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MATRIC NUMBER: 19/SMS09/077

DEPARTMENT: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY

LEVEL: 100

COURSE TITLE: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY III

COURSE CODE: IRD 106

QUESTION:

IN NOT MORE THAN 5 PAGES, DISSCUSS ANCIENT CHINESE DIPLOMACY.

ANSWER

**INTRODUCTION**

Diplomacy is not a new activity in human history, it has probably existed for as long as civilization has. As man has been interacting with each other and has formed political entities diplomacy has been involved in this conversation. The easiest way to understand it is to start by seeing it as a system of structured communication between two parties. Records of regular contact via envoys travelling between neighboring civilization date back at least 2500 year. Diplomacy served for most part of history as a non-violent means of achieving the foreign objectives of monarch, empires, or states. In order to understand modern diplomacy, it is important to first look at the past, to view diplomacy. In its formative eras, where the practice and ideas that first lead to what we called modern diplomacy was forged.

**CHINA’S DIPLOMACY**

China gave birth to one of the four greatest ancient civilization of the world and has a recorded history of about 4,000 years. In feudal times the chinese created civilization that led the world, but china lagged behind the west after the Industrial Revolution. In 1840 Britain launched the opium War and forced open the door of china with its warships and cannons. After that, other western powers such as France, Russia, Japan, Germany and the United States and invaded china successively, and as a result the country lost almost all of its national sovereignty. Statistics shows that between 1840 and 1949, the imperialist power had forced 1,175 unequal treaties on China. The history of China diplomacy in that period of more than a century was full of humiliation.

To fight for national independence and liberation and for democracy and freedom, the Chinese people made endless sacrifices. In 1921 the communist party of China was set up. Led by the communist party, the Chinese people overthrew the rule of imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism after 28 years of armed struggle, and founded the People’s Republic of China in 1949. Thereupon the Chinese people stood up and became masters of their own destiny, and china’s diplomacy began a new chapter.

After the founding of the new China, the basic objective of its diplomacy included: to secure national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, maintain world peace, and strive for an international environment favorable to the country’s development. At that time the socialist countries headed by the Soviet Union and the imperialist countries headed by the United States were in relentless confrontation. The united State refused to recognize the Government of the People’s Republic of China, and it even went further to impose political containment, economic blockade and military threat against China. In face of such a situation, China openly declared that it sided with the socialist camp, strived to enhance the alliance with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, and firmly opposed the US policy of aggression and War. The common program of the Chinese people’s political consultative conference, which served as the interim constitution in the early days of the People’s Republic, stipulates, “The principle of the foreign policy of the People’s Republic of China is the protection of the independence, freedom, integrity of territory and sovereignty of the country, upholding of lasting international peace and friendly cooperation between the people of all countries, and opposition to the imperialist policy of aggression and war”.

In conformity with new changes, the new constitution enacted in 1982 summarizes the basic principles of China’s foreign policy as the following : “China adheres to an independent foreign policy as well as to the five principles of the mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other’s internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence in developing diplomatic relations and economic and cultural exchanges with other countries. In the past two decades and more, great changes have taken place in china and the world, and Chinese government has accordingly adjusted and developed the basic principles of its foreign policy. The basic objectives of this policy are to safeguard China’s independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, mutual nonaggression, non-interference in each other’s internal affairs, mutual benefit and promote friendly cooperation with other countries, maintain world peace and promote common development. This policy includes;

1. Establish and develop relations of friendly and cooperation with all other countries on the basis of the five principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference in each other’s internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence.
2. Open to the rest of the world in an all-round way, and engage in trade, economic and technological cooperation and scientific and cultural exchanges with other countries and regions on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, so as to promote common prosperity.
3. Follow the principles of independence. In all international affairs, china decides its own stance and policy in the fundamental interest of the people of china and the world and according to the merits of issues concerned, it will not succumb to any external pressure, and it will not ally itself with any large country or any group of countries.
4. Oppose hegemonism and maintain world peace. China pursues a foreign policy of peace, and it will not go in for any military bloc, army race or military expansion.

**DYNASTIES**

**Xia Dynasty(2070-1600 BC):** The Xia dynasty of china (from c. 2070 to c. 1600 BC) is the first dynasty to be described in ancient historical records such as Sima Qian’s Record of the Grand Historian and Bamboo Annals. The dynasty was considered mythical by historians until scientific excavations found early Bronze Age sites at Erlitou, Henan in 1959. With few clear records matching the Shang oracle bones, it remains unclear whether these sites are the remains of the Xia dynasty or of another culture from the same period. Excavations that overlap the alleged time period of the Xia indicate a type of culturally similar groupings of chiefdoms. Early marking from this period found on pottery and shells are thought to be ancestral to modern Chinese characters.

According to ancient records, the dynasty ended around 1600 BC as a consequence of the Battle of Mingtiao.

**Shang dynasty** **(1600- 1046 BC ):** archaeological findings providing evidence for the existence of the Shang dynasty, c. 1600-1046 BC, are divided into two sets. The first set from the earlier Shang period, comes from sources at Erligang, Zhengzhou, and Shangcheng. The second set, from the later Shang or Yin period, is at Anyang include the earliest written record of the Chinese so far discovered; inscriptions of divination records in ancient Chinese writing on the bones or shells of animals- the “oracle bones”, dating from around 1250 BC.

A series of thirty-one kings reigned over the Shang dynasty. During their reign, according to the Records of the Grand Historian, the capacity city was moved six times. The final (and the most important) move was to Yin in around 1300 BC which led to the dynasty’s golden age. The term Yin dynasty has been synonymous with the Shang dynasty in history, although it has lately been used to refer specifically to the latter half of the Shang dynasty. Although a written record found at Anyang confirms the existence of the Shang dynasty, western scholars are often hesitant to associate settlements that are contemporaneous with the Anyang settlement with the Shang dynasty. For example, archaeological findings at Sanxingdui suggest a technological advanced civilization culturally unlike Anyang. The evidence is inconclusive in providing how far the Shang realm extended from Anyang. The leading hypothesis is that Anyang, ruled by the same Shang in the official history, coexisted and traded with numerous other culturally diverse as china proper.

**Zhou dynasty (1046-256 BC):** the Zhou dynasty(1046 BC to approximately 256 BC) is the longest-lasting dynasty in Chinese history. By the end of the 2nd millennium BC, the Zhou dynasty began to emerge in the Yellow River valley, overrunning the territory of the Shang. The Zhou appeared to have begun their rule under a semi-feudal system. The Zhou lived west of the Shang, and the Zhou leader was appointed western protector by the Shang. The ruler of the Zhou king Wu, with the assistance of his brother, the Duke of Zhou, as regent, managed to defeat the Shang at the Battle of Muye.

The king of Zhou at this time invoked the concept of the Mandate of Heaven to legitimize his rule, a concept that was influential for almost every succeeding dynasty. Like Shangdi, Heaven ruled over all the other gods, and it decided who would rule china. It was believed that a ruler lost the Mandate of Heaven when natural disasters occurred in great number, and when, more realistically, the sovereign had apparently lost his concern for the people. In response, the royal house would have been granted the Mandate of Heaven.

The Zhou initially moved their capital west to an area near modern Xi’an, on the Wei River, a tributary of the Yellow River, but they would preside over a series of expansions into the Yangtze River valley. This would be the first of many population migrations from north to south in Chinese history.

**Spring and Autumn period (722-476 BC):** in the 8th century BC, power became decentralized during the Spring and Autumn period, named after the influential spring and autumn annals. In this period, local military leaders used by the Zhou began to assert their power and vie for hegemony. The situation was aggravated by the invasion of other people from the northwest, such as the Qin, forcing the Zhou to move their capital to east to Luoyang. This marks the second major phase of the Zhou dynasty: the Eastern Zhou. The spring and autumn period is marked by the falling apart of the central Zhou power. In each of the hundreds of state that eventually arose, local strongmen held most of the political power and continued their subservience to the Zhou kings in name only. Some local leaders even started using royal titles for themselves. China now consisted of hundred states, some of them only as large as a village with a fort.

**CONCLUSION**

Ancient china is a very old and one of the longest civilization and also a historical state whose modern day successor and the People’s Republic of China (under the communist party) and the Republic of China (Taiwan). Ancient China has a history that covers 4,000 years ruled by Numerous Dynasties and Emperor. The last Emperor of china, Puyi, became ruler when he was only three years old. There were two major rivers which played a role in ancient China, the Yellow river and the Yangtze River. The Yangtze is the third longest river in the world and the Yellow is the sixth. In china the dragon is a symbol of good luck, power and strength. The dragon was often the symbol of the Emperor. The ancient Chinese were the first people to drink tea, although it was first used as medicine. In ancient china, the biggest festival of the year was the new yam celebration. Everyone took time off and celebrated during this time. Many people spoke different languages of Chinese, the written language was the same, making reading and writing very importance to the Empire, located on the eastern part of the continent of Asia, today China is the most populous country in the world.

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