

Alex and I affirm, the European Union should join the Belt and Road Initiative

Our Sole Contention is Global Development

Subpoint A: Europe

After a decade of stagnation, [Khan 19](#) notes that the EU is on the brink of a recession. The root cause behind this slowdown is infrastructure. [Barnard 18](#) finds that Europe's poor infrastructure investments are dragging its economy down.

The BRI is the key to solving this problem. [Amighini 18](#) finds that the costs of EU-China trade are significantly higher than the world's average. Fortunately, the BRI's improved rail infrastructure would cut trade times from 45 days to just 21. This also affects maritime trade. [Joshi 19](#) writes that China's BRI includes port infrastructure that connects the EU and China. Indeed, [Lo 19](#) finds, after joining the BRI, Italy opened its ports to Chinese investment. Empirically, China's investments boost trade: In Greece, the Port of Piraeus grew exponentially, becoming the seventh-largest port in Europe.

Overall, [Herrero 17](#) indicates this would boost trade for Europe by over 6 percent. [Kuriyama 14](#) contextualizes, every 1 percent increase in trade leads to half a percent increase in economic growth. [Elmer 19](#) concludes, Beijing's initiative could pull Europe out of its stagnation and avoid a recession. An EU recession would go global as [Lachman 19](#) finds, due to the EU's economic linkages, its decline could spark a global recession, which the [IMF](#) quantifies would push 900 million people into poverty.

Subpoint B: Central Asia

[Russell 19](#) writes, Central Asia has long been poorly connected to the rest of the world and average trade costs in the region are [twice](#) those expected. As a result, the region faces severe underdevelopment. Indeed, the [World Bank 14](#) finds, in Central Asia, 80 million people live in poverty.

China's current BRI efforts are not fully addressing the problem. [Bossuyt 19](#) finds, while China seeks to develop hard infrastructure like roads and bridges, Beijing is ignoring the region's soft infrastructure needs such as strong financial systems and efficient trade procedures. Unfortunately, [Ruta 18](#) finds that on average, delays crossing borders, cumbersome customs procedures, and restrictions tend to be more significant in BRI countries.

[Kruessmann 19](#) writes, the EU is the only actor with the desire to fully develop Central Asia through social and economic reform. However, current EU efforts are hampered by China. Kruessmann furthers, because China is focused on domestic growth and maintains a policy of noninterference, Beijing uses its influence to restrict EU action in the region. Critically, the [World Bank 19](#) notes, the BRI will only improve conditions for participating countries if soft infrastructure reforms are adopted.

Fortunately, EU membership in the BRI will uplift Central Asia in two ways.

First, by reforming the BRI. [Gazi 17](#) writes that the BRI is open-ended and flexible, allowing member states to calibrate the initiative. [Zhou 17](#) finds, by engaging with the BRI, the EU can align Chinese infrastructure standards with EU standards of human development through joint projects, information sharing, and political cooperation. This would reorient the initiative to better address the soft infrastructure needs of Central Asia. Zhou concludes, it will be easier for the EU to influence the BRI from the inside.

Second is through greater regional access. Simply being part of the BRI grants the EU more leeway in Central Asia. Kruessmann continues that EU policies towards Central Asia only focus on benefiting Central Asia and Europe. China therefore curtails these policies to preserve its own power. The BRI is the EU's ticket into the region. [SENECA 18](#) finds, China will allow the EU to influence the region if it is convinced that it does not clash with China's interests. As a part of the BRI, the EU's success would become China's success, which allows the EU to create a better regulatory environment within Central Asia.

The results of Central Asian development would be massive. [European Commission 19](#) states, the EU's development priority is to integrate regions by creating free trade areas and common markets. [Linn 16](#) writes, regional integration could improve the use of natural resources and double GDP over the next 10 years. Overall, the [UN 12](#) finds that Central Asian integration would lift tens of millions out of poverty.

EXT A

Khan - EU econ slowind, brink of recession

Barnard - root cause of slowdown is infra

Amighini - BRI can solve; reduces trade times from 45 to 21

Joshi - maritime trade also affected; Port of Piraeus grew exponentially

Lo - Italy example; opened up investment to China

Herrero - Overall, trade increase by 6 percent

Kuriyama - trade good because it increase economic growth

***Elmer** - all in all, prevent an EU recession

Lachman - prevent global recession

IMF - 900 million

EXT B

Russell - Central Asia not connected and trade costs are twice as high; severe underdevelopment

***World Bank** - 80 million live in poverty

Bossuyt - China BRI only developing hard infra; soft infra is being ignored; soft infra like financial system and custom procedure will help countries best utilize hard infra

Kreussmann - China blocking current EU efforts because a) they focus on domestic growth and b) China don't want EU to only benefit themselves

Ruta - BRI won't bring significant reform unless soft infra reform is adopted

W1: reform BRI

Ghiasi - BRI is open ended and can be molded by members

Zhou - if EU joins, they can align soft infra with hard infra through joint projects, information sharing, and political cooperation; this would reorient the BRI to focus on social reform rather than just hard infra

W2: regional access

Kreussmann - China protecting its influence and block EU action

Joining BRI solves bc then China and EU have common interests and China will not doubt EU intentions

Seneca - BRI countries less likely to anger China

EU Commission - EU prioritizing regional integration in development; want to promote trade

Linn - regional connection and integration would improve the use of natural resources and double GDP

UN - tens of millions out of poverty

FL A

EU econ is good right now

1. Holistic evidence says growth is low and economies are on the brink of recession
2. Uncertainty is high; [Inman 19](#) finds a Brexit deal could strip nearly 7% off of UK GDP growth
3. Data backs this up: [Chazan from yesterday](#) finds, Germany revised its forecast for economic growth to be 0.5 points lower, further signaling a slowdown
4. New stimulus not working; [Stubbington 19](#) finds, markets have stumbled on signs of backlash to the latest central bank stimulus

EU has its own infra

1. EU infra projects aren't working; joining the BRI solves in 2 ways:
 - a. China has experience and logistics set so projects more likely to succeed
 - b. China has far more connections and trade ties to economies in the region
2. The main drawback to Chinese products was their lack of understanding of Eastern European issues. [Ellis 19](#) writes China created the CEEC (Cooperation between China and Central and Eastern Europe) to "better [understand] Eastern Europe's issues, strengths, weaknesses, and suitable opportunities."

Empty trains

1. Problem is being solved: China passed regulations to limit the number of empty containers to 10 percent per train; this is working: [Raja 19](#) finds, empty containers have been cut in half from 2018 even as Beijing cuts down on subsidies
2. Rail is becoming more viable: [Hillman 18](#) finds, the value of China-Europe rail trade has quadrupled in the past decade and [Amighini 18](#) finds, many firms are looking to switch to rail for China-EU trade

Infra no returns

1. If we win trade, we win this argument because trade independently increases economic growth

Trade times increase

1. Makes no sense, BRI promote open and free trade - countries sign trade agreements and open up markets for the sole purpose of boosting trade
2. Empirics

Dumping

1. Dumping not bad; decreases the price of goods

FL B

Central Asian gov's don't want

1. They don't want because China is exerting its influence to prevent other actors from gaining traction in the region - our two warrants solve back
2. They do want to cooperate on areas where the EU has expertise - such as soft infra
3. Above all, these countries want domestic growth. Even authoritarian regimes want to connect with the rest of the world. Hashimova 18 writes, Central Asian countries did not join the BRI just for infrastructure

EU and China already have connectivity plan

1. Connectivity plan requires greater cooperation in the BRI
 - a. Connectivity plan barely has any traction in other countries - BRI has more funding, legitimacy, and reach. It therefore has much greater impacts in central asia
2. Plan is primarily focused on developing hard infrastructure between Europe and Asia, not soft infrastructure in Central Asia
3. [Eder 19](#) writes that the EU-China Connectivity Platform has been stalled since 2015
 - a. He continues that developing countries in Central Asia barely recognize its existence, so this won't really help these countries.

Decreases Central Asian Water Supply

1. Linn 16 writes that currently, the countries in Central Asia compete for water resources, which leads to more inefficient use overall. Affirming solves for this by economically integrating the region, and thereby enabling more efficient distribution.
2. With the increased trade and economic prosperity that comes from the EU's accession to the BRI, there will be an improved ability to import water resources, meaning that domestic resources will become less important.

Weighing

Europe Transport Costs vs Tariffs

1. [Herrero 19](#) - transportation costs are found to be statistically and economically significant in fostering international trade and affect trade more than tariffs do. More specifically, a 10 percent reduction in transportation costs fosters trade by 1.3 percent while a reduction in tariffs has a much smaller positive effect.

AT: Recession link in with BRI dying

1. BRI doesn't die, it's just put on pause until the recession ends (obv. China won't just be like "Oh the BRI is completely ending," stop it until economic decline ends). Eventually economic growth increases again, revitalizing the BRI. EU can step in then (through either warrant). Even if it takes more time to adopt soft infrastructure, the impacts last forever
 - a. Note: This doesn't take out either warrant
2. Doesn't at all take out our second warrant. It takes time for the BRI to die and simply being part of the BRI grants the EU more leeway in the region to promote reforms. China gives the EU the ticket into the region before it collapses, meaning that they're able to expand soft infrastructure.

Central Asia vs Global Recessions (Derived from either EU or China)

1. **Reversibility**
 - a. Countries always bounce back from recessions but Central Asia can never bounce back because they haven't developed in the first place. They're basically in a forever recession
 - b. Social safety nets help people get out; these don't exist in underdeveloped countries
2. **Time frame**
 - a. Even if you buy this recession goes global, connectivity helps get OUT of future recessions, [Griswold 08](#) finds a country that increases trade as a share of its GDP by 10 percentage points is one-third less likely to *suffer sudden economic slowdowns* or than if it were less open to trade.

Central Asia vs Climate Change

1. **Uniqueness** - [Ryan Whitwam 2018](#) warrants, irreversible feedback cycles have already kicked in which makes stopping climate change essentially impossible. For example, permafrost melting in the Arctic releases more carbon, contributing to MORE warming, and more melting. Economic damage is inevitable. [CBC](#) finds that regardless of who you vote for, there will be 70 trillion dollars of economic damage from climate change. The best way to prepare for this damage is to have economic growth. Doesn't matter if climate change happens *faster* in our world. We're still ahead on the weighing debate because in the neg world, there's no way to adapt to the effects of climate change in Central Asia when they inevitably come, but in the AFF world greater interconnectivity means countries can recover from economic damage because
 - a. Better distribution resources
 - b. Easier to promote growth and economic development

Global Recession Non Unique (Don't Read all)

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gpHxMWq2lkIg80Z9qC25BGbe68rtO-_c/view

2 reasons why a global recession is inevitable

1. Inman 19 finds that Brexit uncertainty has pushed the UK to the brink of a recession and a global economic downturn is on the horizon. The Strauss evidence indicates that a UK recession would spillover to growth in other countries, causing a major shock for Europe and the world
- 2.

Examples

Soft infrastructure:

- Lowering tariffs
 - Education, financial, legal systems
 - Technology services
 - Procedures of government
 - Creation of special economic zones and the negotiation of free trade agreements, and reduced tariffs.
 - Introducing and requiring open, competitive, collaborative, green, and clean governance mechanisms—good governance infrastructure
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- EU lower tariffs for CA countries
 - <https://eurasianet.org/the-eus-new-central-asia-strategy-what-does-it-mean-for-trade>
 - EU try to get CA countries to join WTO
 - <https://eurasianet.org/the-eus-new-central-asia-strategy-what-does-it-mean-for-trade>
 - EU wants to promote regional cooperation
 - https://www.iss.europa.eu/sites/default/files/EUISSFiles/Brief%206%20Central%20Asia_0.pdf
 - EU wants to promote rules based economic activity by increasing oversight and strengthening the rule of law
 - https://www.iss.europa.eu/sites/default/files/EUISSFiles/Brief%206%20Central%20Asia_0.pdf
 - Border reform projects
 - <https://www.ceps.eu/the-new-eu-strategy-on-central-asia/>
 - China's influence dominates Central Asia; prevents the EU from doing much
 - <https://www.ceps.eu/the-new-eu-strategy-on-central-asia/>
 - China prevent others from accessing area
 - <http://www.theasanforum.org/russia-china-relations-in-central-asia-why-is-there-a-surprising-absence-of-rivalry/>