Research on the New Round of Technological Revolution and the High-Quality Development of China's Foreign Trade

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Abstract: In the context of the new round of technological revolution and industrial transformation, China's economy is facing many opportunities and challenges. This article mainly discusses the opportunities and challenges of the new round of technological revolution to the high-quality development of my country's foreign trade, and puts forward corresponding questions and suggestions. In the process of high-quality development of foreign trade, China has problems such as the urgent need to transform its foreign trade structure, lack of innovation capabilities, and complex international trade situations. It has proposed corresponding strategies through discussions on the role of government and enterprises.

1. Introduction

In the development process of human society, it has mainly experienced three eras of great technological leap and development in the steam age, electrical age, and information age [1]. The current new round of technological revolution and industrial transformation is having a major impact on our society. Under the impact of the new round of technological revolution, the high-quality development of my country's foreign trade has ushered in both opportunities and challenges.

2. Opportunities and Challenges of China's Foreign Trade under the New Round of Technological Revolution

2.1 China's Foreign Trade Opportunities in the New Round of Technological Revolution

The arrival of a new round of technological revolution has accelerated the development of China's foreign trade and increased opportunities for China's foreign trade. The opportunities brought by the new round of technological revolution to China's foreign trade are mainly manifested in the following three aspects:

First, the most prominent and obvious features of the new round of technological revolution are digitization, networking, and intelligence. This will prompt major adjustments and changes in the division of labor and production patterns of my country's foreign trade industry. From the
perspective of the division of labor, the manufacturing industry in my country's foreign trade will transform to service and specialization, and the service industry and the manufacturing industry will penetrate and merge with each other.

Second, a new round of technological revolution will bring new technologies and new powers to foreign trade companies that are currently in their later stages and are developing to the forefront of the world, get rid of the influence of traditional companies, and increase their own competitive advantages in foreign trade.

Third, countries around the world have different reactions to the new round of technological revolution. The new round of technological revolution is currently on the rise, and countries are still in a period of awareness of the new round of technological revolution, which will reduce trade frictions and reduce trade frictions. The frequency of trade barriers is conducive to the development of Chinese foreign trade enterprises. At the same time, my country's foreign trade companies will have more opportunities to use new technologies to improve their own technological level and promote the process of high-quality development of foreign trade.

2.2 China's Foreign Trade Faces Challenges under the New Round of Technological Revolution

The advent of a new round of technological revolution has also brought challenges to China's foreign trade, mainly in the following four aspects:

First of all, the number one challenge for China in foreign trade is the lack of technological innovation capabilities. The bulk products exported by China in foreign trade are mainly labor-intensive products, while there are few products with high added value.

Secondly, a new round of technological revolution is coming fiercely and on a huge scale, which will have a major impact on the traditional advantages inherent in Chinese foreign trade companies. The demographic advantage that was originally a labor-intensive industry will no longer exist.

Third, in the new round of technological revolution in the process of promoting the high-quality development of China's foreign trade, expensive conversion costs will restrict the transformation and upgrading of traditional foreign trade enterprises.

Finally, in the process of high-quality development of China's foreign trade, it not only has to compete with other advanced developed countries in the world for technological innovation, but also competes with the countries that are catching up directly behind it, facing huge competitive pressure [2].

3. High-Quality Development of China's Foreign Trade under the New Round of Technological Revolution

3.1 The Structure of Foreign Trade is in Urgent Need of Transformation

China is the country with the largest manufacturing scale in the world. My country has shifted from agriculture-led to industry-led in foreign trade. The rapid development of industry makes my country use industrial products as bulk export products in foreign trade. However, my country's foreign trade has long been dominated by labor-intensive traditional manufacturing, with a very low proportion of product added value, and has always been in the downstream of the industrial chain. The advantages obtained through population have now become disadvantages. The digital and intelligent technologies brought about by the new round of technological revolution will promote the transformation of my country’s foreign trade industry from production-oriented manufacturing to service-oriented manufacturing. At the same time, it will bring about an increase in production efficiency and an increase in added value, urging the transformation and upgrading of my country’s
foreign trade and speeding up the process of servicing foreign trade.

3.2 Insufficient Innovation Capabilities of Foreign Trade Companies

China's lack of innovation capabilities in foreign trade is a shortcoming in the high-quality development of China's foreign trade. China has long relied on foreign high-end technology, and its foreign trade is in a state of technical trade deficit [2], and it has to pay high-end foreign companies every year for expensive technology. Although my country has been increasing its investment in technological innovation, the quality of technological output is not high, high-end talents are lacking, and the output is not proportional to the benefits it brings, and the quality of innovation is low, and it is easy to be restricted by foreign countries.

3.3 Complicated International Economic and Trade Environment

At present, the international situation is becoming more and more complicated. The financial crisis has left the global economy in a weak state. The economies of all countries around the world have recovered slowly, the economies of developed countries have continued to shrink, and emerging economies have insufficient stamina. In order to maintain stability in their own economies, countries around the world have adopted trade protectionism, anti-dumping, trade barriers and other measures that are not in compliance with world trade rules frequently. This is extremely detrimental to my country's foreign trade exports and increases the pressure on my country's foreign trade enterprises. In particular, the Sino-US trade friction has aggravated the instability of China's foreign trade and has had a significant impact on the structural adjustment and transformation of my country's foreign trade industry and related enterprises.

4. High-Quality Development Strategy of China's Foreign Trade under the New Round of Technological Revolution

4.1 The Government Increases Investment in Science and Technology and Optimizes the Structure of Foreign Trade

In the new round of technological revolution and the rapid development of emerging technologies such as digitization, networking, and intelligence, China must give full play to the role of the government in the process of high-quality development of foreign trade.

First of all, the government should make arrangements in advance, firmly grasp the trend of the times, and stay behind. The new round of technological revolution has accelerated the pace of the digital economy era. The role of the network, logistics, and electronic payment is obviously prominent, and the role of science and technology has become more apparent. The government should actively prepare to increase investment in and support for science and technology, speed up the structural reform of the science and technology supply side, enhance our country's science and technology originality, and accelerate development into a science and technology powerhouse. Advanced science and technology are the solid backing for the high-quality development of my country's foreign trade.

Secondly, my country's foreign trade has always been dominated by labor-intensive manufacturing, while the proportion of knowledge-intensive and technology-intensive industries is not high [3]. In the current severe world economic situation, the government should support the development of industries with high technological content, reduce my country's dependence on foreign high-end technology in the process of foreign trade, and increase the technological content of my country's foreign trade products.
4.2 Enhancing the Innovation International Competitiveness of Foreign Trade Enterprises

Under the impact of the new round of technological revolution, countries around the world are also optimizing their own industrial structure to adapt to the world trend. In the adjustment of industrial structure in various countries, the tertiary industry is clearly inclined, and service industries such as tourism and finance are developing rapidly. The rapid rise of the tertiary industry has changed the international trade structure, and the trade structure has shifted towards integration, meticulousness and service. This is the inevitable result of the shift in demand in the global market, technological progress, and industrial optimization.

Foreign trade enterprises should increase their investment in technological innovation, actively attract outstanding and high-end talents from the world, increase their own technological soft power, and develop in the direction of high precision and high quality. The new round of scientific and technological revolution is essentially a process of “creative destruction” in which new production methods replace old production methods, new productivity replaces old productivity, and new kinetic energy replaces old kinetic energy [4]. In this process, my country’s foreign trade companies should seize the opportunity, absorb advanced production methods, urge themselves to change from traditional manufacturing to service-oriented manufacturing, and promote digital, intelligent, and information technology in the manufacturing industry. The use of, formulate long-term development plans, optimize their own structure.

4.3 Building a New Pattern of International Cooperation and Exchanges

At present, the general environment of international trade is unstable, and trade cooperation between countries requires a stable environment. The government and foreign trade enterprises should strengthen exchanges and communication with other countries in the world.

First, China should actively negotiate with other countries in the world to build a more equal and more standardized foreign trade platform, and establish an international trading system that can protect the interests of all parties in foreign trade.

Secondly, in the context of the new round of technological revolution, the digital economy is developing rapidly. My country needs to develop high-end technologies and also need to absorb high-end technologies from other countries, so it is necessary to improve my country's opening-up capabilities. The government and foreign trade companies should increase the opening up of public data and establish a data circulation system in line with the high-quality development of foreign trade.

Finally, companies should also actively strengthen cooperation with other companies and other countries to diversify the market and change the traditional market model. For example, using the “Belt and Road” platform that the government is vigorously developing, strengthen cooperation with countries along the route, actively “go global”, simplify foreign trade channels, and actively promote itself towards high-quality development.

5. Conclusion

In the context of the new round of technological revolution and industrial transformation, the high-quality development of my country's foreign trade is full of opportunities and challenges. The government and foreign trade enterprises, the two main bodies in the process of high-quality development of foreign trade, should strive to promote the development of my country's foreign trade in the direction of intelligence, digitization and informatization, and strive to promote my country's foreign trade to go further and further in the high-quality development.
References