



China Position Paper

Ata Özenci



I. Background Information on Country

With an economy of 14.72 trillion dollars and a population of 1.402 billion, China plays a critical role in the politics of all geographies of the world, including the Arabian Peninsula. China has a long-lasting history of successful civilizations which made it one of the leading powers of today's world. Its historical civilization can be traced back to the 13th century B.C., first under the Shang (until 1046 B.C.) and later under the Zhou (1046-221 B.C.) dynasty. China's imperial era began in 221 B.C. with the Qin Dynasty and continued until the Qing Dynasty fell in 1912. China fluctuated between periods of unity and discord under a succession of imperial dynasties during this time. The Qing Dynasty suffered greatly in the nineteenth century through territorial expansion, bankruptcy, civil strife, imperialism, military setbacks, and foreign takeover of ports and infrastructure. Following the 1911 Revolution, China established a republic under Sun Yat-sen of the Kuomintang (KMT or Nationalist) Party. The country, however, was plagued by fragmentation, warlordism, and persistent foreign involvement. A civil war broke out in the late 1920s between the reigning KMT controlled government led by CHIANG Kai-shek and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). In the early 1930s, Japan captured most of northeastern China before launching a full-scale invasion of the nation in 1937. By the time Japan was defeated in 1945, the nation had been ravaged by eight years of fighting, which had cost up to 20 million Chinese lives. Following the end of World War II, the Nationalist-Communist civil war resumed with fresh vigor, culminating in a CCP triumph in 1949 under the leadership of MAO Zedong.

MAO and the CCP established an autocratic socialist system. The Great Leap Forward (1958–1962) and the Cultural Revolution (1966–1976) were two examples of agricultural, economic, political, and social policies that cost millions of lives while maintaining the PRC's sovereignty. In 1976, MAO perished. From 1978 onward, the successive presidents Deng Xiaoping, Jiang Zemin, and Hu Jintao prioritized market-oriented economic growth and opening up the nation to outside trade while upholding the CCP's leadership. Since the transition, China's economy has had one of the greatest growth rates in the world, with real gross domestic product expected to expand at an average rate of nearly 9% year through 2021, displacing an estimated 800 million people from poverty, and exceptionally increasing the living standards of the Chinese people. However, the growth has significantly diminished the country's natural resources, negatively impacted the environment, and caused significant social dislocation. These programs have been retained by the current leader, Xi Jinping, who has also maintained strict political controls. China's



involvement in international organizations, military deployments, and the launch of the "Belt and Road Plan," a worldwide connectivity initiative, have all expanded worldwide over the past ten years and the Arabian Peninsula. Starting from Yemen and Saudi Arabia to the Gulf Monarchies (UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman), the Arabian Peninsula is currently engaged in various projects with the PRC to obtain Chinese investment, thus enhancing especially the economic relations of PRC with the Arab world, guaranteeing PRC is a decisive force in the region.

II. Past Achievements and Attempts of Country/Organization on the Issues

A. The spillover impact of the Ukraine-Russia conflict on undeveloped countries:

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, asserts that China backs the July 22 agreement, negotiated by the United Nations and signed by Ukraine, Russia, and Turkey, to refrain from attacking grain export infrastructure and civilian transportation.
- In the G20 meeting of 2022, took place in Bali, Indonesia, Wang Yi reiterated China's stance on the international food security and submitted a cooperation initiative on global food security that underscored the spillover impacts the Ukrainian war has had on the undeveloped countries and underlined that the Ukrainian agricultural products must be facilitated entry into the international markets to ensure food security in the undeveloped countries which are heavily reliant on the Ukrainian exports.

B. The territorial disputes between the UAE and Iran:

- Currently, China is not directly involved in the dispute nor has it engaged in activities to tackle the issue. China performs an apathetic stance towards the issue by not supporting the UAE's cause in the three islands dispute because China itself has similar claims in a number of islands in the South China Sea with Iran's claims in the Gulf.

C. The involvement of the international community in the Afghan war:

- Afghanistan deployed Soviet soldiers on December 27, 1979. The Chinese government issued a statement on December 30 denouncing the Soviet military invasion and refusing to recognize the Karmal government, which was supported by the Soviet Union. The formal ties were severed, and the Chinese embassy was downgraded to a representative office that only handled consular and visa matters.
- Relations between China and Afghanistan had substantially improved and were rebuilt following the fall of the Taliban regime following American intervention in 2001. China dispatched a working delegation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to Afghanistan in December 2001. They



attended the inauguration of the Afghan Interim Administration and congratulated President Hamid Karzai.

- President Karzai visited China in January 2002 and had separate meetings with Premier Zhu Rongji and President Jiang Zemin. The two parties exchanged documents stating that China has given Afghanistan emergency material aid worth 30 million yuan and \$1 million in cash. China will aid Afghanistan in its reconstruction with US\$150 million, according to President Jiang Zemin. By the end of March 2002, Kabul had received 30 million yuan in emergency relief.
- China signed the Kabul Declaration on Good Neighborly Relations in December 2001 along with Afghanistan's other five neighbors, reiterating its commitment to uphold Afghanistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity and to continually support the country's peace process and reconstruction.
- Foreign Minister Wang Yi started shuttle diplomacy between Pakistan and Afghanistan in 2017, despite the fact that both countries have accused one another of attacks and bombs during the conflict. China, Afghanistan, and Pakistan have agreed to create a trilateral dialogue forum and reactivate the Contact Group on Afghanistan of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.
- China joined the Quadrilateral Coordination Group and the Moscow Format in 2015 to combat regional instability. In Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang, China held talks between the Taliban and Afghan government representatives in 2015. China met with the Taliban multiple times between 2014 and 2018, fostering strong relations. Additionally, the US has intensified its talks with the Taliban.
- China was the first foreign nation to commit emergency humanitarian help (worth 200 million yuan) to Afghanistan following the Taliban takeover. The swift delivery of food and medical supplies by Beijing was welcomed by the Taliban, who were dealing with a humanitarian crisis and an economic collapse.

III. Objectives, Aims and Possible Solutions Proposed by Country/Organization on the Issues

A. The spillover impact of the Ukraine-Russia conflict on undeveloped countries:

- The Chinese government is always against violence and strife. Thus, the Chinese government asks for an immediate cease-fire in the region whatever the conditions will be and hopefully the tensions between the two states will be stabilized once and for all. The ongoing crisis on the Russian-Ukrainian border is harming the global economy, therefore the political and economic interests of China both in the region and globally. Since 2000s, China has been one of the biggest foreign debt-lenders to Russia, Ukraine and Belarus through the Belt and Roads



Initiative to many projects on the infrastructure and the financial development of the said countries, creating a powerful economic relationship between the two sides which flourishes both sides with economic growth. China is currently not likely to supply these countries with an abundance of foreign funds, with the fear of possible economic sanctions applied against itself by its Western partners. Moreover, the effect of the Ukrainian War on the global economy, especially on the undeveloped countries China has been lending debts through the BRI, poses a grim threat on the borrower countries' ability to repay their dues to China on time or ever.

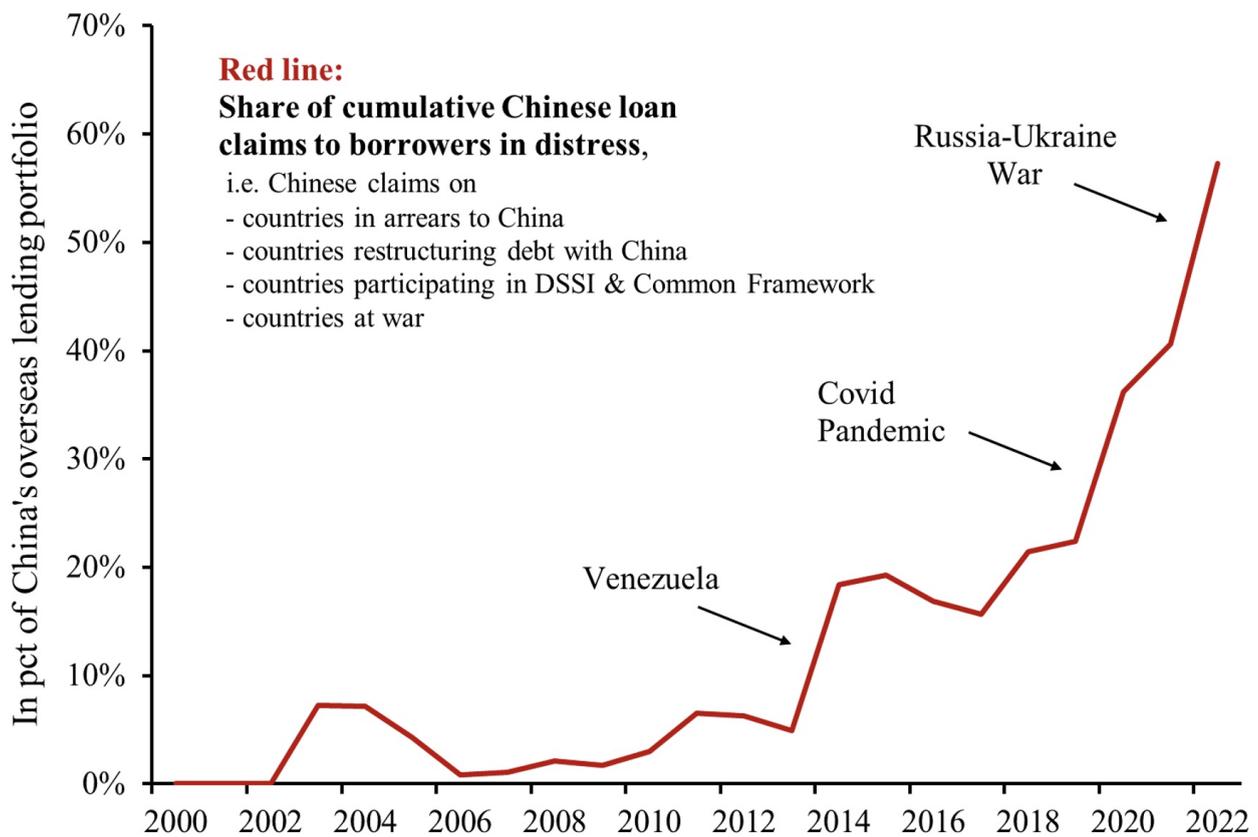


Image 1: China's Overseas Lending Portfolio

- The increase in the number of borrowers in distress to repay their debts to China is an issue fueled by the economic toll the Ukrainian war results in and a dangerous situation for the future of the Chinese economy, which should be tackled immediately.
- As also stated by the Chinese representative in the 2022 G20 meeting Wing Yu by the cooperation initiative proposed; the Russian, Ukrainian and Belarusian agricultural products should be guaranteed access to the global market to help decrease the negative impact of the Ukrainian war on global food security, especially in the undeveloped nations.
- An important point for China's stance regarding the ongoing conflict in Ukraine is to effectively execute, sustain and protect the principle of indivisibility of security. Regardless of what the solution to the Ukrainian war will be or how it will be conducted, the post Ukrainian war era



should ensure that the securities of all sides in the conflict are protected. The security of one nation or multiple nations should not rely on the distress of another nation's national security.

B. The territorial disputes between the UAE and Iran:

- China mostly stays neutral to the issue. It is highly unlikely for China to approve a solution in which the UAE's cause in the conflict is supported against Iran's, since China is currently in a similar dispute with the other neighboring South China Sea countries upon several islands in which China has similar claims as Iran does in the Three Islands dispute.

C. The involvement of the international community in the Afghan war:

- China is the first country to provide the Taliban government with the necessary humanitarian aid after the military conflict. Since then, China has had close ties with the Taliban government and the Taliban government reviews China as a reliable partner in the international community. China has also taken part in various bilateral, multilateral and international talks on the future and the reconstruction of Afghanistan, while maintaining direct communication with the Taliban. It is non-negligible that the future of Afghanistan, especially after the withdrawal of the US from the region, is in the hands of the Taliban, so any realistic solution should regard the Taliban as the driving force in the Afghan government from now on. China pledges to continue supporting, both economically and militarily, the efforts of the reconstruction of Afghanistan. However, it also insists on the US, the perpetrator of the chaos in the Afghan region as a whole, to be investigated for its war crimes and civilian deaths before international justice and prosecuted accordingly.

IV. Bibliography

- Assl, Nima Khorrami. "Opinion: UAE Shifts Course with Iran." *Opinions | Al Jazeera*, Al Jazeera, 12 May 2012, www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2012/5/12/will-uae-and-iran-resolve-the-three-islands-dispute.
- Central Intelligence Agency*, Central Intelligence Agency, www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/china/.
- "China's Overseas Lending and the War in Ukraine." *VOX, CEPR Policy Portal*, voxeu.org/article/china-s-overseas-lending-and-war-ukraine.
- Hilali, A.Z. "China's Response to the Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan." *Central Asian Survey*, vol. 20, no. 3, 2001, pp. 323–351., doi:10.1080/02634930120095349.
- Horn, Sebastian, et al. "China's Overseas Lending and the War in Ukraine." *CEPR*, 11 Apr. 2022, <https://voxeu.org/article/china-s-overseas-lending-and-war-ukraine>.



Kuo, Mercy A. "China in Afghanistan: How Beijing Engages the Taliban." – *The Diplomat*, For The Diplomat, 24 Dec. 2021, thediplomat.com/2021/12/china-in-afghanistan-how-beijing-engages-the-taliban/.

Times, Global. "China Encourages Europe to Build 'Indivisible Security' Mechanism with Russia." *Global Times*, www.globaltimes.cn/page/202203/1254947.shtml.

Wang Yi Puts Forward China's Cooperation Initiative on Global Food Security, www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/202207/t20220709_10717974.html.