

COMMENTHK

Five Principles remain relevant in today's world

Edward Wong and Ivan Chu say following such values continues to serve as a remedy to maintain world peace

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the publication of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, which were first proposed by then-Premier Zhou Enlai during negotiations between China and India over border issues in 1953. These principles, namely mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, nonaggression, noninterference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence, have not become outdated, and continue to serve as an effective remedy to avoid international conflicts and maintain world peace.

In recent years, many international conflicts have arisen due to the violation of these Five Principles. The conflicts between Russia and Ukraine, and Israel and Palestine, for example, have yet to show signs of reaching any resolution. This is largely because the Western bloc, led by the United States, adheres to the principles of "might makes right", "survival of the fittest", and the law of the jungle. The US and its close allies have historically fueled regional disputes to promote their own interests and political influence, attempting to preserve their global hegemony.

China was among the victims of Western imperialist hegemony in the past. During the latter stages of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), many regions in China became concessions or spheres of influence for Western powers. Today, China has risen to become a major power, but instead of adopting the same approach and establishing a new hegemony to subjugate other countries, it rejects such a hegemony and strives to promote peace and common development in the international community through the Five Principles, joining hands with other countries to establish "a human community with a shared future".

The Five Principles embody the moral values of China's traditional Confucian culture, which cherishes the idea of the world as one family and the principle of treating others as oneself. Therefore, each of these principles is not merely based on national interests but takes into consideration the interests of other relevant parties, as well as regional stability and the overall interests of the international community, aligning with universal human values. According to the United Nations Charter, its purposes and principles are to maintain international peace and security, respect the equal rights of peoples, respect the sovereign equality of states, peacefully set



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tle international disputes, and promote international cooperation, which are consistent with the concept of the Five Principles. Therefore, these principles are in line with the UN's ideals and have gained broad support from countries around the world.

Since the end of World War II, despite ongoing international disputes, a new world war has been averted largely due to China's role as one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, working in collaboration with like-minded countries to support the stability of the international order through the Five Principles. However, to achieve lasting peace for the world, the concerted efforts of other major powers are still needed. In recent years, the US' attitude toward the Korean Peninsula question, as well as its actions in regional conflicts such as those between Russia and Ukraine and Israel and Palestine, sought to advance its geopolitical strategy at the expense of regional stability and peace. Once tensions escalate and shots are fired, it may intensify the situation and lead to confrontation, turning the Korean Peninsula into another major conflict zone after the ones between Russia and Ukraine, and Israel and Palestine. In a recent meeting on the Korean Peninsula's nuclear issue at the UN Security Council, the US attempted to shift the blame for the situation on the Korean Peninsula to China. As China's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Geng Shuang pointed out, China has made unremitting efforts to ease the situation on the Korean Peninsula and promote a political resolution, and the US should deeply reflect on its responsibility for the ongoing tensions in the region.

Driven by a hegemonic mindset, some Western countries have resorted to imposing economic pressure and sanctions against other countries including China, often disguised with noble terms such as risk reduction and overcapacity, to maintain or promote their competitive edge. However, within these countries, there are also many voices of opposition from the business community

and civil society. Therefore, China does not adopt an "us against them" approach but instead seeks to win people over through virtue, hoping to cooperate with more like-minded countries in the Western world. The strong development and growth of American electric vehicle manufacturer Tesla in China is a good example of mutually beneficial economic cooperation between China and the US. Even during the 2019 riots in Hong Kong, when foreign forces interfered in the city's affairs, which are China's internal affairs, Beijing responded with maximum tolerance and patience, demonstrating its commitment to the peace principle and minimizing the impact of the event.

China's diplomatic philosophy, which embodies the Five Principles, originates from the wisdom of Chinese civilization and is supported by years of practical experience, making it timeless and ever-renewing. However, as the saying goes, "With great power comes great responsibility." Since China became a major developing country, it must not only possess the humility of a modest gentleman but also be prepared to uphold international order and interests. Therefore, China continues to actively promote the Five Principles in its diplomatic engagements with other countries. It emphasizes the importance of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, nonaggression, noninterference in internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence. These principles serve as a foundation for fostering international cooperation and achieving win-win outcomes.

President Xi Jinping announced at the 70th anniversary commemoration of the Five Principles the establishment of a Global South Research Center. Over the next five years, the center will provide scholarships and training opportunities for countries in the Global South, as well as support agricultural development through funding. These initiatives aim to promote cooperation under free trade arrangements, based on the foundation of the Five Principles, specifically the principles of "equality and mutual benefit" and "peaceful coexistence". As President Xi stated, "At this historic moment when mankind has to choose between peace and war, prosperity and recession, unity and confrontation, we must champion more than ever the essence of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, and we must always strive tirelessly for the lofty goal of building a community with a shared future for mankind."

The views do not necessarily reflect those of China Daily.

Now is the time to show the world HK's resilience

Hong Kong has been, and still is, under siege from many sides. But with the National Security Law for Hong Kong in place, and, having gone through so much in the past decade, Hong Kong has learned much and is now ready to bounce back.

Yet Hong Kong is still facing a lot of challenges, not the least of which is because the West is unwilling to accept China's peaceful rise and continues to make every effort to suppress China's advance. Hong Kong, as China's most international city, bears the brunt of this antagonism, as is evident from the list laid out by the Foreign Ministry about the interference of America in Hong Kong affairs during and after the Extradition Amendment Bill incidents in 2019.

The United States' Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992, which had given Hong Kong status as a nonsovereign entity distinct from China for the purposes of US domestic law, "expresses the sense of the Congress that the United States should play an active role in maintaining Hong Kong's confidence and prosperity, its role as an international financial center, and the mutually beneficial ties between the United States and Hong Kong". But this was all changed in 2020. In July that year, an executive order eliminated the US' special treatment for Hong Kong, and the Trump administration enacted the Hong Kong Autonomy Act on the baseless charge that Hong Kong and Beijing had violated the Sino-British Joint Declaration and the Basic Law. The subsequent sanctions on officials and various companies, many of which are listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, as well as a travel warning describing how Hong Kong could allegedly subject visitors to arbitrary enforcement of local laws, have done a lot of damage to Hong Kong's global financial-center status. In the face of these challenges, Hong Kong people need to stick together and demonstrate our resilience.

Resilience is called "fortitude" in my "happiness formula" that comprises love, insight, fortitude, and engagement (LIFE), the voluntary buildup of mental capital that is essential for a rewarding and happy life. In a project commissioned by the Hong Kong Productivity Council on Happiness at Work in 2011, I extended the concept to corporate love, corporate insight, corporate fortitude, and corporate engagement. Jennifer Moss in a Harvard Business Review article last year, as well as a Gallup Poll report issued this year, confirmed my findings that a strong corporate culture enhances productivity and performance. Gallup estimated that a lack of employee engagement costs the world \$8.9 trillion in lost productivity, amounting to 9 percent of global GDP. Employee engagement is highly dependent on corporate culture that is related to corporate love, corporate insight, and corporate fortitude. It is logical to extend corporate fortitude further to city fortitude.

As we celebrate the 27th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, I am happy to share my confidence that Hong Kong



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will certainly rebuild its resilience. Huawei set a great example for us. Huawei was besieged on many fronts, and many people were wondering if it could survive. It had lost much of its market, as most countries of the West, led by the US, agreed to clear their IT infrastructure of all supplies from Huawei, particularly 5G equipment. Huawei smartphones used to use the Android operating system, and users in the international market need Google Play. New Huawei smartphones were denied access to Google Play. Huawei was also denied both advanced semiconductor supplies and advanced chipmaking equipment. Even the chief financial officer, Meng Wanzhou, was arrested. The company in its darkest hours announced that Huawei was in survival mode.

But Huawei bounced back! A recent CNN business story pronounced: "Huawei isn't just back from the dead. It's a force to be reckoned with". The story in particular noted: "The Chinese giant, which has been a flashpoint in the escalating rivalry between Washington and Beijing, says more than 900 million smartphones now use its in-house operating system, Harmony OS".

Huawei's resilience is solidly grounded in corporate love and corporate insight. Corporate love is caring for the well-being of its workers, its customers, and a strong sense of corporate social responsibility. Corporate insight is based on seeing the big picture, which allows strategic thinking and preparedness for the worst. It is the basis for a corporate culture that inspires employee participation. The title of a Harvard Business Review article in 2015 was, Huawei's Culture Is the Key to Its Success. The authors were particularly impressed by Huawei's long-term thinking, which is quite different from that of many multinational companies that often focus their attention on profits in the short term.

The resilience of a company, as well as of a city, must start with a strong motivation to serve (love or care for the needs of customers or citizens), must take the long view, have good sense about costs versus benefits and sustainability, and have the ability to see beyond the immediate problems. Resilience for a company and that of a city needs a strong team spirit, which is enabled by a shared vision. When the leadership is strong and seen to be wise, a company has engaged workers, and a city's residents will contribute what they can to support the work of the government. Like Huawei, Hong Kong is ready to take on any challenge without fail.

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Chang'e missions have changed the face of lunar exploration

They did it! On June 25, the sample-return capsule of Chang'e 6 skipped off the Earth's atmosphere on first approach, as a special braking maneuver was done to lose excessive reentry speed, and then landed safely under parachute in the Inner Mongolia autonomous region at 2:07 pm Beijing time. Thus, the 53-day effectively flawless mission finally came to its amazingly successful denouement. Make no mistake, this was an unprecedented human achievement. It marked the first time in history that material from the moon's far side has been transported to Earth. It promises a veritable cornucopia of scientific and geological delights. There will be all sorts of implications for our understanding of how the moon and, indeed, the Earth formed and even how the building blocks of life may have been seeded through the heavy bombardment of the Earth-moon system by comets and asteroids. These brought, we think, large amounts of water to our world.

Why is this particular lunar mission so important? Because if you look at a map of the moon, the near and far sides appear very different, almost as if they do not belong together. The near side has large, apparently smooth regions called mare — the result of volcanism



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and large lava lakes forming in the more recent past. This is why they are much less heavily cratered. Hence, the Apollo missions, and more recently, the Chang'e 5 mission, returned younger moon rock

samples. The far side, by contrast, has virtually no such features but has a very heavily cratered terrain that is older and not disturbed by volcanic activity. A firm explanation for this has so far eluded scientists. They are hoping the assumed more ancient moon rock from Chang'e 6 may help provide some answers. The sampled material was taken from the far side region of the lunar South Pole in the so-called South Pole-Aitken basin. Here a massive impact billions of years ago left a large depression in the lunar surface up to 13 kilometers deep compared to the exterior surrounding area. Geologists hope that some ancient lunar material from deep within the lunar mantle may have been regurgitated to the surface by the massive impact and so, with luck, may form part of the sample returned to Earth.

The astonishing Chang'e 5 and 6 sample-return missions that China has accomplished may take some by surprise, but if so, they have not been paying attention! This is already the fourth successful soft landing on the moon for China's lunar Chang'e series and only the second time any spacecraft has landed on the lunar far side — both were Chinese. The lunar far side is the face that is never seen on Earth due to the exciting lock-step orbital and rotational periods for the moon where it turns on its axis over one

month at precisely the same time as the moon takes to orbit the Earth — some great animations on the web demonstrate how it works.

The mission was as complex and technically challenging as it is scientifically significant.

Just landing on the moon is a major feat. This is as recent partial failures of Japanese and US private-led lunar missions have recently shown. To do it twice on the challenging far side is another level altogether. This is because there is no direct line of sight for communication with the Earth, necessitating the dispatch of special "Magpie bridge" Queqiao relay satellites.

The whole process bodes well for the Chang'e 7 and Chang'e 8 missions scheduled for 2026 and 2028. I cannot help but remark that the University of Hong Kong's Lab for Space Research (HKU-LSR) signed a memorandum of understanding on June 14, to be an equal partner in a small wide-field telescope on the upcoming Chang'e 7 lunar lander. The International Lunar Observatory Association (ILOA) based in Hawaii leads the mission. This is a rare but welcome example of the collaboration between the American and Chinese lunar missions. The ILOA and HKU-LSR parties signed in Beijing, all while the Chang'e 6 spacecraft was patiently waiting in lunar

orbit for the perfect trajectory to start its three-day journey home. With this small telescopic camera on Chang'e 7, we hope to produce an iconic, color image of the majestic Galactic plane rising above the surface of the Shackleton crater to inspire the next generation of students in a similar way to the famous Earthrise photo over the moon taken during the Apollo program. We can hope.

Interestingly, on arrival, as I left the Beijing airport train en route from terminal 3 to the baggage hall, I passed a long series of display posters in both English and Chinese advertising Earth Environment Day. Two of the posters caught my eye as they juxtaposed images of the American Space Shuttle on one and an Apollo astronaut on the moon on the other. To my mind, that China would even do this shows a level of respect, acceptance, and, yes, admiration for the past achievements of the US space program, which China is now doing so well to emulate. The other sentiment I felt was one of hope. Hope that with scientific cooperation in the exploration of our solar system and beyond, we can collectively walk a saner and more productive path for all humankind.

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