

ACCORDING TO WORLD BANK DATA, IN 2020, CHINA OWNED 37 PERCENT OF POORER NATIONS' DEBT.

Port of Piraeus: A USD 1.8 bln port project in Greece that was **acquired**⁴² by China's **state-owned**⁴³ China Open Shipping Company (COSCO), in 2016. The **acquisition**⁴⁴ has been seen as a strategic move by China to gain greater access to European markets and expand its geopolitical influence in the Mediterranean region.

Win-win⁴⁵ or Poisoned Chalice⁴⁶?

On the face of it⁴⁷, Chinese loans look like a **good deal** for everyone, but **scratch beneath the surface**⁴⁸ and some serious **concerns**⁴⁹ **start to emerge**⁵⁰. While many countries, particularly the poorer ones in Africa and Asia might be **crying out for**⁵¹ foreign investment, it often comes at a heavy price.

According to⁵² World Bank data, in 2020, China owned 37 percent of poorer nations' debt. Projects such as the so-called New Silk Road, while connecting parts of Central Asia to Chinese markets, also left many countries **saddled with**⁵³ debts they will **struggle**⁵⁴ to repay. A number of African countries also find themselves significantly **in hock**⁵⁵ to China. Countries with the **dubious**⁵⁶ prize of being in the top five of **indebtedness**⁵⁷ to China are:

Chinese debt as a percentage of **gross domestic product (GDP)**⁵⁸

- Djibouti – 43 percent
- Angola – 35 percent
- Laos – 30 percent
- Maldives – 29 percent
- Mongolia – 24 percent

⁴² **acquired** ə'kwairə(r)d kupiony, nabyty

⁴³ **state-owned** stert əvnd państwowy

⁴⁴ **acquisition** ˌækwi'ziʃn kupno, przejęcie

⁴⁵ **win-win** ,win 'win sytuacja, w której obie strony wygrywają

⁴⁶ **poisoned chalice** 'pɔɪznd 'tʃæls zatruty kielich, coś co na początku wygląda dobrze, ale przynosi szkodę

⁴⁷ **on the face of it** ɒn ðə feɪs əv ɪt na pierwszy rzut oka

⁴⁸ **to scratch beneath the surface** tə skraetʃ brɪnɪθ ðə 'sæfɪs przyjrzeć się czemuś dokładnie

⁴⁹ **concerns** kən'sɜːnz obawy

⁵⁰ **to emerge** tu 'ɪmərdʒ wyłaniać się, wychodzić na jaw

⁵¹ **to cry out for sth** tə krai aʊt fə(r) 'sʌmθɪŋ wołać, krzyczeć o coś

⁵² **according to sth** ə'kɔːdɪŋ tə 'sʌmθɪŋ według czegoś

⁵³ **saddled with sth** 'sædlɪd wɪð 'sʌmθɪŋ obarczony czymś

⁵⁴ **to struggle** tə 'strʌgl borykać się

⁵⁵ **in hock** ɪn hɒk zadłużony

⁵⁶ **dubious** 'djuːbiəs wątpliwy

⁵⁷ **indebtedness** ɪn'detɪdnəs zadłużenie

⁵⁸ **gross domestic product (GDP)** grɒs də'mestɪk 'prɒdʌkt produkt krajowy brutto (PKB)



ITS VS. IT'S VS. THEIR

Fill the gaps with *its*, *it's* or *their*.

1. The Hambantota Port in Sri Lanka, with _____ strategic location, has been funded and built by Chinese companies.
2. The Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Rail project is expected to open in June 2023, and _____ likely to greatly benefit transportation in the region.
3. When a country is unable to meet _____ repayment obligations, _____ often forced to negotiate new terms.
4. _____ not easy for a country to repay _____ debt when _____ burdened with high interest rates.
5. _____ important for a country to have a comprehensive plan in place to manage _____ debt effectively.
6. China Development Bank and the Export-Import Bank of China have been providing loans to finance _____ large-scale infrastructure projects.
7. The World Bank typically offers more favorable terms compared to Chinese loans, as _____ interest rates are generally lower.
8. China's "going out" policy encourages _____ companies to expand _____ operations globally.

BEM TEST

Answers: 1. its, 2. it's, 3. its, it's, 4. it's, its, 5. it's, its, 6. their, 7. its, 8. its, their