

## THE GREAT FRIENDSHIP IN THE SOVIET-CHINESE RELATIONSHIPS (1950-1958)

<sup>a</sup>YANA ROBERTOVNA GUBAEVA, <sup>b</sup>DMITRY  
EVGENYEVICH MARTYNOV, <sup>c</sup>YULIA  
ALEKSANDROVNA MARTYNOVA, <sup>d</sup>OLGA YURIEVNA  
SAIFUTDINOVA

<sup>a</sup>*Bachelor of Institute of International Relations, Kazan Federal University, Kremlyovskaya St, 18, Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan, 420008, Russia*

<sup>b</sup>*Doctor of Historical Sciences, professor, Institute of International Relations, Kazan Federal University; SCOPUS ID: 56358370600, ORCID ID: 0000-0001-5385-1915, Kremlyovskaya St, 18, Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan, 420008, Russia*

<sup>c</sup>*Candidate of historical sciences, Associate Professor, Institute of International Relations, Kazan Federal University; SCOPUS ID: 56358130700, ORCID ID: 0000-0002-4568-8254, Kremlyovskaya St, 18, Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan, 420008, Russia*

<sup>d</sup>*Lecturer, Institute of International Relations, Kazan Federal University; ORCID ID: 0000-0002-6711-4235, Kremlyovskaya St, 18, Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan, 420008, Russia  
Email: <sup>a</sup>dmitrymartynov80@mail.ru, <sup>b</sup>jmarabae@kpfu.ru, <sup>c</sup>OJNivina@kpfu.ru, <sup>d</sup>o.publication34@mail.ru*

Abstract: During the 20th century the interaction between Soviet Union and China affected the state of the entire world community as a whole. These two new states, having rejected the differences, "inherited" from the past, began their relationship with "eternal friendship". Eventually it changed, sometimes even turned into a conflict, and by the end of the century it was already transformed into Russian-Chinese friendship. It can be noted, that relations between the USSR and China at the first stage of the PRC's existence developed harmoniously. There were no significant conflicts, and there was active propaganda of the "friendship of peoples". The article is based on the general scientific principles of historicism and systematic character; the critical method was also used.

Key words: International relations, Chinese-Soviet Great Friendship, URSS, PRC, Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai.

### 1 Introduction

It is well-known, that in twentieth century, the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China played an important role in the history of the whole world. Such a huge country as the USSR, although had exhausted itself before the end of the century, but brought to the world stage a completely new model of the political system. In addition, during the 20th century the interaction between Soviet Union and China affected the state of the entire world community as a whole. Two new states, having rejected the differences "inherited" from the past, began their relationship with "eternal friendship". Over time, it changed, sometimes even turned into a conflict, and by the end of the century it was already transformed into Russian-Chinese friendship. Therefore, our topic has been and remains relevant for study. The cooperation of the Soviet Union and China was manifested far not only at the political level. Powerful economic support and assistance in restoring the economy of post-revolutionary China can be traced everywhere and played an important role in the development of Soviet-Chinese friendship.

### 2 Methods

The research is based on general scientific principles:

- historicism, which within the systematic approach allows to use the source study, chronological research methods;
- systematic, allowing to consider the phenomenon of a single historical and political space.

Also, the critical method was used in the work - theoretical analysis and synthesis of literature on the research problem; historical-typological, historical-comparative and historical-genetic methods.

### 3 Results

On October 1, 1949, the Chinese revolution won and the People's Republic of China was proclaimed. The next day already, the Soviet government announced the recognition of a new, popular China and sent the Soviet embassy to the country. The USSR and the new Chinese state decided to "forget" about the 400-year history of relations, throw aside the old contradictions and start "from scratch". So, the countries have opened up wide opportunities for cooperation. The Chinese government has positioned its foreign policy as peaceful and friendly, and announced its intention to establish good relations with all countries, emphasizing the alliance with the USSR.

February 14, 1950, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR A.Y. Wyszynski and Foreign Minister Zhou Enlai signed the "Treaty of Friendship, Union and Mutual Assistance." In addition, an agreement was signed on the transfer to China of rights to the Chinese Changchun Railway (KChZhD), naval bases in Lushun (Port Arthur) and Dalian (Far). At the same time, the parties exchanged notes that the treaty and the agreements concluded between the USSR and China on August 14, 1945, under which the Soviet side provided guarantees of support for the Kuomintang government, were lost, and KChZhD and some military bases in the region were declared common property of the two countries (Heinzig, 2015).

Despite the fact that the terms of the new agreements of 1950 were less favorable to the USSR in comparison with the terms of the 1945 treaty, the Soviet leadership intentionally made such concessions. "The strategic benefits of an alliance with China" outweighed the "tactical inconvenience of changing the Yalta agreements and the renunciation of privileges in Manchuria" (Zinoviev, 2010). First of all, the USSR was no longer so afraid of the strengthening of American influence on Chinese territory, as happened with Japan. On the contrary, the creation of China gave a certain prospect of creating a socialist camp in the region. This was, first of all, an ideological move aimed at weakening American positions in the Asia-Pacific region. The agreements were to lay a solid foundation for allied relations. The agreement "is imbued with the sincere desire of the Soviet and Chinese peoples to render each other mutual assistance, to contribute to the economic and cultural progress of both countries, to further strengthen and expand friendship between them" (Soviet-Chinese Relations 1917-1957, Collection of documents).

As Voskresensky AD notes, at that time "the ideological proximity of the two ruling parties made us forget about the geopolitical difficulties and pretend that the state interests of the two countries completely coincide." This position was determined by a large number of factors, including: military tension in the region, the Cold War, the potential threat of Chiang Kai-shek's attack and the possible support of his army from the United States, etc. Thus, it was ideological factors that began to determine the geopolitical approach (Voskresensky, 2004). Lukin A.V. He also believes that such a policy can only be explained by I.V. Stalin of the Chinese communist movement as a class close one, because if "a decrease in power, controlled territory and property of the Kuomintang regime made sense, because it reduced the forces of counter-revolution, then with respect to the communist regime in China it was necessary to pursue a reverse policy" (Lukin, 2007).

Already in 1953, the PRC advanced the general line of transition from capitalism to socialism. The next year, the NPC accepts it, and then it is enshrined in the Constitution of the PRC. Work on the Constitution itself was completed in 1954 and on September 20 it was adopted at the First session of the NPC.

The PRC Constitution said: "Our country has already established relations of indestructible friendship with the great Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and with all countries of people's democracy ..." (Heinzig, 2015). Thus, the friendly relations of

the USSR and the PRC were announced at the official level.

However, the adoption of the Constitution of the PRC is not the only significant event for the development of Soviet-Chinese relations in 1954. In addition, a government delegation sent an official visit from the USSR to China in the fall. The negotiations led to the signing of many documents relating, first of all, to the international situation of the two powers, their attitude to Japan, as well as a number of agreements on economic cooperation. "No one can separate us," said Zhou Enlai, commenting on the outcome of the negotiations (Heinzig, 2015).

In September 1956, the VIII Congress of the CCP was held. The decisions adopted at it regarding the country's foreign policy went in the same direction as the decisions of the 20th Congress of the CPSU, held at the beginning of that year. It was emphasized that "the international situation is developing towards mitigation and the possibility of establishing lasting peace throughout the world appears." The main foreign policy task was the need to strengthen and strengthen the Soviet-Chinese "indestructible" friendship and the establishment of friendly relations with other countries of people's democracy.

In 1957, ideological liberalization took place in the PRC, and within the framework of the campaign "Let a hundred flowers bloom, let a hundred schools compete", territorial claims against the USSR were heard, but all anti-Soviet actions were suppressed and condemned as counter-revolutionary. In the 1950s, much was said about the role of the Soviet Union in the construction of socialism in the PRC. Cooperation between the two countries developed dynamically, characterized by scale and depth. Both sides were unanimous on the main issues and there were no fundamental disagreements.

Beijing and Moscow took the same position on the main problems of our time, regional conflicts, and also declared their determination to jointly confront the "provocations of imperialist forces."

Foreign policy cooperation continued to develop. So, when in 1956 the Soviet Union turned to the parliaments of all countries with a proposal for disarmament, the Standing Committee of the NPC supported it as meeting the interests of all the peoples of the world.

At the end of 1956, a NPC delegation arrived in the USSR led by Pyong Zheng. The delegation visited many cities of the country, and its representatives praised the successes of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Already at the beginning of 1957, another government delegation visited the USSR, headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, Zhou Enlai. During this visit, questions of the international situation of countries and questions of further cooperation of China with other socialist countries were resolved.

Delegations from the Soviet Union were also sent to the PRC. In the spring of 1957, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR KE Voroshilov arrived on an official visit. The delegation traveled to various cities of China and had conversations with a large number of public and government figures, including Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, Liu Shaotsi and others.

The same year later, in autumn, a delegation of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union visited China with congratulations on the occasion of the anniversary of the founding of the PRC.

Soon after the exchange of delegations, the Soviet-Chinese Friendship Society was created in Moscow, which exists to this day. From the very beginning, the organization established close friendly ties with the Sino-Soviet Friendship Society, which was established in the PRC back in 1949. The branches of both societies actively contacted each other, regularly exchanging

delegations, materials, cultural and sports groups.

In November 1957, the party-government delegation of the People's Republic of China arrived in Moscow to celebrate the anniversary of the October Socialist Revolution. It included prominent Chinese government and party leaders, including Mao Zedong, Song Qingling, Deng Xiaoping, Pyong Dehuai and Guo Mozhuo. During the celebration, a large number of flattering statements were made towards the Soviet Union.

During the first decade since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China and the USSR, countries systematically exchanged delegations and did not skimp on flattery, assessing the successes of states in the direction of building socialism, describing the results of visits and negotiations. According to official documents, the cooperation between the two countries was comprehensive and promising.

The most important document signed by the USSR and the PRC at this stage of Sino-Soviet relations was the Treaty of Friendship, Union and Mutual Assistance. In addition, "friendship" between the two countries was announced at all official events, party congresses and meetings.

The cooperation of the Soviet Union and China was manifested far not only at the political level. Powerful economic support and assistance in restoring the economy of post-revolutionary China can be traced everywhere and played an important role in the development of Soviet-Chinese friendship.

It is known that Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai repeatedly emphasized the need for comprehensive assistance from the "elder brother", and the Soviet Union actively provided it. The construction of industrial facilities and joint ventures, education and internships sent to China by a group of specialists are just a fraction of what was implemented as part of the cooperation.

With the formation of the PRC, it became clear that the country needs help. The state of the economy left much to be desired, industry and agriculture were in decline after the anti-Japanese and civil war, cents on goods grew and the budget deficit was sharply felt. The Soviet Union volunteered to provide this assistance.

So, along with the agreement on friendship, alliance, and mutual assistance, in 1950 a number of agreements beneficial to China were also signed. For one of them, for example, the Chinese government received from the Soviet Union a loan of 1.2 billion rubles for the restoration and reconstruction of the most important sectors of the national economy. The loan was granted on favorable terms and provided for the supply of equipment and materials necessary for the reconstruction of the Chinese economy.

In addition, the Soviet Union volunteered to provide comprehensive assistance in industrial construction. It was decided to create four mixed joint-stock companies: a non-ferrous and rare metals mining company in the Xinjiang province of the People's Republic of China, an oil extraction and processing company in the Xinjiang province of the People's Republic of China, a ship building and repair company in Dalniy and a company for organizing and operation of civil air lines (Soviet-Chinese Relations 1917-1957, Collection of documents).

Along with production tasks, the USSR assumed obligations to train qualified administrative and technical personnel. To this end, technical schools and courses were created on the basis of mixed societies, and Chinese students, scientists and specialists were sent to the USSR to receive education at Soviet universities or to complete practical training.

Trade with the Soviet Union also occupied an important role. If in 1948 the USSR occupied only ninth place in China's exports, then by the end of 1950 it moved to first.

Since 1951, Western sanctions began to apply to China, so that China lost the opportunity to buy the necessary materials, machinery and all kinds of equipment from capitalist countries. In turn, this led to an increase in the share of the USSR in China's imports to 40.7% and in exports to 41.12%. At the same time, new agreements on economic cooperation between countries are signed.

Compared to 1950, trade between the Soviet Union and the PRC increased in 1952 almost 2 times. In addition, China was granted a loan of 8.55 million rubles for the development of rubber plantations.

In the field of education, the help of Soviet specialists is also obvious. Soviet books were actively translated into Chinese, Chinese universities were rebuilt according to the Soviet model, curricula, plans and materials were also borrowed and translated. Widespread study of the Russian language.

At the end of 1952, the month of Sino-Soviet friendship took place. A group of representatives of science, culture and art from the USSR, who arrived in China on tour, was warmly received by Chinese spectators.

Following the example of the USSR and with the help of Soviet specialists, in 1953, China adopted the first five-year plan for the development of the national economy, which in many respects depended on assistance from the Soviet Union. So, there were agreements on the expansion of old and the construction of new power plants, on the construction and reconstruction of industrial enterprises and others.

After the visit of the Soviet delegation in 1954, among other things, an agreement appeared to provide China with a loan in the amount of 520 million rubles.

In October 1954, the rights and the entire Soviet share in the three mixed Soviet-Chinese societies were transferred to China. Together with the societies, the educational institutions created by them were also transferred.

The Soviet Union provided the PRC with a huge amount of design and technical documentation, with the help of which the construction of power plants, metallurgical and engineering plants, and the technical equipment of the national economy were carried out in China. Thus, in 1954, the share of the USSR in Chinese foreign trade amounted to 51.8%. In 1956, an agreement was signed in Moscow on cooperation between the Soviet Union and the PRC "in the field of science, technology, education, literature and art, healthcare, printing and publishing, broadcasting and television, cinematography, physical education and sports" (Lukin, 2007).

In total, in the 50s The Soviet Union helped China with the construction of over 250 industrial enterprises, only in 1956 and 1958. It was discussed the construction of 102 objects (Kapitsa, 1979). Active mutual assistance was provided in the development of science, technology, and economics. China was provided with support in the creation of electronic, automotive, aviation and other industries. Hundreds of specialists in various fields of economics, education, and culture were sent regularly from the USSR to China.

Thus, we see that from 1950 to 1952, when China was in a state of economic decline, the Soviet Union provided undeniable comprehensive assistance and support.

#### 4 Discussion

Soviet-Chinese relations in the period from 1949 to 1958 they are characterized by stable and comprehensive development. Each year, the Soviet Union sent more and more specialists and students to China. The volumes of economic, material and social assistance were constantly increasing.

After the signing of the agreement "on friendship, alliance and

mutual assistance" and the parallel signing of a number of economic agreements between the USSR and China, "fraternal" relations were built up, which only strengthened over the years (Zinoviev, 2010).

During the period of the first five-year plan of economic development in China, we see that the Soviet Union actively provided comprehensive assistance and support to the state. In modern historiography, these issues continue to be very actively studied (Bernstein & Li, 2010; Heinzig, 2015; Li, 2013; Vladimirova & Grishin, 2016; Yan, 2017).

#### 5 Summary

The relations of the People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union cannot be unambiguously assessed. This is due to the fact that in the early years of the PRC, no one could have imagined the possibility of contradictions in the political courses of the two communist countries. Internal political, ideological and foreign political disagreements were hidden from the masses and active propaganda of the "friendship of peoples" was conducted. However, over time, the hidden "pitfalls" did not disappear and gradually led to the inevitable conflict.

The most significant of them are, firstly, the strengthening of ideological differences. The views of the leaders of the two countries on the building of communism and on the world socialist revolution began to differ and led to a deterioration in relations.

Secondly, this is an inequality in Sino-Soviet relations. The USSR provided all-round support and assistance to the PRC in the first years after the end of the civil war, and was perceived by the Chinese as an "older brother", that is, relations developed on the principle of "older - younger." Over time, this began to cause discontent among the Chinese and prevented the further development of relations (Glushkova et al., 2019).

#### 6 Conclusions

Despite the fact that in the first decade of the PRC's existence, internal political, ideological and foreign political disagreements were hidden from the masses, and there was active propaganda of the "friendship of peoples", the existing contradictions did not disappear, but accumulated and gradually led to an inevitable conflict. There were ideological differences between the leaders of the two countries. Although the views of the CPC and CPSU leadership on building communism and on the export of the socialist revolution were similar at the beginning, they soon began to differ significantly and led to a deterioration in relations.

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