

The Necessity of Forging a Strong Sense of Community for the Chinese Nation From the Perspective of China-U.S. Structural Contradictions: An Analysis Based on the Policy of “Using Xinjiang to Control China”

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Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the United States has been interfering in China's internal affairs with Xinjiang issues, with the intention of blocking China's peaceful rise and the historical process of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. The logic behind this lies in the structural contradictions between the United States, the ruling power, and China, the rising power. In order to break the strategic game dilemma between China and the United States, President Xi Jinping put forward the important assertion of forging a strong sense of community for the Chinese nation, which is of great significance in the era for combating local separatism, terrorism, and religious extremism, safeguarding ethnic equality, ethnic solidarity, and ethnic intermingling, safeguarding national security, and realizing the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Keywords: structural contradictions between China and the United States, the policy of “using Xinjiang to control China”, forging a strong sense of community for the Chinese nation, national security

Introduction

On August 26, 2023, President Xi Jinping, while listening to reports on the work of the party committee and government of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps, emphasized that the work of Xinjiang has a special and important position in the overall situation of the work of the CPC and the state, and has a bearing on the construction of a strong nation and the overall situation of national rejuvenation. China must always give top priority to maintain social stability, improve the mechanism for preventing and resolving major risks and hidden dangers, and combine the anti-terrorism and anti-separatism struggle with the promotion of the rule of law and normalization of stability maintenance. It is necessary to further promote the Sinicization of Islam and effectively manage all kinds of illegal religious activities. China should

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enhance the sense of worry, prepare for danger in times of peace, grasp all the work in detail, and consolidate the hard-won social stability. It is necessary to forge a strong sense of community for the Chinese nation as the main line of the Communist Party of China (CPC)’s ethnic work in the new era, and as the main line of all work in ethnic areas (Xi, 2023). Why did President Xi Jinping emphasize at this meeting that “China must always give top priority to maintaining social stability”? “Is it necessary to forge a strong sense of community for the Chinese nation as the main line of the CPC’s ethnic work”? What is the deep-seated logic behind this assertion? In this article, some answers can be found in the “using Xinjiang to control China” policy pursued by the United States for a long time, especially since the 18th National Congress of the CPC. This article intends to use the relevant theories of international relations to analyze the motives of the United States in promoting “using Xinjiang to control China”, the essence of the strategic game between China and the United States, and to explore the significance of the assertion of forging a strong sense of community for the Chinese nation to safeguard national security and the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

The History of the U.S. Policy of “Using Xinjiang to Control China”

It has been more than 80 years since the U.S. set up a consulate in Dihua (renamed Urumqi in 1954) in 1943, making Xinjiang an important position for the U.S. and the Soviet Union to compete for geopolitical influence. After the end of the Cold War, especially since the 18th National Congress of the CPC, as China’s comprehensive national power has risen dramatically, the United States, based on the purpose of containing China’s rise and maintaining its global hegemony, has continued to create disturbances in China’s border areas, and Xinjiang has gradually become an important place for the strategic game between China and the United States.

After the end of World War II, the U.S. established Xinjiang as an important position for anti-Soviet and anti-Communist efforts based on its concern for hegemony with the Soviet Union. In the first place, the U.S. stepped up surveillance of the Soviet Union’s actions in Xinjiang, trying to determine the latter’s strategic intentions. In 1947, Philip Sprouse of the U.S. Department of State’s Office of Chinese Affairs pointed out in the report *Present Situation in China* that the Soviet Union’s clandestine operations in the western region of Xinjiang would put the Nanjing National Government in a difficult position, and recommended that the U.S. take actions to curb the Soviet Union’s expansion (United States Department of State, 1974). In November of the same year, the Dihua Consulate’s report *Visits to Ili and Tahcheng Zones* mentioned that the Soviet Union had close economic and trade ties with the Xinjiang region and that its agents were constantly inciting the Uyghur population to identify with the Soviet ideology, among other things (United States Department of State, 1974). In addition, in order to monopolize nuclear weapons, the U.S. also paid close attention to the Soviet Union’s search for radioactive mineral resources in Xinjiang. In May 1947, the U.S. consul-general in Dihua John Paxton wrote to the State Department that the Soviet Union had been particularly active in acquiring strategic mineral resources in Xinjiang. In June of the same year, a report submitted by the U.S. Embassy in Beijing on information about radioactive minerals in China highlighted information about uranium and tungsten deposits in Xinjiang, which were closely related to the Soviet Union’s defense construction (United States Department of State, 1974). In the second place, the U.S. intended to legitimize its interference in the affairs of Xinjiang by means of the policy of “supporting Chiang Kai-shek against the Communists”. On the one hand, the U.S. urged the Nanjing National Government to enhance the development of Xinjiang, rebuild its outdated infrastructure, and improve its transportation capabilities with the hinterland. In 1947, U.S. Ambassador John Stuart proposed that the U.S.

government assist the Nanjing National Government in building a railroad from Tianshui to Dihua, which was aimed at ensuring that Xinjiang’s political jurisdiction and petroleum resources would be under the control of the Nanjing National Government. On the other hand, the U.S. prevented the improvement of Sino-Soviet relations to serve its anti-Soviet purpose. Stuart stated that the Soviet Union’s provision arms assistance to the Ili, Tahcheng, and Ashan regions was intended to use the armed forces in the three regions to hinder the Nanjing National Government’s troops from conducting border patrols and to keep them in opposition to the central government, so that Xinjiang could be turned over to the Soviet Union at a later date (United States Department of State, 1974). Under U.S. influence, the Nanjing National Government believed that the Soviet Union’s starting point in providing this assistance was its desire to take over full sovereignty over these regions as soon as possible, so that it could eventually annex Xinjiang under the name of “East Turkestan” (United States Department of State, 1974). Finally, the U.S. did everything in its power to prevent the peaceful liberation of Xinjiang. The U.S. vigorously fostered the “Xinjiang independence” forces represented by Osman Bator and Masud Sabri, providing them with intelligence and economic assistance. At the same time, it also carried out propaganda campaigns to vilify communism among the local people of Xinjiang, and prevented the People’s Liberation Army from entering Xinjiang. Ultimately, this kind of behavior became the source of the U.S. support for the separatist activities of the “Xinjiang independence”, and was a scourge to this day.

After the founding of the People’s Republic of China, the U.S. was forced to withdraw temporarily from Xinjiang, but based on the strategic game between China and the U.S., the U.S. still endeavored to finance the separatist forces in Xinjiang from outside, with the aim of deteriorating the security situation in China. In the 1950s, the U.S. helped some insurgents to flee overseas, and financed the transfer of “Xinjiang independence” leaders to Turkey. In the 1960s, with the connivance and shelter of the U.S., the “East Turkestan” forces established the “East Turkestan Independence League” and other organizations, and carried out their activities on a large scale. In the 1970s, “Xinjiang independence” leaders went to the U.S. to seek the latter’s support for the establishment of the “East Turkestan State”. In the 1980s, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) also met with members of the extraterritorial “East Turkestan” to learn about their basic situation.

After the end of the Cold War, some U.S. government officials began to frequently contact Xinjiang separatist leaders and included “human rights issues related to Xinjiang” in their reports on human rights in China, which has become a new focus of China-U.S. disputes. For example, in 2022, the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor mentioned in *China 2022 Human Rights Report* that

Genocide and crimes against humanity occurred during the year against predominantly Muslim Uyghurs and members of other ethnic and religious minority groups in Xinjiang. These crimes were continuing and included: the arbitrary imprisonment or other severe deprivation of physical liberty of more than one million civilians; forced sterilization, coerced abortions, and more restrictive application of the country’s birth control policies; rape and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence; torture of a large number of those arbitrarily detained; and persecution including forced labor and draconian restrictions on freedom of religion or belief, freedom of expression, and freedom of movement. (Human Rights and Labor, 2022)

Moreover, the U.S. President Bill Clinton secretly met with foreign separatist leaders to discuss the “East Turkestan Independence Issue” as well as the “Human Rights Issues Related to Xinjiang” report. In addition, the U.S. academics had conducted the so-called “Xinjiang Project”, a study of Xinjiang’s history, ethnic relations, development and stability, with the aim of providing theoretical support for the activities of separatist forces outside China. Finally, the U.S. had made great efforts to build up Rebiya Kadeer, a representative of the

separatist forces in Xinjiang, with the intention of integrating the forces of the “Eastern Turkestan”. For example, from 2000 to 2009, the U.S. Congress introduced seven bills dealing with Rebiya and her family, assisted Rebiya won the 2004 Rafto Prize, helped establish the “International Uyghur Human Rights And Democracy Foundation Inc” and made him the president of the “Uyghur American Association” and the “World Uyghur Congress”, nominated him for the Nobel Peace Prize, and so on. These actions of the U.S. were not only a blatant stance for the “Xinjiang independence” activists, but also a blatant interference in China’s internal affairs, which were not conducive to the normal development of relations between China and the United States.

Since the 18th National Congress of the CPC, the China-U.S. rivalry has entered a new historical stage, and the United States has deliberately interfered in China’s internal affairs with the Xinjiang issue for the purpose of curbing China’s rapid rise. Firstly, the U.S. rumors that there are “detention camps” at Xinjiangs education and training centers and “forced labor” in Xinjiang industries. On December 17, 2018, Chris Buckley and Austin Ramzy wrote an article in *The New York Times* titled “China’s detention camps for Muslims turn to forced labour”. The article vilifies Xinjiang’s education and training centers as Muslim detention camps, falsely claiming that in 2018 China sent 100,000 ethnic Uyghurs in the Kashgar region to forced labor in factories. They also estimate that as many as one million ethnic Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities are held in detention camps (Buckley & Ramzy, 2018). The U.S. government-backed “Chinese Human Rights Defenders” absurdly concludes that “nearly a million Uyghurs have been detained” and “Two million people are forced to attend re-education programs during the day or at night” after interviewing just eight people. Secondly, the U.S. fabricates the fallacy of “genocide”. On June 21, 2020, Adrian Zenz, a well-known anti-China German scholar, published a research paper in the Jamestown Foundation titled “Sterilizations, IUDs, and Mandatory Birth Control: The CCP’s Campaign to Suppress Uyghur Birthrates in Xinjiang” (Zenz, 2020). On June 29, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo issued a statement titled “On China’s Coercive Family Planning and Forced Sterilization Program in Xinjiang” (Pompeo, 2020). On July 10, *The Associated Press* published an investigative report entitled “China Forces Uighurs to Cut Births With IUDs, Abortions, Sterilization” (AP Staff, 2020). Adrian Zenz’s report used a series of unspecified and uninformative data, disregarded the facts, confused right and wrong, and accused China of taking a series of harsh measures to reduce the birth rate of the Uighurs and other ethnic minorities, while Pompeo’s statement and the AP report based their explanations on Adrian Zenz’s data, so it was clear that these statements were not tenable at all. In fact, Adrian Zenz is a member of the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, an extreme right-wing organization funded by the U.S. government, and is also a key member of Xinjiang Education and Training Center Research Group, operated by the U.S. intelligence agencies, so it is clear who is behind his remarks. In addition, some media and social media platforms outside China made some false statements. For example, they published “missing people posts, claiming that their relatives and friends in Xinjiang were missing”, the Chinese Government “massively monitored the local ethnic minorities in Xinjiang”, “controlled the languages, cultures, customs, and dresses of ethnic minorities”, “restricted ethnic religious activities and demolishes mosques”, “sent children to boarding schools, forcing parents to be separated from them”, “replaced ethnic languages with Chinese”, and so on. The list of such rumors and slanders goes on and on. Then why has the United States frequently used the Xinjiang issue to create friction in relations between China and the U.S. since the end of the Cold War, especially since the 18th National Congress of the CPC? What is the reason behind this? In the view of this article, the answer can be found in the structural contradiction between the United States and China.

The Nature of the U.S. Interference in Xinjiang Affairs: Structural Contradictions Between China and the U.S.

As the only superpower in the world today, the United States is in a leading position in military, economy, science and technology, education, and other fields. After more than four decades of reform and opening up, China has gradually narrowed the gap with the United States in many areas. Since the 18th National Congress of the CPC, China has made remarkable achievements in many fields, including economy, science and technology, and education. In the first place, China’s macroeconomic operation is stable, with GDP growing from 54 trillion yuan in 2012 to 140 trillion yuan in 2025, accounting for about 17 percent of the world’s total, and contributing more than 30 percent to world economic growth on average. With per capita GDP exceeding \$12,000 for five consecutive years, China has risen from a low-income country at the beginning of the founding of the People’s Republic of China to an upper-middle-income country, and more critically, China’s development in recent years has not shown signs of falling into the “middle-income trap”.

In the second place, China’s scientific and technological strength is growing, and it has succeeded in becoming an innovative country. Since the 18th National Congress of the CPC, China has continuously increased its investment in scientific research. According to *Communiqué on National Expenditures on Science and Technology in 2024*, jointly released by National Bureau of Statistics of China, Ministry of Science and Technology of the People’s Republic of China, and Ministry of Finance of the People’s Republic of China on September 29, 2025,

In 2024, China’s domestic expenditures on research and experimental development (R&D) saw consistent and robust growth, a total of 3,632.68 billion yuan was invested in R&D across the country, an increase of 296.97 billion yuan over the previous year, marking a growth rate of 8.9 percent; the R&D intensity (as a proportion of gross domestic product, GDP) came in at 2.69 percent, an increase of 0.11 percentage point over the previous year. The per capita expenditure on R&D personnel calculated in full-time equivalent was 480,000 yuan. (National Bureau of Statistics of China, 2025)

China’s total research and experimental development funding is now second only to the United States, ranking second in the world. High input brings high output. In 2009, China’s share of scientific and technological papers indexed in the Science Citation Index (SCI) reached 8.8 percent of the world’s total, and for the first time jumped to the second place in the world. By the end of 2025, the number of valid invention patents in mainland China (excluding Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan) will reach 5.32 million, with 16 high-value invention patents per 10,000 people. The share of value added by patent-intensive industries in GDP will rise to 13.38% by 2024 (The State Council, 2026). China’s capacity of scientific and technological innovation has been significantly strengthened, and high-end scientific technological achievements are emerging in an endless stream. Such as the C919 aircraft has achieved commercial flight, the domestic large cruise ships has officially operated, the Shenzhou family has relayed in space, the deep-sea manned submersible “Fendouzhe” drives 10909 meters in Mariana Trench, new energy automobiles, photovoltaic, lithium batteries, and the installed capacity of wind power leading the world, 5G is the first to achieve large-scale application and so on. China’s innovation index jumped from 35th in the world in 2013 to 10th in 2025.

In the third place, China has achieved the goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all aspects, a feat of far-reaching significance. In response to a reporter’s question, Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said China’s fight against poverty had positive significance for the world; firstly, China has contributed to accelerating the world’s poverty reduction process. Since the reform and opening up, 750 million people in China

have been lifted out of poverty, contributing more than 70 percent to world poverty reduction. Secondly, China has helped the cause of poverty reduction in the world. China has set up the China-UN Peace and Development Fund and the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund, and has assisted other developing countries with 180 poverty reduction projects, 118 agricultural cooperation projects, 178 aid-for-trade projects, 103 projects on ecological conservation and climate change, 134 hospitals and clinics, and 123 educational and vocational training institutes. The South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund has supported over 80 projects in more than 30 developing countries, injecting impetus for global sustainable development. According to the World Bank, the Belt and Road Initiative is expected to help 7.6 million people out of extreme poverty and 32 million people out of moderate poverty (The State Council, 2020). In 2010, then president of the World Bank said that

between 1981 and 2004, China succeeded in lifting more than half a billion people out of extreme poverty. This is certainly the greatest leap to overcome poverty in history. China’s efforts alone have ensured that the world’s Millennium Development Goal on poverty reduction will be met. We and the world have much to learn from this. (Zoellick, 2010)

In 2019, a representative of the United Nations Development Programme in China said that “since 1978, China has lifted more than 750 million people out of poverty, accounting for four-fifths of all people lifted out of extreme poverty globally over the last four decades” (Trankmann, 2019). All these are sufficient to illustrate China’s brilliant achievements in the cause of poverty eradication.

Finally, China strives to build a community with a shared future for mankind and become a responsible major country. Since President Xi Jinping put forward the idea of building a community with a shared future for mankind in 2013, China had been committed to building a world of lasting peace, universal security, common prosperity, openness and inclusiveness, and a clean and beautiful world. On March 10, 2023, China, Saudi Arabia, and Iran reached an agreement and issued a *Joint Trilateral Statement*. Saudi Arabia and Iran agreed to resolve the disagreements between them through dialogue and diplomacy, respect the sovereignty of states, and not interfere in internal affairs of states. They agreed to resume diplomatic relations, and carry out cooperation in various fields. The three countries expressed their keenness to exert all efforts towards enhancing regional and international peace and security (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2023). On July 23, 2024, Foreign Minister Wang Yi witnessed *Palestinian Factions Sign Beijing Declaration on Ending Division and Strengthening Palestinian National Unity* by 14 Palestinian factions in Beijing. Head of the Fatah delegation and head of the Hamas delegation delivered remarks on behalf of the Palestinian factions. They spoke highly of China’s acting as a responsible major country and upholding justice for Palestine in international fora. They stated their readiness to implement the consensus, strengthen unity among factions, advance the reconciliation process, and work for an early solution to the question of Palestine (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2024). The above two events fully demonstrate China’s role as a responsible major country in promoting the Middle East peace process. Commenting on the Beijing Declaration, *The Gulf News* states that China has shown its ability to play a global role as a peace broker. China’s growing role in Palestinian and Middle East politics is taking place with changing global dynamics, and the practical end of the U.S. traditional role as the “honest peace broker”. The fact is that China is now officially a peace broker in Palestine and, for most Palestinians, a credible one at that (Baroud, 2024).

China’s rapid rise has aroused the suspicion and discontent of the United States, which has been hegemonic for a long time. Because in the view of the U.S., China is posing a threat to its hegemony in various fields. In 2018, the MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies at Yale University organized a symposium titled

“China 2049-New Era or New Threat”. At the seminar, Stephen Roach, former chair of Morgan Stanley Asia, explained that “a bipartisan narrative that has formed in Congress and the U.S. government casts China as a major threat that has gained advantage through various unfair practices and right now in the Trump administration views China as a threat” (Roach, 2018). On January 18, 2024, David Barboza, a Pulitzer Prize-winning *The New York Times* journalist, shared his thoughts on China’s unprecedented economic and technological ascent, “Fast forward and everything has changed in that two decades, way faster than anyone expected”. China’s rapid development and global presence have led to significant changes in the geopolitical landscape. China now possesses the technology, economic strength, and global influence to challenge the U.S. on multiple fronts (Butterfield, 2024). Even the high-tech fields that the U.S. was previously proud of are now facing increasing challenges from China, which undoubtedly raises concerns among some U.S. scholars. Robert Atkinson, founder and president of the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, wrote in a recent article that

there may be no more important question for the West’s competitive position in advanced industries than whether China is becoming a rival innovator. While the evidence suggests it hasn’t yet taken the overall lead, it has pulled ahead in certain areas, and in many others Chinese firms will likely equal or surpass Western firms within a decade or so.

Unless U.S. techno-economic policy changes to embrace “national power capitalism,” it is less likely that the United States will be able to maintain competitive position in a broad array of advanced industries against not only China but also other nations that play more by the rules but are still competing for global market share. (Atkinson, 2024)

The strategic game between China and the U.S. belongs to the typical contest between a rising power and a ruling power. Graham Allison, a professor at Harvard University has written a book titled *Destined for War: Can America and China Escape Thucydides’s Trap?* In the second part of the book, Allison uses a 500-year survey of superpower relationships. Of the 16 cases (16th-century Spain-Portugal to the current German rise), no less than 12 of them ended in war. It can be seen that the relationship between the ruling power and the rising power, more often than not, ended in conflict. In addition, the U.S. political circle, which has long been upholding the logic of realist governance, believes that in the international anarchic society, the power struggle between countries usually presents a large number of zero-sum game phenomenon, and the political, economic, cultural, and other aspects of influence that China has gained as a result of its rise is part of what the U.S. is gradually losing. Moreover, the United States has been under the influence of McCarthyism since World War II, and anti-communist ideology has permeated all fields of education, culture, and politics in the United States. Foreign policy has been coerced by McCarthyism, which has forced it to take anti-communism as its only course, adopting a very rigid approach in its policy towards China (Wang, 2001). Nowadays anti-communism and containment of China’s rise have become a bipartisan consensus. Finally, there is an intense collision between Trump’s dream of “Make America Great Again” and the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Faced with the financial crisis continues to fester and the rise of China’s dilemma, Trump used national security as an excuse to protect the traditional industries through tariffs to enhance employment and “make America great again” similar to the United States in the 1980s when faced with the rapid rise of the Japanese economy (Gan, 2019). In view of this, the United States, in order to maintain its hegemony and contain the rise of China, in addition to competing with China in the fields of economics and trade, science and technology, is also committed to building a fence around China in the political field to impede its revitalization process. On the one hand, the United States has constructed a trilateral security partnership among the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia, upgraded the quadrilateral security mechanism among the United States, Japan, India, and Australia, and pushed for the functional transformation of the “Five Eyes Coalition” and the Asia-Pacificization of North Atlantic

Treaty Organization’s power, thus shaping a multi-circle, networked security cooperation structure. These actions have led to a clearer trend of camping in the U.S. alliance system (Zhu, 2023). In addition, the U.S. has continued to create trouble in Xinjiang, Taiwan, and Hong Kong, aiming to undermine China’s political security situation. It can be said that the U.S. policy of “using Xinjiang to control China” is intrinsically unified and related to its motive of containing China’s rise.

The Importance of Forging a Strong Sense of Community for the Chinese Nation for National Security

Xinjiang has an important strategic position in China’s security and development. Firstly, with its vast territory and abundant resources, Xinjiang is not only an important energy resource reserve area in China, but also an important energy resource base for China’s economic development. Secondly, Xinjiang is not only the crossroads of the ancient Silk Road, but also the economic link between China and Central Asia today, and plays the role of “bridgehead” for opening up to the outside world, which is of great strategic significance in the construction of “One Belt, One Road”. Thirdly, Xinjiang has an important geopolitical and strategic position. With its complex topography, numerous neighboring countries (eight of China’s 14 land neighbors border Xinjiang) and complicated relations, Xinjiang is an important strategic barrier for safeguarding China’s territorial and sovereignty integrity, and plays an irreplaceable role in national security. Fourthly, with 56 ethnic groups living in Xinjiang and a complex mix of ethnic, religious, and cultural components, the tranquility of Xinjiang is closely related to the overall situation of national security. In view of this, the good governance of Xinjiang is of great significance to the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and the establishment of the overall national security pattern.

However, under the influence of the United States’ long-standing policy of “using Xinjiang to control China”, the governance of the Xinjiang region faces certain difficulties. In the first place, from a domestic perspective. Firstly, there is a discrepancy between the national identity of some members of some ethnic minorities and that of the state. Under the influence of malicious slander and rumor-mongering by the U.S. and other Western media, the narrow national consciousness of some ethnic minorities in the Xinjiang region has risen to a high level, creating a misalignment between them and their national identity, which has brought many inconveniences to regional governance. Secondly, the cognitive bias of some members of ethnic minorities with regard to their religious beliefs and the extremist behaviors that they have triggered have posed a challenge to regional governance. Religion has a great influence on ethnic minorities, and ethnicity and religion often permeate each other. Influenced by the international trend of religious extremism, religious extremism has flourished and spread in Xinjiang, leading to frequent incidents of terrorism, and causing great harm to the social stability of Xinjiang and the safety of people’s lives and property. Religious extremism, in the guise of religion and under the banner of religion, promotes theories of theocracy, religious supremacy, paganism, and Jihadism and so on, inciting violence and terror and creating ethnic rivalries (The State Council, 2019). These are clearly inconsistent with China pledges to protect freedom of religious belief, in which “China adopts policies on freedom of religious belief based on national and religious conditions to protect citizens’ right to freedom of religious belief, build active and healthy religious relationships, and maintain religious and social harmony” (The State Council, 2018). Thirdly, the preferential ethnic policies and the system of regional ethnic autonomy may have a negative impact in the new era. The original purpose of the preferential ethnic policies and the system of regional ethnic autonomy was to help and promote the economic and social development of some small and vulnerable ethnic groups and

ethnic minorities in less developed regions, and to safeguard the rights and interests of ethnic minorities, and they have a certain historical rationality and effectiveness. However, with the growing socio-economic development and the great increase in the degree of ethnic integration, the unchanged preferential policies for ethnic groups have begun to generate and show some negative impacts, which, to a certain extent, have helped some ethnic minorities to understand the relationship between ethnic groups, between ethnic groups and the state from the perspective of ethnic interests, and have strengthened the sense of ethnic identity and the boundaries between ethnic groups, which, if accompanied by incitement and propaganda of extremist nationalist ideologies from abroad, may encourage some narrow-minded ethnic minorities to become more and more conservative. If this is accompanied by incitement and propaganda by extremist nationalist ideologies from abroad, it may foster a narrow sense of national identity, which is not conducive to the establishment of a sense of community among the Chinese nation. Fourthly, the diversity of security threats in Xinjiang has made governance more difficult. Xinjiang’s security threat is a complex and comprehensive security issue, characterized by the intertwining of history and reality, international and domestic issues, ethnicity and religion, as well as enemy and internal contradictions among the people, which puts forward higher requirements for the building of governance capacity in the Xinjiang region.

In the second place, from the international level, the U.S. distorts the original facts. When large-scale emergencies occur in Xinjiang, the Chinese government is bound to adopt specific means to maintain social stability and border security. However, these actions have been exploited by separatist forces at home and abroad as well as by the United States. They created false public opinion and slandered the Chinese government for violating human rights and engaging in “forced labor”, which seriously damaged the image of the Chinese government in the international community. In addition, the United States has used the vast majority of the world’s well-known media outlets at its disposal to create a platform for rumor-mongering and slander against China. The U.S. combines issues related to Xinjiang with those related to Hong Kong, Taiwan and Tibet, and supports the activities of the forces of “Xinjiang independence”, “Hong Kong independence”, and “Taiwan independence”, aiming to aggravate the situation on China’s borders. Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson, former chief of staff to former U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, had openly declared in a 2018 speech that if the U.S. CIA wanted to destabilize China, the best way would be to mount an operation using Uygur Muslims in Xinjiang. They would foment unrest and to join with those Uygurs in pushing the Han Chinese in Beijing from internal places rather than external (Blankenship, 2021).

In short, the U.S. policy of “using Xinjiang to control China”, has, on the one hand, enabled Chinese people to gain a deep understanding of the structural contradictions that exist between China and the United States. *China: Threat or Hope: The Pragmatic Revolution*, written by Javier García, a Spanish journalist with long international experience, in the book he writes that the U.S. is running out of time to be the global hegemony, but it refuses to accept this reality, so the U.S. extends its tentacles like an octopus, attacking China in a variety of areas, including the economy, trade, science and technology, politics, health, media, and intelligence and so on, destabilizing Xinjiang and other areas, supporting separatist forces, and using its military superiority to intimidate China (García, 2023). On the other hand, the actions of the U.S. have enabled the Chinese people to understand the good intentions of President Xi Jinping, who mentioned at the Xinjiang symposium that it is necessary to forge a strong sense of community for the Chinese nation as the main line of the CPC’s ethnic work in the new era, and as the main line of all work in ethnic areas. “Nip the problem in the bud when it is in the making, prepare yourself for risks yet to emerge”. At present, the ethnic work has become the first line of the strategic game

between China and the United States, and its success or failure has a bearing on national sovereignty, security, development, and even the overall situation of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Therefore, against the background of significant and profound changes in the current national security situation, President Xi Jinping’s proposal of forging a strong sense of community for the Chinese nation is essential for effectively preventing infiltration and sabotage by the U.S. and the West, resisting the influence of all kinds of separatist and extremist ideologies, successfully coping with the risks and challenges that may be encountered in the process of realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, and providing a strong ideological guarantee for the prosperity and development of the CPC and the country.

Conclusion

Since the 18th National Congress of the CPC, the U.S. has frequently challenged China on Xinjiang issues, intending to “use Xinjiang to control China”, which is essentially a manifestation of the strategic game between the United States, a ruling power, and China, a rising power. Under the influence of the U.S. power, separatism, terrorism, and religious extremism in Xinjiang pose a serious threat to China’s national security. In order to crack this dilemma, President Xi Jinping, from the strategic height of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, put forward the idea of forging a strong sense of community for the Chinese nation as the main line of the CPC’s ethnic work in the new era. This important assertion accurately grasps the historical orientation and important tasks of the CPC’s ethnic work at the current stage, embodies heavy historical connotations and distinctive characteristics of the times, and points out the direction for promoting the high-quality development of the CPC’s ethnic work in the new era. The important exposition on forging a strong sense of community for the Chinese nation has enriched the Marxist theoretical viewpoints on ethnic consciousness, ethnic equality, and ethnic solidarity, and has given scientific and correct answers on how to understand ethnic relations, how to deal with ethnic issues, and how to promote ethnic work in the new era; it has consolidated and opened up the correct path for solving the ethnic issues with Chinese characteristics, namely, a path of revival of the community of destiny with a higher degree of identification and cohesion of the Chinese nation; it has provided a high-level yet specific and clear ideological guide for the high-quality development of the CPC’s ethnic work in the new era; and it has promoted historic changes in the appearance of ethnic minorities and regions, the depth and breadth of exchanges, interactions and intermingling of the various ethnic groups, and the unprecedented high level of identification with socialism with Chinese characteristics.

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