

Does the trust between countries have to be scarce in the age of epidemics?

By Professor Zhang Yuan

Trust between nations is an important issue that prevails in international politics. At present, the Covid-19 global pandemic is still threatening the safety of human life. Since the Covid-19 strike, one of the consequences of a series of measures originally intended to block the spread of the virus, such repeated lockdown on metropolitan cities? close the country for several weeks or even months, is that the process of globalization is being fully impeded. As the vaccine development process evolves, vaccine nationalism is again becoming a serious challenge plaguing the fight against the epidemic in underdeveloped countries. In the age of epidemics, or in the future post-epidemic era, is trust between countries scarce?

Between March 24 and 30, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi paid official visits to Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain, and a working visit to Oman. Foreign Minister Wang Yi's trip to six West Asian countries unleashed to the world China's determination to enhance mutual trust with countries in West Asia, maintain common security in the region, and jointly promote stability.

Building mutual trust

One way to build trust between countries is through ally dependence, just as collective security and security communities are built on the basis of members' identification with the community. Secondly, the key prerequisite for trust between countries is to respect the equal status of international actors among countries, and is that the process of building mutual understanding and trust between states does not come at the cost of targeting third parties and undermining their interests. The third is to face up to the rise and fall in power among countries within the international system. The formation of deep and long-term trust between countries requires civilized dialogue and exchanges, that is an ideal international community that values both deepening intimacy and increasing interests.

Solidifying the foundations of trust

Building trust between countries is urgent to end the damage of the epidemic and to boost the global economy. Miscalculation among countries is due to the lack of a foundation of trust. The danger



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of miscalculation between countries can be both the security dilemma in international relations and the stagnation of development. The zero-sum game, the collection of a few countries into small groups, and the disregard and defiance of the international system with the United Nations at its core are all extremely short-sighted.

Close alliance relationships rely on the identification of common threats. In the current international system, some of the U.S. allies do not fully recognize the competitors marked out by the U.S. government as threats to them as well. This relationship differs from the Cold War bipolar pattern. On the other hand, strong alliance relationships also depend on the willingness and ability of core countries to provide timely and generous assistance to their allies when treats come to them. However, in recent years, in terms of both its national strength and its foreign engagement practices, the U.S. has struggled to fulfill its allies' expectations. The absolute trust that allies used to have in the United States is being eroded by the United States' own performance.

Time to enable trust building

In the face of common imminent and potential threats of Covid-19, West Asian countries have not only cooperated with China in fighting against the epidemic, but also in the process, they have exchanged experiences in governance.

The formation of trust between countries may be driven by external objective conditions. For example, in the face of an urgent public security crisis, the lack of trust between countries, without effective communication and joint action, will not achieve the goal of curbing the flow of viruses across borders. The formation of trust between countries is more the result of subjective willingness to deepen political, economic and cultural exchanges in multiple fields in an open and inclusive manner. In the long run, solid interstate trust relies more on long-term, continuous and peaceful civil contacts forming trust networks and public trust.

What do countries trust in?

In the era of the epidemic, according to the degree of urgency, the content of trust between countries is first of all belief in the determination to work together to fight the epidemic. Countries living in the international community

trust that working together to stabilize and rehabilitate the world economy is indispensable.

The second is trust in the future of expanding development cooperation and in the possibility of win-win cooperation between countries without harming each other's interests. What is more important is the trust that security and stability are common pursuits. A war of words cannot solve the problem of economic recovery, nor can it effectively solve complex global problems. The implementation of the "Belt and Road" initiative provides a platform for countries around the world to build trusting relationships.

The third is to attach importance to the important role of key regions. China attaches importance to friendly relationships with West Asian countries, and has attached importance to mutual benefits in cooperation with West Asian countries. China regards the region countries as partners in cooperation, development, and peace. China has signed the "One Belt, One Road" document with 19 West Asian countries. High-level cooperation and communication platforms, such as China-Arab States Cooperation Forum, China-Arab Summit and Middle East (West Asia) Security Forum demonstrate that China is building institutionalized trust with West Asian countries.

The fourth is to trust that at the level of a more macro development pattern it can promote strategic co-construction and development goals. China and the leaders of West Asian countries have reached a consensus that it can achieve docking in major development strategies between China and West Asian countries.

China is a trustworthy, sincere and cooperative member of the international community. In a hostile international environment, where hegemonism and zero-sum games are still common, the friendly relations between China and West Asian countries provide an excellent example of trust among nations.

Although the establishment of solid mutual trust between all countries is almost a fairytale, the glorious humanity of mutual assistance between people during the epidemic and the moving belief that countries can overcome difficulties together shoulder to shoulder are reflections of human civilization. Interdependence with a sense of trust as the basis and guarantee is what makes international relations solid, peaceful and benevolent.

Intl. activists warn against left-wing Zionism promotion, attacks on Palestinian resistance front

A group of dozens of international human rights activists has warned against the promotion of the left-wing Zionism, which seeks to colonize popular solidarity with the Palestinian people through presenting them as a helpless nation and attacking the resistance front against the Tel Aviv regime.

The campaigners, in an open letter addressed to the Australia Palestine Advocacy Network (APAN), warned the non-governmental organization against the decision to opt former Australian journalist and television presenter Sophie McNeill as the keynote speaker during its upcoming

event, scheduled for May 23.

The activists highlighted that McNeill has encouraged the "Palestinians as victims" line at the same time as she has ferociously been attacking the anti-Israel resistance front.

They went on to describe her as a Western apologist, who attacks the resistance bloc in order to defend Washington's divide and rule strategy, U.S.-led military invasions, and attempts to either destroy or balkanize Lebanon, Iraq, Syria and Yemen.

Following the assassination of top Iranian anti-terror commander General Qassem Soleimani near Baghdad airport in a terror drone strike authorized by former U.S. president Donald Trump on January 3 last year, every Palestinian faction pointed to his enormous role and unwavering support to the Palestinian cause, the human rights activists said.

Palestinian activist Ahd Tamimi, similarly, underscored the prominent role of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, Secretary General of the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement, in this regard.

Leila Khaled, long-time activist and Central Committee member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), has also pointed to the regional character of the U.S.-led militancy imposed on Syria.

The activists said McNeill now works as a researcher for the so-called Human Rights Watch (HRW), whose executive director is a prominent liberal Zionist and he frantically tries to conceal the apartheid nature of the Israeli regime by a humane mask.

Human Rights Watch regularly makes moral equivalence between Israeli massacres and resistance mounted by Palestinian groups in the face of the Tel Aviv regime's acts of aggression, they argued.

They further noted that McNeill repeatedly made U.S.-HRW-crafted allegations about the use of barrel bomb and chemical warfare in Syria in order to incriminate the Damascus government as well as Syrian government troops, and prolong the Syrian conflict.

The activists said the former Australian television presenter also ran the publicity stunt about young Syrian boy Omran Daqneesh, whose blood- and dust-covered face spread across the internet following an alleged airstrike in the northern Syrian city of Aleppo in August 2016.

Her frenzied and scathing attacks on Syria also led American-Palestinian activist Ali Abunimah to ask her to explain her intentions which probably sought an Australian invasion on the conflict-plagued Arab country, they underlined.

The activists noted that McNeill was nominated for a Lowy Institute award back in 2017, stressing that the institute is known to be a staunch supporter of the Tel Aviv regime and said that Australia and Israel should be "partners in Asia."

They finally urged the APAN to reconsider its decision regarding the main speaker of its forthcoming event, otherwise they will certainly not take part in it.

Russian force on Ukraine border larger than any time since 2014, U.S. says

Russia has more troops on Ukraine's eastern border than at any time since 2014, when it annexed Crimea and backed separatist territory seizures, and the United States is concerned by growing "Russian aggressions," the White House said on Thursday.

According to Reuters, the United States is discussing its concerns with its NATO allies, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki told a briefing.

The Russian buildup has become the latest point of friction in icy relations between Moscow and U.S. President Joe Biden's administration, adding to disputes over arms control, human rights and other issues.

Biden last week expressed "unwavering support" for Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in his confrontation with Russia, which in 2014 annexed the Crimea peninsula and backed separatists who seized large parts of the eastern Donbas region.

Saudi coalition flees from Ma'rib as resistance advances

→ 1 Losing Ma'rib would be "the final bullet in the head of the internationally recognized government," said Abdulghani al-Iryani, a senior researcher at the Sanaa Center for Strategic Studies. "You're looking at a generation of instability and humanitarian crisis. You also will look at a free-for-all theater for regional meddling."

"Aggressors looking for escape from Yemen quagmire" Meanwhile, Yemeni Defense Minister in the National Salvation Government, Major General Muhammad Nasser al-Atifi, says Saudi Arabia and its allies involved in the ongoing war on country are searching for ways to get out of the Yemen quagmire.

"The coalition of aggression member states are going through miserable conditions, and are now looking for a way out of the Yemen quagmire," Atifi said in an exclusive interview with Yemen's al-Masirah television network on Friday.

"We have the information and coordinates that give us the opportunity to vigorously challenge the coalition of aggression, and to enrage Riyadh, Washington, London, Paris and Tel Aviv. They will find nothing other than a retaliatory attack as long as their aggression persists."

The high-ranking Yemeni military official pointed out that the Saudi-led military alliance does not want to concede defeat in its campaign against Yemen, noting that those who dragged the Riyadh regime and its allies into the aggression are now looking for their escape in a face-saving manner.

Saudi Arabia, backed by the U.S. and its other regional allies, launched the devastating war on Yemen in March 2015, with the goal of bringing the government of Yemen's former president back to power and crushing the popular Ansarullah movement.

The Yemeni armed forces and allied Popular Committees have, however, gone from strength to strength against the Saudi-led invaders, and left Riyadh and its allies bogged down in the country. The Saudi-led military aggression has left hundreds of thousands of Yemenis dead, and displaced millions of people.

It also destroyed Yemen's infrastructure and spread famine and infectious diseases across the country.

ISIL chief was a prison informer in Iraq for U.S.

In confidential interrogation reports, Iraqi detainee M060108-01 is depicted as a model prisoner, "cooperative" with his American captors and unusually chatty. At times, he seemed to go out of his way to be helpful, especially when offered a chance to inform on rivals within his organization, then known as the Islamic State of Iraq.

Over several days of questioning in 2008, the detainee provided precise directions on how to find the secret headquarters of the insurgent group's media wing, down to the color of the front door and the times of day when the office would be occupied. When asked about the group's No. 2 leader — a Moroccan-born Swede named Abu Qaswarah — he drew maps of the man's compound and gave up the name of Abu Qaswarah's personal courier.

Weeks after those revelations, U.S. soldiers killed Abu Qaswarah in a raid in the Iraqi city of Mosul. Meanwhile, the detainee, U.S. officials say, would go on to become famous under a different name: Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurashi — the current leader of the ISIL terrorist group.

U.S. officials opened a rare window into the terrorist chief's early days as a militant with the release this week of dozens of formerly classified interrogation reports from his months in an American detention camp in Iraq.

Resistance News

Israel to build 540 settler units in East al-Quds for first time since Biden inauguration

INTERNATIONAL TEHRAN — Israeli authorities have given the green light for the construction of hundreds of illegal settler units in the occupied East Jerusalem al-Quds in the first such measure since US President Joe Biden assumed office in late January.

The proposed 540 housing units are to be built in the Palestinian neighborhoods of Beit Safafa and Sharafat, and create territorial continuity between the two major settlements of Har Homa and Givat Hamatos south of East Jerusalem al-Quds, Israeli English-language newspaper Haaretz reported.

The so-called Local Committee for Planning and Construction in the Jerusalem Municipality said it had approved the construction in Har Homa, which will consist of 12- and 30-storey residential towers. The complex will reportedly include road and transport infrastructure and new public spaces.

The outline plan for the units is scheduled to be discussed by the committee on April 21. If approved, the neighborhood would officially go forward.

The Ramallah-based Palestinian Authority condemned the Israeli decision, with presidential spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeineh saying in a statement that the move is "condemned and rejected."

"It violates all United Nations resolutions that condemn settlements, especially Resolution 2334 which affirmed that all forms of settlements on Palestinian lands are illegal," Abu Rudeineh said.

President Biden had claimed his administration would restore the US policy of opposing settlement expansion in the occupied Palestinian territories.

First Announcement



جمهوری اسلامی ایران
Islamic Republic of Iran Railways

Qualitative Evaluation Notice for Selection of Consultant
International Tender No.22-97-3

Subject: First Notice of Invitation for Engineering, Designing & Supervision Services of Gramsar-IncheBorun Railway Electrification Project
(Tender no.22-97-3)

The Railways of Islamic Republic of Iran (RAI) intend to hold a qualitative evaluation for selection of a qualified consultant among eligible bidders in accordance with Article 29- Clause E of Executive Regulations Statute of Tender Holding Law as per hereunder described items:

- 1- General Scope of Tender Subject:** Selection of Consultant for carrying out engineering, designing & supervision services of Gramsar-IncheBorun Railway Electrification Project.
- 2- Project Execution Place:** Railways of Islamic Republic of Iran (RAI)
- 3- Deadline for Purchasing Tender Qualitative Evaluation Documents:** Utmost by 14:30 local time on Saturday 24.04.2021 corresponding to 04.02.1400.
- 4- Deadline and place of submission of completed Qualitative Evaluation Documents:** Bidders can complete and submit the completed documents to RAI Procurement and Logistics General Department (Foreign Orders Department) utmost by 14:30 local time on Tuesday 25.05.2021 corresponding to 04.03.1400.
- 5- Manner of receiving the documents:** Bidders can receive tender documents from the above address after paying RLS 500000 to IBAN no. IR710100004001064004005747 by mentioning the remittance code of no. 234064074280500885134499810000 opened in favor of Iranian Railways by Central Bank of Iran (payable in all branches of Bank Melli Iran). Bidders should hold a letter of introduction in order to receive a version of qualitative evaluation documents personally. Bidders can also receive the said documents free of charge through National Tender Information Database at the address: [HTTP://IETS.MPORG.IR](http://IETS.MPORG.IR).
- 6- The participants in the bid consultation notice (Iranian partnership) should have certificate of competency Grade: One, Group: Road & Transportation in Railways Proficiency Field (Consultancy) issued by Management and Planning Organization of Iran.**
- 7- All Bidders should introduce their foreign partner or partners.** After fulfillment of qualitative evaluation, the qualified companies who have been nominated in accordance with Clause 6-A of Article 12 of Executive Regulations Statute of Tender Holding Law (Article 29- Clause E), will be invited to receive tender documents in consulting services process.

Procurement and Logistics General Department
Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (RAI)

99