

# Xi's US tour boosts ties, empowers UN



Chinese President Xi Jinping (2nd R) and his wife Peng Liyuan (L) are welcomed by U.S. President Barack Obama (R) and his wife Michelle Obama at the White House in Washington D.C., the United States, Sept. 25.

From Seattle to Washington D.C., General Secretary Xi Jinping of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), also Chinese president, finished his first state visit to the United States from Sept. 22 to 25 and made his debut appearance at the United Nations headquarters in New York for a series of summits from Sept. 26 to 28. The week-long tour was applauded widely and packed with a trove of highlights.

A total of 49 achievements were made during Xi and U.S. President Barack Obama's summit, covering a wide range of issues regarding investment, people-to-people exchanges, climate change, cyber security and coordination and cooperation in multilateral affairs.

## Redefine China-US relations

Building a new model of major-country relations with the United States that features non-confrontational mutual respect and win-win cooperation is the priority of China's foreign policy, Xi said in a speech in Seattle, the first stop of his landmark U.S. visit.

On many occasions during the visit, he stressed the vital importance of steering bilateral relations away from mistakes of strategic miscalculation and towards closer cooperation.

"I come to the United States this time to promote peace and advance cooperation," Xi noted in a speech during a grand welcome ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House.

During talks with Obama, Xi put forward a six-pronged proposal for the next stage of development for China-U.S. relations.

The two sides agreed to maintain close communication and exchanges at various levels, further expand practical cooperation, and manage differences in a constructive way to achieve new concrete results in China-U.S. relations to the greater benefit of the people of both countries and the world.

"A cool mind is needed to understand China-U.S. bilateral relations, without too much emphasis on their competition. Only when the two countries join hands can their relations benefit all," said Zhu Feng, a scholar from Nanjing University.

Fan Jishe, a U.S. studies researcher at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said that reaffirming the new model at this point will give the two sides a chance to better understand each other's strategic stance and clear the air of unnecessary doubts and concerns.



When China met Carolina, a short film released just before Xi's visit to the United States in September, discovers the unique China-U.S. relationship.

## Move on climate change

The summit in Washington has produced consensus on a wide range of issues, and the China-U.S. Joint Presidential Statement on Climate Change has drawn the most attention.

The statement specifies new steps the two sides will take to deliver on pledges made last year to slash their greenhouse gas emissions. These include China's decision to launch a national carbon cap-and-trade system in 2017 to help contain the country's emissions, and establish a 20 billion yuan (US\$3.1 billion) fund to help other developing countries combat and adapt to climate change.

The two heads of state reiterated their resolve to work together towards an ambitious, successful outcome of the upcoming climate conference in Paris.

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## Not shunning hot-button issues including cyber security

"China and the United States are two major cyber countries and we should strengthen dialogue and cooperation," Xi said during talks with Obama, adding that confrontation and friction are not the right choices for both sides.

They agreed that neither country's government will conduct or knowingly support cyber-enabled theft of intellectual property, including trade secrets or other confidential business information.

The two countries also agreed to establish a high-level joint dialogue mechanism on fighting cybercrime and related issues, create a senior experts group for further discussions, and set up a hotline to prevent the escalation of tension.

The consensus on cyber security was "an unexpected but significant and welcome development," said David Fidler, adjunct senior fellow for cyber security at the U.S. Council on Foreign Relations and professor of law at Indiana University.

"China does not intend to pursue militarization of the Nansha Islands in the South China Sea and is committed to maintaining peace and stability in the region," Xi noted at a joint press conference with Obama at the White House. He also said that relevant construction activities China is undertaking on the islands do not target or impact any country.

"Raising the stakes in the South China Sea is hardly affordable by either side. A deteriorating external environment will affect China's peripheral diplomacy and its 'Road and Belt' initiative, while the struggle with China will cost the United States its global presence sooner," said Hu Bo, a research fellow at the Institute of Ocean Research at Peking University.

"In the region, the two countries may not agree, but cannot contest it as a win-or-lose game," Hu said.

## Call for a new international order

Speaking for the first time at the annual UN General Assembly high-level debate in New York, Xi called for a new type of international relationship featuring win-win cooperation, and came up with a five-point proposal on how to forge such new type of international relationship.

"We should forge a global partnership at both international and regional levels, and embrace a new approach to state-to-state relations, one that features dialogue rather than confrontation, and seeks partnership rather than alliance," Xi noted.

"China will shoulder its share of responsibility and continue to play its part in this common endeavor," said Xi. He also urged developed countries to fulfill their historical responsibility, honor their emission reduction commitments and help developing countries mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Wang Yiwei, professor and director of the Institute of International Affairs at China's Renmin University, indicated that China-U.S. jointly building an appropriate international order is the choice of history, the choice of the times, and the choice of the future.



President Xi Jinping addresses the Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping at the UN headquarters in New York, Sept. 28.

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# China still engine for world growth, says premier



Premier Li Keqiang addresses the opening ceremony of the annual meeting of the New Champions, in Dalian, northeast China's Liaoning Province, Sept. 10.

The Chinese economy remains a source of world growth, affirmed Premier Li Keqiang in a speech at the 9th annual meeting of the New Champions held on Sept. 9-11 in northeast China's Dalian, also known as the "Summer Davos."

According to Li, China contributed about 30 percent to world economic growth during the first half of this year with a growth rate of seven percent, among the highest for major economies.

The stable and sustainable development of China, a hard-achieved feat, not only benefits the people but also means business opportunities for the world, Li said.

His remarks were made as a reassurance after the country's major economic indicators almost all registered weaker-than-expected performance. The world's second largest economy is growing slower and facing financial market volatility.

China has sufficient "policy weapons" to minimize any ripple effect from present difficulties and uncertainties, enabling it to continue adding momentum to global economic growth, Li said.

## 'Hard landing' concerns dispelled

China is not headed for a "hard landing" and is not in the business of making empty promises, the premier told the conference.

The broader economy is indeed facing short-term fluctuations triggered by domestic restructuring and global volatility. However, China "will be fully capable of dealing with the situation if signs indicate that the economy is sliding beyond a reasonable range".

China's current economic slowdown mainly stems from the challenges created by its own structural reforms. The country's economy is facing great pressure as it reduces reliance on industrial expansion, cheap labor, resource exploitation and low-end commodities, which had been unsustainable conditions powering growth in the past.

Temporary fluctuations persist and influence the economy, but the premier stressed, policymakers had tools, including monetary easing, fiscal policies and infrastructure construction, to help regulate the economy and prevent excessive swings.

In reaction, Severino Cabral, Director of the Brazilian Institute for China and Asia-Pacific Studies said: "The world is paying close attention to changes in the Chinese economy, considering its increasing importance, and the premier's statement is reassuring."

Arancha Gonzalez, Executive Director of the International Trade Center, a joint agency of

the World Trade Organization and the United Nations, also spoke highly of Li's speech. "He acknowledged challenges and gave solutions. We can feel his confidence," she said.

## Entrepreneurship recognized as new drivers

During his speech, Li also highlighted innovation and entrepreneurship as key growth points for China, saying creativity is the biggest resource for development, and the millions of small and micro enterprises are the hope and future of the nation.

An average of over 10,000 new market entities has been registered in China every day since last year, despite the economic slowdown. In the first half of 2015, newly registered enterprises had a total registered capital of 12 trillion yuan (US\$1.9 trillion), up 43 percent from a year earlier.

China has created new rules to streamline business registration procedures, provided tax breaks and cut administrative fees and set up a 60 billion-yuan fund to support small and medium-sized enterprises.

"Almost all the young people I have met recently are thinking about starting their own business," said Huang Yiping, a Peking University professor in economics. "Some say there's a bubble, but a bubble of innovation is a good one."

*Don't miss:  
• Li's speech  
at Summer  
Davos opening  
ceremony*

## The role of consumption strengthens

A more encouraging sign is that the country's economy is more oriented toward consumption, said Premier Li, noting that consumption now contributes more than 60 percent of economic growth, while the service sector accounts for half of GDP.

China's retail sales continued to grow quite strongly, increasing 10.5 percent year on year to 2.43 trillion yuan in July. Household disposable income has also outstripped economic growth, said Li.

Jeff Walters, partner and managing director of Boston Consulting Group, has witnessed the obvious transition of the Chinese economy from an investment-led model to a consumption-led one.

Walters attributed the strength in consumption to income growth and high employment numbers, while noting a change of consumption pattern. "We really see shifting growth from offline to online, and also from the emerging middle class to upper-middle class," he said.

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## Share more responsibilities

Addressing a UN peacekeeping summit, Xi announced a series of major actions in support of the UN and its peacekeeping efforts.

He said China will join the new UN peacekeeping capability readiness system, take the lead to set up a permanent peacekeeping police squad, and build an 8,000-strong standby peacekeeping force.

Also, China will establish a 10-year, US\$1 billion China-UN peace and development fund to support the UN's work. In addition, China is to provide a total of 100 million dollars of free military aid for the African Union in the next five years to support the establishment of the African Standby Force and the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crisis.

At the UN Sustainable Development Summit, Xi put forward a four-point proposal on global development and said China would provide US\$2 billion to support South-South cooperation.

Xi also unveiled 600 South-South Cooperation projects at a South-South cooperation roundtable he hosted, covering poverty reduction, agriculture, trade, environment, health and education.

China would also exempt the debt on the outstanding intergovernmental interest-free loans owed by the least-developed countries which were due by the end of this year.

Speaking at a women's affairs summit, Xi made a four-point proposal on promoting gender equality and women's all-around development worldwide. He said China would invite 30,000 women from developing countries to take part in training programs in China and would help such countries to train 100,000 female technical personnel. China would also donate \$10 million to the group UN Women.

"China has played a positive role and made remarkable contributions to promoting world peace and development as well as proper solutions to regional and international issues," UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said.



Chinese President Xi Jinping (R) attends a presentation ceremony on which the Chinese government gives the "Zun of Peace", an ancient Chinese-styled wine container, to the United Nations as a gift in New York, Sept. 27.



# Tibet celebrates 50 years of progress



Celebration marking the 50th anniversary of the founding of Tibet Autonomous Region is held in Lhasa on Sept. 8.



A villager in Chana Village, Gamba County in Xigaze, cleans a crystalline silicon solar panel at home on July 3.

September 1 this year marked the 50th anniversary of the founding of southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, and people dressed in brightly colored clothing sang and danced to celebrate the occasion across the region. The celebration culminated in a grand ceremony in front of the Potala Palace in Lhasa, the regional capital, on September 8.

In his speech, Yu Zhengsheng, Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, China's top political advisory body, said that over the past half century, remarkable changes have taken place in the snow-covered plateau.

"Tibet has seen rapid improvement in its infrastructure and medical and education services, as well as people's living standards. Its rich traditional culture has been preserved and carried forward, and its ecological environment well-protected," Yu said.

He restated the Central Government's policy toward Tibet, which focuses on strengthening ethnic solidarity, maintaining law-based governance, boosting economic development and improving people's living conditions.

A plaque inscribed with President Xi Jinping's words "Enhancing ethnic solidarity, building a beautiful Tibet" was presented to the regional government at the ceremony.

## Economic development

Tibet has experienced leapfrogging social and economic development. Its GDP soared to 92.08 billion yuan (\$14.46 billion) in 2014, a 281-fold increase from 1965. Tibet has built a transportation system including roads, railways and aviation as well as an extensive

energy system with hydropower as the mainstay.

Tibet boasts industries with local characteristics such as Tibetan medicine, folk crafts, green food and drinks and new energy. In 2014, Tibet received 15.53 million tourists, a 4,436-fold increase compared with 1980, with revenue of 20.4 billion yuan.

Dawa Toinzhub, Chairman of Dashi Group in Tibet, has been successful in developing industries with regional specialty. So far, nine big groups have been established in construction and engineering, mining, tourism, Tibetan medicine, and commerce and trade sectors. In particular, 18 pharmaceutical enterprises are producing more than 360 kinds of drugs.

In 1983, Dawa Toinzhub quit his job as a teacher and went into business with an interest-free loan from the government. "The government rolled out many favorable policies at that time, which made me believe that private businesses would have a promising future," he said.

After earning his first fortune in transportation and commerce, Dawa Toinzhub created Dashi Group in 1997 and set his eyes on agricultural specialties typical to Tibet. His company's first product, edible oil extracted from chestnuts, was received well in the market. Currently, Dashi employs hundreds of people and has an annual output value of around 400 million yuan. It produces bottled water, organic agricultural products and cultural products.

## Better living conditions

As the economy grows, people in Tibet are enjoying a much better off life. In 2014, the per-capita disposable income of urban residents in Tibet reached

22,016 yuan, a 38-fold increase from 1978; and that of farmers and herdsmen was 7,359 yuan, representing an average annual increase of 10.9 percent over the past three decades.

In 2006, Tibet launched low-income housing projects for local farmers and herdsmen. By the end of 2013, as many as 2.3 million farmers and herdsmen had moved into these houses.

"Every household in my village has a safe and comfortable house with access to electricity and clean water," said Gyanbei, a resident in Dongga Village in the suburb of Lhasa.

In 1994, Gyanbei and his neighbor bought a dump truck and went into construction. Now he and his fellow villagers operate two quarries, which have 180 vehicles and more than 200 employees. The workers' monthly salary averages more than 6,000 yuan (US\$942).

Currently, all farmers and herdsmen in Tibet are covered by medical assistance, and all monks and nuns are included in the basic medical insurance system.

The region offers 15 years of free education from preschool to high school. The government also affords the food, boarding and tuition expenses for students from farmers' and herdsmen's families and those from families in urban areas with financial difficulties.

## Cultural heritage preservation

Amid fast social and economic development, Tibet has done remarkable work in protecting, inheriting and carrying forward its splendid cultural traditions.

Bilingual teaching in Tibetan and Mandarin is available in all schools in the region.

The regional government has also made efforts to protect cultural heritage. Currently, Tibet has more than 1,000 intangible heritage items covering 10 categories. Tibetan opera and Gesar epic tradition have been chosen as UNESCO Intangible Heritage of Humanity Masterpieces, and some other items are put under state or regional protection. A large number of monasteries and religious classics have been maintained and protected.

Inheritors have been designated to pass on local traditional art forms. Currently, the region has 68 state-level inheritors and 350 regional-level inheritors.

## Nationwide support

In the past six decades, the Central Government has pooled national resources to support Tibet.

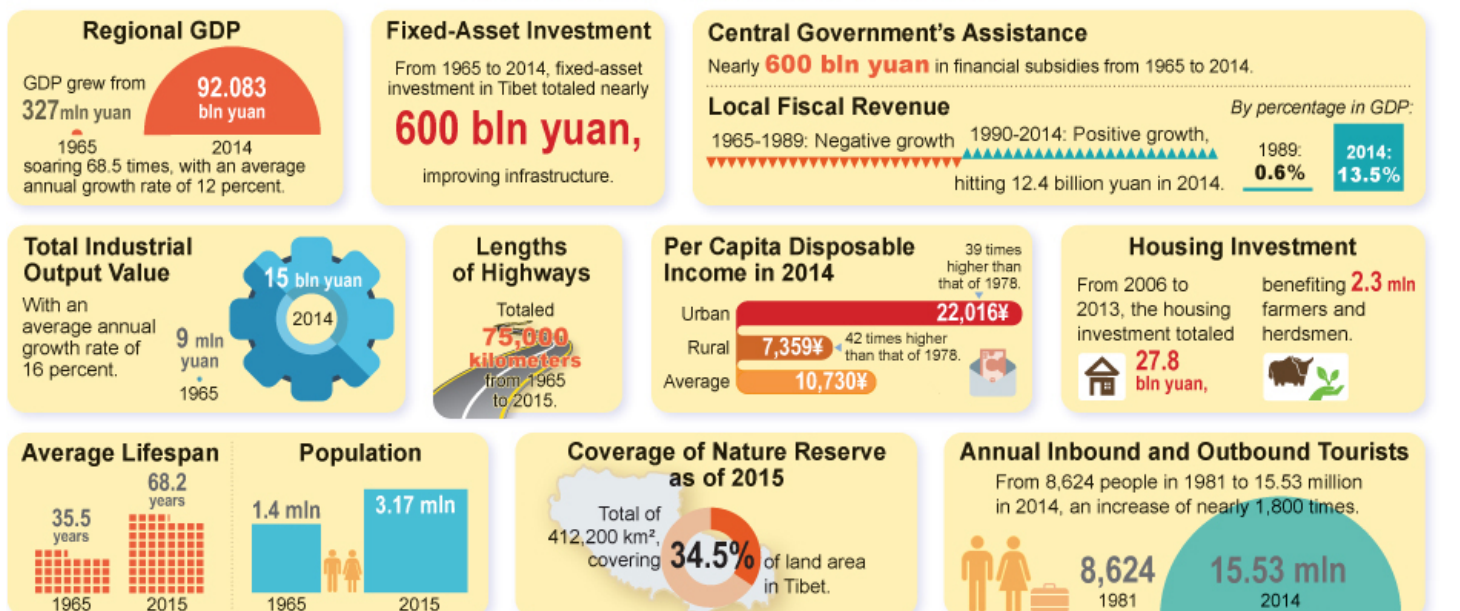
From 1952 to 2014, it provided Tibet with an aggregate subsidy of 648.08 billion yuan (\$101.75 billion), enough to cover 92.8 percent of Tibet's public fiscal spending.

Since 1980, the Central Government has hosted six national forums on work of Tibet to draw up blueprints for the region's development. After the third forum held in 1994, a pairing-up assistance program for Tibet was launched, under which central government departments, provincial-level regions in central and eastern regions and some centrally administered state-owned enterprises have been tasked with assisting designated areas of Tibet.

In addition, in the past 20 years, seven groups of a total 4,496 officials and 1,466 professionals have been sent to work in Tibet.

At the sixth such forum on August 24-25, 2015, it was decided that the pairing-up assistance program will remain in effect.

## Tibet by the Numbers





# Down-to-earth county Party chief Hu Qisheng

Born in 1971, Hu Qisheng obtained his doctor of law degree from the prestigious Peking University at the age of 30. Three years later, when he was appointed a departmental deputy director under the Anhui Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), many people believed he would be a high-flyer.

However, instead of pursuing fast career advancement, Hu adopted a down-to-earth attitude, choosing to work as a county-level district Party chief for eight years. During that time, he greatly improved the local livelihood and changed the once little-known Baohe District, in Hefei City, east China's Anhui Province, into a national model for development.

Baohe stands on the outskirts of the provincial capital Hefei. Local government officials used to have a very warped understanding of governance. When Hu first arrived at the district, illegal use of land was rampant. Many real estate projects were launched without due permission.

To deal with this situation, Hu started by changing local officials' mindset and carried out a series of tough measures to curb illegal land use. In only one year, Baohe became a national model for intensive land use.

Baohe was once home to a large number of state-owned enterprises under different government departments. This made it difficult to manage state assets and led to high risk of corruption. Hu resisted the pressure of various interest groups and integrated the enterprises into a conglomerate. Today, the Builtup Group he helped create has net assets of more than 4 billion yuan (US\$627 million).

A county-level Party committee is the bottom level of CPC's organization, so its head is inevitably in the frontline in serving the people and is responsible for dealing with their needs. The work is complicated, but Hu believed "one can accomplish any task with enough determination."

Demolition of old buildings and relocation of residents tend to be the most difficult tasks for government officials in China, because it concerns the interests of different groups of people and it's difficult to satisfy all of them at the same time. To accomplish the task and change local living conditions, Hu held meetings with people from all walks of life constantly and then went to the demolition sites every now and then to see if there is any malpractice.

In the eight years Hu worked in Baohe, a total of 17.2 million square meters of buildings



Hu Qisheng

were demolished, accounting for 60 percent of the Hefei's total. Importantly, local people's livelihood was improved and in this process, Hu found an efficient way to deal with various problems concerning the demolition process.

Hu was born into a farmer's family, so he clearly understands ordinary peoples' needs. As a newly urbanized district, Baohe used to suffer heavy pollution. Every year, in the hottest period, Hu would go to the Chaohu, one of the five largest freshwater lakes in China, and walk all the way around under the blazing sun to check water quality. He also appointed specific people to be in charge of curbing pollution in major rivers and took the charge of the most heavily-polluted river himself.

Thanks to Hu's efforts, residents in Baohe District have enjoyed real benefits from urbanization and economic development. From 2007 to 2014, the government investment in improving people's livelihood and launching various social programs increased from 210 million Yuan (US\$32.95 million) to 1.26 billion Yuan (US\$198 million). The district has also won awards for improving people's livelihood for several consecutive years.

In the eight years Hu worked in Baohe, many of his former colleagues in the provincial Party committee were promoted to higher posts, but Hu stayed put. The heavy workload and high stress had turned his hair grey by the time he reached 44 years old. Yet, he never regretted his choice. "Baohe faced a golden opportunity for development. It will be great regret if we miss it," he often said.

His hard work earned him high accolades. In June 2015, he was selected one of China's 102 outstanding county-level Party chiefs. "Of the 1.3 billion people in China, only some 2,800 people have the honor of being a county-level Party chief. The experience is exciting and valuable to me," Hu remarked.



Hu Qisheng (3rd left) inspects the pollution treatment work in Shiuli River in Baohe District on March 21, 2013.



Hu Qisheng (R) talks with sanitation workers in Baohe District, Hefei City, Anhui Province on August 21, 2013.

## Getting to Know **CHINA** through **KEYWORDS**

### Governing a country like cooking a delicate fish:

The statement "Governing a country is like cooking a delicate fish" came from the ancient Chinese thinker Laozi in his Daodejing.

[More>>](#)

### The system of regional ethnic autonomy:

China is a united country with multiple ethnic groups and the country implements a system of regional ethnic autonomy.

[More>>](#)

## Major events in September

### Sept. 3: China stages V-day military parade

**Keywords: WWII, parade**

China held a military parade to mark the 70th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression (1931-45) and World War II (1939-45).

### Sept. 13: CPC cadres urged to set examples

**Keywords: Party members, 'three stricts and three honests'**

President Xi Jinping has urged the Communist Party of China cadres and members to set an example in improving work styles and serving the people.

### Sept. 17: China, Vietnam agree to keep maritime stability

**Keywords: Li Keqiang, Vietnam, maritime**

Premier Li Keqiang met with Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc in Beijing, with both sides agreeing that maritime stability and maritime cooperation were of utmost importance.

### Sept. 22: White paper on women's development issued

**Keywords: white paper, women, gender**

China issued a white paper on gender equality and women's development, providing a comprehensive overview of the country's policies for women and the unremitting efforts made in this regard.

### Sept. 23: China initiates new round of reform and opening up

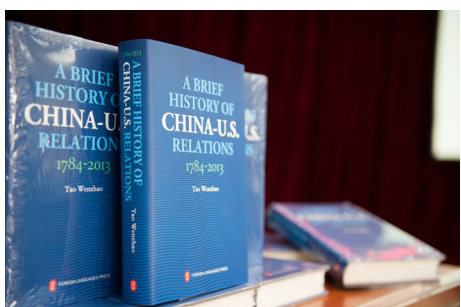
**Keywords: reform, opening up**

Trying to restart the slowing economy, China decided to deepen the reform and open up the country wider to the outside world.

## Book on history of China-US ties released

A book entitled "A Brief History of China-U.S. Relations (1784-2013)" was released to the public in Beijing on Sept. 24, 2015, amid Chinese President Xi Jinping's state visit to the United States.

The book offers a condensed description of the evolution of China-U.S. relations from February 1784, when the first American merchant ship, the Empress of China, set sail from New York, to June 2013, when Chinese President Xi met with U.S. President Obama at a retreat in California.



In summarizing the changing ties in chronological order, the book's author Tao Wenzhao, a research fellow at the Institute of American Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, illustrated the internal drive for the development of China-U.S. relations.

"China-U.S. relations are the most important bilateral ties in China's diplomacy," said the author, evident in the Chinese people's high expectations for President Xi's U.S. tour this month. It is because the United States is a leading power in the world, and successfully developing China-U.S. relations will not only benefit the two countries, but also the rest of the world in terms of regional and global peace, stability and prosperity, the book says.

"Without the normalization of China-U.S. relations at the end of the 1970's, China's reform and opening-Up could not have been as successful, since a good bilateral relationship with the United States helped create a favorable external environment for China's development," said Tao at the book's launch ceremony, picking

a section in the book to explain how China-U.S. relations have been highly consequential.

"The United States will be the most important external factor for our pursuit of the Chinese Dream for a long time in the future," said Tao, calling on the public to focus on the mainstream of China-U.S. ties, especially when negative factors are on the rise.

Zhou Mingwei, President of the China International Publishing Group, parent of the book's publisher Foreign Language Press, noted that the book is the first on the history of China-U.S. ties written in English by a Chinese scholar.

"The publication of the book helps Chinese and international readers to better understand the history of China-U.S. relations, which in turn helps understanding of the current situation and the future development trends of the bilateral ties," said Zhou, adding that the book's profound influences also include boosting bilateral academic exchanges while improving public opinion on each other.