



## **In Their Own Words: Why China thinks**

# **“NATO is a 'Systemic Challenge' to Global Security and Stability”**

**Translations from Chinese source documents**

### **In Their Own Words**

The “In Their Own Words” series is dedicated to translations of Chinese documents in order to help non-Mandarin speaking audiences access and understand Chinese thinking. CASI would like to thank all of those involved in this effort.

In the “In Their Own Words” series, CASI and its collaborators aim to provide Chinese texts that illustrate thoughtful, clearly articulated, authoritative foreign perspectives on approaches to warfare at the strategic, operational, and tactical levels.

On 29 June 2022, NATO issued a “Strategic Concept” which directly stated that the PRC’s “stated ambitions and coercive policies challenge our interests, security and values”, thus directly identifying China as a threat to the freedom and democratic values that lie at the heart of NATO.

In response to NATO’s declaration, on 5 July 2022, the *People’s Daily*, the official publication of the People’s Republic of China (PRC), published this editorial titled “NATO is a 'Systemic Challenge' to Global Security and Stability.”

Because the *People’s Daily* is owned and operated by the government of the PRC under the direction of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), this article should be considered an authoritative official perspective of the CCP, and hence the PRC.

This is a prime example of Chinese Communist Party, and its Propaganda Department, using its control of PRC state-owned media to put forth its view of the world, and clearly shows its antipathy toward the values and national interests of NATO and its member nations.

The following article is included here, so you can read how the CCP and the PRC clearly state their desire to undermine NATO and its values.

## **NATO is a 'Systemic Challenge' to Global Security and Stability**

The outdated Cold War script must never be repeated in the Asia-Pacific, and the ongoing turmoil in Europe must never happen in the Asia-Pacific. NATO should immediately stop groundless accusations and provocative remarks against China, abandon the outdated Cold War mentality and the outdated concept of zero-sum game, and abandon the dangerous act of disrupting Europe and the Asia-Pacific.

The recently concluded NATO summit issued a so-called new "strategic concept" document, which distorted China's domestic and foreign policies, claiming that China poses challenges to NATO's interests, security and values, and that NATO will jointly address China's "systemic challenges". NATO fabricated and spread China-related lies and tried its best to exaggerate the "China challenge", which is the result of the organization's constant fermenting Cold War mentality and ideological prejudice. NATO's actions incite confrontation and confrontation and threaten global security. Countries in the region and the international community must be highly vigilant against this.

China adheres to an independent foreign policy of peace and has always been a positive force for world peace and development. China has never provoked a war on its own initiative, never invaded an inch of other countries' land, never interfered in other countries' internal affairs, never exported ideology, and never engaged in "long-arm jurisdiction", unilateral sanctions or economic coercion. China has always upheld the international system with the United Nations at its core, the international order based on international law, and the basic norms governing international relations based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. China adheres to the path of peaceful development, promotes the building of a community with a shared future for mankind, and promotes high-quality joint construction of the "Belt and Road". It proposes and implements global development initiatives and global security initiatives, and provides a large number of public goods for the international community to solve major issues such as peaceful development. The ever-growing China brings to the world a great opportunity for peaceful development, not a "systemic challenge" imagined by NATO. NATO disregards the facts, confuses black and white, and deliberately smears China, which cannot change the facts and the positive views of the international community on China.

NATO is a product of the Cold War and is increasingly becoming a tool for the United States to maintain its hegemony and instigate a "new Cold War". The so-called new "strategic

concept" document of NATO mentioned China for the first time, which is closely related to the strong coercion and inducement of the United States. The current US administration has inherited the wrong practice of the previous administration, continued to regard China as a "strategic competitor", and formed cliques everywhere to contain and suppress China. This NATO summit not only escalated and exaggerated the "China challenge", but also deliberately attracted some Asia-Pacific allies of the United States to participate in the meeting. Since NATO positions China as a "systemic challenge", China has to pay close attention to it and coordinate its response. China will resolutely and forcefully fight back against any act that violates China's legitimate interests. China is unwavering in its determination to safeguard its own sovereignty, security and development interests. It is a futile attempt by the United States to win over a few allies.

More than 30 years after the end of the Cold War, NATO has never gotten rid of the Cold War mentality, and has never stopped artificially creating "enemies", which has truly posed a "systemic challenge" to global security and stability. The full name of NATO is the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. It often advertises itself as a regional and defensive organization, but it constantly breaks through regions and fields, launching and involved in wars everywhere, killing innocent civilians, endangering world peace, and creating humanitarian disasters. NATO's continuous eastward expansion in pursuit of its own absolute security has resulted in the bitter fruit of the Ukraine crisis, which has had a serious impact on European and global peace and development. Every time NATO engages in external expansion and wars, it is under the bright banner of "consolidating democracy", "extending stability and advancing common values". Today, NATO has packaged its plan to disrupt the Asia-Pacific as maintaining "international order" and defending "values", which is purely a repeat of the old trick. Solana, former NATO secretary-general, admitted that "NATO's global reach will create a divided world".

The outdated Cold War script must never be repeated in the Asia-Pacific, and the ongoing turmoil in Europe must never happen in the Asia-Pacific. We warn NATO to immediately stop groundless accusations and provocative remarks against China, abandon the outdated Cold War mentality and the outdated concept of zero-sum game, and abandon the dangerous act of disrupting Europe and the Asia-Pacific. The general trend of the world, mighty and mighty. Any force that tries to go against the trend of history will surely fail.