a self-being rather than a self-conscious entity. The expression "Chinese nation" was first put forward in Liang Qichao's article "The General Development of Chinese Academic Thought" in 1902. However, it was after the September 18 Incident in 1931 and the Incident on July 7, 1937 in particular that this expression was recognized and shared by all ethnic groups.

The War of Resistance against Japan forged a melting pot, through which people of all ethnic groups were unprecedentedly united. The sense of national identity and belonging—all ethnic groups share weal and woe, life and death, and a common fate—had never been so strong.

The fundamental cause of the victory in the war lies in the unparalleled solidarity

among China's various groups. At that time, the Kuomintang (KMT), the Communist Party of China (CPC) and other middle parties, all made contributions. Victory would have been impossible without the cooperation and coordination between the front-line battlefield operations led by the KMT and the battlefield behind enemy lines led by the CPC.

One important lesson we should learn from this while striving for the Chinese dream is that the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation requires the mobilization of all positive factors and nationwide union and solidarity.

Throughout China's modern history, and the history of fighting against Japanese invasions in particular, whenever there was disunity and even internal turmoil or civil war, imperialism would attempt to invade and split China, leaving the Chinese nation on the decline. On the contrary, when there was unity among all ethnic groups, classes and parties, the Chinese people would overcome all difficulties and defeat the invaders, getting the nation back on the track of rejuvenation.

The victory in the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression has also been attributed to the establishment of the united front in the war. Though conflicts between the KMT and CPC existed within the united front, the two parties did not completely break with one another, and the united front remained until the victory of the war.

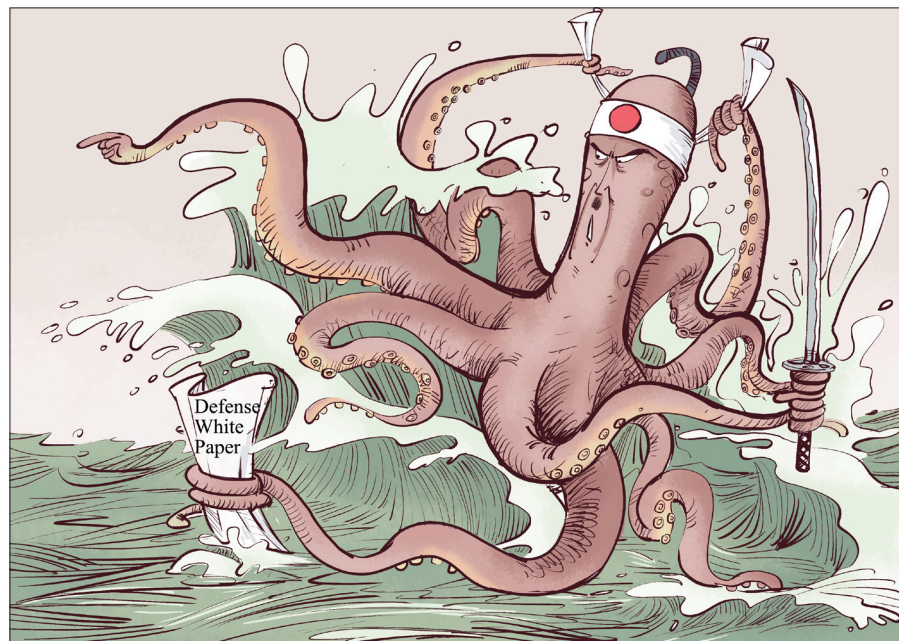
However, due to the fracturing of the second CPC-KMT cooperative agreement and the breakout of the civil war, the Chinese people failed to reconstruct China after the end of the war and transform the pre-modern traditional state into a modern national state. It was after the founding of the People's Republic of China that the nation really started to revive. But even today, this lesson is still worth heeding.

Zheng Dahua is director of the Department of Intellectual History of the Institute of Modern History at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

CARTOON

The pickpocket

Poem by Long Yuan; Cartoon by Gou Ben



Japan uses a pickpocket's sleight-of-hand,
Justifying its actions any way it can,
Spreading falsehoods throughout the land,
As a cover for its devious plan.
A dagger in its sleeve concealed,
But soon, true intentions are revealed.
Militarism is to be revived.
An act people around the world decried.

On July 21, Japan's cabinet approved the government's 2015 Defense White Paper, which levels many accusations against China. On the same day, China's Foreign Ministry responded, calling the report "groundless criticism." The ministry remarked that the white paper once again ignores the facts and makes irresponsible remarks about China's normal military progress and maritime activities. Deliberately playing up the "China threat," the paper intentionally stirs up tension. China is strongly dissatisfied with and opposed to this.

China's oil and gas exploration in undisputed waters of the East China Sea is justified, reasonable and legitimate. China's construction on some garrisoned areas of the Spratly (or Nansha) Islands is within China's jurisdiction and does not affect or counter any other country. It is no doubt beyond reproach. By deliberately intervening in the South China Sea issue and exaggerating the regional tension as a pretext for the "security law," Japan's ambitions are clearly revealed.