

**CHINA AND THE USA, AT THE BEGINNING
OF THE 21ST CENTURY: THE CONCEPT OF
“NEW RELATION BETWEEN THE GREAT POWERS”
(XINXING DAGUO GUANXI¹)**

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Abstract: In the relations between China and the USA, former adversaries during the Cold War, the 21st century poses a challenge as great as the challenge generated by the creation of the three original European Communities: this time, it is not a matter of regional integration, but a matter of peaceful coexistence; however, it is the same post-realist paradigm, in which to great powers, which have been rivals, in the recent history, have the capacity to develop a peaceful, harmonious relationship, for the mutual benefit of the entire international system. This visionary concept is meant to be a concept of countering and overcoming the opposite perspective, the perspective of the realist current, seeing the rise of China as a “serious threat for the stability of the contemporary international system”, in the relations between the great powers (daguo).

Keywords: peaceful co-existence, harmonious international society, New Relation between Great Powers, post-realist paradigm

**1. An Innovative Perspective of the China-USA Relation
and a Premise for the Concept of “Harmonious International Society”**

Considered by China to be *one of the most important of the bilateral relations in today's world*², its relation with the USA is regarded both by the Chinese officials and by the IR Chinese doctrine from *an innovative perspective, based on opening, mutual respect, mutual benefit and peaceful coexistence*. These elements of the Chinese diplomacy, active ever since the end of the 20th century, reveal once more the *depth and spiritual and ethical dimension, the specific imprint of the Chinese diplomatic culture, as well as China's interest in building a “harmonious international society”, together with other power centres*, at the beginning of the 21st century. These elements also demonstrate the effort to

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² Yu Hongjun, *China and the United States: Building New Relations Between Major Powers*, CIIS, Nov. 25, 2013, source: China International Studies, Sept.-Oct. 2013, p. 16-33, www.ciis.org.cn/english/2013-11/25/content_6486747_2.htm