

Examining Green Trade under the Green Economy between China and the countries along the Belt and Road

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Abstract. Currently, the "green economy" is increasingly becoming an important concern of the international community, and coordinating the relationship between economic growth and the environment has become a game point among major powers. Global climate problems, sharp decrease of resources, deterioration of ecological environment and other issues have prompted mankind to think about a more sustainable development model. As an important strategy of China, the "the Belt and Road" strategy is also facing environmental constraints. Based on this background, this paper affirms the necessity of China's development of green trade along the "the Belt and Road", and believes that promoting countries along the Belt and Road to jointly build a green community will not only boost the transformation of China's economic development model, but also help countries along the Belt and Road gradually take the path of sustainable development. This paper also analyzes the current status of green trade in China and the "the Belt and Road" countries, and believes that there are also some difficulties in the opportunities, such as the lack of high-level ecological demand, insufficient technological innovation, and the existence of GDP only theory. It is of practical significance to put forward countermeasures and suggestions.

Keywords: Green economy; Belt and Road; green trade; sustainable development.

1. introductory

An essential economic framework for the new era is the green economy. The focus of the present discussion on climate change has switched from "what" to "how," as was highlighted in Investing in a Low Carbon Economy 2010. According to the paper, the focus of the ongoing discussion on climate change has switched from "what" to "how." According to the paper, there is currently international agreement that a low-carbon and green economy should be established[1]. The study demonstrates that creating a low-carbon and green economy is the general consensus. No nation is exempt from the globalization of the economy and must dedicate itself to the cause of environmental protection. With 65 nations and areas included, a GDP of more than \$20 trillion, and a population of 4.4 billion, the "Belt and Road" is seen as a commerce strategy with a very wide scope. However, many of the Belt and Road's current member states are still in the early stages of economic growth and are emerging markets with abundant natural resources. Economic expansion is now constrained by the resulting environmental issues. In light of this, we have put up the "Belt and Road" green trade model, which aims to increase environmental protection, highlight ecological civilization, and promote green growth.

"The Belt and Road Initiative not only offers new chances to increase China's global influence, but it also represents one of the routes for China's economic transformation toward green and sustainable development[2]. China's economic growth has been progressively slowing in recent years. China's economic development rate has gradually slowed down in recent years, but environmental issues have gotten worse. Through this article, it is hoped that the theoretical information contained can close certain research gaps in the study of green commerce between China and the countries along the "Belt and Road," offer some useful advice for the more effective growth of green trade, and, at the same time, provide some practical assistance. Make some recommendations for the new green trade pattern for the nation in the framework of the green economy. What is the fundamental relationship between the Belt and Road Initiative and the green economy? What are the prerequisites and underlying principles for eco-friendly trade between China and the Belt and Road countries?

How do nations approach the new green trade path? The in-depth examination of the aforementioned concerns will support the expansion of green trade cooperation between China and the Belt and Road countries, as well as the sustainable growth of their economies.

2. Green Economy and Belt and Road Green Trade Contextualisation

2.1. Green economy

A green economy is a type of economic system that greatly lessens the damaging effects of human activity on the environment with the goal of enhancing human welfare and enabling more people to benefit from economic growth. A green economy is essentially a neutral economy that prioritizes ecological sustainability, human resource protection, and environmental preservation over human health. Many seemingly benign technologies, such as environmental protection and cleaner industrial methods, are transformed into productive forces through this economic paradigm, leading to sustained economic growth and the eradication of poverty [3].

The theoretical connotation of the green economy can be traced back to Marxist political economy and the ecological view of Marxism, although Marx did not explicitly put forward the concept of economic development such as green development and green economy, but Marx's writings contain a large number of valuable ideas on green development." Marxist political economy mainly focuses on the revelation of contradictory laws such as the laws of productive forces and relations of production, provides methodology for changing the relations of production, and is highly theoretical and logical, which is of great significance to the socialist market economy system implemented in China today. The essence of socialism in China today is to realize common prosperity, analyzing Marx's concept of distributive justice provides a theoretical basis for the realization of common prosperity in China. Marxist ecological ethics "man is a part of nature", a profound critique of anthropocentrism, Marx emphasized the natural precedence, that is, recognizing that nature exists before man and before man's real activities, nature provides man with a material base, man acts on these material bases through labor to create wealth, but for the However, these material bases should be utilized in an appropriate and reasonable manner, not exceeding the scope of the degree, which is the ecological connotation of the green economy.

2.2. Belt and Road Green Trade

China is a major driving force in global economic development, and if we implement the Belt and Road Initiative, we will promote the positive transformation of China's advantages in production capacity, technology, capital, models, and experience into advantages in market cooperation, and share the fruits of reform and development, experience and lessons learned with countries along the route [4]. However, pure trade activities are bound to have certain adverse impacts on the environment. The "Belt and Road" should be not only an economic road, but also a green development road, and in this context, the development of green trade is crucial.

A sort of trade known as "green trade" builds on conventional trading patterns, eliminates its drawbacks, and promotes sustainable growth. In terms of sustainable trade as well as environmentally friendly services and goods, green trade is more all-encompassing. Along with certain green trade barriers, green investments and technologies also contain some helpful policies, projects, and investments. Green commerce, in contrast to traditional trade, emphasizes both actual environmental costs and economic consequences. This means that in order to promote the sustainable development of green trade, we must contribute in some way to safeguarding and maintaining the ecological environment. growth of green commerce. In other words, in the process of carrying out green trade, we need to play a certain role in protecting and maintaining the ecological environment, to promote the sustainable development of green trade.

Based on this, the green trade of the "Belt and Road" should naturally combine global standards, host country requirements, and Chinese advantages. Major "Belt and Road" projects should use Chinese energy-saving and environmentally friendly technologies, and Chinese low-carbon,

recycling, and high-efficiency technological standards and management models should be applied to the "Belt and Road." We will also work together on the "Belt and Road", promote China's "resource-saving and environment-friendly" development concept and real-world experience to our neighbors, and at the same time, have a thorough understanding of the pertinent UN international organizations, development concepts, as well as relevant regulations and requirements, and speak for China in the international language.

3. The need to develop green trade along the Belt and Road in the context of a green economy

3.1. Responding to the international trend of pursuing green consumption

Under the leadership of the United Nations, international treaties and conventions like the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer have come into force globally, and some neighboring nations have started to sign the corresponding multilateral and bilateral environmental treaties and agreements[5]. Numerous international treaties and conventions have entered into force worldwide since the 1980s. Since the 1980s, numerous green trade barriers have emerged, and at the same time, global demand for associated green products has grown. China's positive response to green trade not only responds to the international community's demand for a green economy but also changes our green barriers to a certain extent, contributing to the promotion of international green development.

3.2. Strong support for economic recovery in the post epidemic era

Post-epidemic industrial recovery and increased demand for green investment are fundamental directions for promoting green, low-carbon investment and improving economic resilience in the post-epidemic period[6]. In the future, the proportion of green products in new construction projects will continue to rise. In addition, the assessment of climate impact will be further strengthened, and the greening of residents' consumption and policy procurement will continue to be increased. Many green products and services will be created more, and the first and third will be realized, with the help of national green procurement, tax incentives, low-interest loans, the priority allocation of production components, and other green industrial development policies. To achieve the integration and green development of the primary, secondary, and tertiary industries, many green products and services will be further developed. This will provide strong support for the steady recovery of the global economy in the new round.

3.3. Meeting the needs of regions and countries along the "Belt and Road" route

Many industries, including small economies, have grown in some nations. They are in high demand for green commerce because to the excessive movement of industry and their vulnerable ecological settings. Numerous environmentally friendly goods that we export to the Belt and Road region, like light converters, LED lights, energy-saving measures, and lighting and wind energy equipment, are successful in lowering hazardous emissions like ozone. These are successful at lowering hazardous emissions like ozone. Simulated animals and other environmentally friendly products can be utilized in educational settings like schools, museums, and other public spaces to encourage the preservation of biodiversity and discourage the taking of wild animals.

3.4. Consistency with our carbon-neutral strategic objectives

In light of this, China proposed the target of being carbon neutral by 2060 and promoted the growth of a green economy during the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly, which will undoubtedly contribute to the development of a green economy. The concept of "carbon neutrality" refers to the ability of the government, businesses, and people to produce "zero emissions" by conserving energy

and cutting greenhouse gas emissions. In China's energy sector model, carbon-free fuels like hydro, wind, nuclear, and solar account for just 16 percent of total energy consumption, compared to fossil fuels that emit large amounts of carbon dioxide.

4. Development of green trade between China and the countries along the Belt and Road

4.1. Clean Energy Co-operation

Clean energy cooperation between China and the nations along the Belt and Road has advanced significantly in the context of the green economy. China has actively supported the creation and utilization of clean energy sources and has shared its clean energy expertise and technologies with nations along the Belt and Road. For instance, China and Pakistan worked together to build the solar and nuclear power plants in Karachi, giving Pakistan access to sustainable energy. In addition, China has also cooperated with Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and other countries on clean energy projects such as wind power and hydropower, etc. In 2015, China's exports to 14 countries along the Belt and Road route included emissions of COD, ammonia nitrogen, sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) of 892, 83, 3,749 and 2,415 tonnes, respectively, 3,749 and 2,415 tonnes respectively. Compared with 2013, they decreased by 14.9 percent, 20 percent, and 4.2 percent respectively, while NO_x increased by 6.7 percent [7]. At the same time, however, total trade increased by 8.5 percent.

4.2. Environmental technology transfer and cooperation

Cooperation and the transfer of environmental technologies between China and the nations along the Belt and Road have also been vigorously fostered. China has extensive expertise and accomplishments in environmental protection technologies, and it has offered countries along the Belt and Road options for environmental governance, water treatment, and waste management through technology transfer and cooperation. For instance, China has collaborated with Southeast Asian nations on projects to manage water resources and reduce pollution, which have aided regional efforts to improve the quality of the environment. Although two countries, Viet Nam and Iran, reported rises in 2014, the COD and NH₃-N emissions from China's industrial exports to nations along the Belt and Road have been on a declining trend. In addition, China's total exports (SO₂, NO_x) to key countries along the Belt and Road are also decreasing.

4.3. Green Finance and Investment Co-operation

Cooperation in green finance and investment is a key component of green commerce between China and the nations along the Belt and Road. China has worked hard to advance green finance and aid in the development of green initiatives. In order to promote green projects financially, Chinese government organizations and commercial banks have established green financial institutions and funds in nations along the Belt and Road. China also encourages businesses to collaborate on green investments with nations along the Belt and Road in order to advance sustainable development. For instance, in nations along the Belt and Road, Chinese businesses have established several environmental protection projects, such as solar power plants and wind farms.

5. Dilemmas and responses

5.1. Dilemma

5.1.1. Constrained by economics: higher level ecological requirements have not yet been developed

Many countries that are part of the "Belt and Road" initiative are at a lower stage of economic development than others, including Central Asia, which, despite regaining independence following World War II, still depends on the capital of capitalist developed nations for its economic support.

The region also experiences ongoing wars and terrorist attacks, which all affect the region's level of economic development. A few Central Asian nations are still in the early stages of developing traditional industries that are very energy- and pollutant-intensive and dependent on agriculture [8]. At present, most of the needs of the people are still at the stage of solving the problem of subsistence, and they do not have high requirements for ecological health, coupled with the fact that the input cycle of the green economy is longer and slower in yielding results. As a result, development in these areas will face many challenges.

5.1.2. Insufficient technological innovation by business entities

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) represent the majority of businesses that seriously pollute the environment. Small and medium-sized businesses have relatively outdated production equipment and are lacking in technological innovation, which causes their production technology to fall short of the required standards for green trade and leaves them far behind the rest of the world in terms of sophistication. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) have weak technological application capabilities, which causes China's green trade to lag behind industrialized nations in terms of manufacturing technology and production efficiency. Healthy development has a sizable detrimental effect on green commerce.

5.1.3. GDP-only perception still exists

Many officials only tracked GDP and overlooked ecological and environmental preservation and economic development because officials in some Belt and Road countries primarily assessed gross domestic product (GDP), i.e., the number of officials who had reinforced essential evaluation indicators. Establishing an evaluation system based on green economic development is vital for each nation to implement a green economy; otherwise, it will be challenging to disprove the GDP theory in the near future. Some experts have noted that the reason for the frequent industrial disasters in cities is the blind "GDP worship," which has led to the irrational layout of some industrial companies, particularly chemical industrial enterprises^[9]. This is due to the heedless "GDP worship."

5.2. Response

5.2.1. Stratified management and strengthening of multilateral cooperation mechanisms

On the one hand, effective and targeted cooperation and investment can be carried out in countries along the Belt and Road that have different regions, levels, aspirations, environments, and needs. This is because countries have different concepts of their development paths and ecological environmental protection due to uneven levels of economic and social development, social systems, religious beliefs, and other factors. In addition, we can connect with already-existing platforms and mechanisms for cooperation to increase the impact of multilateral cooperation mechanisms on ecological environmental protection and green and low-carbon development, guided by the consensus on sustainable development and adhering to the principles of openness and inclusivity, and, at the same time, we need to strengthen exchanges with more countries to promote more countries to devote themselves to the Belt and Road green trade.

5.2.2. Developing green financing policies and strengthening technical cooperation

The Asian Infrastructure Association and Silk Road Fund should strictly control the flow of funds, take the development of a green economy as the direction, strictly prohibit the provision of credit support to high-energy-consuming and high-polluting industries, and inhibit the development of high-energy-consuming industries in the countries of the "Belt and Road" in terms of the source of funds. We should also vigorously develop the green "Social green development" and "green social responsibility". Furthermore, nations along the Belt and Road should collaborate internationally to create low-carbon technology and low-carbon technologies based on the sharing economy. In order to contribute "Chinese wisdom" and "Chinese solutions" to the sustainable development of the countries along the Belt and Road, they should continue to innovate green trade methods, speed up green technology exchanges and cooperation with countries along the routes, and actively build a

green industrial system with win-win cooperation, low carbon, and sustainable development. China's "Wisdom" and "Solution" for the Belt and Road's member nations' sustainable development.

5.2.3. Exploring green Belt and Road evaluations

"Because the Belt and Road Initiative involves numerous nations and regions with widely disparate social structures, levels of economic development, physical landscapes, and resource environments, etc., and because the green economy encompasses a wide range of factors, including resources, the environment, society, economy, investment, trade, etc., it is difficult to assess the Belt and Road's green economy. As a result, evaluating the "Belt and Road" green economy is a very difficult task. It is important to improve the identification of green projects and support for green finance through the "Belt and Road" region's strategy for sustainable development. We should conduct a multi-dimensional green assessment of investment projects from the perspectives of "green return", "green efficiency" and "comprehensive return", and establish an inter-regional "green standard". Establish inter-regional "green standards" and "green criteria" to increase the degree of "greenness" of green investment projects along the routes.

6. Summary

In the context of green consumption, the Belt and Road strategy should not only focus on economic cooperation, but also on green development. Through the exploration of green trade between China and countries along the the Belt and Road, we can find that in the context of green economy, trade cooperation is of great significance for the sustainable development of China and countries along the Belt and Road, and green trade cooperation is conducive to promoting environmental protection and sustainable development. Among the countries along the the Belt and Road, many countries have rich natural resources and environmental advantages. By promoting green trade, these countries can promote sustainable development in resource utilization, environmental protection, clean energy, and reduce environmental pollution and ecological damage. Secondly, green trade cooperation helps to enhance the economic competitiveness of countries along the route. With the increasing global demand for green products and services, countries participating in green trade can gain economic benefits by developing and exporting environmentally friendly products. This helps to promote technological innovation and industrial upgrading, and improve the country's competitiveness. However, green trade cooperation also faces some challenges. If high-level ecological needs are not yet prevalent, technology is not advanced enough, and the concept of GDP only exists. In order to promote the development of green trade cooperation, governments, enterprises, and international organizations should strengthen cooperation. The government can introduce policies and regulations to support green trade, provide financial and tax incentives, and promote strategic planning for sustainable development. Enterprises can strengthen technological innovation and research and development of green products, and actively participate in green trade cooperation. International organizations can provide technical assistance, training, and cooperation platforms to promote communication and cooperation among all parties.

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