

# The Dependency Theory : Influx on China\*

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## 논문요약

의존성 이론은 불평등한 국제시스템에서 개발도상국의 지속적인 빈곤과 후진의 근본 원인을 설명한다. 이 이론은 국제규칙을 수립하는 과정에서 개발도상국이 선진국의 패권에 맞서 싸울 수 있도록 하는 필수적인 이론적 무기가 되었다. 의존성이론에서 파생된 중국의 의존성 이론은 최근 몇 년간 일부 서양 학자에 의해 공식화되었으나, 이는 중국과 다른 개발도상국 간의 상호의존관계가 중국의 일방적인 의존성에 의한 것이라고 말하고 있다. 서양학자들은 본 이론을 통해 중국이 다른 개발도상국의 원자재를 착취하고 열등한 산업제품을 덤핑한다고 지적하고 있다. 또한 중국이 개발도상국에서 신 식민주의를 행하고 있다고 비난한다. 중국 의존성이론은 많은 개발도상국에 알려져 있으며, 이는 중국의 '일대일로' 구상에 불안정한 변수 중 하나이며 다른 개발도상국과의 관계를 손상시키고 있다. 본 논문은 이러한 배경 하에, 중국 의존성이론을 형성하는 원인과 성장과정 및 영향을 변증적으로 분석하여, 중국 의존성이론을 지지하는 개발도상국의 일부 학자들의 관점을 논리적으로 비판한 후에, 마지막으로 중국 의존성이론에 대한 중국 측의 관점을 도출한다.

**주제어** : 의존성이론, 개발도상국, 중국, 운명공동체, 원인 및 영향

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## I. Background

Dependency theory is a developing theory proposed mainly by scholars in developing countries, faced with the problems that the economic relics of colonialism could coalesce. The theory contains widely divergent theoretical perspectives, some distinctly Marxist and other Structuralist (Jill Hills 1994). As a theoretical perspective to study the development problems of developing countries, Dependency Theory discusses the issue of national development between contemporary developing countries and developed western countries from the perspective of political and economic integration. In other words, on the fringe of the world economy, as long as the rich countries of the center enslave emerging countries, they cannot develop.

From a disciplinary perspective, the dependency theory can be regarded as a theoretical genre of western international political economy. Dependency theory, which can also be identified as harmonically increasing voice of the Third World, became the dominant point of view in many underdeveloped countries—particularly Latin American countries in the 1970s (Santos Theotonio Dos 2014). Dependence indicates that individual countries' economies are conditioned by the development and expansion of economics to which they are subjected. According to the theory, while two or more economies and the relationships of dependence between them and world trade evolve for the benefit of the dominant ones, the dependent ones can only execute this development as the reflection of others' evolution (Rıdvan Turhan 2018).

After years of development, the Dependency Theory has

become an important theoretical weapon to guide developing countries to fight against the hegemony of western developed countries in the process of making international rules (Briguglio Lino 1995). In recent years, chronically (Huazhong Tu 2018). Before the emergence and popularity of the China Dependency Theory, other developing countries were mainly influenced by two theories proposed by the West, one is the China Collapse Theory, and the other is the China Threat Theory. The China Collapse Theory is a theory that bears a negative view of China. It believes that China is about to collapse, which will have a significant impact on the international community so that countermeasures must be put forward as soon as possible (Liu Shan 2016). Contrary to the China Collapse Theory, the China Threat Theory" holds that after the economic rise, China will become thirsty for other countries' interests, export its values and ideologies, thus becoming the most significant volatile factor to the world peace (Wang Yonggui 2007). Both theories aim to provoke conflicts between China and the international community, especially developing countries, to seclude China from the international arena. However, through its remarkable development achieved over the past 40 years of implementing reform and opening-up policy, China has effectively refuted the China Collapse Theory and convincingly mitigated the impact of the China Threat Theory (Liang Juni 2015). It needs to be pointed out that the China Dependency Theory borrows the framework of the Dependency Theory, which makes itself more deceptive. In recent years, the China Dependency Theory has continuously invaded the position of public opinion in many developing countries, becoming an

important variable affecting the relationship between China and other developing countries (Huazhong Tu 2018).

The China Dependency Theory vainly attempts to divert the developing countries' focus to protest China. Following the China Collapse Theory and the China Threat Theory, the China Dependency Theory is another new fundamental theory that western countries adopted to manipulate the public opinion of developing countries in recent years (Shannon Tiezzi 2014). However, the theory of "the Human Destiny Community" advocated by China responded to this theory.

In November 2012, the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China proposed to advocate "the Human Destiny Community" consciousness. The primary expression of his concept are as follows: In the face of the complex situation and global problem of the world economy, no country can be alone. All countries and regions must abandon outdated zero-sum thinking, not only pursue their interests, but also adhere to the foreign policy objectives of common development, develop friendly cooperation with other countries, respect each other, and create a new type of international relations of cooperation and win-win (Qian Tong 2012). The theory shows that China persists in abandoning the Cold War mentality and power politics, does not take the dependence of other developing countries. It is because the driving force for development combines the interests of the Chinese people with the common interests of all peoples and makes new contributions to global development.

This paper differentiates and analyzes the cause, process, and influence of China Dependency Theory, and discusses with

some scholars from developing countries who show support to it. Finally, it analyzes China's achievements in getting rid of its dependence on western developed countries, expounds the enlightenment of this achievement to developing countries, and responds to China's dependency theory by combining the concept of advocated by China.

## II. Dependency Theory and Its Evolution

In the 1950s, the Argentinean economist, Raúl Prebisch and German economist Han Singer first proposed the Dependency Theory (Trevor J. Barnes 2016). Raúl Prebisch believes that after having won their own independence, most developing countries are still unable to get rid of poverty and will stay backward for a long time because he believes that the development of "peripheral" countries is inversely proportional to its connection with "central" countries, the existence of the two structures "peripheral" and "central" will make the peripheral countries increasingly poverty-stricken (Raúl Prebisch 1962). Since then, the dependency theory has formed two forms: The radical one, cooked up by economists Andre Gunder Frank and Samir Amin, claimed that the center grew at the expense of the periphery. The only solution was to delink entirely from the world economy. From the start, however, radical dependency faced its share of troubles. Much less did they manage to prove a causal relationship between Northern wealth and Southern poverty. Only Albania and North Korea tried the practical prescription of completely breaking away from the world economy, with predictable

consequences. Gunder Frank himself admitted delinking "has not been a very viable or fruitful policy" (Raúl Prebisch 1986). Another form of dependence theory is the milder version of the dependency, pioneered by Cardoso and his coauthor Enzo Faletto, and by others like Chile's Osvaldo Sunkel and Mexico's Pedro Paz. It maintained that under capitalism, both rich and poor could grow but would not benefit equally (Harding, Timothy 1976). Since the 1970s, developing countries such as Brazil have made great achievements in economic development. This practical experience has prompted people to reflect on the previous dependency theory. Cardoso and other sociologists linked the economic development and dependence of these countries. They pointed out that "development and dependence are a process of simultaneous and coexisting, rather than two categories of mutual opposition and mutual exclusion." This theory opposes Frank to attribute the underdevelopment of developing countries to external factors entirely.

On the other hand, the purpose of the theory is to promote that developing countries should make full use of the links with developed countries' economic systems in order to serve their development, rather than completely detaching from the capitalist world economic (Cardoso, Fernando Henrique 1977). The practical incarnation of this view fell far short of a revolution. As preached from the UN, Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC), it was a mixture of protectionism and Keynesianism that became known as import-substituting industrialization. Behind a tariff wall, with generous state subsidies, an active fiscal policy, and a drop of central planning here and there, emerging countries could hope to lessen their dependency on the center and develop

autonomously (Andrés Velasco 2002).

Ever since Argentine economist Raúl Prebisch and German economist Han Singer proposed the “dependency theory”, there has been a heated debate between developing and developed countries on the merits of it (Munck Ronaldo 1981). As developing countries lie at the bottom of the resource flow of the international chain of enterprises, they have to depend on developed countries, which have abundant resources, advanced technology, and human capital (Huazhong Tu 2018). Meanwhile, by their advantages in the upper division, western developed countries have constructed a series of international rules that are conducive to their interests (Andrés Velasco 2002). By these rules in the unequal international system, western developed countries continue to exploit developing countries to make it hard for them to get rid of poverty and backwardness, and force them to be in a dependent position on a long-time basis (Raúl Prebisch 1962). Later, Raúl Prebisch went on to develop his theory, further put forward the Traditional Dependency Theory and constructed the "center-edge" model (Shi Dongming 2006). Raúl Prebisch holds that even if developing countries keep developing, they cannot get rid of the destiny of being marginalized and are still underdeveloped. The belief made the traditional dependency theory schools feel the strong urge to support developing countries to break away from the international system and rules constructed by western developed countries (Shi Dongming 2006).

For Raúl Prebisch's Traditional Dependency Theory, the Brazilian scholar Theotonio Dos Santos and some others think that it is unrealistic for developing countries to be independent

of the international system and rules constructed by developed countries (Munck Ronaldo 1999). Since the publication of *The Structure of Dependency* in 1970, Theotonio Dos Santos amended the Traditional Dependency Theory and then it became the mainstream of Dependency theory (Santos Theotonio dos 1970). It is believed that not all but a few peripheral countries can achieve development goals. In contrast, most developing countries have to depend on western developed countries to seek their own development (Shi Dongming 2006). Later on, another Brazilian scholar, Fernando Henrique Cardoso deepened the traditional dependency theory. From Cardoso's view, dependence and development in developing countries are not opposed or necessarily excluded and the dependence can also achieve a dependent development (Cardoso 2002). With the continuous development and evolution of the Dependency Theory, the influence of this theory has gradually spread from Latin America to other developing countries such as countries in Asia and Africa (Vincent H. Shie 2010). The third world scholars who support the Dependency Theory argue that the international system and rules constructed by western developed countries are not fair for developing countries. Developing countries need to fight together to gradually change the unequal international system and rules to pursue greater interests for themselves (Young Namkoong 1999). The continuous struggle of developing countries has made it possible for western developed countries to somewhat restrain and adjust themselves in the formulation of international rules such as rules of resources and energy, international trade, and coping with climate change (Cueva Augustin 1976).



The emergence of the Dependency Theory profoundly reveals the comprehensive advantages of western developed countries over developing countries and has become the most significant and influencing theory in developing countries. On the one hand, this view exposes the passive position of developing countries and makes them continuously challenge the unequal international system and international rules built by western developed countries (Zhang Dunfu 2000). On the other hand, the pessimistic Dependent Development Theory and other similar views once occupied the mainstream position in some countries, making these countries unwilling to formulate long-term plans which are absent in their economic development and economic structure adjustment (Susanne Bodenheimer 1970).

Although the Dependency Theory has experienced different stages of development and evolution, the subject of its study remains the dependence of developing countries on developed countries, which has not fundamentally changed. The Dependency Theory all along aims at western developed countries and their international system and rules (Immanuel Wallerstein 1974). Furthermore, injected new vigor into the construction of a new international political and economic order.

### **III. The Emergence of the Dependency Theory and the Paradox**

With the rapid development of China's economy, China had accelerated the pace of cooperation with the rest of the world, especially in 2010, when China's economic aggregate surpassed

Japan and became the second-largest economy in the world (Cheng Hongyi 2013). In September 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the "Silk Road Economic Belt Initiative" when he visited Kazakhstan (Xi Jinping 2018). In October 2013, he also proposed the "21st Century Maritime Silk Road" initiative during his visit to Indonesia (Xi Jinping 2018). The two initiatives are collectively known as "Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)". The proposition of the BRI provided the world's development with a China solution, receiving a positive response and support from more and more countries (Yuan Xintao 2018).

It is precisely because of the tremendous pressure brought about by China's rapid development that some Western scholars have joined the interpretation and citation of the Dependency Theory in an attempt to divert developing countries' protesting object to China (Michele Penna 2014). As some western scholars joined the drama, the theory of China Dependency came into being. It refers to influence exercised by Chinese powers over the policy and economic trajectory of less developed states through means other than direct political control. The term can also imply a mercantilist model for economic relations: decolonized states remain dependent upon the exportation of raw materials to fuel growth in China (Anderlini 2010). Chinese investment has concentrated primarily on mineral extraction but is beginning to diversify. The intense economic relations between China and Africa is indicative of China's bid for global economic power and a great need for resources to fuel rapid industrialization. On the other hand, the theory advocates that whether China's contacts with other developing countries are harmful to the development of those developing countries depends on the domestic conditions

of those countries. However, where domestic industries are uncompetitive, Chinese exports may curtail the economic development of these developing countries or skew the development, and the profits generated by China's investment will be repatriated to China, rather than contributing to the domestic accumulation of capital. Where economies are unevenly developed in favor of mineral exportation, Chinese demand and investment can exaggerate the inequality.

Two well-known British media columnists Charles Clover and Michael Peel claimed that the essence of China's diplomatic activities in Asia is aggression, which also makes it necessary for most Asian countries to rely on China to achieve the prosperity of their country (Charles Clover 2016). A scholar at the University of Cambridge, UK, who studies Sino-Africa relations, said: "There may be a long-term dependence between two highly unequal economies. Some of China's engagements in Africa are reminiscent of neo-colonialism" (Natasha Menell 2019). "China is replacing the United States as the new anchor for Latin America" (Jaime Ortiz 2012). A scholar at International Federation of Education, Texas, US, said. From the remarks of these western scholars, they regard China's accelerating engagement in the developing country with suspicion, fearing that relations between two such drastically unequal economies could perpetuate dependence. (Harry G. Broadman 2008). From the thinking pattern of these Western scholars' China Dependency Theory, it is, in general, a false research paradigm, that is first to define China's implementation of neo-colonialism in developing countries, and then to find the "evidence" (Anderlini 2010). However, this kind of research paradigm not only distort the real concept of the

Dependency Theory, doctored the dependent object of the theory, ( Michele Penna 2014).

Although the China Dependency Theory has been on the rise only for a short time, it has caused significant adverse effects in some developing countries. Some scholars in developing countries also tend to cite the cases, data, and conclusions made by some western scholars when studying their own countries' relations with China. As cholar at the University of Ikla in Pakistan said: "If Pakistan continues to strengthen its dependence on Chinese weapons, capital, technology and labor, then Pakistan will be colonized by China and there will be more data to prove that in the future" ( Ravi Nagahawatte 2017). A famous Sri Lankan columnist, believed ( Ravi Nagahawatte 2017 ):

As a world-class investor, China's activities in Sri Lanka should be taken alert. For 99 years, Sri Lanka leased Hambantota port to the Chinese government, Chinese People staying here for too long will lead to a significant increase in the possibility of the establishment of a Chinese colony ( Ravi Nagahawatte 2017).

A prominent scholar at the University of Zambia, put it this way: The new Sino-Africa relation is driven by China's voracious appetite for Africa's natural resources as well as by the potential international market of manufacturing and business opportunities for Chinese multinationals" ( Phineas Bbaala 2015).

These scholars believe that the current trade pattern between China and some developing countries is perfectly orienting

these developing countries towards long-term dependency on China on both sides of the trade equation. It can be seen from their remarks that As the scholars mentioned above have a high status in their own countries, they can exert a strong influence on the decision-making level in their countries and under the misguidance of the China Dependency Theory. All kinds of negative views that are not conducive to the bilateral relations are still growing, and this theory has harmed the policy-making of these developing countries to China.

For one thing, these scholars ignore the fact that China is still a developing country and the objects of the Dependency Theory mainly refer to the western developed countries as well as the unequal international system and international rules they constructed. This logic error confuses the real connotation of the Dependency Theory and the object, mistaking China as a developed country. It believes that China is mainly to blame for the construction of the current international system and international rules and regards the cause of their countries' poverty as being independent on China while ignoring the disgraceful role played by western developed countries in the generation of the international system and international rules (Liang Juni 2015). For another, China's normal economic and trade exchanges with the countries concerned are strictly following the laws and regulations of the governments of the countries, and the free economic and trade exchanges are carried out after signing an agreement with the governments on the premise of fairness, justice, and openness. impact (Fijalkowski Lukasz 2011).

#### IV. China: Get Rid of Dependence and Develop Rapidly

As mentioned earlier, the Dependency Theory mainly represents the voice of developing countries. Emergence and development of the Dependency Theory is of positive significance for the progress of the times. However, the Dependency Theory has also been over-interpreted by some scholars to explain the reason why many developing countries are lagging on a long-time basis, ignoring the arduous efforts made by China and other developing countries to break away from their dependency on western developed countries (Emeh Ikechukwu Eke Jeffry 2013).

Mao Zedong, the former leader of China, pointed out in the *Analysis of the Classes of Chinese Society*. "In the economically backward semi-colonial China, the landlord class and the comprador class are completely vassals of the international bourgeoisie, and their survival and development are attached to Imperialist (Mao Zedong 1991). Although China had emerged from the semi-colonial and semi-feudal society since 1949, when China was established as a people's democracy, it still has a dependency relationship with developed countries. Because at that time, China had to rely on imports for things even as small as a matchbox (Huazhong Tu 2018). Through hard work, the Chinese people have made China the world's second-largest economy and the largest developing country, and China has established a complete industrial system with 39 industrial divisions, 191 medium families, and 525 types (Hu Angang 2018). From the perspective of the national economy

at the early stage of the founding of the People's Republic of China, China indeed relied on imports ranging from primary products to industrial supporting facilities, which conforms to the interpretation of the Dependency Theory to some extent. However, China has made significant contributions to the development of the world economy and realized remarkable achievements in recent years. The reform and opening-up policy in China is not only open to the socialist countries and the third world but also the developed countries. However, in the process of opening up, countries (Liu Weidong 2015).

Although in recent years, China has made great economic achievements, it still lags far behind western developed countries in terms of per capita income, human development index, and other indicators. China's total GDP in 2018 is only about 65% of the US, while China's per capita income is only about 14% of the US. (You Qiming 2019) In 2017, the inter-group average of human development index in developed countries was 0.918, and that in high welfare countries was 0.924, while China's human development index was 0.752, ranking 86th in the world (Hu Hongshu 2019). According to three criteria for defining developing countries: first, the general preferential plan for developed countries has not been completed; second, has not been recognized as a high-income country by the World Bank; and third, has not become a member of the OECD. As long as it meets one of these, it can be considered as a developing country. China is a middle-income country recognized by the World Bank and is not a member of the OEC (Zhang Cong 2017). Therefore, China still remains a developing country. What needs to be further pointed out is that China's development has just

demonstrated that the dependent relationship is not a constant truth. China has taken the socialist road with Chinese characteristics (Xi Jinping 2013). By seeking truth from facts and taking concrete steps to remove its dependence on Western developed countries, which has set a good example for other developing countries (Guo Jianlin 2019).

As globalization continues to advance, interdependence needs to be advocated rather than developing in isolation (Guo Jianlin 2019). China's achievements cannot be made without the support of other developing countries whose development cannot be realized without China's progress (Liu Weidong 2015). On 4 May 2014, President Xi Jinping delivered a speech for teachers and students in Peking University, and he said, "China rejects the logic that a strong country is bound to seek hegemony and China will stick to the path of peaceful development" (Xi Jinping 2017). The very speech demonstrated the core connotation of Chinese culture especially emphasizes harmony in diversity (See Analects of Confucius, Zi lu) and that treat others as you want to be treated (See Analects of Confucius, Yan yuan). In this age of globalization, not a single country can develop with a locked-door policy (Li Xiao 2015). Instead, we need to be interdependent on one another. The relationship between China and developing countries is not an absurd zero-sum game (Huazhong Tu 2018). As a successful example of breaking dependence on the West, on the one hand, China has set a good example for other developing countries; on the other hand, China is also willing to share its experience and achievements with other developing countries. This was evident during Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to



Mongolia in 2014 where he called on neighboring countries to make use of China's development progress (Sun Yunfei 2015). This statement shows China's self-confidence on the road of development and expresses China adapts to the trend of economic globalization and expands its openness.

China's development also reflects its different roles in different historical stages (Dai Fuji 2013). In recent years, China's development and achievements have delivered the condition and foundation that enables China to share dividends with developing countries, including neighboring countries (Dai Fuji 2013). China is a large developing country, and its efforts to strengthen economic and trade cooperation with these developing countries are not to force them to attach to China. On the contrary, it endeavors to boost a new kind of inter-state relation with other developing countries that promotes industrial complementarity and standard progress of technology and helps break down trade barriers. It serves as an important part of China's advocate for a new international political and economic order that is fair and rational. This is different from the existing inter-state relations proposed by developed countries in the West, which emphasizes grabbing high monopoly profits, restricting technology exchanges, and ramping up trade barriers (Li Xiao 2015).

## V. China's Perspective and Its Efforts to the Construction of a Community with a Shared Future

China has long attached great importance to the issue of imbalance in world development. It has also recognized that developing countries are unfairly treated amid unequal international rules and systems (Quan Heng 2017). Nowadays, China takes the lead to become the backbone of developing countries to break the existing unfair international system and international rules. It should be pointed out that China remains the largest developing country and, like most developing countries, faces the same development issues. China and other developing countries have no divergence or contradiction on issues such as continuously improving people's lives, ensuring energy security, coping with climate change, as well as promoting reform of the UN Security Council. They share a common interest base and development goals (Luo Jianbo 2009). Moreover, other developing countries are also important forces that China must rely on to promote the building of a new international political and economic order that advocates justice and rationality (Luo Jianbo 2009). In 2013, President Xi Jinping first proposed the construction of the Human Destiny Community as the guiding principle of governing the country. This concept has three different meanings (Xi Jinping 2017) :

- First, from the perspective of international power, the distribution of power between countries does not have to be achieved through extreme means such as war as

in the past. The economic interdependence between countries contributes to the easing of the international situation. Countries can maintain and standardize interdependent relationships through international systems and mechanisms to safeguard common interests:

- Second, from the perspective of common interests, citizens of all countries are also citizens of the world, and the interests of the whole world are their interests. A country adopts measures that are conducive to global interests, and at the same time serves its interests;
- Third, from the perspective of global governance, globalization leads to the diversification of international actors. The vital way to solve global problems should be to strengthen the construction of international norms and mechanisms in order to form a binding "global mechanism" that can solve global problems (Xi Jinping 2017) .

All in all, the community of human destiny aims to balance the legitimate concerns of other countries in pursuing national interests and promote the common development of all countries in the pursuit of national development ( Qin Xuan 2017).

Later, during President Xi Jinping visits to Asia, Africa and Latin America, on many occasions, he reinforced that idea ( Xi Jinping 2018). When the President was delivering a speech at the Moscow Institute of International Relations, he said, "Humans live in the same global village, living in the same time and space where history and reality meet, creating an increasingly interwoven community with a shared future" ( Xi

Jinping 2018). Since then, he has stressed on many occasions at home and abroad that China and other developing countries represent a whole community with a shared future. As 2016 New Year's message, President Xi Jinping said, "People of all countries should work together to build a community with a shared future for mankind" ( Ruan Zongze 2016).

These statements made by China's top leader on several occasions both at home and abroad clearly show that China and other countries are not players of zero-sum game and China will never seek development at the expense of other countries' interests. It is also evident that the ultimate goal of building a community with a shared future is to establish a fair and reasonable new international political and economic order. These statements have received warm responses and active support from other developing countries. After President Xi Jinping put forward the concept of a Community with a Shared Future, China, Arab states, Latin American countries, African countries, and ASEAN countries have formed a community with a shared future, and proposed "moving towards a community with a shared future in Asia", "building a community with a shared future in neighboring countries" and "working together to build a community with a shared future for mankind" ( Ruan Zongze 2016). It is clear that China advocates the establishment of a community with a common future not to promote the dependence of developing countries, nor to seek the interests of other developing countries to seek their own interests. Instead, it offers a new Chinese perspective to the world. The concept of "Human Destiny Community" describes the state of interdependence between

countries, and whether a country's economic goals can be significantly related to economic fluctuations in other countries. Countries have formed a kind of interest bond in interdependence, and this bond must be maintained in order to realize their interests.

## VI. Epilogue

The Dependency Theory is a new theory which is different from western development economics as well as the traditional Marxist political economy. It was founded mainly by scholars from developing countries, which reveals the dependence of the developing countries on the western developed countries and provides a new thought for the development of the developing countries. In the analysis of the reasons for the backwardness of the underdeveloped countries, the Dependency Theory puts forward the huge defects of the global capitalist system market and the severe inequalities in the international system. It has formed academic and practical challenges to the western modernization theory. It points out that non-Western countries must take a different path of development from the West according to their own actual situation. Therefore, this theory provides a new perspective for developing countries to change their disadvantages in the world. It is worth noting that the Dependency Theory is overused to explain the root causes of poverty and backwardness in developing countries.

On the one hand, it has become an excuse for some scholars from developing countries to explain their poverty and backwardness, and even an ideological obstacle to the

development in some developing countries (Emeh Ikechukwu Eke Jeffry 2013). On the other hand, the Dependency Theory was developed by scholars of some western developed countries after they had secretly changed the concepts of "dependency" (Huazhong Tu 2018), which became a theoretical tool for western developed countries to smear China's normal foreign economic and trading activities and even provoke conflicts between China and other developing countries.

From the perspective of its development sequence, derives from the Dependency Theory. However, Some Western scholars have created a confrontation between China and other developing countries by promoting the China Dependency Theory and even aroused the hatred of some developing countries for China. Under the continuous influence of these western scholars, some scholars from developing countries have been deceived, so that they have accepted this theory. Although this theory is not the mainstream voice of the international community, it is committed to separating other developing countries from China, which has affected the development of their diplomatic cooperation. There is still a long way to go for these countries before they can finally mitigate the negative impact of these wrong views.

Since China adopted the policy of reform and opening up in 1978, China has made considerable economic and social progress, thus setting a positive example for developing countries to get rid of their dependency on western developed countries. In the process of realizing modernization, China "has taken its own path" to maintain its independence and adhere to the policy of reform and opening, providing a learning experience for developing countries to achieve development. However, China still remains

a developing country and an important and inseparable part of the developing world. Some scholars from western developed countries have distorted the interdependence relationship between China and other developing countries into a unidirectional dependency on China. The intention behind it is, shifting the struggling focus of developing countries and even propagating the China Threat Theory. As for the unwarranted smearing implied by the China Dependency Theory, President Xi Jinping stressed, “The destiny of the world must be jointly handled by people of all countries and the world's affairs can only be managed by governments and people of all countries” (Xi Jinping 2018). “China will never pursue development at the expense of other countries' interests” (Xi Jinping 2018). The theory of a Community with a Shared Destiny advocated by China is the best response to the China Dependency Theory. It is also an essential part of China's efforts to build a new international political and economic order that China endeavors to break down the dependent relationship and advocate the new interdependent relationship among countries.

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<Abstract>

## The Dependency Theory : Influx on China

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Dependency Theory explains the underlying causes of persistent poverty and backwardness of developing countries in the unequal international system. This theory has become an essential theoretical weapon to guide developing countries to fight against the hegemony of western developed countries in the process of making international rules. China Dependency Theory, derived from the Dependency Theory, is formulated by some western scholars in recent years, which misconstrues the mutually dependent relationship between China and other developing countries into a unidirectional dependency on China. The China Dependency Theory prevails in many developing countries, which is not only one of the unstable variables to the construction of the Road and Belt Initiative but also undermines China's relations with other developing countries. Forty years after the implementation of reform and opening-up policy, China has made remarkable economic achievements. In terms of the development path and achievements, China is a successful paragon of breaking the dependent relationship on the West, which set a good example for other developing countries for reference. This paper differentiates and analyzes the cause, process and influence of Chinese Dependency Theory, and discusses with some scholars from developing countries who give support to it. Finally, it puts forward China's perspective on this theory.

**Keywords** : The Dependency Theory; Developing Country, China, Community with a shared future, Causes and Influence