

EDITORIAL

Can Kissinger's Beijing Visit Repave the Diplomatic Bridge between the US and China?

Former US Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger was warmly welcomed as an “old friend (老朋友)” by Chinese leadership during his July visit to Beijing. Having visited China over 100 times since his first secret trip in July 1971 to mend diplomatic ties between the two nations, Kissinger’s recent private visit is nearly as significant as his initial presidential envoy role. This is particularly pertinent given the current strained state of Sino-US relations. Notably, unlike some recent US cabinet officials who encountered challenges in securing meetings with President Xi, Kissinger was unequivocally acknowledged as a “messenger of China.” The landscape of Sino-US relations has undergone profound changes over the past five decades, culminating in China’s emergence as a challenger to the US-led global order. Especially since 2017, successive US administrations have implemented political and economic sanctions against China, pushing the bilateral relationship to the breaking point. The attempted reconsideration of the “One-China” principle, foundational to Sino-US diplomacy, underscores the gravity of this standoff. In this context, Kissinger’s mission likely involves revitalizing the diplomatic bridge he helped construct. Crucially, Kissinger recognizes well that the core point of contention is whether Taiwan remains an integral part of China, a concept once unanimously acknowledged but now subject to nuanced interpretations. Kissinger might assume the role of conveying China’s position to American political and business leaders. While the US approach is cautious, as articulated by National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan’s reference to “managing the competition,” the visit hints at forthcoming incremental collaboration.

Volume 9, Number 2 of CHINA AND WTO REVIEW presents a scholarly discourse reflective of the ongoing dialogue. The <Articles> section covers the following five topics. The New Financial Service Clause: A Window for Financial Innovation or a Pandora’s Box for Financial Regulation in China? (Jiaxiang Hu); Youth Unemployment and Sustainable Development Pathways in China after the COVID-19 Pandemic (Siyuan Jin); The WTO’s National Security Exception and Its Implication to the China-EU Dispute: With Special References to Lithuania’s Taiwan Representative Office (Ke Li); The Legal Framework of Patent Valuation:

A Comparative View between the US, the PRC and Vietnam (Tran Van Nam et al); and How the RCEP Opens the Asia-Pacific Region? A Chilean Perspective (Paulina Nazal A. & Andrés Culagovski R). The <Current Developments> section delivers two topics: RCEP and Indo-Pacific Region: Implications for India's Act East Policy (Garima Sangwan); and Trade Relations among the BRICS Countries: An Indian Perspective (Badar Alam Iqbal et al). Professor Stuart Malawer contributes his critical essay: US-China Trade Relations: Tectonic Changes and Political Risk in the Global System – National Security, Industrial Policy, and Protectionism. The <WTO Forum> section introduces Academic Research and Development of China Studies at SOAS in London. We extend our deepest appreciations to the authors and contributions.

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General Editor