

[Class]: Country

# China Is Determined to Reshape the Globe

[Class]: Project

Eurasia is a single continent. The Belt and Road initiative seeks to recreate it in China's image.

[Class]: Person

By Hal Brands

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[Class]: Region

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Of all the factors that shape a country's global fortunes, geography is the most immutable. A country is where it is. The advantages and disadvantages that come with its location typically shift slowly, if at all. That's what makes China's bold effort to remake the strategic landscape of Eurasia so remarkable. Beijing is placing a trillion-dollar wager that it can transform its strategic geography from a constraint into a powerful geopolitical asset.

[Class]: Intent

[Class]: Price

[Class]: Union

[Class]: Concept

This would be quite a turnaround, given all the liabilities of China's geography. On its maritime periphery, it faces U.S. treaty allies and strategic partners that provide a springboard for the projection of American power into the Western Pacific. To the north, there is an ambitious Russia, which has more often been an enemy than a friend.

[Class]: Expectation

[Class]: Country

[Class]: Country

[Class]: Expectation

[Class]: City

[Class]: Weakness

[Class]: Goods

[Class]: Weakness

On China's western and southern flanks, there are countries such as Vietnam and India, which can be expected to oppose Beijing's rise, and the Central Asian states, which have traditionally been a site of competition with Russia. If the U.S. has the advantage of being surrounded by fish and docile neighbors, China has long been ringed by rivals.

[Class]: Region

The geographical difficulties don't end there. Beijing's energy-guzzling economy is heavily dependent on oil and natural gas from the Middle East. These imports pass through maritime choke-points - the Straits of Tiran into the Red Sea, the Malacca Strait off Indonesia - that can be closed off by the U.S. Navy. Not surprisingly, Chinese leaders have realized that achieving Beijing's global potential requires changing the country's strategic geography.

[Class]: Strait

[Class]: Intent

[Class]: Project

This is the true meaning of China's Belt and Road Initiative - a collection of investment, trade and infrastructure programs spanning Eurasia and surrounding areas including the Horn of Africa, at an eventual total cost of perhaps \$1 to \$2 trillion. Belt and Road has been described as a lot of things: a financial boondoggle, a catch-phrase, a threat to the U.S.-led world order. Yet at its core, it represents an effort to build a more integrated Eurasian geopolitical space - with China at its center.

[Class]: Price

[Class]: Threat

[Class]: Intent

[Class]: Region

[Class]: Defense

[Class]: Defense

[Class]: Region

Investing in energy pipelines that run through Central Asia and beyond is not simply a way of keeping China's industries humming. It is also a way of establishing overland supply routes that cannot be so easily disrupted by the U.S. Promoting deeper trade, investment and infrastructure ties with countries from Cambodia to Central Europe is a way of drawing them into China's geo-economic and geopolitical orbit - or at least making them less resistant to Beijing's power. Where China's money goes, its diplomatic and military influence will follow.

[Class]: Future Model

[Question]: If U.S. will close straits, will China block U.S. oil supply from Saudi Arabia as well?

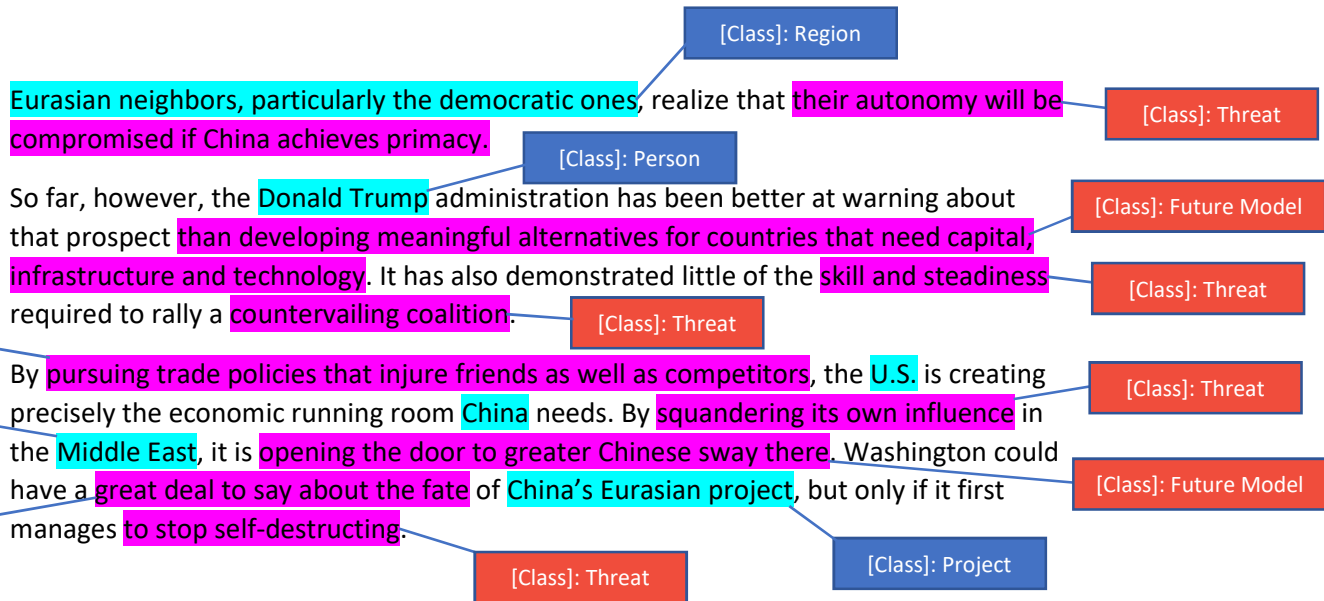
[Question]: What marine power is required to prevent U.S closing straits? What history tells about this?

[Question]: Why U.S. wants to disrupt supply routes to China?



[Question]: Which exact incentives U.S. has to prevent Beijing from realizing its objectives?

[Question]: What will happen if Russia will fully support and cooperate with China in Belt in Road project?



To contact the author of this story:

Hal Brands at [Hal.Brands@jhu.edu](mailto:Hal.Brands@jhu.edu)

To contact the editor responsible for this story:

Tobin Harshaw at [tharshaw@bloomberg.net](mailto:tharshaw@bloomberg.net)

[Question]: Which countries there need capital, infrastructure and technology? Uzbekistan and Pakistan? Which else? What U.S. can offer them?

[Question]: What influence in Middle East U.S. is squandering? Iran's deal? Exit from Syria? What else?

[Question]: What is the nature of most important China activity in Middle East? Trade with Iran? What else? What China offers those countries?

[Question]: What exact development/future model U.S. proposes in Afghanistan? Iraq? Libya? Yemen?