



CHINA CELEBRATES THE PRINCIPLE OF THE BENEFIT OF THE OTHER

By Pierre Beaudry, July 2, 2014



Figure 1 China, India, and Myanmar Commemorating the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

On June 28, 2014, the People's Republic of China hosted in Beijing a unique memorial conference, commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the "FIVE PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE" between China, India and Myanmar.

Outside of our own ICLC and Schiller Institute conferences, this is the first time, to my knowledge, that an international conference was held for the explicit purpose of celebrating PRINCIPLES. What is the significance of such an event for the world as a whole? The answer to this question is, actually, very simple. In 1954, the leaders of China, India, and Myanmar established five principles for lasting peace among themselves as a model for the rest of the world. The underlying basis for each and all of those five principles was the rekindling of the principle of the Peace of Westphalia, *the benefit of the other*.

In complete opposition to the Anti-Westphalian principle of taking advantage of the other made explicit for the last 60 years by the British Empire and its constant drive for war, the Chinese have manifested their complete endorsement of the Peace of Westphalia principle of the *benefit of the other*. Indeed, Xi Jinping called for the world to make this great axiomatic change for the purpose of the development of all of mankind. Xi stated: *"Just as rising water lifts all boats, and more water in the tributaries makes a wider river, all will benefit when everyone develops. When developing themselves, countries should work actively for common development of others so that the gains of development will reach more people in the world."*

Pointing in no uncertain terms to the current British-Obama efforts toward World War III, Xi also made the point that *"China does not accept the logic that a strong country is bound to become hegemonic, and neither hegemony nor militarism is in the Chinese DNA [...] "The notion of dominating international affairs belongs to a different age, and such attempts are doomed to failure,"* he said. *"Flexing military muscles only reveals a lack of moral ground or vision, rather than reflecting one's strength."*

Although there may not have been any explicit mention of the Peace of Westphalia during this celebration, Xi made the point clearly that his intention was similar to the *benefit of the other* that the Treaty of Westphalia had established in 1648, because this had always been a Chinese principle:

"It is no coincidence that the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence were born in Asia, because they embody the Asian tradition of loving peace. The Chinese nation has always held such beliefs as "peace is most precious", "harmony without uniformity", "peace among all nations" and "universal love and non-aggression". (Xi Jinping, [Speech of Chinese President marking 60th anniversary of initiation of five principles of peaceful coexistence](#), NNA)

It is very sad that not a single one of the Western media have reported this important fact, because that international conference has now become a historical marker. What the Western news outlets didn't report either is that Xi Jinping made his speech in commemoration of the process of decolonization that Franklin Delano Roosevelt had called for at the end of World War II. This is very significant, because the liberation from colonization was not merely called for those three nations of Asia, but also for the rest of the world, and more explicitly for Africa and Ibero-America. As Xi stated in his opening remarks:

“Six decades ago, in the course of decolonization that started at the end of the Second World War, the struggle for independence and liberation in Asia, Africa and Latin America surged. The newly independent countries longed for equality in international relations. Echoing this historical trend, China, India and Myanmar jointly initiated the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, namely, mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence.

“On 28 and 29 June 1954, China issued two joint statements respectively with India and Myanmar, confirming their commitment to these Five Principles in conducting their mutual relations and their respective relations with other countries in Asia and the world. This was a major initiative in the history of international relations and a historic contribution to the building of a new type of just and equitable international relations.” (Xi Jinping, [Speech of Chinese President marking 60th anniversary of initiation of five principles of peaceful coexistence](#), NNA)

In other words, what Xi-Jinping is calling for is the reestablishment of the FDR policy of decolonization for the entire world as the basis for a New Just World Order: *“The Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence have become the basic norms governing international relations as well as basic principles of international law. These Five Principles, as an integrated, interconnected and indivisible concept, capture the essence of today's international relations, and can apply to relations among all countries regardless of their social system, stage of development or size.”*



“Chinese President Xi Jinping, Myanmar President U Thein Sein and Indian Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari together with delegates from China, India and Myanmar attending a conference marking the 60th anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence pose for a group picture during their meeting in Beijing, capital of China, June 28, 2014. Xi delivered a keynote speech at the conference at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.” ([Xinhua/Li Xueren](#))

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