

# THE DAWN OF A ‘COMMUNITY OF COMMON DESTINY’: CONTEXTUALIZING CHINA’S VISION OF A GLOBAL FUTURE

**Igor Sevenard**

Doctoral Researcher, RTG 2833 East Asian Futures

igor.sevenard@uni-due.de

## BACKGROUND

China’s re-emergence challenges the existing Western-led rules-based order. By advocating for the “Community of Common Destiny” (COCD), China seeks to reshape international relations to become more amenable to China’s objectives.

Enhancing our understanding of the COCD is critical to understanding China’s vision of a global future.

The COCD is a concept directly linked to Xi Jinping and is an attempt to reassure other nations of the peaceful nature of China’s rise.

## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- 1) When and how did the concept of “Community of Common Destiny” take shape?
- 2) How does China envision the future, and what role does the COCD play?
- 3) Is the COCD merely a narrative, or does it have the potential to change the existing international order?
- 4) What role do Chinese academics have in conceptualizing the COCD and does it influence the emerging Chinese school of IR?

## STATE OF RESEARCH & LITERATURE REVIEW

The existing literature is partly dominated by think tank reports, such as those from the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI), which effectively instrumentalize the COCD as a threatening concept.

Attempts exist to connect the COCD to the Belt and Road Initiative or specific relations, such as China-Africa, China-ASEAN, and China-Arab Region.

### Gap in the Literature:

To date, no comprehensive, rigorous, and methodologically robust monograph on the COCD has been published, with the literature limited to two anthologies with differing focuses.

- 1) Linggui Wang, 2022
- 2) Barmé Geremie, Linda Jaivin, and Jeremy Goldkorn, 2014

### Unique Contribution to the Existing Literature:

My research addresses the shortcomings of fragmented studies and think tank reports by providing an in-depth and methodologically sound analysis of the COCD within the context of IR theory and linked to the Chinese School of IR.

## VOICES

“The concept of a community of common destiny transcends all sorts of differences in human society and targets greatest possible benefits for all.”

Qifang Tang, China Institute of International Studies (2017)

“They’re [China’s leaders] now focused on realising a powerful China on the international stage whose status as a great power will ultimately see it emerge as the pre-eminent power in the Indo-Pacific region. (...) China continues to advocate the construction of a ‘community of common destiny’ (whatever that means) while stressing that it will defend core territorial interests and that it isn’t afraid to respond militarily to provocations.”

Paul Dibb, Australian Strategic Policy Institute (2019)

“We can see the positive impact of the concept of building a community of common destiny for mankind, put forward by the Chinese president, in terms of strengthening the international community’s unity and pooling its efforts to respond to the common challenges of the present-day world.”

Ivan Nechayev, Russian Foreign Ministry Deputy Spokesman (2022)



Source: People’s Daily

## METHODS

Qualitative Research Design  
Focus: Creating Chinese Language Datasets



Discourse Analysis



Semi-structured expert interview



Conceptual History

## HYPOTHESES

The “Community of Common Destiny” aims to complement the existing, Western-dominated rules-based order, not to replace it in the short term.

The invention and development of meta concepts such as the “Community of Common Destiny” follows a strict top-down logic, with the party-state presenting loose and undefined concepts and Chinese academics conceptualizing them.



Source: China Foreign Trade Magazine

## Selected Bibliography

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