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An Alternative for the International Order: The Chinese Perspective

Book Review: Lin Jingzhi, Pu Pin, Wybór Chin. *Pokojowy rozwój i budowa harmonijnego świata*. Toruń: Wydawnictwo Adam Marszałek 2013 (pp. 186). ISBN 978–83–7780–620–3. Price: PLN 33.81.

The book entitled “The Choice of China. Peaceful Development and Construction of a Harmonious World” consists of 5 chapters. The publication presents some historical aspects of the Chinese peaceful development resulting from reform and opening up policy.

The first chapter makes some references to the historical decisions made by the state authorities. Actually, China pays more attention to the building of the innovative society. The economic growth cannot realize with the destruction of the environment. Nowadays, China focuses on the reduction of the harmful impacts on the natural environment. This chapter presents also some reflections on the Confucius Institutes functioning all over the world. These institutions are responsible for the promotion of the Chinese language and culture world-wide. The Authors mentioned as well some contemporary Chinese problems, such as corruption and weak legal system. However, those determinants will not interrupt in the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

The second chapter seeks to provide the comprehensive and complex definition of the international order. There are presented some stages of the Chinese engagement in the international order building which took place within the framework of the United Nations. Due to existence of the armed conflicts in Africa, China provides

a new concept, based on 'Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence', a harmonious world as an alternative to the international order.

The subsequent chapter touches upon the considerations about the economic globalization. The Authors underlined that China followed, after the introduction of the opening up policy in 1978, the path of quick economic growth with no respect for the natural environment. Nowadays, the situation changed. China signed more than 50 international covenants on the environmental protection and decided to diversify its energy sources. The Middle Kingdom marks an important step in the regional cooperation concerning environmental issues. The former prime minister of the People's Republic of China – Wen Jiabao indicated that China should pay equal attention to the economic growth and the environment protection.

The fourth chapter deals with some strategic dialogues conducted by the Middle Kingdom with Japan, USA and Russia. China tries as well to manage the boarder and territorial disputes with the neighbours in a peaceful way. The People's Republic of China helps countries involved in the armed conflicts. The international image of the Middle Kingdom is created by the Confucius Institutes and White Papers prepared and published by the state authorities.

The last chapter consists an attempt to indicate factors indispensable to the peaceful and harmonious development. The Authors made some reference to the 'one country, two systems principle' functioning in China and the need of Taiwan's reunification. It is worth mentioning that the national security and the balance of powers in the international arena should be maintained. According to the Chinese policy, the country should develop and establish ties with the other states regardless of its social system and ideology. That is the key point to the creation of a harmonious world.

The book comprises some images presenting the UN establishment, environmental pollution in China and economic dialogue with the USA. There are also 2 tables illustrating the foreign trade indicator and China's participation in peacekeeping operations conducted by the UN. The major drawback of the book under review is the lack of reference list and footnotes in the text. Despite the above mentioned shortcoming, in my opinion, the reviewed publication takes into consideration very important issues concerning Chinese foreign policy. This book is a successful attempt of the China's conception of a harmonious world and constitutes the alternative for the actual international order rules. This monography should be recommended not only to the researchers on Chinese diplomacy, but also to the readers interested in the Chinese conception of the international cooperation and world order.

References:

Lin Jingzhi & Pu Pin. (2013). *Wybór Chin. Pokojowy rozwój i budowa harmonijnego świata*. Toruń: Wydawnictwo Adam Marszałek.

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