**debt, financial/债(Zhài)**

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| Final Remarks | Jean-Luc Mathon, YAO Yang | 31 May 2022 |

Jean-Luc Mathon: Are Confucian values universal? In other words, are Chinese people similarly obliged to repay foreign people?

YAO Yang: Yes, China has a good track record for paying back foreign debts. For example, China has been a good borrower for the World Bank, not only having paid all its debts in time, but also using the debts wisely to alleviate poverty, build infrastructure, improve education, and so on. On the other hand, China has also forgiven the debts of developing countries for several time.

YAO Yang: How do people in Europe think about the ECB's recent large expansion of its liability, which ultimately has been used to finance government debts?

Jean-Luc Mathon: I suppose that you mean the PEPP (pandemic emergency purchase program) which allows, in effect, to finance European states. It was a necessity to sustain European economy. So, this indebtedness has to be reduced in the long term by economic growth in particular. But the Ukrainian crisis increase, worryingly, European union indebtedness. War is a scourge.