

The evolution of the Chinese strategy vis-a-vis Southeast Europe

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Historical background

First relations after the World War II

Sino-Soviet split 1960

Looking for allies in an anti-Soviet strategy

Improved relations with Yugoslavia (1960),
Romania (1964) and Greece (1986)

What is China doing in Southeast Europe ?

- Search for allies and diplomatic backing

Shared socialist past

A state centric approach

- Growing economical influence

Export oriented economy

Economic imperialism

China's historical

- Inclusion in a broader picture

Geographical significance of the region

Belt and Road Initiative

- The addition of soft power

Education

Media influence

The opportunity of Kosovo

2009 China enters a process before the ICJ, saying that sovereign states have « a right to prevent unilateral secession and protect their integrity ».

Opportunity to dispute any independantist claims (Tibet, Xinjiang, Taiïwan)

Getting diplomatic backing from Serbia (supports China's position at the UN on question like Hong Kong)

China's strategy

Taking advantage of the power vacuum

Equal footing with all states / State centric approach

Lack of considerations for investments (human rights, environment...)

China's strategy

Washington consensus :

- Harsh neo liberalism
- Transparency
- Political liberalization

Beijing consensus :

- State capitalism
- Lack of transparency
- Political bargaining
- Population control with tech

China's strategy

State enterprises



中國建築股份有限公司
CHINA STATE CONSTRUCTION ENGRG . CORP. LTD



中国中铁股份有限公司
CHINA RAILWAY GROUP LIMITED



CCCC
CHINA COMMUNICATIONS CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

China's investments in the region

Mainly in infrastructure, telecommunication and energy

Piraeus Port, railway between Serbia and Hungary, highways in Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Peljesac Bridge in Croatia

Thermal power plant in Serbia and Bosnia (Coal)

Lukewarm acceptance and pollution

Country	Year	Chinese Bank	Lending	Project
Montenegro	2013	Export-Import Bank	USD 944 million	Bar-to-Boljare highway
Serbia	2013	Export-Import Bank	USD 334 million	Construction of the Lajkovac-Ub section of pan-European transport Corridor XI
Serbia	2017	Export-Import Bank	USD 298 million	Belgrade – Budapest Railway project
Serbia	2019	Consortium of Chinese Banks	USD 220 million	Industrial Parc in Borca, Belgrade
Bosnia Herzegovina	2014	China Development Bank	USD 350 million	Republika Srpska Stanari* Thermal power plant
Bosnia Herzegovina	2019	Export-Import Bank	614 million euros*	Tuzla* Thermal Power Plant Block 7
North Macedonia	2019	Export-Import Bank	USD 180 million	Kicevo - Ohrid Highway project
North Macedonia	2019	Export-Import Bank	USD 177 million	Skopje - Stip Highway project

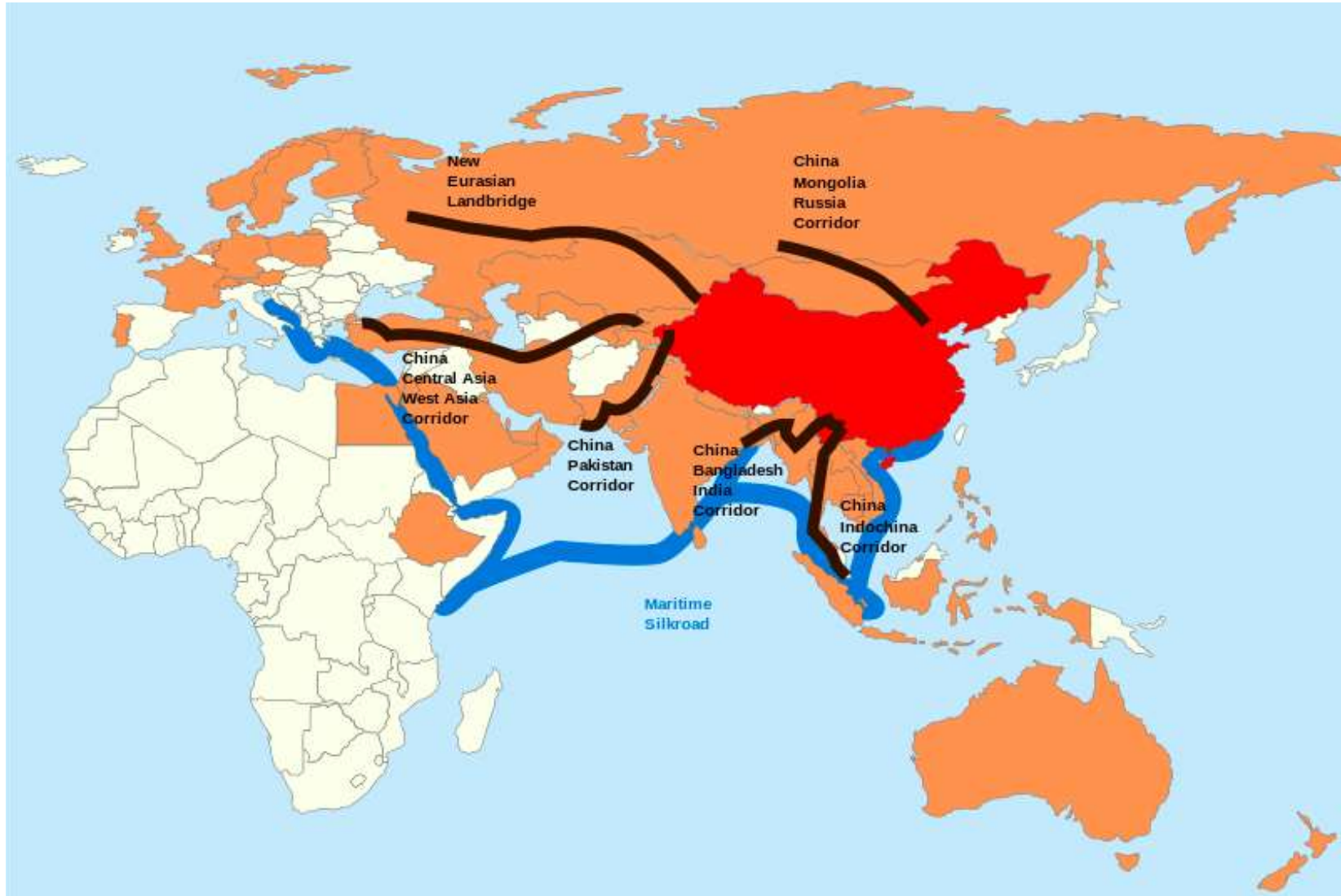
Inclusion into a broader ambition

China-CEE (Cooperation between China and Central and Eastern European countries) known as 14+1 in 2012

China's Belt and Road initiative in 2013



China's Belt and Road



Diplomatic leverage

First chinese strategy evolution (Checkbook diplomacy)

Chairman of the Czech senate threatened

Debt-trap

China's soft power

Confucius institutes

The Greek state news agency AMNA and Serbia's Tanjug News Agency have had cooperation agreements with China

Reduced pollution

China's soft power relies on its economy

China's Soft Power Footprint: Confucius Institutes

Country	Location	Year
Serbia	University of Belgrade, University of Novi Sad	May 2006
Greece	Athens University of Economics and Business University of Thessalia, Thessaloniki	June 2009 Nov. 2019
Cyprus	University of Cyprus	Sept. 2014
Slovenia	University of Ljubljana	Aug. 2009
Bulgaria	Sofia University St. Cyril + St. Methodius Veliko Turnovo University	June 2006 Oct. 2012
Croatia	University of Zagreb	July 2011
North Macedonia	SS Cyril and Methodius University	April 2013
Albania	University of Tirana	June 2013
Montenegro	University of Montenegro	Sept. 2014
Bosnia & Hercegovina	University of Sarajevo	Dec. 2014

Possible evolutions

Growing western influence / War in Ukraine

Cooperation with western institutions

Loss of influence and economic retaliations

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