THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK OF GEO-ECONOMIC COOPERATION

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Historically, the Silk Road, as a trade and transportation route across the Eurasian continent, bridged the civilization and economic exchanges between the East and the West and promoted friendly relations between Eurasian and African countries and China. Today, the ancient Silk Road has taken on the historical mission of a new era; during his visits to Central Asia and Southeast Asia in September and October 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping initiated the joint construction of the «Silk Road Economic Belt» and the «21st Century Maritime Silk Road». In other words, he is committed to building an all-round, multi-level and complex network of interconnection and building «The Belt and Road» together with innovative cooperation, so as to achieve diversified, autonomous, balanced and sustainable development of the countries along the Silk Road, and make the economic ties of the countries along the Silk Road closer, the areas of cooperation broader and the multilateral cooperation deeper for the ultimate benefit of The «The Belt and Road» embodies the concept of «The Belt and Road». The «The Belt and Road» embodies the interests and basic consensus of the countries along the Silk Road and has attracted wide attention from the international and Chinese communities. The «The Belt and Road», China and Central Asia, and geo-economic cooperation have been taken as research objects and key words based on the following considerations.

First, from a geo-economic perspective. Because the new concept advocated by «The Belt and Road» Initiative has been highly recognized by the countries along the route, fruitful results have been achieved in the fields of energy cooperation, production capacity cooperation and infrastructure cooperation among the countries along the route, and this cooperation-oriented geo-economic practice has also transcended the traditional geo-economic theory. First, it breaks through the traditional logic of geo-economic theory and gradually shifts from exclusion, control, conflict, center-marginal economic structure and other ways of hegemony in the economic field to cooperation, inclusion, openness and sharing. The traditional geo-economic theory advocates that countries should achieve the control of international market, the right to make international trade rules, the dominance of industry status, the right to speak in the distribution of value chain and other economic dominance through economic competition or cooperation, which is a kind of «war logic» in the economic field. Secondly, the main actors of geo-economy have increased from a single country in the region to a group of countries. In contrast, the subject of traditional geo-economy is usually a country, which takes a series of actions related to economic factors to pursue its own interests based on its own geographical location, resource endowment, economic structure, etc. Third, the role of non-state actors such as international organizations and transnational corporations in the geo-economy has become more prominent. Since they are highly compatible with «The Belt and Road» in terms of development philosophy, development needs and promotion of regional economic prosperity, many international organizations have signed The Belt and Road-related cooperation agreements and memorandums.

In general, economic and trade cooperation between China and Central Asian countries is characterized by, first, low value-added trade commodities. Although China and the five Central Asian countries are important trading partners, the main commodities traded are resource-intensive and labour-intensive products, with a low proportion of capital-intensive and

technology-intensive products. China's exports to the five Central Asian countries are daily-use consumer goods such as household goods, garments and footwear, as well as electromechanical, hardware and chemical products, etc., and as of 2017 China's exports to Central Asian countries were mainly concentrated in shoes and boots, leggings and similar items and parts thereof, non-knitted or non-crocheted garments, and machines and mechanical appliances and parts, with the three together accounting for 37.1% of China's exports to Central Asian countries, with the main export The main exporting countries are Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. And China's imports from Central Asian countries are energy and raw materials products such as oil, natural gas and chemical raw materials, which amounted to $8.36 billion, up 17 percent from 2016, accounting for 57.5 percent of China's imports from Central Asian countries. With the deepening of economic and trade relations between the two sides, the total import and export trade between China and Central Asian countries has been increasing, and China exports a wide range of goods to Central Asian countries with many kinds of commodities, but due to some developmental restrictions in Central Asian countries, the light industry and manufacturing sector is relatively weak, and China's exports are mostly household goods as well as electromechanical products, making the added value of trade commodities lower.

Secondly, trade complementarity is strong. Due to the restrictions of industrial structure, the five Central Asian countries export commodities to China mainly for energy, mineral resources and cotton. Among them, the main products exported by Kazakhstan to China are mineral products, with the export value of $9.63 billion in 2017, which is the first major category of Kazakhstan's exports to China; Kyrgyzstan's exports to China are mainly scrap metals, such as aluminum, steel, copper and other resource commodities and agricultural and sideline products such as raw hides, wool, cotton and their primary processed products, with the export value of $2.003 billion; and The main commodities exported from Tajikistan to China are mineral products, aluminum and its products, and other products of $1.32 billion; Uzbekistan's exports to China are mainly mineral fuels, mineral oil, fertilizers and other resource-based products, etc., with an export value of $3.559 billion; Turkmenistan's main exports to China are agricultural products, cotton, textiles and light industrial products, etc., with an export value of $1.37 billion. In recent years, with technological progress and tightening supervision, the quality and grade of Chinese products have been improving, and China's exports to Central Asian countries have gradually expanded from mainly clothing and footwear and daily necessities to high-tech products and machinery products.

The problems in economic and trade cooperation between China and Central Asian countries are mainly manifested as follows: first, excessive concentration on the resource sector. With the development of economic and trade relations between China and the five Central Asian countries, the importance of trade relations between the two sides has gradually increased, and the scale of bilateral trade has been expanding. In recent years, China's economic level has continued to improve, making it the world's largest trading country, the second largest economy and the second largest capital exporting and investing country, and its infrastructure has continued to improve and high-tech industries have continued to develop.