

CHINA'S DREAM, THE WORLD'S NIGHTMARE

HOW THE CHINESE
COMMUNIST PARTY
IS COLONIZING
AND ENSLAVING
THE PLANET



THE FIRST STATUS REPORT ON THE BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE BY THE CAPTIVE NATIONS COALITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PRESENT DANGER: CHINA © 2021



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As of January 2021, the number of countries that have joined the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with China is 140*.

The countries of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) are spread across all continents:

- 40 countries are in Sub-Saharan Africa
- 34 BRI countries are in Europe & Central Asia (including 18 countries of the European Union (EU) that are part of the BRI)
- 25 BRI countries are in East Asia & Pacific
- 17 BRI countries in Middle East & North Africa
- 18 BRI countries are in Latin America & Caribbean
- 6 countries are in South East Asia

* For some countries that are listed as having signed an MoU for the BRI, the availability of independent information is contradictory. For example, the seven countries of Austria, Benin, Comoros, Congo Democratic Republic, Dominica, Niger and Russian Federation have not published a confirmation of signing a full MoU or even denied it. These countries are listed as “null” in the following map of countries of the Belt and Road Initiative.

SOURCE: Green Belt and Road Initiative Center

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CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

At the end of World War II, the United States, with the exception of the loss of human life and the attack on Pearl Harbor, had come through relatively free of the ravages that had devastated Europe and Asia. Victorious on the battlefield, the US had also emerged as the leader of the free world and defender of a liberal world order. Having seen the failures of the Treaty of Versailles following World War I, the United States set out to help rebuild the economies of Europe with the belief that a prosperous people were more likely to adopt and sustain a political order compatible with human freedom.

The Marshall Plan, named after President Truman's Secretary of State, George Marshall, was an economic recovery program to rebuild industries that had been destroyed and to ensure the economic privation would not lead the peoples of Europe to embrace socialist or communist ideologies. This was not some idealistic effort born of humanitarianism. This was cold, hard strategic thinking that would help establish for the United States, as a commercial republic, stable trading partners who would help form a bulwark against the military rise of the Soviet Union and the communist world. The success of this is witnessed every day in America, Europe and, although not directly part of the Marshall Plan's aid program, Japan. The overarching goal of this strategic thinking was the defense of human freedom.

It is in this light that we must examine the Chinese Communist Party and their Belt and Road Initiative. By contrast, their goal is to use a system of sovereign loans and debt agreements to corrupt and coopt the nations of the world and to make them subservient to the People's Republic of China.

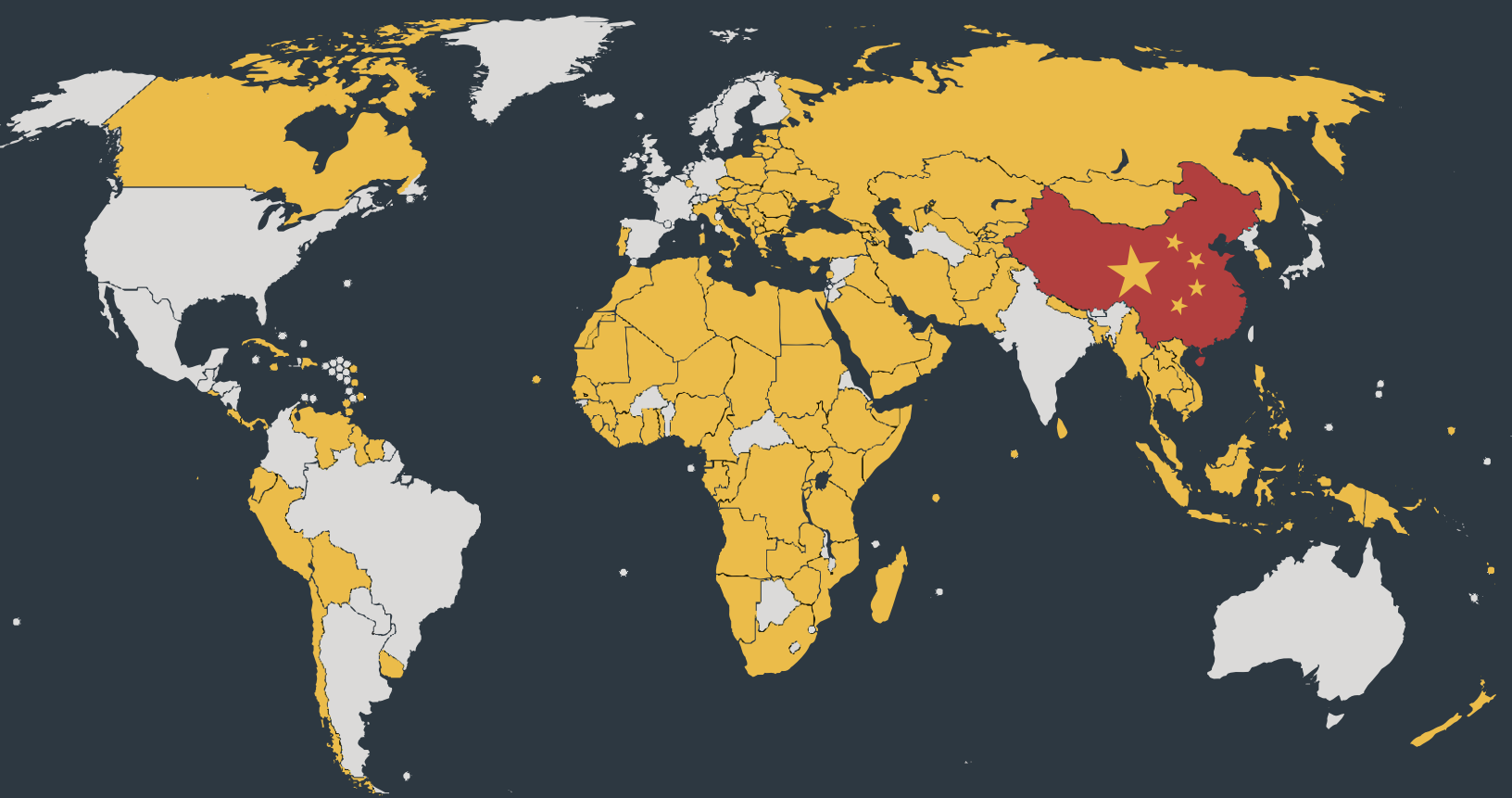
With their Belt and Road Initiative, the CCP is engaging in the age-old practice of buying off a nation's leader or a company's CEO. This is not so complicated. The leader or CEO, once compromised, becomes a ready partner in a loan or commercial agreement that benefits the CCP. Nations that do not repay their foreign loans or live up to their agreements will have their assets seized or suffer some other form of forfeiture. Examples are highlighted in this report.

This debt-trap diplomacy has but one purpose: the establishment of the CCP as the most powerful economic and political force on the planet. Given their success, including their ability to coopt their Wall Street financiers, it is critical for the free people of the world to understand this now and prepare themselves for the unrestricted economic warfare they are witnessing. They must also find political leaders here in the United States who are willing to stand up to this. The defense of the United States demands it.



Brian T. Kennedy
Chairman

The Committee on the Present Danger: China



COUNTRIES ENGAGED IN THE BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE

Executive Summary

China's Dream, the World's Nightmare

investigates an unprecedented campaign of colonization by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) aimed at achieving its world domination by building an empire through massive and debt-trap-financed overseas investments and commercial construction contracts.

Unbeknownst to most Americans, this "Silk Road" restoration campaign—dubbed¹ the "Belt & Road Initiative" (BRI) in 2013 by China's dictator CCP General Secretary Xi Jinping, with parallel strategies referred to as the "Silk Road Economic Belt" and its counterpart the "21st Century Maritime Silk Road"—is currently underway to various degrees in at least **140 of the world's 193 U.N.-recognized countries.**²

The Belt and Road Initiative is building out a global colonial infrastructure using China's ability to extend massive loans—thanks in no small measure to financing³ from U.S. and other Western capital markets—to countries that are generally poverty-stricken, corrupt (or both) and at high risk of defaulting on such loans.

When countries fail to make good on the loans, the People's Republic of China (PRC) takes⁴ by various means control and ownership of their natural resources, BRI-financed assets and/or territory.

These actions ultimately undermine the sovereignty of BRI-contracted countries. In some cases, they conduce to opportunities for the expansion of Chinese power-projection capabilities.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This analysis of the Belt and Road Initiative has been undertaken by the Captive Nations Coalition (CNC)⁵ of the Committee on the Present Danger: China (CPDC).⁶ It draws on the historic experience of people living in formerly independent countries or autonomous regions now occupied, violently oppressed, and enslaved by Communist China.

The CCP's current Captive Nations are three once-sovereign nations forcefully occupied by the CCP: Southern Mongolia, Tibet and East Turkistan. The most recent addition to those enslaved by the Communist Chinese are the residents of the former territory of Hong Kong. In addition, the CCP is ramping up threats to end⁷ Taiwan's de facto status as an independent and sovereign nation and is increasingly exercising the means violently to carry out such threats.

The Captive Nations Coalition considers the people of China also to be enslaved by the totalitarian CCP. The atheist rulers of China value human beings based strictly on their utility to the state and not based on Western democratic principles of natural rights or sacred dignity. The Communist Party of China under the leadership of Xi insists on absolute loyalty to the Party and secures it by all means necessary. Such means are made vastly more comprehensive and repressive with the evolution of the so-called "Social Credit System"⁸—a massive surveillance, artificial intelligence and data-mining capability used to monitor entire populations in real-time and assure conformity with the Chinese Communist Party's diktats through inducements/punishments affecting access to employment, health care, housing, transportation, education and even food.



The genocidal Communist Party of China has relentlessly waged war on the history, traditions, languages, and belief systems of the Captive Nations. Even now, millions are held in what the communists deceptively refer to as "re-education centers" which in fact have been described as modern-day concentration camps⁹ rife with murder, torture, state-sponsored rape, slave labor, and other atrocities and crimes against humanity. These crimes are exposed through the testimony of brave survivors and their family members. Many who have escaped Communist China's brutality to safer lands nonetheless experience

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

unceasing harassment, threats and intimidation from Chinese operatives charged with keeping them submissive, no matter where in the world they seek refuge. In short, refugees from China's Captive Nations have no freedom, even in the free countries they now call home.

On January 19, 2021, then-U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo formally recognized the PRC's genocide¹⁰ of Uyghurs, Kazakhs and other Turkic minorities of the autonomous region of Xinjiang (formerly the independent nation of East Turkistan.) The Biden State Department has upheld this designation as ongoing genocide.¹¹ Additionally, in March 2020, the independent U.K.-based China Tribunal found China to be criminally liable and genocidal for its industrial-grade organ transplant tourism industry which relies on forced organ harvesting¹² from living religious or political prisoners of conscience to provide on-demand a virtually endless—and highly profitable—supply of organs to domestic and international recipients. For these and a multitude of other crimes, the Committee recommends China be designated a Transnational Criminal Organization.¹³

In addition to examining the Belt and Road Initiative's impact within the existing Captive Nations, this report considers the plight of countries that are in the process of being enslaved by the CCP via the BRI. This sample is drawn from every region of the world, providing insights, data, and information concerning emerging CCP threats and current BRI status. BRI construction loan and investment data provided comes from the American Enterprise Institute's world-renowned *China Global Investment Tracker* (CGIT).¹⁴ Since 2005, the CGIT has been the only comprehensive public dataset covering China's global investment and construction. The CGIT is updated biannually.

Finally, this report gives an overview of China's "island-hopping" campaign whereby the regime seeks to gain footholds within striking distance of America and other democratic nations. It concludes with a set of policy prescriptions to fend off the rapid advance of the CCP's novel form of colonialism.

As ***China's Dream, the World's Nightmare*** documents, high-risk, high-cost BRI loans for building infrastructure, communications networks, and other critical national support systems, come with insidious strings—contractual obligations and debt-reorganization strategies often resulting in the transfer of land, natural resources, infrastructure, and other assets to Chinese state-owned enterprises which, in accordance with Chinese law,¹⁵ must serve the Chinese Communist Party and its military, the People's Liberation Army and Navy (PLA and PLAN).

The CPDC's Captive Nations Coalition believes that Xi's China Dream¹⁶ of global domination now being aggressively pursued through the BRI is a nightmare for the geostrategic interests, economic competitiveness, and national security of the United States and those of the rest of the Free World. This report documents that reality persuasively and encourages truly global efforts to secure its unraveling.

Especially when informed by the experiences of Captive Nations' citizens and dissidents, the conclusion is unavoidable: a large number of countries around the world are at risk of becoming similarly enslaved to Communist China through the BRI's equivalent of "payday loans" and the control they make possible. Such outcomes will massively increase the threat posed to the still-Free World by the CCP and must be assiduously opposed.



CAPTIVE NATIONS OF THE CCP

The Committee on the Present Danger: China's Captive Nations Coalition is a task force of organizations, leaders, and citizens of formerly free and independent countries now held captive by China and subject to China's oppressive "One China" policy which has brutally stripped them of political and cultural autonomy. These formerly independent nations or autonomous regions have lost their liberty to the CCP and are subject to crimes against humanity including genocide, disappearances, cultural genocide, forced-sterilization, forced-abortions, and criminal forced-organ harvesting.

EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

China



CCP CAPTIVE NATION

CHINA'S BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE HAS RESULTED IN CHINA SPENDING SOME US \$4 TRILLION ON PROJECTS SINCE ITS INCEPTION SEVEN YEARS AGO. AMONG THESE, 1,590 PROJECTS—VALUED AT US \$1.9 TRILLION—WERE BRI PROJECTS, WHILE 1,574 OTHER PROJECTS WITH A COMBINED VALUE OF US \$2.1 TRILLION HAVE BEEN CLASSIFIED AS "PROJECTS WITH CHINESE INVOLVEMENT." THAT AMOUNTS TO A TOTAL OF 3,164 PROJECTS IN TOTAL. [Silk Road Briefing | Dec. 2020]

Formal Name:

People's Republic of China

Model of Governance:

Communist Party-led state

Government leader:

Xi Jinping

Population:

1.4 billion

Geographical Region:

East Asia and Pacific

Dominant Religion or Belief:

Officially Atheist



China is the original Captive Nation of the Chinese Communists. The Chinese people have been enslaved by the CCP since 1949 when it defeated the Nationalists of the Republic of China, led by Chiang Kai-Shek, and forced his government and Kuomintang forces to flee to Taiwan.

Ever since, the CCP has committed appalling atrocities against its people and is responsible for¹⁷ the "biggest episode of mass murder ever recorded." Mao Zedong's Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution killed tens of millions who perished from forced migration, starvation, cultural and religious oppression, horrific torture, and public executions as the Communists consolidated their hold on power. Another 400 million Chinese babies have been aborted as a result of China's prolonged population control policies.

Unfortunately, the horrors of these crimes are rarely addressed by historians. The *Washington Post's* Ilya Somin observes that one "factor in our relative neglect of the Great Leap Forward [as

compared to the Holocaust] is that it is part of the general tendency to downplay crimes committed by Communist regimes, as opposed to right-wing authoritarians. ... Many are reluctant to fully accept what a great evil it was, fearful—perhaps—that other left-wing causes might be tainted by association.”¹⁸

In addition to enslaving its own citizens, since the founding of the PRC, the CCP increased its geography by 60 percent with the seizure of three previously independent neighboring countries: Tibet, East Turkistan, and Southern Mongolia. As usual, the Party’s promises—in this case, of shared “brotherhood” and “uniting as One China” under the CCP—have proven to be cover for establishing Communist domination and oppression. Those countries enslaved by Communist China have been subjected to cultural and ethnic genocide,¹⁹ mass extraction of natural resources, religious oppression, mass incarceration (often leading to torture, rape, and disfigurement), forced organ harvesting, implementation of Han Supremacism, and the subsequent displacement of their traditional populations. The unique cultural identity of these nations has largely been erased.

Last year, after only 25 years, Beijing ended its “One Country, Two Systems” policy governing Hong Kong by breaching the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration. The international treaty had granted Hong Kong 50 years of autonomy from China and assured continuation of its democratic self-governance. Following a year of massive pro-democracy demonstrations sparked by the threat of a CCP mainland extradition mandate, Beijing imposed a new national security law, dismissed pro-democracy legislators, and revised election law to impose full control over freedom-loving Hong Kongers.

Spurred on by the lack of international outcry or consequence, Communist China has put Taiwan in

its sights. The CCP is using various techniques to isolate, intimidate and threaten the island and seems increasingly poised to use force to compel its surrender.

Now, the CCP is using its massive Belt and Road Initiative in a bid to allow it similar totalitarian hegemony around the world. The CCP’s Captive Nations are critical BRI gateways to multiple regional fronts, mainly via Central and South Asia. Nations there provide connections to Pakistan, Myanmar, the Middle East, Africa, and ultimately to Europe and Latin America.

Since rolling out Xi’s Silk Road dream in 2013, the Chinese Communists have used lofty promises of loan-fueled access to technology, infrastructure and prosperity to induce prospective BRI partners to sign on. Nations that default on or seek to restructure their loans risk the loss of not only assets acquired through such financing, but territory, natural resources, and sovereign control. The practical effect, therefore, is a debt-trap enabled build-out of a global Chinese colonial empire.

“However, China’s more muscular and aggressive foreign policy and continued integration of the military and civilian sectors have prompted increasing concerns among project host states and within the international community that there is more than meets the eye when it comes to certain BRI investments. Washington, Tokyo, and other capitals have raised increasing alarm over Beijing’s ulterior motives, as well as BRI projects’ dual commercial and military capabilities and their strategic implications,” reports²⁰ the Asia Society Policy Institute.

The 140 countries that have signed on to the BRI, and those considering doing so, should carefully weigh the acute down-side risks in light of the harsh experience of the people of China’s Captive Nations.

East Turkistan



CCP CAPTIVE NATION

Chinese Name:

Xinjiang

Model of Governance:

Occupied by CCP

Government leader:

Xi Jinping

Population:

25 Million

Geographical Region:

Central Asia

Dominant Religion or Belief:

Sunni Islam

Natural Resources:

Natural gas, minerals, and coal



East Turkistan lost its independence to the CCP in 1949 and was subsequently renamed Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in 1955²¹. The vast Western China territory is critically important to the realization of the Belt and Road Initiative's plan to establish Chinese-controlled access to the rest of the world primarily over land routes as alternatives to potentially vulnerable "sea lines of communication." (The recent, protracted blockage²² of the Suez Canal has underscored the strategic salience of this undertaking.)

Consequently, to enable the BRI to reach Central Asia and the rest of the Eurasia landmass, the Middle East, Africa, and the Western hemisphere, the Chinese Communist Party has engaged in massive construction of railways and pipelines through East Turkistan. "Its oil, natural gas and coal reserves make up more than 20% of China's energy reserves, turning the region into a national powerhouse", reports VOA.²³ To ensure a free hand to exploit the land and its resources, the CCP has crushed the culture with brutal

EAST TURKISTAN

policies affecting tens of millions of ethnic Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Uzbeks, Kyrgyz, Tajiks, Dzangars and Hui Muslims. Many have been arbitrarily removed from their homes. An estimated 8,500 mosques have been destroyed²⁴ since 2017 and other sites of cultural significance, including cemeteries, have been demolished.

Employing mass surveillance, arbitrary arrests and incarceration, the Chinese Communists dramatically ramped up their brutal subjugation of East Turkistan following violent protests in 2014.²⁵ In recent years, it has sought to permanently eliminate all opposition to its misrule with monstrous policies officially designated by the U.S. Department of State on January 19, 2021 as “genocide.”

Up to 2 million Uyghurs, Kazakhs, and other Turkic Muslim minorities, and some Christians, are confined²⁶ in modern-day concentration camps where prisoners are brainwashed, raped and tortured.²⁷ Some have their blood drawn²⁸ and are targeted for illicit organ harvesting²⁹ while others are forced to labor³⁰ in Xinjiang’s cotton fields or forced-labor factories.



The women of Xinjiang have been subjected to state-sponsored rape,³¹ involuntary marriages and co-habitation³² with Han Chinese men. Their babies are forcibly aborted and they are sterilized³³ without consent. Many of East Turkistan’s children have been ripped from their homes and placed in industrial-scale state-run orphanages for “reeducation” where they are stacked like sardines on small beds and left to cry unattended. They are deprived of their families, language, religious and cultural identity.

If such genocidal practices are allowed³⁴ to continue and perhaps expand to other BRI countries of Central Asia—like regions of neighboring Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan—to which the CCP has falsely laid claim,³⁵ these practices will exterminate entire ethnic groups within a generation and leave the Chinese Communists free to colonize and control such nations and their resources.



Hong Kong



CCP CAPTIVE NATION

Formal Name:

Hong Kong Autonomous Region

Model of Governance:

Occupied by CCP

Government leader:

Carrie Lam

Population:

7.5 Million

World Economic Index Rank:

89.1

Geographical Region:

East Asia and Pacific

Dominant Religion:

Buddhism

Natural Resources:

outstanding deepwater harbor, feldspar



Hong Kong is the latest victim to fall captive to Communist China. Last year, Chinese dictator Xi Jinping calculated that the combination of the Covid-19 pandemic and a repressive national security law³⁶ imposed on the former British colony by Beijing would enable him to violate with impunity a treaty obligation to respect Hong Kong's alternative "system" for an additional 25 years. Free Hong Kong exists no more.

Now, citizens and even tourists who challenge Beijing's authority are threatened with extradition to the mainland where they are subject to prosecution for, among other offenses, the crime of offending the regime. Journalists and opposition leaders have been beaten, detained, and put on trial with the prospect of serving harsh sentences. Reports of police brutality towards protestors, including rape and murder, have been summarily dismissed. Democratically-elected pro-democracy legislators have been removed from office.³⁷ New policies now in place regulating elections present a false veneer of democracy in a land now

dominated by Beijing control and pro-Beijing hand-selected legislators. Pro-communist, anti-capitalist curriculums³⁸ have been newly mandated for Hong Kong's schools. And facing the further loss of freedoms, the former territory's citizens are fleeing³⁹ in droves to other lands.

Enslaved Hong Kong remains, however, critical to China's ambitious rise as the world's dominant power. The Hong Kong stock exchange is the hub for foreign investment⁴⁰ into China, and Hong Kong banks play a crucial role in financing Belt and Road Initiative loans.

Even before the crackdown, one Chinese state propaganda arm CGNTV boasted:⁴¹ "As an international financial center...Hong Kong is exploring diversified financing services under the BRI. For example, the Securities & Futures Commission of Hong Kong has issued guidelines for the listing of infrastructure projects by companies, and Hong Kong has implemented a bond-funded pilot plan and a green bond funding plan. Besides a highly-developed financial service industry, the international lawyer industry and the



mature and stable legal system in Hong Kong also guarantee a safe legal environment for Chinese companies developing in overseas markets. Hong Kong boasts many top global professional service institutions, covering areas of financial accounting, investment, risk management and engineering, which could well support the sustainable development of the BRI."

The plight of the people of Hong Kong in the wake of the international community's failure to oppose immediately and decisively the PRC's takeover of Hong Kong has put into sharp relief two brutal realities: First, it exposes the true nature of the regime behind a Belt and Road Initiative that has seduced, entrapped and/or enslaved three-quarters of the world's nations. And second, it epitomizes what becomes of such partner states. Tethered to China by debt-trap loans, one-sided trade agreements and development contracts and ever-fearful of offending Beijing, they stand mute as one more part of the Free World falls captive to the CCP. Unless the BRI is resisted and rolled-back, the prospects for what remains of the Free Worlds' nations are not auspicious.



Southern Mongolia



CCP CAPTIVE NATION

Chinese Name:
Inner Mongolia

Model of Governance:
Occupied by CCP

Government leader:
Xi Jinping

Population:
25 Million

Geographical Region:
East Asia and Pacific

Dominant Religion:
Mongolian-Tibetan Buddhism

Natural Resources:
Rare earth minerals, coals,
natural gas, cashmere



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*History tells us there is
no way to be free under
the Chinese Communist
colonial regime.*

— Enkhbaat Toogchong,
president, Southern
Mongolian Human Rights
and Information Center

”

SOUTHERN MONGOLIA

Ninety-five percent of the world's production of rare earth minerals⁴² comes out of Southern Mongolia, enabling the Chinese Communist Party, which controls that once-independent nation, to weaponize strategic minerals that are essential to most modern electronic devices and "smart" technologies, including those essential to state-of-the-art weapon systems.

The CCP enjoys dominion over these and other natural resources of the southern part of what was once known as the Greater Mongol Region pursuant to its arbitrary carve-up at World War II's notorious Yalta summit of allied leaders. The native people of this so-called "Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region" have been subjected to decades of violent genocide, Han supremacism and colonization and culture-killing policies⁴³ at the hands of the Communist Chinese.

Situated about 200 miles north of Beijing, the territory is a vast desert highland plateau historically inhabited by legendary warrior-nomads who battled the Manchu Dynasty and Han Chinese for many centuries. But, seventy-two years of brutal Chinese occupation has led native Southern Mongolians to the brink of extinction.

The ongoing CCP cultural genocide⁴⁴ of Southern Mongolians precedes those waged later in Tibet and East Turkistan. More than 100,000 Southern Mongolians died during the Chinese Communist Cultural Revolution of the 1960s and 70s, while 500,000 were imprisoned, tortured, maimed, or forced off their lands.

State-sponsored mass-migration of Han Chinese has radically displaced and diluted the native population, which was estimated to be 1.5 million at the time of the Cultural Revolution. Now drowning in a sea of 25 million predominately Han Chinese, Southern Mongolians have become second-class citizens in their own land. They continue to experience heavy discrimination and lack fundamental human rights.

In the early 21st Century, China forced the few remaining nomadic herders off their grazing lands and into urban and agricultural centers under the guise of environmental efforts to restore the grassland ecosystem. Ignoring the effects of large-scale state-mining and farming activities, China instead claimed the overgrazing of nomadic herds had degraded the grasslands.

In September 2020,⁴⁵ Southern Mongolians took to the streets to protest⁴⁶ a CCP move to further eradicate Southern Mongolian culture and identity by implementing the so-called "Bilingual Education Policy," which forbids Mongol language and studies in the region's schools.

Southern Mongolian dissidents at home and expatriates abroad work tirelessly to warn other nations considering or engaged in BRI agreements to steer clear of Communist Chinese colonial hegemony. And they continue to aspire to be liberated themselves.



Tibet



CCP CAPTIVE NATION

Chinese Name:
Tibet Autonomous Region

Model of Governance:
Occupied by CCP

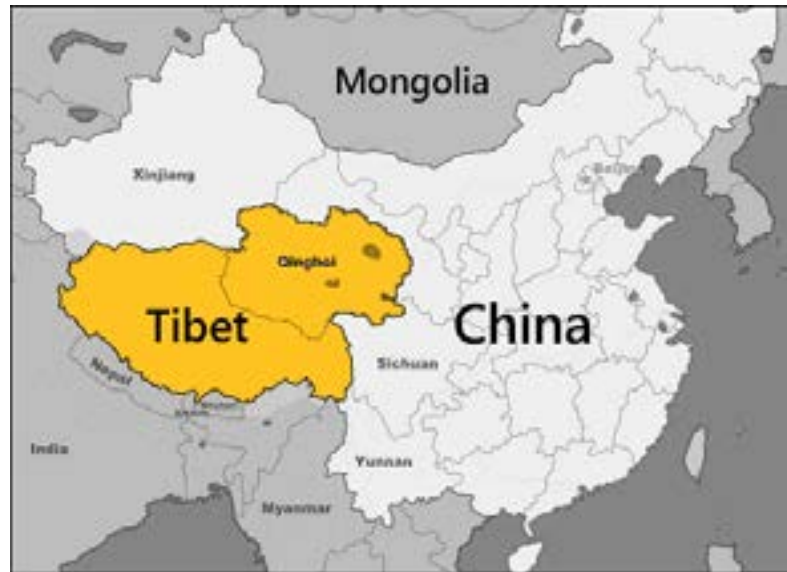
Government leader:
Xi Jinping

Population:
6 million

Geographical Region:
East Asia and Pacific

Dominant Religion:
Tibetan Buddhism

Natural Resources:
Copper, gold, lithium, silver



Held captive by the CCP and famously known as 'the Land of Snows,' Tibet inhabits 1.2 million square kilometers of elevated grassland plateau sandwiched between India, China, and former East Turkistan. The vast Tibetan Plateau is the breadbasket for millions. The headwaters⁴⁷ for six of Asia's major rivers, including the Yangtze, are in Tibet.

But, centralized communist control following the end of the Chinese civil war in 1949 enabled the newly established People's Republic of China (PRC) to occupy⁴⁸ Tibet in 1950.

At least 1.2 million Tibetans have since perished⁴⁹ under the brutal occupation of the PRC. A communist-driven cultural genocide brought about the destruction of over 6,000 ancient monasteries,⁵⁰ the loss of nomadic life, and mass Han Chinese migration into Tibet. In 1960, the spiritual leader of Tibet, the Dalai Lama, fled⁵¹ to Dharamsala, India, the headquarters of Tibet's new government-in-exile. Since 2009, at least 165 Tibetan Buddhist monks have protested Chinese occupation through the gruesome practice of self-immolation.⁵²

Using BRI infrastructure and railway projects across southeast Asia, China is aggressively expanding its economic and military influence operations.

The captive nation of Tibet is an essential line of China's advancement of the BRI. It is the territory through which China seeks expansion into Nepal, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.



The China-Pakistan Economic Partnership⁵³ runs through Tibet. With this, Tibet has become a central transport area for the Chinese to expand into South Asia and counter its regional competition, India.

Greedy for more land and resources, China has unilaterally laid claims⁵⁴ to certain lands in Nepal and India that traditionally belonged to now-occupied Tibet. It is busy building settlements⁵⁵ in Nepali territory and the remote Indian state, Arunachal Pradesh, with international impunity.

China has also found it can coerce entire nations to bend to its will by frequently and without notice restricting⁵⁶ the flow of water

on the Mekong river where 60 million people live downstream in Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam.

The dramatic geologic forces that created the Himalayas have pushed an array of valuable minerals to the near sub-surface of Tibet's mountains. This makes them relatively accessible to exploitation but for one factor: the high altitude and attendant lack of oxygen which makes human mining operations difficult under present circumstances.

The Chinese Communists believe, however, that—with the advent of such technologies as advanced robotics, artificial intelligence, quantum computing and 5G communications and their insinuation as part of the Belt and Road Initiative—the CCP will soon be able to plunder Tibet's subterranean natural resources and lay waste to its pristine environment. If the CCP's past conduct is any guide, the environmental and societal repercussions of such pillaging are sure to be horrific.

Like elsewhere in China, Tibetans are subject⁵⁷ to the CCP's mass surveillance and communications suppression.





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The IMF has scrutinized multiple aspects of the BRI, repeatedly warning of unsustainable debt levels, predatory lending, and the lack of project transparency.

— Dylan Gerstel,
Center for Strategic
& International Studies

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BRI ENTRAPPED NATIONS AND EMERGING CCP THREATS

The Captive Nations Coalition of the Committee on the Present Danger: China reports in *China's Dream, the World's Nightmare* on a representative sample of the 140 countries in the process of becoming captive to China through the CCP's Belt and Road Initiative.

The Captive Nations warn BRI entrapped nations of China's brutal history of colonization through force, cultural genocide and now, financial enslavement.

While Canada is not yet an official BRI country, it and other Western nations provide the People's Republic of China various support mechanisms for the BRI and therefore Canada represents an emerging CCP threat in the Western Hemisphere and additional geostrategic and national strategic concerns for the United States.

Canada



EMERGING CCP THREAT

US \$19.21 BILLION CHINESE INVESTMENT
DURING THE BRI TIMEFRAME 2013-FALL 2020
(SOURCE: AEI'S CGIT). INCLUDES: HAUWEI,
CINIC, AVIC, CNOOC, CNPC AND OTHERS

Formal Name:

Dominion of Canada

Model of Governance:

Parliamentary Democracy

Government leader:

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

Population:

37.6 Million

World Economic Index Rank:

78.2

Geographical Region:

North America

Dominant Religion:

Catholicism

Natural Resources:

Bauxite, iron ore, nickel, zinc, copper, gold,
lead, rare earth elements, molybdenum,
potash, diamonds, silver, fish, timber, wildlife,
coal, petroleum, natural gas, hydropower



Growing Chinese real estate, resource and infrastructure interests in Canada not only jeopardize Canadian sovereignty. They also pose serious threats to the security of all of North America, including especially the United States.

The Communist Chinese have an ally in Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. In 2013, before he took office, Trudeau expressed⁵⁸ his admiration for China's governing system and the efficiency with which it can wield power and effect change: "There's a level of admiration I actually have for China because their basic dictatorship is allowing them to actually turn their economy around on a dime...."

Even more ominous is the fact that, as Prime Minister, Trudeau has presided over and encouraged a significant expansion of PRC investment, immigration, infrastructure-building and military cooperation that has made Canada an important partner for the Chinese. While Canada is not yet a formal member of the Belt and Road Initiative, it did join⁵⁹ Beijing's Asian

Infrastructure Investment Bank. And government appetite for foreign investment at both the federal and provincial levels makes Canada ripe for the kind of access and influence the BRI affords the CCP.

For example, in 2019 the Chinese invested more than \$2.75 billion⁶⁰ in Canada's rare earth minerals sector, further enhancing its monopoly control over and ability to manipulate the worldwide supply and processing⁶¹ of such vital ingredients for modern electronics for commercial and military purposes.

A \$190 million, 470,000-square-foot facility, dubbed the "World Commodity Trade Center," began construction in western Canada last year. Located in Surrey, British Columbia, the project—conceived in Beijing—is believed to be intended to pave the way for bringing the Belt and Road to Canada. The center is strategically located in the Campbell Heights industrial zone between Vancouver International Airport and the United States' northern border.

The government of British Columbia has signed⁶² a memorandum of understanding with the Guangdong provincial government in China to participate in a China-based BRI project known as the Yanjiao International Trade City, which operates from the outskirts of Beijing. The MoU sets up tight Chinese operational control over one of Canada's major trade hubs, effectively undermining Canadian sovereignty over BRI-tied facilities within its borders.

One of the other prime purposes of the Belt and Road Initiative is facilitating the forward deployment of People's Liberation Army personnel, assets and facilities. Against that backdrop, Trudeau's 2019 invitation⁶³ to the Chinese to send troops for cold weather training at

Canadian Forces Base Petawawa in Ontario fits a larger and ominous pattern.

Such training is particularly important to the CCP given its ambitions to establish a presence in and ultimately control over the Arctic and the northern trade route. It also seeks to exploit the resources of Greenland. And not least, the PLA having experience with operations inside and possible basing within the United States' neighbor to the north would be of tremendous strategic benefit to the Chinese Communists—and potential peril to America.



Cuba



BRI ENTRAPPED NATION

US \$240 MILLION IN BRI LOANS & INVESTMENT
IN CUBA SINCE 2014 (SOURCE: AEI'S CGIT).
CHINA COMMUNICATIONS CONSTRUCTION,
AND POWER CONSTRUCTION CORP.



Formal Name:

The Republic of Cuba

Model of Governance:

Communist Dictatorship

Government leader:

Pres. Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez

Population:

11.1 million

Geographical Region:

Caribbean

Dominant Religion:

Christianity

Natural Resources:

Cobalt, nickel, iron ore, chromium, copper,
salt, timber, silica, petroleum, arable land

“

*[President Xi Jinping]
stands ready to help make
the two countries good
friends, good comrades,
and good brothers forever.*

— China's People Daily Online⁶⁴

”

Communist Cuba was the first Latin American country to develop official ties with Mao's China and is the PRC's most important ally in the Western Hemisphere. With the collapse of the Soviet Union and China's rising economic power, Beijing has taken on the role of the Cuban regime's principal foreign sponsor and enabler of its brutal repression of the island's population.

China's engagement with and influence on the island has increased dramatically under the cover of the BRI. "In 2018, China's Belt and Road initiative came to Cuba, making it a vanguard country in the western hemisphere and a 'regional node'⁶⁵ in Beijing's complex trade network." Xi Jinping has expressed⁶⁶ the hope that "exchanging technology and financial tools during the coronavirus pandemic would lead to a 'new chapter' in the two countries' longstanding friendship' [which] in recent years has expanded into explicit and reciprocal exchanges."

For example, "Antonio Carricarte,⁶⁷ who inaugurated the Chinese pavilion at the 35th Havana International Trade Fair along with Chinese

Ambassador to Cuba Chen Xi, said the Caribbean nation wants to become a "hub" of maritime and air transport in the region, mainly through the Mariel Special Development Zone, ZED Mariel."⁶⁸

As noted elsewhere in connection with the discussion of the PRC's BRI operations in the Bahamas and Jamaica, the Chinese are placing a premium on building out their presence on islands in the littoral waters of the United States. Port calls by PLA Navy vessels, the operations of dual-use fishing fleets and the utilization of U.S.-targeted intelligence facilities in Cuba are among the ominous strategic benefits to China of its Belt and Road partnership with Havana.

While the Trump administration increased sanctions on Cuba, Joe Biden repeatedly assured⁶⁹ voters he intends to return to Obama-era normalization of bilateral engagement with the Cuban government and the same failed appeasement policies that led to China's rise. In 2009, the Obama Administration removed longstanding restrictions on Cuban American travel to Cuba and expanded authorizations for U.S. telecommunications projects.



The headquarters of the Communist Party of Cuba.

Jamaica



BRI ENTRAPPED NATION

US \$2.14 BILLION IN BRI LOANS & INVESTMENT IN JAMAICA SINCE 2014 (SOURCE: AEI'S CGIT). INCLUDING: CHINA COMMUNICATIONS CONSTRUCTION, AND POWER CONSTRUCTION CORP.

Formal Name

Jamaica

Model of Governance:

Commonwealth nation

Government leader:

Prime Minister Andrew Holness

Population:

2.8 million

World Economic Index Rank:

68.5

Geographical Region:

Caribbean

Dominant Religion:

Christianity

Loan types/status:

\$79 Billion owed to China

Natural Resources:

bauxite, gypsum, limestone



With endemic corruption, perennial high debt and widespread poverty, Jamaica has long experienced economic hardships that have stagnated growth for years. The Caribbean island nation was highly susceptible, therefore, to the debt-trap temptation on offer from the CCP's Belt and Road Initiative.

Jamaica joined the BRI in 2019 in the hope that Beijing would finance much-needed upgrades to its infrastructure, logistics and manufacturing capacity and global connectivity.

"Jamaica is the tenth Caribbean nation to join the BRI and follows Trinidad, Suriname, Guyana, Antigua, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Cuba, and the Dominican Republic," according to a statement from the Caribbean Council.⁷⁰

Not surprisingly, BRI contractual agreements leave some critical Jamaican infrastructure under the management and full control of Chinese state-owned companies. For instance, one of the

development corporations, China Merchants Port Holdings, has complete control⁷¹ over Jamaica's vast Kingston Freeport Terminal Limited (KFTL), which can accommodate large deep-draft vessels.

Under such agreements, Jamaican ports' sovereignty has effectively been ceded to the Chinese government, a situation that can greatly facilitate potential PLA military and naval

operations in the Caribbean. Increased PLAN activity in the Caribbean would pose a severe threat to U.S. national security and that of its allies in the region.

During a 2019 tour of Latin America, then-U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told⁷² audiences in the hemisphere that Chinese investments were "corrosive, giving life to corruption, and eroding good governance."



Venezuela



BRI ENTRAPPED NATION

US \$15.64 BILLION IN BRI LOANS & INVESTMENT IN VENEZUELA SINCE 2013 (SOURCE: AEI'S CGIT). INCLUDES: CHINA ENERGY ENGINEERING, CITIC, CNPC, AND POWER CONSTRUCTION CORP.

Formal Name:

Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Model of Governance:

Communist Dictatorship

Government leader:

President Nicolas Maduro Moros

Population:

28.6 million

Geographical Region:

South America

Dominant Religion:

Christianity

Natural Resources:

Petroleum, natural gas, iron ore, gold, bauxite, other minerals, hydropower, diamonds



Venezuela's strategic location and its Communist government's ideological alignment and financial entanglements with China are an intensifying disaster for the Venezuelan people and a mortal peril for the region. The Belt and Road Initiative in Venezuela is a particularly egregious example of the Chinese Communist Party's Trojan Horse at work to expand its military access to and power-projection from key locations around the globe.

In 2011, the China Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)⁷³ forum was formed in Venezuela as an opening wedge⁷⁴ for major Chinese influence operations and presence in Latin America. This presents a direct challenge to the United States' historic opposition to foreign intervention in the Western Hemisphere enshrined in the Monroe Doctrine.

Once Latin America's wealthiest nation, under Communist dictator Hugo Chavez and his hand-picked successor, Nicholas Maduro,

Venezuela has been transformed into a bankrupt, drug-trafficking and brutally repressive kleptocracy with much of its population forced to flee elsewhere to survive. This catastrophe has been enabled and exploited by the Chinese Communist Party and its allies, notably Cuba, Russia and Iran.

China has used the Belt and Road Initiative and other massive lending to prop up its leftist partners in Caracas. "From 2007 to 2017,⁷⁵ Beijing provided more than \$60 billion in financing to Venezuela, representing more than 40 percent of total Chinese lending in Latin America" and involving over 500 joint projects⁷⁶ "for development... including mining research and exploration, housing projects, communication satellites, and a railway company." The continuing decline of Venezuela's economy and the

mismanagement of its oil sector have compounded China's leverage over the Maduro regime.

The PRC is, thus, well-positioned to do what it has in other BRI nations: foreclose on and take possession of gold and copper mines, energy-related and other infrastructure to compensate for Caracas' predictable inability to make payments on the Chinese debt-trap loans. At a minimum, the CCP has parlayed its role in Venezuela into several advantageous militarily relevant activities in country, involving among other things: defense education and training (including special forces personnel), inherently dual-use satellites and other telecommunications-related initiatives, surveillance state technologies and arms sales, including, for example, the acquisition⁷⁷ of Chinese C-802A anti-ship missiles by the Venezuelan navy.



Greece



BRI ENTRAPPED NATION

US \$5.7 BILLION IN BRI LOANS &
INVESTMENT IN GREECE SINCE 2013
(SOURCE: AEI'S CGIT)

Formal Name:

The Hellenic Republic

Model of Governance:

Unitary parliamentary republic

Government leader:

Katerina Sakellaropoulou

Population:

10.6 Million

World Economic Index Rank:

59.9

Geographical Region:

Europe

Dominant Religion:

Greek Orthodox

Natural Resources:

Lignite, petroleum, iron ore, bauxite, lead,
zinc, nickel, magnesite, marble, salt,
hydropower potential



“

*Greece is one of China's
real friends.*

— Greek Development and
Investments Minister
Adonis Georgiadis, 2020⁷⁸

”

As Greece began struggling with a profound financial crisis in 2007, it discovered that Communist China was one of very few countries willing to invest in its troubled economy. In the years since, the Chinese Communist Party has parlayed the opening to Europe thus created into a major strategic penetration of the European Union and the NATO alliance.

Starting in 2016, the Greek government allowed a PRC state-owned enterprise (SOE), the US-sanctioned Chinese Ocean Shipping Company (COSCO), to exercise operational control⁷⁹ of the port of Piraeus. It has become the fastest-growing cargo and commercial port in the world, the 4th busiest port in Europe, and the lead port for the Mediterranean.

Unfortunately, Chinese SOEs have been buying up the majority shares of terminals at some of Europe's busiest ports for close to a decade. As of 2018, Chinese SOEs controlled⁸⁰ about one-tenth of all European port capacity. But, none of these terminal operations are as valuable to the PRC as its flagship port at Piraeus. "For Beijing, this Mediterranean trade hub is the showpiece investment for the globe-spanning Belt and Road Initiative. But for Washington and its EU allies, it's a worrisome foothold for Chinese influence in the West."

Such concerns are well-founded. The European Chamber of Commerce has warned⁸¹ that: "Chinese shippers use ports built and run by [Chinese] SOEs using steel and cement provided by SOEs; they use vessels built by the (country's) newly created shipbuilding behemoth...using steel made by SOEs, which is produced using iron and coal from SOEs; all of which is financed by SOE banks. European firms are simply not able to keep up."

In its annual report, COSCO Shipping Holdings, the conglomerate's Hong Kong-listed transport arm, called the "synergy between ports and shipping businesses" in Piraeus a model for what it plans to do elsewhere. The European Chamber is not alone in questioning this arrangement: As Dutch researcher Frans-Paul van der Putten put it, "The key issue is that COSCO has a large shipping fleet which can channel everything to its own port. This results in a market dominance that ultimately changes the way goods are transported into Europe's economic center."

Chinese ambitions are unlikely to be confined in Greece or elsewhere in Europe where the Belt and Road Initiative is taking hold to further its predatory economic plans for linking Asia and Europe. China's long string of port control and investment—whether it is in the Mediterranean, the Indian Ocean, South and East Asia or Africa—is a harbinger of China's increasing dominance not only in trade, but militarily, as well.

For instance, Chinese investments in the ports of Djibouti, Sri Lanka and Pakistan have been followed by Chinese naval deployments in each country. The good news is that, while PLA Navy warships have already paid goodwill visits to Greece's Piraeus port, the Chinese have not yet publicly declared their intention to turn European ports into PRC military bases. The bad news is that the presence of Chinese personnel in, let alone their running, these strategic facilities is, at a minimum, a security threat to Europe's seaports and NATO vessels that use them.



Italy



BRI ENTRAPPED NATION

US \$24.07 BILLION BILLION IN BRI LOANS & INVESTMENT IN ITALY SINCE 2013
(SOURCE: AEI'S CGIT). INCLUDES: HAUWEI, ZTE AND CHINA OCEAN SHIPPING



Formal Name:
The Italian Republic

Model of Governance:
Parliamentary Republic

Government leader:
Prime Minister Mario Draghi

Population:
62.4 million

Geographical Region:
Europe

Dominant Religion:
Christianity

Natural Resources:
Coal, antimony, mercury, zinc, potash, marble, barite, asbestos, pumice, fluorspar, feldspar, pyrite (sulfur), natural gas and crude oil reserves, fish, arable land

“

...The devastating economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic...risks pushing Italy further into China's arms.

— Playing with Fire: Italy, China, and Europe — Brookings Institute⁸²

”

Italy is a member of NATO and the G-7 with a strategic geographic location in the south of Europe and Mediterranean Sea. It has also been economically struggling for years and perennially governmentally challenged. All these factors have made it a prime target for penetration, manipulation, and subversion by the Chinese Communist Party.

Even before the launch of Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative, Italy had attracted massive investments from China totaling by some estimates more than \$27 billion from 2005-2019.⁸³ In 2013, Italy became the first G-7 nation to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Chinese government to become a partner in the Belt and Road Initiative.

In the years since, "Italy has signed a long list⁸⁴ of agreements with Beijing to create partnerships in infrastructure, industry, media, education and the financial sector. Beijing has been trying for months to become an important player in the Italian infrastructure development for the Belt and Road Initiative Maritime Silk Road, eying the vulnerable hubs of Trieste and Genoa, whose development, envisaged for the Trans-European Connectivity Plan. Other projects of the memorandum of understanding signed in 2019 included railways and airports, but also space and telecommunications, to complete the picture."

Last September, the Italian government froze⁸⁵ some ongoing deals with Chinese big enterprises in infrastructure and space, such as the participation of the US-sanctioned China Communications Construction Company (CCCC) in the renovation and connectivity plan of the Port of Trieste, as the German company HHLA became the main stakeholder. Similarly in space

cooperation, Italy left⁸⁶ the Chinese space program (the Celestial Palace), by canceling a contract to supply high-tech habitational modules for Beijing's Tiangong-3 space station.

The China-Italy MoU authorized development of the port of Trieste by the CCCC, a PRC state-owned company that is responsible for numerous BRI projects the world over. This arrangement poses a grave security threat to Italy and NATO, as the CCCC was identified⁸⁷ by the U.S. Department of Defense in August 2020 as a "Chinese Communist military company." That same month it was placed⁸⁸ on the Commerce Department's Entity List, sanctioned for its role in China's unlawful construction⁸⁹ of fortified bastions in the South China Sea—a key step in CCP efforts to transform those international waters into Chinese territory.

While the Port of Trieste's main stakeholder was switched⁹⁰ in September 2020 to a German company, HHLA, reflecting a cooling of bilateral relations in response to the CCP's involvement⁹¹ in and disinformation about the Covid pandemic, China's influence over the port continues. So does China's ability to use the BRI's Italian foothold to expand its ominous footprint in Europe.

Italy risks becoming an entry point for the Chinese to subvert the EU as its economic influence expands in the region. While shifts in the Italian government and its policies have prevented the full actualization of various agreements between Italy and China, as one observer⁹² put it: "The BRI is a way to frame the relationship between a country and China. In both cases, one can easily say that yes, the BRI has not been as successful as one would have thought, in Italy and elsewhere. But it is not dead."

Djibouti



BRI ENTRAPPED NATION

**US \$1.02 BILLION IN BRI LOANS
& INVESTMENT (SOURCE: AEI'S CGIT).
INCLUDES: STATE CONSTRUCTION
ENGINEERING, CHINA RAILWAY
CONSTRUCTION AND CHINA MERCHANTS**

Formal Name:

The Republic of Djibouti

Model of Governance:

Presidential Republic

Government leader:

PM Abdoukader Kamil Mohamed

Population:

921,800

Geographical Region:

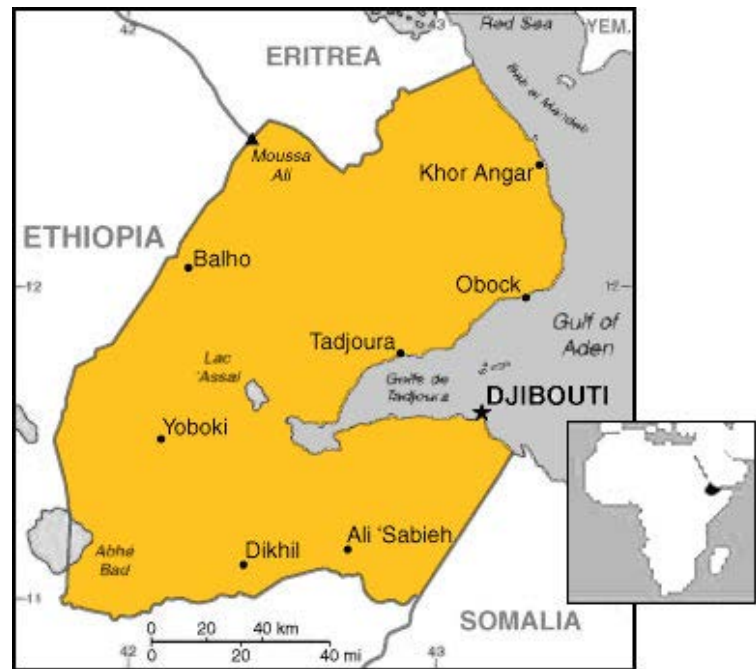
Africa

Dominant Religion:

Sunni Islam

Natural Resources:

Potential geothermal power, gold, clay,
granite, limestone, marble, salt,
diatomite, gypsum, pumice, petroleum



For years, Djibouti has suffered from high unemployment reportedly experiencing a national unemployment rate at 40% and youth unemployment at 80%. It is, however, situated in a strategic spot on the Horn of Africa, only a short distance away from foreign military bases in the Middle East. Djibouti is bordered by three troubled nations: Somalia, Ethiopia, and Eritrea. Yemen and other Gulf nations are a short distance away across the Gulf of Aden.

According⁹³ to the Chinese Foreign Ministry, "Djibouti looks forward to expanding bilateral cooperation with China in the blue economy and the digital economy and enhancing the scientific and technological level of bilateral cooperation," including development and the expansion of rail lines, trade avenues, and communications infrastructure.

As part of its participation in the BRI with China, Djibouti inaugurated Doraleh Multipurpose Port.⁹⁴ It was specifically designed for the People's Liberation

Army Navy (PLAN) and is the first overseas Chinese military base. Doraleh is in immediate proximity to a US Naval Expeditionary Base, Camp Lemmonier, the principal base of operations of U.S. Africa Command.

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Geng Shuang reported⁹⁵ in 2017, “In accordance with relevant UN resolutions, China has been sending convoy fleets for escort missions in the Gulf of Aden and waters off Somalia since 2008. In its performance of missions, the Chinese convoy fleets have faced such practical difficulties as getting refreshment and refueling, and the Djibouti side has provided logistics support for the Chinese convey vessels on multiple occasions.

“The establishment of the Djibouti logistics support base of the Chinese troops is a decision made by the two countries through friendly negotiations. The completion and operation of the

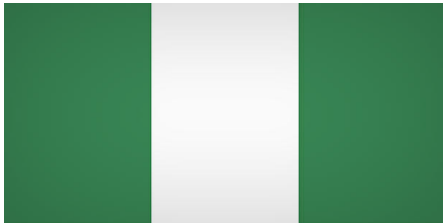
base will enable China to better perform the international obligations of the UN escort missions in the Gulf of Aden and Somali waters as well as humanitarian relief, help with Djibouti's socio-economic development and allow China to make greater contributions to the peace and stability of Africa and beyond.”

According to a 2018 report⁹⁶ by the Council on Foreign Relations, “In 2015, the Chinese government published a white paper⁹⁷ on national defense that introduced a two-tiered maritime strategy of ‘offshore waters defense and open seas protection’—marking the first time that Chinese interests in the ‘far seas’ were elevated to the level of national security—and clearly stated Chinese ambitions of building a blue-water navy. Taking both Chinese investments in resource-less Djibouti and this white paper into account, it is clear that commercial projects through the BRI in East Africa paved the way for realizing PLAN aspirations in the far seas.”



AFRICA

Nigeria



BRI ENTRAPPED NATION

US \$28.33 BILLION IN CHINESE BRI INVESTMENT (SOURCE: AEI'S CGIT).

INCLUDES: CHINA RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION, CHINA COMMUNICATIONS CONSTRUCTION, CNPC AND CNOOC

Formal Name:

The Federal Republic of Nigeria

Model of Governance:

Federal Presidential Republic

Government leader:

President Maj. Gen. (ret.) Muhammadu Buhari

Population:

203.5 million

Geographical Region:

Africa

Dominant Religion:

Christianity and Sunni Islam

Natural Resources:

Natural gas, petroleum, tin, iron ore, coal, limestone, niobium, lead, zinc, arable land



Nigeria is Africa's most populous nation and one of the sub-Saharan region's largest economies. It is rich in natural resources, but cash-poor. For all these reasons, it is seen as the crown jewel in the Chinese Communist Party's determined bid to colonize and dominate the continent. Nigeria is also a prime example of the PRC's use of BRI debt-traps to accomplish those ends.

Unfortunately, Nigeria's corrupt government has shown itself particularly open to temptation by the CCP insofar as its nation has long been overly dependent on oil and natural gas production and exports for revenue. This has been particularly evident as Nigeria's economy has suffered severe setbacks due to the sharp decline in energy commodity prices in recent years. Having failed to diversify notably its agriculture, telecommunications, and transportation infrastructures and services, this highly strategic country is ripe for pillage by the Chinese Communists.

Hence the BRI's focus in Nigeria on infrastructure development, including funds provided by loans from the Export-Import Bank of China for the



Kaduna Standard Gauge Rail Line, Abuja Rail Mass Transit, a new Abuja International Airport Terminal, Kano International Airport, and the Lekki deep-draft Sea Port Project. Nigeria is seeking additional loans for the development of the Port Harcourt-Maiduguri railway.

Nigeria has obtained⁹⁸ 17 Chinese loans to fund different categories of capital projects, and Nigeria will still be servicing the Chinese loans until around 2038, which is the maturity date for the last loans obtained in 2018.

An additional \$5.3-billion BRI contract for the Ibadan-Kano rail line was signed⁹⁹ in June 2020. The Chinese Civil Engineering Construction Company, a subsidiary of the state-owned China Railway Construction Company, is responsible for the project. Concerned that the country lacks the ability¹⁰⁰ to repay its loans, the IMF has implored¹⁰¹ the government to “curb its appetite for large Chinese loans.”

This agreement—and potentially others—leaves Nigeria’s BRI ventures vulnerable to hostile takeovers by PRC military-, intelligence-, and other security service-tied state-owned enterprises operating in Nigeria.

Dr. Bongo Adi, director of the Centre for Infrastructure Policy Regulation and Advancement (CIPRA) at Lagos Business School, explained¹⁰² that Nigeria lacks accountability, transparency, and responsibility to refund the loans.

“We have seen this Chinese cycle and need to be careful. What normally happens is that the Chinese will begin to take over infrastructure asset, which is what some call Chinese Chopstick Imperialism and the experience is not just pleasant. Chinese strategically tie loans to infrastructure and that is with the intention of taking possession of the infrastructure asset if there is the default, as such asset became their collateral.”

Obadiah Mailafiya, a one-time Nigerian presidential candidate who formerly served at the African Development Bank, urges¹⁰³ African governments to “read the small print” to avoid Beijing’s seizure of assets as he notes is happening in Madagascar, Kenya, Zambia and Zimbabwe. He suspects Nigeria has leveraged its oil fields as collateral for BRI loans.



A F R I C A

South Africa



BRI ENTRAPPED NATION

US \$3.91 BILLION CHINESE BRI LOANS & INVESTMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 2013
(SOURCE: AEI'S CGIT). INCLUDES: HEIBEI ZHONGBO PLATINUM, BEIJING AUTO, ZTE AND SINOPEC



Formal Name:

Republic of South Africa (RSA)

Model of Governance:

Parliamentary Republic

Government leader:

Pres. Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa

Population:

56.5 Million

World Economic Index rank:

58.8

Geographical Region:

Africa

Dominant Religion:

Christianity

Natural Resources:

Gold, chromium, antimony, coal, iron ore, manganese, nickel, phosphates, tin, rare earth elements, uranium, gem diamonds, platinum, copper, vanadium, salt, natural gas

“

The Chinese Communist Party sees South Africa, with its robust development, infrastructure, and geographic location, as the main gateway to the rest of the continent.

— New Europe¹⁰⁴

”

SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa is the Chinese Communist Party's prime partner in Beijing's efforts to penetrate and dominate the African continent through its Belt and Road Initiative, propaganda, mass migration and other techniques. China is South Africa's biggest exports market and a major source of investment. For example, the two nations have entered into 93 economic and trade deals worth over \$1.7 billion in the past year alone.

As a major player in the Southern African Customs Union (SACU), South Africa also helps promote the BRI and other Chinese ventures to African nations with great effect. With South Africa's support, China was involved in structuring the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which came into effect in November 2020. According to BRI analyst Chris Devonshire-Ellis,¹⁰⁵ "The AfCFTA deal reduces tariffs—to be phased in over five years among some members—to zero in on about 90% of all intra-African traded goods, thereby essentially demolishing cross-border trade barriers. That, coupled with the still-developing [Double Tax Treaties¹⁰⁶] network that China has built up in Africa over the past decade, is set to provide a huge boost to Africa-China trade, with some estimates suggesting it will rise by 50% in the next 12 months. That will spur further infrastructure development and increase China's role in Africa exponentially."

With support from South Africa, Chinese propaganda is playing an essential role in tilling the soil for China-Africa BRI and other agreements and the PRC's investment in and domination¹⁰⁷ of the continent's media. For example, China International Television Group (CIGT), a state-owned Chinese media enterprise, is a major purveyor of the Chinese influence operations in South Africa and Africa in general. Chinese state media companies such as CCTV, CGTN, and

Xinhua News Agency—which boasts the largest correspondent network in Africa with 30 bureaus—drive CCP propaganda, abetting a broad range of PRC ambitions on the continent. CCTV also owns some of the biggest media companies in South Africa, which relentlessly promote¹⁰⁸ China's interests in the region.

Another major factor behind China's penetration of South Africa—and many of the other BRI countries in Africa—is the upsurge in resident Chinese nationals. Half a million Chinese nationals now call South Africa home, nearly all of whom arrived in the last 20 years. As a result, South Africa is actively promoting Mandarin, the official Chinese language. South African police are now required to learn Mandarin, and it is taught as a secondary language in the nation's public schools. Although optional for students, critics have called¹⁰⁹ such a move "tantamount to a new form of colonization."

The evolution of the Chinese population present in South Africa is also raising alarms. "What has changed recently...is that those small Chinese entrepreneurs, who made up the bulk of the immigrants coming to work in South Africa, are now being replaced by major Chinese state-owned enterprises, nearly all of which are closely linked to the Chinese Communist Party's powerful intelligence services. Chief among these is Chinese tech giant, Huawei," reports¹¹⁰ Belt and Road News.



MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Iran



EMERGING CCP THREATS

US \$15.11 BILLION IN CHINESE BRI LOANS & INVESTMENT (SOURCE: AEI'S CGIT)
INCLUDES: STATE CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING, CHINA RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION, AND CHINA MERCHANTS

Formal Name:

Islamic Republic of Iran

Model of Governance:

Theocracy

Government leader:

Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei

Population:

84.9 million

World Economic Index Rank:

49.2

Geographical Region:

Middle East and North Africa

Dominant Religion or Belief:

Shia Islam

Natural Resources:

Petroleum, natural gas, coal, chromium, copper, iron ore, lead, manganese, zinc, sulfur



Iran's strategic importance to China's access and influence in the Middle East cannot be overstated.

Iran, an Islamic theocracy, is located at the geographic nexus between the Middle East, Central Asia, and the Far East and has historically been a critical Silk Road nation linking these regions.

Despite US sanctions imposed under the Trump administration, China continues to rely heavily on Iran for oil and other energy resources. And the Biden administration has agreed in principle to relax the Trump-era's "Maximum Pressure" sanctions in furtherance of its efforts to rejoin the Iran Nuclear Deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)¹¹¹.

In March, Iran and China signed a 25-year Joint Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. In exchange for access to presumably highly discounted Iranian oil in violation of U.S. sanctions, the PRC will, as one observer¹¹² put it: "invest \$400 billion in Iranian infrastructure, from telecommunications and information technology to health and transport

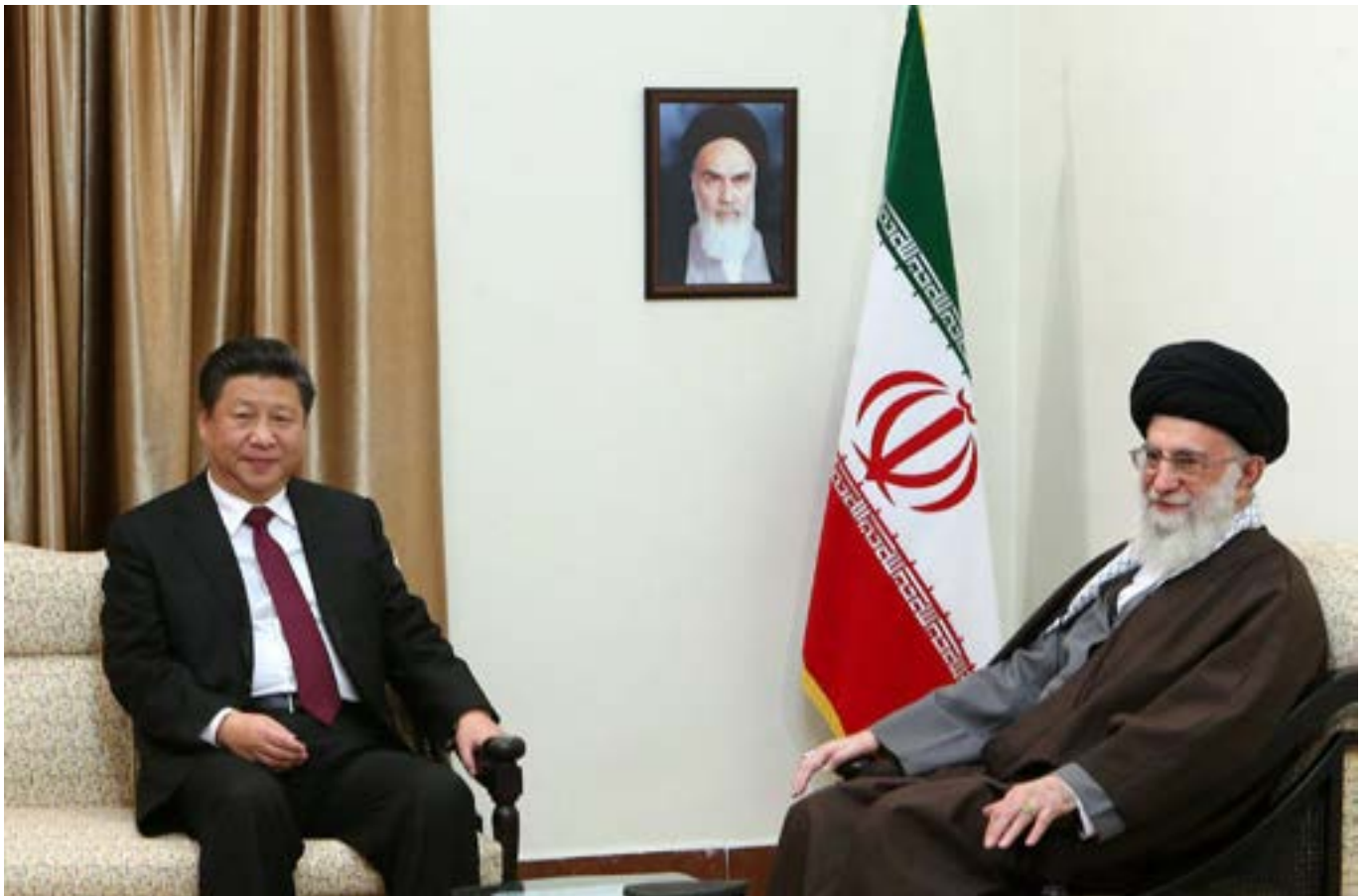
systems. Of course, because of the Islamic regime's unwillingness¹¹³ to improve the lives of the Iranian people, these Chinese investments will primarily, if not solely, benefit the regime's elites. The security collaboration would strengthen the position of the Islamic regime both in Iran and in the Middle East while enhancing China's global position by enabling it to wield immense influence in the Middle East region."

The Chinese relationship with Iran has also facilitated Chinese industrial trawlers' massive over-fishing and destruction of the fragile marine ecosystems of the

Gulf, driving many native species and Iran's own fishing industry to near extinction.

The US and its allies are concerned¹¹⁴ that PRC 5G communications development plans laid out in the Sino-Iran deal will enable China's aggressive telecom infrastructure build-out throughout the Middle East.

And China's increased influence in Iran with military and intelligence personnel presents a significant threat to US security and economic interests in the region.



Xi Jinping, the Chinese Paramount Leader and Ali Khamenei, the Supreme Leader of Iran (Jan 24, 2016).

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Turkey



BRI ENTRAPPED NATION

US \$6.34 BILLION IN CHINESE BRI LOANS AND INVESTMENT IN TURKEY SINCE 2013 (SOURCE: AEI'S CGIT). INCLUDES: POWER CONSTRUCTION CORP., STATE POWER INVESTMENT, AND AVIC

Formal Name:

The Republic of Turkey

Model of Governance:

Presidential Republic

Government leader:

Pres. Recep Tayyip Erdogan

Population:

82.0 Million

World Economic Index Rank:

64.4

Geographical Region:

Middle East and North Africa

Dominant Religion:

Islam

Natural Resources:

Coal, iron ore, copper, chromium, antimony, mercury, gold, barite, borate, celestite (strontium), emery, feldspar, limestone, magnesite, marble, perlite, pumice, pyrites (sulfur), clay, arable land, hydropower



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan aspires to restore Turkey's historic role as the leader of the Muslim world and has found an unlikely partner in Communist China. Even as the Chinese Communist Party has engaged in what the Trump and Biden administrations have designated as "genocide" against ethnic Turkic Muslims in western China, however, Ankara has turned to Beijing for investment and infrastructure development to prop up a failing economy¹¹⁵ plagued by a decade of inflation, depreciation of the Turkish lira against the US dollar, and bad policy, compounded by the pandemic.

According¹¹⁶ to Morgan Stanley, "Turkey's deficit widened in April 2020 to \$5.60 billion from just \$500 million in late 2019, thanks to the combination of a trade deficit and a drop in revenues from tourism. Chinese investment has rushed to the rescue as Turkey has all but run out of crucial foreign reserves needed to pay down its debt."

The CCP's interest in Turkey is self-evident. According to an Italian think tank,¹¹⁷ "Chinese trade with Europe is significantly dependent on sea

transport. Overland roads and railways would decrease delivery time and costs while increasing Chinese dominance throughout the region.”

BRI ventures already completed include the BTK railway¹¹⁸ link (Baku, Azerbaijan; Tbilisi Georgia; and Kars, Turkey) which connects China’s national railways to the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route (TCITR).

The Edirne-Kars High-Speed railway project is among the most prominent works¹¹⁹ underway, which is a natural continuation of the BTK railway. It is composed of about 4,750 km (952 miles) and is critical for Europe and Asia, as it will constitute an integral part of reviving the historic Silk Road.

Turkey has also developed various transport corridor projects. These include the ‘Marmaray’ underwater subterranean rail passage connecting Asia and Europe, the Eurasia Tunnel Project (inaugurated December 20, 2016), the ‘Third Istanbul Airport,’ and the construction of the Filyos (Zonguldak), Çandarlı (Izmir), and Mersin ports.

The proposed Trans-Caspian East-West-Middle Corridor (TCEWMC)¹²⁰ would link Turkey to Central Asia and China through the Caspian Sea. Projects such as TCEWMC will solidify Chinese influence through expansion in Central Asia and the Middle East. If this transportation infrastructure initiative comes to fruition, it would likely serve China’s military purposes in due course.



On June 15, 2019, President Xi Jinping met with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey in Dushanbe (China News).

Kazakhstan



BRI ENTRAPPED NATION

US \$11.93 BILLION IN BRI LOANS AND INVESTMENT IN KAZAKHSTAN SINCE 2013 (SOURCE: AEI). INCLUDES: CITIC, POWER CONSTRUCTION CORP., AND CHINA RAILWAY ENGINEERING



Formal Name:

Republic of Kazakhstan

Model of Governance:

Presidential Republic

Government leader:

President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev

Population:

19.1 million

Geographical Region:

South and Central Asia

Dominant Religion:

Islam

Natural Resources:

Major deposits of petroleum, natural gas, coal, iron ore, manganese, chrome ore, nickel, cobalt, copper, molybdenum, lead, zinc, bauxite, gold, uranium

“

Although data is sparse, it is known that many Uyghurs—the main tribe of Xinjiang, China’s troubled autonomous region—live in Kazakhstan. There are also ethnic Kazakhs living on the Chinese side of the border, many of them facing great political difficulties, if not persecutions.

— Carnegie Endowment for International Peace¹²¹

”

Kazakhstan is Central Asia's largest landmass country sharing its borders with Chinese-occupied East Turkistan and Russia with access to the Caspian Sea. Following the Soviet regime's collapse, Kazakhstan became an independent nation. Much of the Soviet-built infrastructure projects, including railway lines, were kept intact.

The World Bank reports,¹²² "Kazakhstan is an upper-middle-income, resource-rich country. Its ascent to upper-middle-income status propelled by rising oil production and booming oil prices pushed the average annual GDP growth rate to above 7 percent during 2000-2013. The halving of world oil prices and lower export demand since, however, resulted in a sharp slowdown with an average annual GDP growth rate of 2.2 percent in 2014-17."

Kazakhstan has subsequently become ominously reliant on the PRC to buck up its faltering economy. This dependency has greatly facilitated Xi Jinping's determined bid to transform the country into the linchpin¹²³ of a Silk Road Economic Belt, which he first unveiled during a speech at Nazarbayev University in the capital city, Astana.

During a visit to Kazakhstan in September 2013, PRC President Xi Jinping, presented¹²⁴ China's vision of engaging the world to restore its historical Silk Road. This initiative is also known as the "One belt, One Road" (OPOR), or Belt-and-Road Initiative (BRI). China claims the effort is a win-win economic and infrastructure development program for all involved.

Like those who hail from the PRC's Captive Nations, critics see the program as aggressive CCP imperialism. They say the result will be the eventual enslavement and Han Chinese colonization of at-risk nations as a natural consequence of their inability to pay back Communist China's seductive BRI loans.

"China controls approximately 20 percent of Kazakhstan's oil production and has constructed one of the world's longest oil pipelines, running 2,300 km (1,429 miles) from the Caspian Sea to Xinjiang province," reports The Diplomat.¹²⁵ The quasi-state debt of Kazakhstan to China has increased in just five years to over \$20 billion.

Widespread Kazakh government and industry corruption allow the PRC to systematically seize Kazakhstan's strategic facilities through non-transparent investment treaties permitting Chinese control and ownership of oil and other large-scale industrial enterprises.

The corrupt Kazakh government allows Chinese authorities to act with impunity, resulting in frequent violations of native Kazakh and Uyghur human rights, environmental regulations, antitrust, and labor law. Disputes with Chinese authorities are resolved by Chinese agents accountable only to the CCP, which presents a clear and present danger to Kazakh sovereignty.



Xi Jinping with Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev (June 13, 2019)

SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA

Pakistan



BRI ENTRAPPED NATION

**US 53.22 BILLION IN BRI LOANS & INVESTMENT (SOURCE: AEI'S CGIT).
INCLUDES: CHINA MOBILE, ALIBABA, AND
POWER CONSTRUCTION CORP.**

Formal Name:

Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Model of Governance:

Federal Parliamentary Republic

Government leader:

Imran Kahn

Population:

233.5 million

Geographical Region:

South and Central Asia

Dominant Religion:

Sunni Islam

Natural Resources:

Arable land, extensive natural gas reserves, limited petroleum, poor quality coal, iron ore, copper, salt, limestone



Pakistan has been: a client state of Communist China since at least the 1963 Sino-Pakistan Agreement;¹²⁶ a proxy in China's cold—and periodically hot—war with India; a partner in China's proliferation of nuclear weapons and related technologies; and a geographic asset in Beijing's determined effort to exercise dominion over the Asian landmass and project power beyond. The Belt and Road Initiative fits neatly into the Chinese Communist Party's hegemonic relationship with successive regimes in Islamabad, particularly under the misrule of military leaders and other Islamists.

The extreme poverty inflicted by such leaders upon a once-very-promising developing nation has greatly facilitated China's efforts to exploit Pakistan and its people. Unlike Western nations troubled by the country's endemic political corruption and human rights abuses, the PRC turned a blind eye to such problems as its investments, bribes, and military/intelligence cooperation effectively making Pakistan into a Chinese satellite.

According to AEI's China Global Investment Tracker (CGIT),¹²⁷ since 2005 China has financed a series of energy and infrastructure projects in Pakistan totaling more than \$70 billion including \$5 billion in troubled investments. More than \$53 billion has been allocated since 2013 to BRI projects.

The long-standing "Iron-Brotherhood"¹²⁸ alliance between China and Pakistan has given rise to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and its centerpiece project at Gwadar Port. CPEC consists of¹²⁹ strategically important infrastructure projects that connect China's western border to the port. In 2017 alone, approximately 88% of Pakistan's external loans¹³⁰ had originated from Chinese banks and its bilateral ties with the CCP. This partnership grants the CCP considerable sway in such areas as the Pakistani energy sector and military activities, thanks in part to its state-owned companies being charged with the majority of CPEC developments. Following violent attacks on Chinese nationals, Beijing has repeatedly pressured Islamabad to give her powers to protect the corridor, despite the Chinese military not having an official presence in Pakistan.

Close to half of the CPEC is focused on the energy-related projects in Pakistan, including a \$542.3 million coal-based power project¹³¹ in the Baluchi region's Gwadar port. The main sponsor¹³² of the project is China Communications Construction Company (CCCC), a U.S.-sanctioned¹³³ Chinese state-owned corporation that is involved in a number of ominous PLA-related operations abroad, including the construction¹³⁴ of fortified artificial islands in the South China Sea. The CCCC has transformed the port into a key logistics facility for the burgeoning Chinese navy, so much so that, in January 2018, a Chinese military analyst declared¹³⁵ that "China needs to set up another base in Gwadar for its warships because Gwadar is now a civilian port." These facilities provide China prized strategic

military advantages, namely, direct access to the Arabian Sea and a threat to the security of India.

Pakistan's current prime minister, Imran Khan, has been a particularly subservient ally to the CCP, often siding with China on its atrocious crimes against humanity—including against his fellow Muslims in occupied East Turkistan. Indeed, despite his call¹³⁶ for "unity among Muslims to combat the Islamophobia in the West," Khan has remained silent¹³⁷ on China's genocide of its Muslim Uyghurs, Kazakhs, and other Turkic minorities. Imran Khan's government actually has become one of 37 Chinese-compromised nations¹³⁸ that backed China's policy towards the region the CCP calls Xinjiang, going so far as to praise Beijing's operations in the area.

So complete is China's domination of Pakistan through the Belt and Road Initiative loans and the military and intelligence ties it fosters that Imran Khan has ruthlessly sought to appease China regarding Uyghurs residing in Pakistan. Ablikim Yusup¹³⁹, a Pakistan-residing Uyghur expatriate and business owner once involved in BRI contracts, revealed that Pakistani authorities round up and deport Uyghurs to China. In addition, the Khan regime has imported¹⁴⁰ over 14,100 tons of cotton that China harvested using slave-labor from Xinjiang, in defiance of global efforts to boycott the raw material and finished products made with it.



Myanmar (Burma)



BRI ENTRAPPED NATION

**US \$6.61 BILLION IN BRI LOANS & INVESTMENT (SOURCE: AEI'S CGIT).
INCLUDES: CHINA ENERGY
ENGINEERING, STATE CONSTRUCTION
ENGINEERING, AND CNOOC**

Formal Name:

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Model of Governance:

Military Junta

Government leader:

Chairman of the State Administration Council Min Aung Hlaing

Population:

56.6 million

World Economic Index Rank:

54

Geographical Region:

South and Central Asia

Dominant Religion or Belief:

Buddhism

Natural Resources:

Petroleum, timber, tin, antimony, zinc, copper, tungsten, lead, coal, marble, limestone, precious stones, natural gas, hydropower, arable land



Myanmar, historically known as Burma, adjoins China, India and Thailand. The military juntas that have long governed the country, with the exception of a decade of democratic rule that brought dissident and Nobel Laureate Aun San Suu Kyi to power—a period that came to an end with a coup in February 2021—have been aligned with and supported by the Chinese Communist Party.

Not surprisingly, therefore, the CCP has secured Myanmar's participation in predatory¹⁴¹ Belt and Road Initiative projects focused on infrastructure development of interest to the CCP, notably railways. According to AEI's China Global Investment Tracker (CGIT),¹⁴² since 2005 China has financed projects in Myanmar totaling more than \$18 billion including nearly \$4.82 billion in troubled investments. Nearly \$7 billion has been allocated

since 2013 to BRI projects. The most important of these is the PRC's China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC), which will connect China's Yunnan province to Myanmar's second-biggest city Mandalay. Eventually, the railways are projected to be extended to the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean through the country's Rakhine State. Port access through Myanmar would significantly increase China's hegemony in the region.

Concerns expressed in the previous Myanmar government about loan defaults and the prospect that the CCP would wind up acquiring the country's critical assets have, to date, allowed approval of only nine of 38 BRI projects suggested by China. Other pending projects include a seaport, a new city and special economic zones.



The new military junta is expected to be more acquiescent¹⁴³ to Beijing's pressure to submit to its debt-trap gambit.



Protest in Myanmar against military coup, February 14, 2020 (Photo by MgHla (aka) Htin Linn Aye)

Mongolia



BRI ENTRAPPED NATION

US \$5.66 BILLION IN CHINESE BRI LOANS & INVESTMENT SINCE 2013 (SOURCE: AEI'S CGIT). INCLUDES: CHINA NATIONAL NUCLEAR, CHINA RAILWAY ENGINEERING, AND STATE CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING

Formal Name:

Mongolia

Model of Governance:

Semi-Presidential Republic

Government leader:

President Khaltmaa Battulga

Population:

3.3 million

Geographical Region:

East Asia and Pacific

Dominant Religion:

Mongolian-Tibetan Buddhism

Natural Resources:

Oil, coal, copper, molybdenum, tungsten, phosphates, tin, nickel, zinc, fluorspar, gold, silver, iron



“

To extract gold fast, China uses poisonous chemicals banned elsewhere in the world ... They don't clean or purify the waste. They just toss it, and Mongolian animals and people get poisoned.

— Standing Blue Mongols¹⁴⁴

”

Modern Mongolia is a landlocked, sovereign nation of 3.3 million people sandwiched between Russia and Communist China. While Mongolia has a¹⁴⁵ “fully functioning democracy with press freedom where people are encouraged to express their opinions,” its economy is wholly¹⁴⁶ dependent on China: Over 40 percent of Mongolia’s imports come from China. And ninety percent of Mongolian exports go to China, notably the coking coal essential for producing vast quantities of steel that the PRC exports to the world.

Communist China would be crippled if it lost access to Mongolia’s minerals, hence Beijing’s keen interest in ensuring that this country is locked into its Belt and Road colonial empire. Nearly \$2.4 billion of China’s total \$12.4 billion investment since 2005 is troubled according to AEI’s China Global Tracker (CGIT).¹⁴⁷ China has invested \$5.7 billion in Mongolia for BRI projects since 2013.

Mineral-rich Mongolia once ranked among the fastest-growing economies in the world, but that rapid expansion was halted when the commodities markets collapsed in 2015. China stepped in with



BRI loans, allowing its neighbor to borrow billions to construct housing projects, roads, power and wastewater treatment plants. The development of the China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor (CMREC),¹⁴⁸ one of six major road and railway networks in China’s new “Silk Road,” will facilitate the transport of goods to Russian ports, Europe, and beyond. But, Mongolians, who by-and-large remain deeply Sinophobic more than a century after the 1917 China-Mongolian war, know that the CCP’s money comes at a high cost. Critics alarmed by China’s BRI debt-trap recognize that their entire country is being put at risk of PRC seizure of assets and/or territory, and greatly intensified Han migration should they default.



In addition, Mongolian nationalists¹⁴⁹ denounce China’s systematic environmental predations that often characterize BRI projects. These have, for example, taken a terrible toll among their countrymen who rely on nomadic herding in the vast grasslands now blighted by industrial-scale surface mining that destroys the fragile topsoil of the Mongolian plateau. All other things being equal, the Belt and Road Initiative will ensure more such damage to the people, natural resources and sovereignty of Mongolia.

New Zealand



BRI ENTRAPPED NATION

US \$3.08 BILLION IN CHINESE BRI LOANS & INVESTMENT IN NEW ZEALAND SINCE 2013 (SOURCE: AEI'S CGIT). INCLUDES: CHINESE COMMUNICATIONS CONSTRUCTION, HAUWEI AND CITIC

Formal Name:
New Zealand

Model of Governance:
Parliamentary Democracy

Government leader:
Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern

Population:
4.9 Million

Geographical Region:
East Asia and Pacific

Dominant Religion:
Christianity

Natural Resources:
Natural gas, iron ore, sand, coal, timber, hydropower, gold, limestone



“

There are concerns from New Zealand Five Eyes' allies that it may be the weak link in dealing with China as the Ardern Government, again, failed to call out Beijing.

— Global Times¹⁵⁰

”

One of the most strategically ominous targets of China's Belt and Road initiative is New Zealand, a member of the Anglosphere "Five-Eyes" intelligence-sharing pact with the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia. As

one observer¹⁵¹ put it: “Tiny New Zealand may seem like a strange target for Communist party infiltration, but the country is attractive to Beijing as the soft underbelly of the Five Eyes.”

Unfortunately, under the government of leftist Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern’s Labour Party, the Chinese Communist Party has made great strides in straining that pact to the breaking point.

Prime Minister Ardern has described¹⁵² her country’s relationship with China as one of its most important, far-reaching relationships. Consequently, New Zealand became the first Five Eyes nation to sign on to the Belt-and-Road Initiative.

In 2017, New Zealand signed¹⁵³ a Memorandum of Arrangement (MOA) with the Chinese regime setting the course for the nation to join the BRI within 18 months. Pursuant to the MOA, the countries agreed to work together in specified areas, including upgrading a 2008 free trade agreement, expanding trade and investment and developing a pathway for cooperation and exchanges to support the BRI.¹⁵⁴ In January 2021, New Zealand and China signed an upgraded free trade agreement¹⁵⁵ within the framework of the BRI.

One Kiwi advocate for the Belt and Road Initiative expects¹⁵⁶ his country, as a developed nation, to likely be involved in “improving the systems and processes to support BRI, playing an important role in...trade facilitation (biosecurity, customs clearance, for instance), research collaboration and commercialization; and in the creative sector other, than in infrastructure.”

The Ardern government is also facilitating Beijing’s efforts to recruit others in the South Pacific, notably through the Tripartite Cook Islands/China/New Zealand Water Project,¹⁵⁷ an example of Beijing’s intention to expand its dominion throughout the

South Pacific via so-called “green partnerships.” To this end, New Zealand partnered with China on funding of a BRI initiative for the Cook Islands with a \$15 million grant. New Zealand also joined in the creation of the China-backed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), which provides BRI loans.

According to a report¹⁵⁸ by the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, “Beijing’s increasing influence in the Pacific Islands region has led some analysts to raise concerns that China could erode U.S. influence in the Compact [of Free Association] countries [i.e., Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau] and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, which would have implications for U.S. military access in the region. According to Dean Cheng, a senior research fellow at the Heritage Foundation, ‘If Beijing established a political foothold [in the region over the long term], it could persuade these states not to extend access to the U.S., as well as arrange for Chinese access.’”

In addition, New Zealand is said to be¹⁵⁹ poised to play a pivotal role in promoting the BRI in South America: “When you see the geographical location between China, New Zealand and Chile, you can find that New Zealand happens to be in the middle of China to South America. New Zealand can play a role as a conduit between China and South America.”

In short, New Zealand is contributing significantly to the spread of the CCP’s malign influence in the South Pacific and beyond—indisputably creating risks to the American naval presence and overall security in the region. In May 2020,¹⁶⁰ then-Secretary of State Mike Pompeo declared that the United States would disconnect from any partner that it saw as putting at risk its national interests, including by signing up to the BRI. It remains to be seen whether the new Biden administration will enforce this sensible and necessary policy.

Philippines



BRI ENTRAPPED NATION

**US \$9.83 BILLION IN BRI LOANS
AND INVESTMENT (SOURCE: AEI'S
CGIT). INCLUDES: CHINA TELECOM,
STATE CONSTRUCTION
ENGINEERING, AND HAUWEI**

Formal Name:

Republic of the Philippines

Model of Governance:

Presidential constitutional republic

Government leader:

President Rodrigo Duterte

Population:

107 Million

World Economic Index Rank:

64.5

Geographical Region:

Middle East and North Africa

Dominant Religion:

Christianity

Natural Resources:

Timber, petroleum, nickel, cobalt,
silver, gold, salt, copper



The Philippines is one of the most strategically located nations in the western Pacific and has long been key to the control of the waters, airspace, fishing grounds and vast undersea resources of the region. Consequently, achieving dominance over this country and severing its historic relationship with the United States is a central priority of the Chinese Communist Party and a prime object of its Belt and Road Initiative.

Unfortunately, since President Rodrigo Duterte came to office in 2016 with a decidedly anti-America, pro-Beijing agenda,¹⁶¹ the CCP's aggressiveness, combined with extensive economic and diplomatic initiatives, has made enormous progress on both fronts.

The CCP has wielded the stick, as well as the carrot, to bend the Philippines to its will. The latter has been subjected to a series of violations of its sovereign territory by China, including notably

Scarborough Shoal, which the Chinese Communists seized and transformed¹⁶² into a heavily armed naval and air force facility, and adjacent waters and fishing grounds of the South China Sea. Its coast guard and armed fishing fleets have also engaged in a series of confrontations with Filipino fishermen and authorities, enforcing de facto the PRC's claims to the area.

At the same time, the Chinese Communist Party has used its "soft power" extensively in the Philippines. Even before the Belt and Road Initiative, the Chinese presence in and influence over that nation was very large. Business Mirror reports,¹⁶³ however, that there has been an "influx of huge Chinese population" and that Chinese interests now dominate the Filipino economy: "Most of the big businesses in the country are now controlled by Chinese businessmen."

Chinese investment in the Philippines is likewise massive.¹⁶⁴ During Duterte's first visit to China in 2016, he and China's dictator Xi Jinping signed a

bilateral agreement for billions of dollars worth of Chinese financing for 30 projects in the Philippines, including huge dam and railway projects. Reportedly,¹⁶⁵ "These loans are 1,100 percent more expensive than...ones from Japan."

According to AEI's China Global Investment Tracker (CGIT),¹⁶⁶ since 2005 China has financed projects in the Philippines totaling more than \$27 billion including nearly \$7 billion in troubled investments. At least \$9.8 billion has been allocated since 2013 to BRI projects as of fall 2020. Chinese state-owned companies are now involved in casinos, tourism, industry, telecommunications, office parks, roads, bridges, rail projects, ports, and surveillance technologies. Filipino police are using Chinese technologies—including¹⁶⁷ 12,000 strategically placed cameras providing live feed to China—in Manila and elsewhere.

The CCP's larger strategic objective has also been furthered by President Duterte's efforts to weaken the U.S.-Philippines alliance. In February 2020, Duterte announced that he was withdrawing from the bilateral 1999 Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA), a key part of the 68-year-old Mutual Defense Treaty¹⁶⁸ with the United States. Its termination would effectively preclude the U.S. from stationing troops in the Philippines and operating from its territory, crippling U.S. defense of allied interests in the Spratly Islands and elsewhere in the South China Sea and East Asia.

While the withdrawal from the VFA has been repeatedly postponed, Duterte has encouraged Chinese ambitions of displacing the United States in his country by demanding¹⁶⁹ that Washington pay for the agreement's continuation. The cumulative effect of the CCP's BRI and Duterte's policies puts the Philippines on the perilous path to Captive Nation status.





COMING PROBLEMS: ISLAND-HOPPING

While the South China Sea atolls the People's Liberation Army has turned into fortified bastions capable of exercising control over those strategic waters, their airspace and vast undersea resources have received considerable attention in recent years, the CCP's designs on other islands in the southern Pacific and far beyond have generally not. Several examples of what might be called Beijing's counterpart to General Douglas MacArthur's World War II "island-hopping" strategy, but that are not yet formally part of the Belt and Road Initiative, warrant brief mention in the watch-this-space department.

Like MacArthur, Chinese Communists understand the invaluable nature of critically located islands to national designs for power-projection. The United States and other freedom-loving nations ignore at their extreme peril the CCP's patient, steady efforts to secure control of such assets and their vast territorial waters to the same strategic ends as its various BRI infrastructure-build-out gambits. Here are a few of the apparent targets of such "island-hopping with Chinese characteristics."

ISLAND-HOPPING

COMING PROBLEMS: The C.C.P.'s “Island-Hopping” Campaign



Kanton, Kiribati

According to press accounts,¹⁷⁰ the Communist Chinese seek to develop a facility that is, at a minimum dual-use, ominously located just 1800 miles from Pearl Harbor and astride vital U.S. sea lines of communication with Australia and New Zealand: “The Chinese government reportedly has plans to refurbish and expand an airstrip on the island of Kanton...part of the archipelago nation of Kiribati in the central Pacific Ocean. If true, this could give Beijing an airbase in an incredibly strategical location, between North America and New Zealand, potentially giving China's military¹⁷¹ much greater reach throughout a critical and increasingly tense region.”

Tulagi, Solomon Islands

The Chinese Communist Party paid the Solomon Islands over \$700 million in September of 2019, securing an end to that archipelagic country's diplomatic recognition of Taiwan. Of far greater strategic significance, however, is the lease Beijing obtained of the Solomon island of Tulagi. One influential regional think tank¹⁷² cited a warning from a prominent American one: “As the RAND Corporation has noted,¹⁷³ [the Solomons, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands and Palau] and their maritime territories are ‘a power projection superhighway running through the heart of the North Pacific into Asia [that] effectively connects U.S. military forces in Hawaii to those in theater, particularly to forward operating positions on the U.S. territory of Guam.”

The Chinese are not interested in projecting power only throughout the Western Pacific. They have their eyes on several islands in the Atlantic, as well.

Grand Bahama Island, Bahamas

A company based in Hong Kong is believed to be investing \$3 billion in the deep-water¹⁷⁴ Freeport Container Port. In the words of one expert:¹⁷⁵ “The concern is that the port will become another Hambantota [in Sri Lanka]. China in December 2017 took control of the Hambantota port...grabbing 70% of the equity and signing a 99-year lease after that project could not repay high-interest loans extended by China. China's takeover was inevitable because Hambantota was, from an economic point of view, misconceived from the beginning. Now there are concerns that Hambantota will eventually become a Chinese naval base.” The same fate seems likely to befall the Bahamas' Freeport, just 90 miles off the U.S. coast and in close proximity to critical American submarine bases, transit areas and underwater testing grounds.

Terceira, The Azores (Portugal)

The United States Air Force has been poised for some time to make an unforced error¹⁷⁶ in the North Atlantic—potentially, to the enormous benefit of the Chinese Communist Party and its People's Liberation Army. In the face of budget constraints, the Pentagon has been cutting back on its use of the Lajes Air Base on Terceira, rendering it what has been called “a ghost base.” The PLA—which appears to remember better than the American

military the critical role that airfield played in the Battle of the Atlantic in World War II, and to understand the one it would play in any future conflict in Europe—seems poised to snap up Lajes if Portugal would allow it to do so.

A highly regarded American analyst observed:¹⁷⁷ “If China controlled the base, the Atlantic would no longer be secure. From the 10,865-foot runway there, Chinese planes could patrol the northern and central portions of the Atlantic and thereby cut air and sea traffic between the U.S. and Europe. Beijing would also be able to deny access to the nearby Mediterranean Sea.”

Greenland

The Chinese Communist Party has been developing a foothold in one of the world's largest and most strategically important islands, Greenland, for much of the past decade. Several PRC mining companies have operations there as part of the CCP's bid to control the world's supply of rare earth minerals. Inevitably, however, that commercial presence will translate into opportunities to expand China's influence further. Given Greenland's location in the increasingly contested¹⁷⁸ Arctic and astride the Great Circle Route sea and air lanes, as well as its mineral and energy deposits, the Chinese will inevitably seek to integrate this vast island into their hegemonic colonial empire, as well.

The national security implications of such Chinese developments—both those underway and those in prospect—prompted President Trump to discuss publicly the possibility of the United States “buying” Greenland. At a minimum, it must ensure that Communist China does not effectively do so first.



POLICY PRESCRIPTIONS

The preceding pages make clear that the Chinese Communist Party's Belt and Road Initiative is, as a newspaper in one of its targeted countries put it, "China's Trojan Horse ... galloping across a modern-day version of the ancient Silk Road." It is designed to bring about the CCP's domination of nations worldwide under the guise of Beijing's debt-trap-financed infrastructure projects. Unless stopped, the net result will inevitably produce—later, if not sooner—a global "military-civil fusion" that will enslave the rest of the planet for the benefit of the People's Republic of China.

In light of the grave danger posed by the BRI, the following steps are recommended to the U.S. government and, as appropriate, those of other nations that aspire to preserve their sovereignty and pursue the benefits of liberty:

- Document and publicize the true character and malign goals of the Belt and Road Initiative.
- Support the aspirations of Captive Nations in China for restored independence and sovereignty.
- Oppose the enslavement of still more countries by working with the U.S. private sector and government agencies to encourage alternatives to Chinese-sponsored infrastructure and other investments. At its June 2021 meeting in the United Kingdom, the G-7 agreed to provide hundreds of billions of dollars dubbed "Build Back Better World) to address, according to an unnamed official, an estimated \$40 trillion infrastructure gap for "low- and middle-income countries that need it." If the so-called B3W actually amounts to a real commitment to challenge the inroads being made worldwide by the Chinese Communists' Belt and Road Initiative, it would be most welcome. In the absence of any specific funding or arrangements for allocating it, the CCP is likely right to dismiss it as "doomed to fail."
- Deny the Communist Chinese state-owned, PLA-affiliated and other state-connected companies further access to U.S. capital markets and the underwriting they provide for not only BRI-related Chinese investments but also those of the CCP's ominous military build-up, genocidal repression of ethnic minorities, environmental predations, economic warfare, and other crimes against humanity.
- Designate the Chinese Communist Party as a Transnational Criminal Organization, thereby properly stigmatizing it, hopefully with a similar effect as President Reagan's depiction of the Soviet Union as "the Evil Empire." Such a designation also would put American financiers and other businesses on notice that underwriting or otherwise enabling the CCP may cause them to be deemed accomplices to criminal activity.
- Move, or boycott, the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing to avoid what is otherwise inevitable: legitimating the CCP and emboldening it to become even more aggressive towards those it seeks to enslave via the Belt and Road Initiative and/or other techniques.

ADDENDUM A

CHINA GLOBAL INVESTMENT TRACKER

BY THE AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE

EDITOR'S NOTE: The value of China's overseas investment and construction combined since 2005 exceeds \$2 trillion. In 2020-1, documented investment and construction both plunged due to the pandemic. Investment started recovering in the first half of 2020, construction has not yet. Within China's smaller overall footprint, the Belt and Road Initiative has become relatively more important. The US and other rich countries continue to be suspicious of some Chinese activity.

The China Global Investment Tracker (CGIT) is the only comprehensive public data set covering China's global investment and construction, which are documented both separately and together. Inaugurated in 2005, the CGIT includes nearly 4000 large transactions across energy, transportation, technology, property and other sectors, as well as more than 300 troubled transactions. The full list, with the amount, Chinese parent company, host country, and sector, is available for public use with the proper citation. The tracker is published by the American Enterprise Institute.

To download the full CGIT dataset visit: <https://www.aei.org/china-global-investment-tracker/>

BRI Entrapped and Emerging CCP Threat Countries

Data from AEI's China Global Tracker, fall 2020

Country	Chinese Investment Since 2005	BRI Investment 2013 - fall 2020
Canada	US \$57.97 billion	US \$19.21 billion* (Not BRI)
Cuba	US \$740 million	US \$240 million
Jamaica	US \$2.68 billion	US \$2.14 billion
Venezuela	US \$30.12 billion	US \$15.64 billion
Greece	US \$11.74 billion	US \$5.70 billion
Italy	US \$27.62 billion	US \$24.07 billion
Djibouti	US \$1.72 billion	US \$1.02 billion
Nigeria	US \$53.46 billion	US \$28.33 billion
South Africa	US \$15.65 billion	US \$3.91billion
Iran	US \$52.49 billion	US \$15.11 billion
Turkey	US \$16.34 billion	US \$6.34 billion
Kazakhstan	US \$33.76 billion	US \$11.93 billion
Pakistan	US \$65.80 billion	US \$53.22 billion
Myanmar	US \$14.70 billion	US \$6.61 billion
Mongolia	US \$10.01 billion	US \$5.66 billion
New Zealand	US \$4.76 billion	US \$3.08 billion
Philippines	US \$20.51 billion	US \$9.83 billion
TOTAL	US \$420.16 billion	US \$212.04 billion
Less Canada	US \$362.19 billion	US \$192.83 billion

ADDENDUM B

CHINESE DEBT-TO-GDP RATIOS

“The IMF has scrutinized multiple aspects of the BRI, repeatedly warning of unsustainable debt levels, predatory lending, and the lack of project transparency.”

—Dylan Gerstel, Center for Strategic & International Studies, October 17, 2018

Points of concern from the international community:

- 1) BRI spending in developing countries raises serious concerns about debt sustainability.
- 2) Countries with high debt-to-GDP ratios will need support to service BRI loans as repayments peak.
- 3) The International Monetary Fund has repeatedly warned of unsustainable debt levels, predatory lending, and the lack of project transparency.
- 4) Chinese loans violate several international lending best practices involving procurement, transparency, and dispute settlement.
- 5) Chinese contractors dominate infrastructure projects, and Chinese-funded loans are less transparent than those from multilateral development banks.

Country	GDP 2020 in Millions	GDP Ranking	Chinese Investment Since 2005	China debt-to-GDP ratio
Canada	1,643,408	9	US \$57.97 billion	3.50%
Cuba	103,131	63	US \$740 million	0.71%
Jamaica	13,812	128	US \$2.68 billion	19.40%
Venezuela	-	217	US \$30.12 billion	-
Greece	189,410	51	US \$11.74 billion	0.62%
Italy	1,886,445	8	US \$27.62 billion	1.46%
Djibouti	3,384	167	US \$1.72 billion	50.80%
Nigeria	432,294	25	US \$53.46 billion	12.36%
South Africa	301,924	39	US \$15.65 billion	5.20%
Iran	191,718	50	US \$52.49 billion	27.50%
Turkey	720,101	19	US \$16.34 billion	2.27%
Kazakhstan	169,835	52	US \$33.76 billion	19.98%
Pakistan	263,687	43	US \$65.80 billion	25%
Myanmar	76,186	70	US \$14.70 billion	19.34%
Mongolia	13,137	132	US \$10.01 billion	76.18%
New Zealand	212,482	48	US \$4.76 billion	2.25%
Philippines	361,489	33	US \$20.51 billion	5.68%

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