



Illustration: Liu Rui/Global Times

Key to resolving Mideast tensions not 'China reining in Iran,' CNN wrong

US propaganda machines are increasing their efforts to shift the blame for escalating the situation in the Middle East onto China. On Monday, CNN published an article with the headline directly asking: "Can China play a role in avoiding an all-out war in the Middle East?"

The article said the recent outbreak of tensions between Iran and Israel "has raised

CNN is turning a blind eye to these facts.

Not only CNN, but in the recent confrontation between Iran and Israel, Western countries, including the US, have once again demonstrated double standards. They displayed an ambiguous attitude when Israel's bombing resulted in Iranian casualties and property damage, while "unequivocally condemning

in the strongest terms" Iran's retaliation against Israel.

It is the US pro-Israel stance in the Israel-Palestine conflict that has triggered a series of subsequent military conflicts and spillover effects, including the recent flare-up between Iran and Israel. Therefore, who should play the biggest role in "avoiding an all-out war in the Middle East"? The answer is the US.

Unfortunately, with its enormous influence, the US fails to play its due role, but instead adopts a double standard stance, which is the real culprit behind the tense situation in the Middle East, Tian Wenlin, a research fellow at the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, told the Global Times.

The Gaza conflict itself and the conflict between Israel and Iran are likely to continue, said Liu. According to media reports on Monday, Israel's war cabinet remains determined to respond to Iran's attack and reviewed military plans for a potential response, while Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said on Tuesday that Iran will respond to any action against its interests.

Against this background, it's just for China to call on relevant parties "to exercise maximum calm and restraint and resolve their differences and disputes in accordance with the purposes of the UN Charter and international law to prevent further escalation." China will continue to play a constructive role and help deescalate the situation. The US should also bear its due responsibility in the Middle East conflicts.



questions over how much leverage China wields over Iran and whether Beijing is willing to turn its political capital into influence." It pointed out that "reining in Tehran" in the ongoing conflict could prove a thornier task for China, as it lacks the ability to pull economic levers to influence Iran's behavior due to a lack of "real coercive power in the region."

China has no intention of seeking "coercive power" in the Middle East. In fact, CNN's so-called "weaponizing trade relations," using economic influence for political pressure, is a common tactic employed by the US. It is petty-minded to judge China's diplomacy from the perspective of Western countries' consistent despicable practices, Liu Zhongmin, a professor at the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University, told the Global Times. China doesn't view economic exchanges as a geopolitical tool, let alone using them to "reining in" other countries.

CNN is wrong. The key to solving the Middle East conflict is not "reining in Iran," the responsibility lies with the US and Israel. The conflict between Iran and Israel started with an Israeli airstrike that destroyed the Iranian consulate annex building adjacent to the Iranian embassy in Damascus, Syria, resulting in 16 deaths and violating the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961. Iran retaliated 12 days later and gave the US and neighboring countries a 72 hours' advance notice. However,

China, Germany send strong message of cooperation to stabilize world

Chinese President Xi Jinping met with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing in the morning of April 16. The two sides not only had in-depth discussions on current China-Germany relations but also exchanged views on international and regional issues of mutual interest, reaching consensus on issues such as the Ukraine crisis and the Palestine-Israel conflict. As China and Germany are respectively the second and third largest economies in the world, the consolidation and development of their relations carries significance that goes beyond the bilateral scope, and has a major impact on the Eurasian continent and the entire world, Xi said, calling on the two countries to view and develop bilateral relations from a long-term and strategic perspective, and work together to inject greater stability and certainty into the world.

The meeting between the two leaders holds significant importance both bilaterally and globally. At the critical juncture of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the all-round strategic partnership between China and Germany, the two countries vigorously enhanced strategic mutual trust, further solidifying and developing bilateral relations. Against the backdrop of escalating regional conflicts and hotspot issues, as well as the uncertainty of global recovery and the growing headwinds of trade protectionism, this meeting of the leaders of both countries has brought rare stability and confidence to the world.

As a strategically significant interaction between China and Germany, the dialogue between the leaders of the two countries has clarified the direction of China-Germany relations as well as the broader China-Europe relations at four levels. First, mutually beneficial cooperation between China and Germany is not a "risk," but the guarantee for a stable bilateral relationship and an opportunity for the future. Second, both sides should promote the win-win features of their relations and enable each other to succeed. Third, the two sides should stay vigilant against the rise of protectionism, adopt an objective and dialectical view on the issue of capacity through a market and global perspective and based on the laws of economics, and devote more efforts to the discussion on cooperation. Fourth, the two countries share a lot in common on the issue of world multipolarity. A multipolar world is, in essence, one where countries with different civilizations, systems and paths respect each other and coexist in peace.

The above-mentioned ideas are also widely recognized and accepted at the social level in both countries. Scholz's visit to China has followed a trend of starting low and ending high

in domestic and European public opinion. Scholz's visit was initially seen as a betrayal of Europe's "de-risking" campaign. However, as it unfolded, the German delegation and European public opinion saw and understood the real and comprehensive China, gaining a deeper understanding of the mutual benefit and win-win nature of the relationship. Scholz's statement that "Chinese cars would be welcome on the market in Germany" was also warmly received in China for the same underlying reason.

The significance of the interaction between China and Germany for the world lies in highlighting how to promote mutual understanding and improve cognition through high-quality communication at a critical moment of global development and transformation, and when the relationship between the two sides is in a state of both opportunities and challenges. Some people have assumed that China and Germany cannot discuss or agree on sensitive issues. However, the experience of high-quality communication between China and Germany in the past allows both sides to engage in constructive dialogue. China and Germany being able to reach a common understanding in these areas will have implications beyond bilateral relations, having a benchmark significance for the entire world and impacting the maintenance and stability of global trade and supply chains in a practical way.

At the end of Scholz's visit to China, both sides agreed to implement the results of the seventh China-Germany inter-governmental consultations, deepen cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, investment, and technology. The German chancellor and Chinese premier witnessed the signing of multiple bilateral cooperation agreements, including in the field of automated and connected driving. This undoubtedly reflects the practical level of the two countries in seeking consensus in the face of differences and exploring the feasibility of development through cooperation to manage competition. Facing the new political and economic situation in the world, it is believed that China-Germany relations have the ability to face reality and have the courage to face the future, and will surely be able to achieve long-term stability. As President Xi said, the more instability in the world, the greater the need for the two sides to strengthen the resilience and vitality of their relations, keep to the overall direction of cooperation and development in growing bilateral ties, and stick to the characterization of all-round strategic partnership.

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"Useful reminder to those complaining about refugees in Europe: If you want less refugees, your main enemy is the US Military Industrial Complex."

User @RnaudBertrand on X (formerly Twitter) on Tuesday.