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Dear Chair Roblan and members of the Senate Interim Committee on Education,

Please included legislative proposals for the 2019 legislative session to expand Mandarin dual language immersion programs and to create paid high-school-year-in-China programs. For economic growth. For peace. For national security

China will be very important to the future of today's students. The adult world of today's K-12 students will be very different. For today's students to be successful in that different future we need to prepare them as best we can today.

Please consider the following views of Bruno Macaes, author of "The Dawn of Eurasia: On the Trail of the New World Order", from his podcast interview at Intelligencer



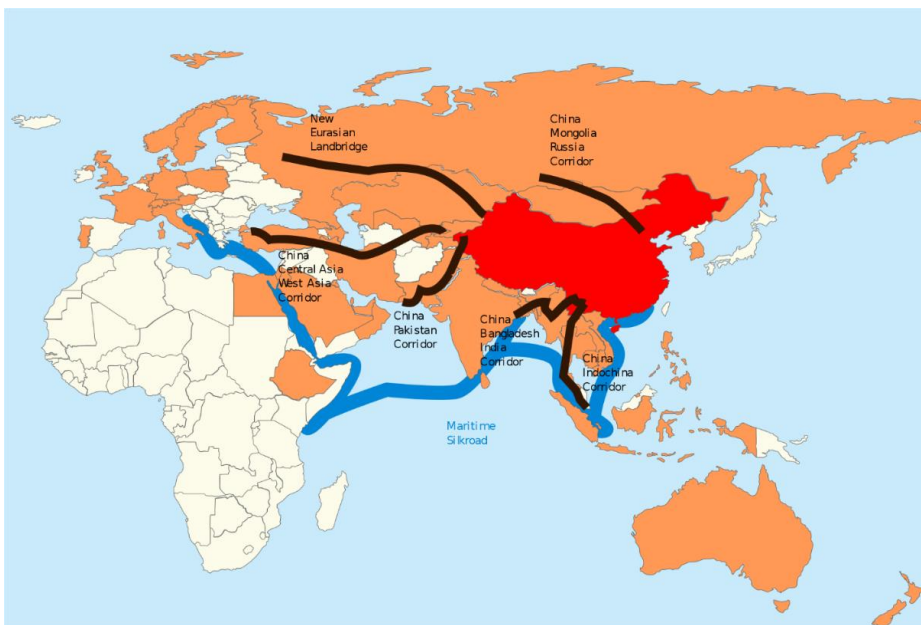
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In 20 Years, China Will Be on Mars — and the U.S. Will Be an Island

By The Editors

Question: What is the Belt and Road initiative, and what was it conceived to achieve?

Macaes: The Belt and Road is essentially a master plan — a big geopolitical and geo-economic plan to transform the world political and economic order, to give it a new content, give it new values, give it new principles, give it new rules, but also, of course, to place China at the center. If you want to look for an equivalent, I think the idea of “the West” is the best equivalent to the Belt and Road. It’s a metaphor, but it’s meant to represent a certain political order, where the United States is at the center. The Belt and Road is a direct rival to the West.



Question: It's not just a matter of China seizing the sort of top position. They also want to change the way that business and politics is done in the world.

Macaes: So, I think the form, the basic structure, is not that different from, let's say, the American Empire of the last 100 years. But the content, the values that are central to the initiative and to the plan, are very different. I've thought about this and I've come up with this expression: "The Belt and Road will be a world of soothsayers, saints, and spooks." Let me take them very quickly by turn. I think it will be a world turned to the future, with people trying to guess what the future will be like, people trying to transform the future, technologists of all kinds. That's what I see in China right now. It will be a world where moral relations will be more important than they are now, where China will feel that it deserves gratitude from other countries, that other countries have to respect the power that China has. It will be very moralized. And finally, it will be very opaque. The ideas of the alignment of transparency, of public reason, public accountability — those won't be central anymore. This will be a world very similar to the security-clearance levels of the Department of Defense in the United States. Some people will know everything that is happening; others will know only a bit; others will know nothing. It will not be talked about openly in the newspapers. That's already true, by the way: Someone researching and writing on the Belt and Road has a hard time getting the information we need, and

Question: Speaking of the language barrier, this is also something that China is going to have to overcome, making Mandarin replace English as the lingua franca of the world?

Macaes: Yes, but there is a lot happening there as well. I am going to give you a few examples. I travelled two years ago in Uzbekistan and it was already 50-50 between people signing up for Mandarin classes and for English classes. You wouldn't necessarily think that. Uzbekistan is not part of the Chinese cultural sphere. It has become quite normal for westerner to speak at least a little bit of Mandarin. I've noticed that the people in Beijing sometimes now actually expect it, to speak a little bit. That was not the case when I started coming to China fifteen years ago. There is a renewed interest in Mandarin. And, I would not be surprised, in fact, I would find it almost inevitable, that in some countries within ten or fifteen years Mandarin would be more popular than English.

Please act. Give today's students the skills and experiences to thrive in a world with a much stronger China.

Thank you.

Sincerely – Dave Porter



**Hong Kong-Zhuhai bridge:
World's longest sea bridge**

Stretching more than 55km (34 miles), the Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macau Bridge spans the Pearl River Delta and is an unparalleled engineering feat. To allow ships to continue passing through the estuary, the bridge plunges underwater for 6.7 km midway, via two artificial islands.