

# A Triangulation of China-Germany-US Cooperation in Global Economic Governance

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# Four issues

- Is the triangulation of cooperation possible?
- How to cooperate?
- What are the principles for the triangulation?
- How about theories?

## Issue One: Is it possible?

- Yes! The triangulation is possible.
- They all wish to deal with global economic issues through strengthening global economic governance.
- They are all stake-holders on many global (economic) issues.

## Issue Two: How to cooperate?

- *1. We need to overcome some limitations:*
- The US is sometimes faced with domestic political problems.
- Germany is “too big for Europe and too small for the world”.
- China is sometimes following the strategy of “keeping a low profile” (韬光养晦).

## *2. We need to have a platform.*

- The G20 seems to have become more and more important in a G-zero world.
- The US, China and Germany are major players in the G20.
- So the G20 might be a good platform of cooperation in the field of global governance.

### *3. We need to seek a common ground.*

- Three major differences:
- 1) Motivation is different
- The US wishes to retain its position of dominance over the world economy.
- Germany wishes to put EU economic governance ahead of global economic governance.

# Motivation

- China wishes to
- 1) create a peaceful and harmonious environment for its economic development;
- 2) have a bigger say over as many world economic issues as possible;
- 3) change the rules of the game.

- 2) Power to influence the direction of global governance is also different:
- Established powers (The US and Germany) vs. an emerging power (China)
- Particularly in such areas as maintaining international financial stability and promoting free trade, the US and Germany need to undertake more responsibility.



- 3) Tools and tactics are different.
- The US prefers to use its unique positions in the international organizations (IMF, World Bank, etc.), the US dollar and other soft power tools to push for global economic issues.
- China prefers to make good use of BRICS, G20, WTO, APEC, etc., to strengthen global economic governance.

# Tools and tactics

- Germany seems to attach more importance to economic governance within the EU rather than outside the EU.
- Germany's voice can be heard often through the EU mouth.
- Germany prefers to utilize its normative power.

## Issue Three: What are the principles?

- Principle one: Common but differentiated responsibility.
- After all, China is still a developing nation and its hard/soft powers are limited.
- Is the US and Germany ready to make concessions to the emerging powers?

- China needs to understand that on some issues the emerging economies are not strong enough to challenge the US, Germany and other established powers.

## Principle two. Non-interference.

- This principle is two-fold:
- On the one hand, China does not wish to see that the others would intervene in its internal affairs.
- On the other, China does not wish to intervene in others' internal affairs.

- But this stance of China is often misunderstood or even criticized.
- As a matter of fact, non-interference is neither “inaction” nor “free ride”.

## Issue Four: How about theories?

- Should theory be a priority?
- Global governance is more a practical issue than a theoretical one.
- Theories can explain why global governance is important and necessary.
- By now everyone knows global governance is important and necessary.

- Theories can hardly provide us with an urgent solution to so many global issues.
- If theories are helpful and productive, what theories can the Chinese scholars create for global economic governance?



# Albert Einstein

- “In theory, theory and practice are the same. In practice, they are not.”



- The difference between theory and practice is bigger in practice than in theory.
- Reality is the murder of a beautiful theory by a gang of ugly facts.

# A final remark

- The G2 notion of the US and China or Chimerica is not accepted by China.
- How about G3 (the US, China and the EU) ?
- China might not agree with the G3 notion either.
- But, if the US, China and the EU can strengthen cooperation in global governance, the world would be better.

# 谢谢

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