

China's 'One Belt/One Road' Policy Is Open to All Nations

A highly-placed Chinese expert gave this speech at the EIR/Schiller Institute diplomatic seminar in Copenhagen on Jan. 30, 2015. The seminar, entitled "Economic Development, and Cooperation among Nations, or, Economic Collapse, War and Terror? The New Silk Road Becomes the World Land Bridge," was held at the Russian Cultural Center. Helga Zepp-LaRouche gave the [keynote](#) speech, and diplomats from two other BRICS countries, Alexey Kolesnikov from Russia and Machiel Renier van Niekerk from South Africa (see EIR, Feb. 6, 2015), also spoke.

In 2013, President Xi Jinping of China called for joint development of an "Economic Belt along the Silk Road" and a "Maritime Silk Road of the 21st Century." The "Belt" and the "Road" are two major initiatives that China has made to deepen reform, and open up and advance its neighborhood diplomacy. They have been written into the documents of the Third Plenum of the 18th CPC Central Committee, the Meeting on Neighborhood Diplomacy, and the Central Economic Work Conference, and have been enthusiastically received both at home and abroad.

1. The Belt and the Road initiatives are the continuation and development of the spirit of the ancient Silk Road.

Over 2,000 years ago, the industrious and brave people on the Eurasian continent opened several trade routes connecting major civilizations across Asia, Europe, and Africa. Together, they were referred to as the "Silk Road" by succeeding generations. Despite repeated strife and wars in Eurasia, traffic on the Silk Road never completely stopped. Such links of mutual emulation via the Silk Road made exchanges of goods, know-how, people, and ideas possible; promoted the economic, cultural, and social progress in the various countries; facilitated dialogue and integration of different civilizations; and left behind brilliant pages in human history.

Moving into the 21st Century, an era that is domi-

nated by the themes of peace, development, and cooperation, but continues to feature a complex international and regional landscape, the Silk Road has become all the more important and precious as a symbol of peace, cooperation, openness, inclusiveness, mutual learning, and resilience.

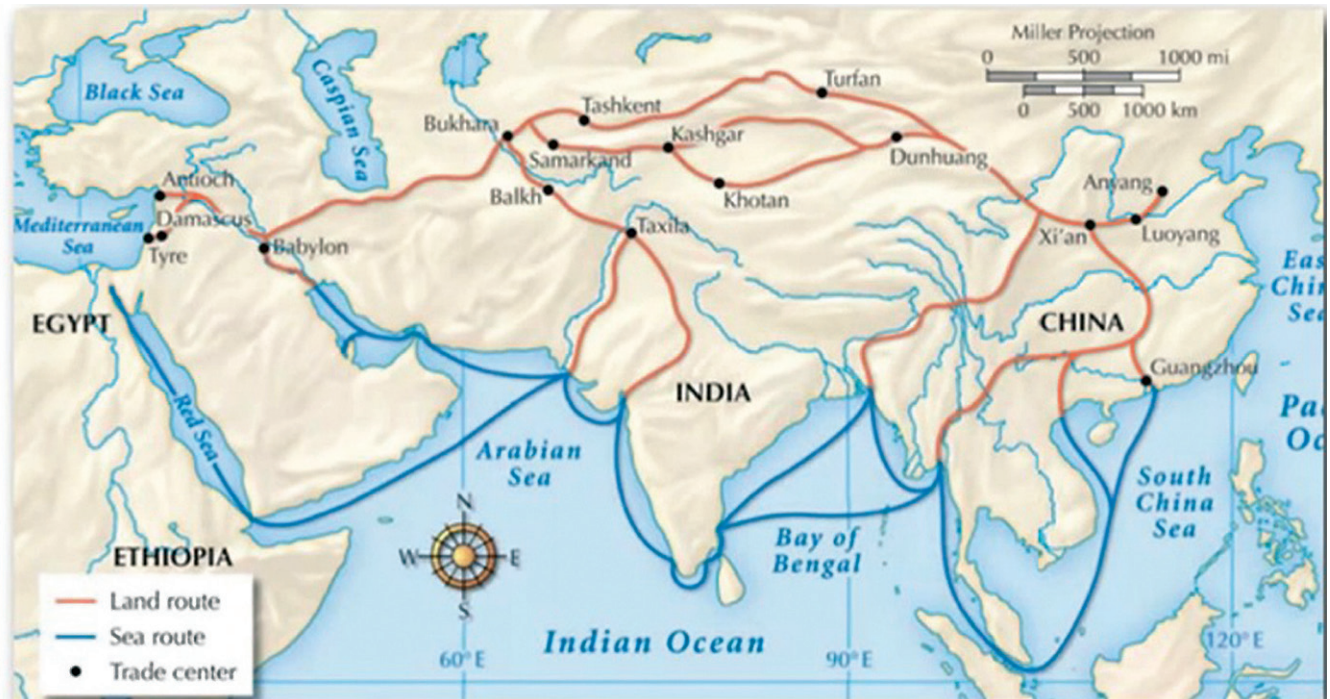
2. Working jointly for the Belt and the Road initiatives meets the trend of the times for regional cooperation.

Asia, known as the engine of global growth, and a key driver for world multi-polarization and economic globalization, plays a critical and increasing role in the shaping of the international landscape. Meanwhile, Asia faces multiple challenges, old and new, including mounting pressures to stay vibrant. The Belt and the Road initiatives linking the past with the present, and covering China and other countries, have a highly inclusive scope that bears witness to the history of great glory in Asia, provide an important source from which Asians draw confidence and pride for their history and cultures, and stand as a banner of Asian unity and commitment to cooperation.

Regional integration is an unavoidable phase toward economic globalization. The flourishing cooperation in Asia has boosted peace and development in the region. The Belt and the Road initiatives, by linking Central Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and West Asia, will contribute to greater connectivity and complementarity across the subregions, and help the establishment and improvement of Asia's supply chain, industrial chain, and value chain, thus bringing Pan-Asian and Eurasian regional cooperation to a new level.

The Belt and the Road initiatives foresee infrastructure development and systemic innovation, which are conducive to an improved business environment in relevant countries and the region as a whole; to an orderly and unimpeded flow of production factors and their improved distribution; to the development of landlocked countries and the remote areas of various countries; to

The Silk Road



The Overland Silk Road (red line) and the Maritime Silk Road (blue line) will unify all of Eurasia, included Southwest Asia and Northern Africa, under the concept of “One Road and One Belt.”

lowering costs and trade and investment barriers; and to providing greater drive for reform and opening-up in the various countries.

Open, Inclusive Economic Initiatives

3. The Belt and the Road initiatives are for open and inclusive economic cooperation.

Both the Belt and the Road initiatives have been anchored on economic cooperation, and built on cultural and people-to-people exchanges. They foresee no interference in the internal affairs of the countries involved, nor do they seek to dominate regional affairs or secure spheres of influence in the region.

The Belt and the Road initiatives look at ideas and suggestions for cooperation and development. They are not about building an entity or creating new mechanisms. The initiatives will rely on existing bilateral and multilateral mechanisms between China and other countries, and use existing platforms of regional cooperation that have proven effective. They will not overlap or compete with existing cooperation mechanisms of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Eurasian Economic Community, or ASEAN plus China. If anything, they will enrich and enliven those mechanisms. We should open our minds and hearts for the

various cooperation initiatives and mechanisms, take a more pragmatic approach, and make them more effective and mutually reinforcing.

The Belt and the Road initiatives foresee complete openness in geographical and country-specific reference. They may trace, but not be limited to, the past Silk Road, and all countries along the land and the maritime Silk Roads, as well as all friendly neighbors of China, can get involved. Central Asia, Russia, South Asia, and Southeast Asia will be the priority directions. So will the Middle East and East Africa, since they are where the Belt and Road join. Countries in Europe, the CIS, and Africa may also be included in the long run. What is more, the initiatives, as they make progress in the future, may involve a lot more projects, countries or entities, which can only ensure their increasing openness.

4. The Belt and the Road initiatives feature “links,” and focus on result-oriented and project-based cooperation, all aimed at bringing tangible benefits to the people in the region.

The first of the “five links” is policy. Countries can discuss strategies and policies on economic development and in the spirit of seeking common ground

while shelving differences, harmonizing their positions through consultation, formulate corresponding plans and measures for cooperation, and give regional economic integration their policy and legal “green light.”

The second link is roads. We have a saying in China that goes “If you want to get rich, start by building roads.” There is a need for China and its neighboring countries to improve their cross-border transportation infrastructure; to put in place a transportation network linking Asia’s subregions, and connecting Asia with Europe and Africa; and to effectively address the existing inadequacies of connectivity and transportation in regions targeted by the project.

The third link is trade. We should study issues of trade and investment facilitation while making proper arrangements accordingly, remove trade and investment barriers, promote economic circulation and improvement in the region, unleash still greater trade and investment potential of participating countries and make the regional cooperation “pie” still bigger.

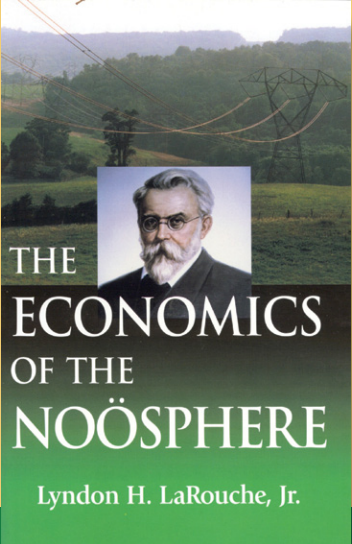
The fourth link is currency. We should promote greater trade settlement in local currencies and more currency swap schemes, strengthen bilateral and multi-lateral financial cooperation, set up financial arms for regional development, bring down transaction costs, enhance capacity to fend off financial risks through regional arrangements that make the region’s economy more competitive globally.

The fifth link is people. Amity among peoples holds the key to sound relations among states. China and the neighboring countries need to shore up popular support for their state-to-state relations, promote inter-civilization dialogue, enhance exchanges, understanding, and friendship among different peoples, especially those at the grassroots level.

Mutually Beneficial Cooperation

Throughout this process, China will follow the right approach of upholding justice first and pursuing justice and interests simultaneously, providing developing countries and friendly neighbors with assistance as their abilities permit, and earnestly help them to achieve speedier growth. China will step up its input in the neighborhood, actively enhance connectivity there, explore the establishment of a regional infrastructure investment and financing platform, and strive to turn the neighboring land and sea areas into

those of peace, friendship, and harmony. Not only will China upgrade its own economy, it will go for an upgraded version of opening-up through such schemes as the Belt and the Road initiatives, and expand its mutually beneficial cooperation with all countries, neighboring countries in particular.



The scientific concepts of biogeochemist Vladimir Vernadsky — the initiator of the idea of the Biosphere — whose concept of the “Noösphere,” has been cited and further developed by Lyndon LaRouche.

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