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Sergio Rodriguez Gelfenstein 19.03.2023



New winds blow from China

On March 7, during a press conference held on the sidelines of the first session of the XIV National People's Congress (NPC) in Beijing, the newly appointed Foreign Minister of China Qin Gang said that: "If the United States does not step on the brakes and continue to accelerate on the wrong path, there will be no barrier that can prevent the derailment and there will surely be conflict and confrontation." . He added that the policy of the American power in relation to China had completely deviated from the "rational and sensible path".

This language, far from the Chinese diplomatic tradition based on moderation and selfcontrol, is an expression of changes that manifest themselves not only in rhetoric and discourse, but especially in practice and proposal. At some point, Deng Xiaoping argued that Chinese diplomacy should be characterized by "hiding force and biding the moment." Clearly, this is a thing of the past. The months that have elapsed in this year 2023 have

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witnessed not only a transformation of rhetoric, but also an intense diplomatic activity on the part of China that seems to want to occupy its rightful place in the international system as a prominent actor and protagonist of the transformation process that clearly, is starting.



Qin Gang

Qin Gang, who turns 19 on March 57, is part of a new generation, he was 10 years old when Mao Zedong and Chou Enlai died and 12 when the Reform and Opening-up policy began in 1978. He is completely oblivious to that time. At 26 he entered the foreign service and was 46 when Xi Jinping was elected as General Secretary of the Communist Party of China for the first time in 2012. At that time, he held the position of Deputy Director-General of the Information Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In just 12 years he ascended to the highest responsibility of the chancellery of his country.

This new generation that is characterized by sustaining an intense activity in social networks does not miss any affront to its country responding harshly in each case, at the same time that it makes its proposals and projects known in all corners of the Earth. With a language that does not spare sarcasm, irony and mockery, the novel Chinese diplomacy has been dubbed "Wolf Warriors" by the transnational media of the West. The name accounts for members of China's Special Forces who successfully confront American mercenaries in a television series that paralyzed the country for two seasons in 2015 and 2017.

Regarding China's relations with Russia, a cardinal aspect of his country's foreign policy at the present time, Qin Gang said that with both "working together, the world will have the driving force for multipolarity and democracy in international relations and global strategic balance. will be better guaranteed", thus making a precise and strategic presentation of the links between the two countries. It cannot be overlooked that in this definition, in a single paragraph, the new Chinese foreign minister has externalized three categories that define the future field of action of Chinese diplomacy: multipolarity, democracy and global strategic balance.

For those who might have doubts about the new orientation of Chinese diplomacy, it was President Xi Jinping himself who the day before, March 6, in his speech during the first session of the XIV National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference was responsible for charting the course that the country will adopt for the coming years after diagnosing that: "The external conditions for China's development have changed drastically, with a significant increase in uncertain and unpredictable factors, especially since Western countries, led by the United States, have subjected our country to total containment, siege and repression, which poses serious and unprecedented challenges to our development."

Xi stated that in the face of the situation created, China should modernize its army and turn it into a "Great Steel Wall." In addition, he insisted that the country must achieve technological self-sufficiency. All this framed in a major government restructuring that will have a profound influence on the economy and society of the country. To this end, progress will also be made in an intense reform of the financial system.

In the same way, Xi announced that the structural transformation plan to face the new times includes the reform of various organs of the Communist Party and the government. This reform, which seeks to strengthen the party's leadership, will involve its local and central institutions, the National People's Congress, the State Council and cabinet, as well as the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the nation's top advisory body.



Qin Gang in Texas, when he was ambassador to the USA, before being appointed minister

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As an expression of this trend, within the framework of foreign policy, in February, China launched a "Global Security Initiative" aimed at eliminating the root causes of international conflicts, improving planetary security governance, stimulating joint international efforts to ensure greater stability and certainty, and promoting lasting peace and development around the world.

The proposal is based on six principles: maintaining commitment to the vision of a common, global, cooperative and sustainable security; respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries; respect the objectives and principles of the UN Charter; take seriously the legitimate security concerns of all countries; resolve disputes between nations peacefully through dialogue and ultimately preserve security in traditional and non-traditional arenas.

Not only changes in discourse and rhetoric have begun to occur in China this year. The appointment of the new Chancellor on December 30 and the launch of the proposed "Global Security Initiative" in February have been accompanied by a clear intention to begin to play a much more relevant role on the international stage.

In this area, in recent days, it has been announced that, with the mediation of China, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic of Iran have decided to establish diplomatic relations, thereby influencing a radical modification of the regional and even global political scenario, dealing a hard blow to the scheme of domination of the United States in that region that has as its axis the maintenance of the Zionist State as a launching pad for the imperial policy in the area for which Washington intended to create strong alliances of Zionism with some Arab and Muslim countries, all of which has received a severe blow from the silent and patient Chinese diplomacy.

This will significantly reduce the possibility of armed conflict between these regional rivals, whether in direct or indirect confrontations, which could lead to the creation of conditions conducive to a political settlement that stops and ends the protracted war in Yemen, as has begun to be conjectured in some West Asian capitals.



The desperate foul seeker. Drawing: Liu Rui/Global Times, China

In another area, but also as an expression of China's great diplomatic effort in favor of world peace, a few weeks ago a <u>12-point proposal</u> prepared by Beijing to end the conflict in Ukraine through negotiation and dialogue was released. Therefore, President Xi will make a visit to Moscow where he will meet with his Russian colleague Vladimir Putin after which, he will hold a telematic conversation with his Ukrainian counterpart Volodímir Zelenski.

In this way, while winds of storm and storm blow from Washington and Brussels, Beijing makes efforts to, without lowering its guard, at the same time that it rejects the imperial attacks, work to reduce tensions and make a real and significant contribution to peace and development of the planet.

Sergio Rodríguez Gelfenstein for La Pluma

Edited by María Piedad Ossaba

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