

Turkish Economic Review

econsciences.com

Volume 13

June 2026

Issue 4

Global Development and Cooperation with China: New Ideas, Policies and Initiatives for a Changing World.

By Henry Huiyao Wang & Mabel Lu Miao (Eds.),

Springer, 2025

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Abstract. This open-access edited volume, part of the "China and Globalization" series, explores the necessity for new concepts, initiatives, and relationships to reform the current system of global governance. The book contends that the existing international institutions, such as the Bretton Woods system and the United Nations, must be updated to address challenges like rapid technological advancements, radical shifts in the distribution of power (from West to East and North to South), climate change, and geopolitical instability. The book is a collection of essays contributed by current and former members of a wide range of international organizations, including UN agencies, multinational banks, and NGOs, aiming to provide innovative and sometimes alternative perspectives on global governance. It is structured into three main parts: New Concepts in Global Governance, New Initiatives of Growth and Development, and New Relations for Peoples and Governments. Key themes include reforming the UN to be "Fit for Purpose", China's role in global development through institutions like the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the New Development Bank (NDB), re-imagining the international trading system, and leveraging China's experience in green development and technology for global good. The overall message is a call for networked multilateralism, emphasizing cooperation, inclusiveness, and the need for a global community to work together like a "family" to resolve shared crises.

Keywords. Global governance reform; China and globalization; Multilateralism; Global Development Initiative (GDI); International cooperation.

JEL. F13; F50; O19; Q01; P16.

Book Review

Global Development and Cooperation with China: New Ideas, Policies and Initiatives for a Changing World, edited by Henry Huiyao Wang and Mabel Lu Miao of the Center for China and Globalization (CCG), is a timely and insightful collection of essays that addresses the urgent need to reform and revitalize the global governance system. Published as an open-access volume in the "China and Globalization" series, the book posits that the international architecture established post-World War II, exemplified by the Bretton Woods system and the United Nations, while foundational to decades of peace and prosperity, is no longer adequately equipped to manage the challenges of the twenty-first century. These challenges include unprecedented technological change, acute geopolitical polarization, the

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     **CRediT** (article last page)

Received 1 Feb. 2026; Received in revised from 10 May. 2026; Accepted 29 May. 2026.

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  <https://doi.org/10.65810/ter.2743>

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shifting balance of power from West to East and North to South, and existential threats like climate change and public health crises.

The book's core contribution is bringing together the perspectives of current and former members of diverse international organizations—UN agencies, multilateral development banks (MDBs), and NGOs—to explore concrete "new ideas, new initiatives and new relationships" that can ensure the system remains "inclusive and able to address the practical needs of a broader range of nations". The volume implicitly frames China, both through its institutions (like AIIB and NDB) and its major global initiatives (like the Belt and Road Initiative and Global Development Initiative), as a critical, if sometimes alternative, force in this necessary global recalibration.

New Concepts in Global Governance

The first section directly tackles the conceptual obsolescence of current governance models. Siddharth Chatterjee, the UN Resident Coordinator in China, begins by calling for a United Nations "Fit for Purpose" to address the current geopolitical environment. He stresses the need for scaled-up solutions and highlights South-South and triangular cooperation, such as the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), as critical mechanisms for achieving an inclusive and resilient recovery.

Jin Liqun, President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), offers a concrete example of China's new concepts in action. He uses the AIIB to demonstrate how member countries can address global challenges by financing development while upholding multilateralism and maintaining the image of a responsible major country. Jin underscores China's role in the AIIB's establishment and mission, highlighting its contributions to the international economic governance system.

Hans d'Orville broadens the discussion to new dimensions of global governance, emphasizing science diplomacy as a key tool for achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Justin Vaïsse of the Paris Peace Forum analyzes the future of governance in an increasingly polarized world, noting that both competition and cooperation have the potential to foster positive change. This section is rounded out by Mabel Lu Miao and John Zhanjie Zhao (CCG), who focus on talent mobility as a microcosm of global governance, and Qiangwu Zhou (New Development Bank), who focuses on the role of BRICS and the NDB in providing emerging markets with a platform to adapt to developmental changes and achieve the SDGs. This first part successfully establishes the political, financial, and conceptual necessity for systemic change.

New Initiatives of Growth and Development

This section translates conceptual shifts into actionable policy and initiatives, with a strong focus on China's role in global growth. M. Ayhan Kose and Franziska Ohnsorge of the World Bank provide a macroeconomic context, assessing global growth challenges and calling for expanded financing and capacity building in emerging and developing economies.

Michele Geraci, former Undersecretary of State at the Italian Ministry of Economic Development, offers a personal perspective on Italy's participation in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), clarifying the rationale for joining and countering arguments for withdrawal. This contribution highlights the

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ongoing, complex debate surrounding China's flagship infrastructure initiative within the Western political economy.

Veterans of the international trade system, Pascal Lamy (former WTO DG) and Yi Xiaozhun (former WTO Deputy DG), re-imagine the global trading system in an era of "re-globalization," focusing on areas like digital trade, the environment, and economic security. Yi Xiaozhun explicitly calls for new multilateral models to combat the global trend toward protectionism.

The remaining essays in this part highlight China's green and technological contributions to global development. Yabin Wu (UNIDO ITPO Beijing) discusses China's model of Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID), emphasizing the parallel nature of economic development and green transformation in China's modernization drive. Beate Trankmann (UNDP Resident Representative in China) praises China's leadership in renewable energy and green technologies as a pathway to low-carbon development. Finally, contributions on science diplomacy (Chunli Bai, ANSO) and connectivity (Sihan Bo Chen, GSMA) emphasize the power of technology and shared infrastructure, including mega-science facilities, in fostering global cooperation and accelerating the SDGs.

New Relations for Peoples and Governments

The final section explores the evolving landscape of international relationships, from high-level diplomacy to grassroots humanitarian action and cultural exchange. Josep Borrell Fontelles of the European Commission provides an overview of EU-China relations, noting the need to re-evaluate economic integration as China transitions into a technological powerhouse amid changing global economies.

Hannah Ryder, Jing Cai, and Huiyi Chen of Development Reimagined examine the Africa-China relationship, arguing that African countries have strategically leveraged this relationship to push for reforms in global governance and strengthen multilateral links. This piece offers a significant counterpoint to the often-skeptical Western narrative on China-Africa engagement.

The perspective shifts to non-state actors with Pierre Krähenbühl (ICRC) outlining the enduring humanitarian mission of the International Red Cross in alleviating conflict and Amakobe Sande (UNICEF) focusing on the necessity of promoting cooperation to ensure the welfare of children globally, especially in impoverished or conflict-prone regions.

The book concludes by moving to a philosophical and cultural level. Shabhaz Khan (UNESCO) discusses the power of cultural heritage to foster common vision and stronger relationships, particularly through the Chinese concept of eco-civilization. Roger T. Ames (International Confucian Association) explores the Confucian philosophy of family as a basis for governance and, critically, as a model for how the "global village" must work together, like a family, to confront shared crises. This final, powerful metaphor encapsulates the book's overall message of shared responsibility and cooperative solutions.

Overall Assessment and Conclusion

Global Development and Cooperation with China is a valuable resource for anyone seeking a comprehensive understanding of contemporary multilateralism and the central, often complex, role of China within it. The

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book's diverse contributors, many of whom are high-level practitioners, ensure a grounding in real-world policy and institutional function. Methodologically, the volume functions as an essential mapping of the current thinking within the UN system, MDBs, and think tanks like CCG regarding the future of globalization.

The book excels in:

1. **Defining the Urgency:** It clearly articulates why the post-war governance structure requires reform, citing shifts in power and global crises.
2. **Providing Alternatives:** It moves beyond critique by presenting concrete, institutionally-backed alternatives, particularly through the lens of China's initiatives (AIIB, NDB, GDI, BRI).
3. **Encouraging Inclusivity:** The focus on the Global South, the Africa-China relationship, and the explicit call for more inclusive governance ensures the discussion is not solely dominated by the North-North or US-China dynamic.

While the book is rich in perspectives supportive of China's increasing global role, its strength lies in presenting these views directly from influential institutional actors. By collecting these voices, the editors achieve their goal of creating a resource that can inform decision-making processes and provide a foundation for a stronger, more robust system of global governance. It is a highly recommended read for students, researchers, policymakers, and diplomats engaged in international relations, development economics, and political economy.



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