

We negate, Resolved: The European Union should join the Belt and Road Initiative.

To begin, we observe that absent European Union participation, the Belt and Road, or BRI for short, will financially collapse.

A report by the Research Center of China this year quantifies: the project [is] running out of money...even with [current] capital...the BRI faces a [\$500 billion] funding gap [annually].

The EU is the only chance for funding. Hortia Ciurtin of the Institute of Romania in 2017 explains: Without European cash...it is..improbable other actors could [begin funding] the initiative. The only possible – and...necessary – partner is the European Union. The path to Europe can open up only with Europe’s support and financial participation.

Europe would even bring investors to the table. [Meyer of the Wharton School in 2019](#) writes: [Independently]...BRI projects would produce [insufficient] returns on investment, [which is] why private investors are not attracted to them...state sponsorship, [would] create enough [certainty] to make every investment, which would otherwise be un-investible, a good project.

The EU can attract funding, as shown by their action regarding domestic infrastructure. [The European Commission](#) stated this June: [EU infrastructure] reached a...milestone, surpassing 400 billion in investment...This...shows that using...the EU...as a guarantee can attract private investment for the public good.

With this, our sole contention concerns Exacerbating Climate Change.

The world is on the verge of a green revolution. A recent report by the [UBS](#) found: the cost of energy renewables [will be] near to zero by 2030...If renewables [will] be cheaper than all the alternative energy sources.

However, the EU joining and keeping the BRI afloat would reverse this clean energy trend in two ways.

The first is increasing Entering the Arctic.

“China is...setting its sights on the Arctic [and] aims to build a “Polar Silk Road.” [Steven Myers of the New York Times](#) writes this year: [China] has invested...in extracting energy from beneath the permafrost...in northern Russia.

However, absent funding, the initiative is bound to fail. [Lukin of The Washington Post in 2018](#) reports: The Arctic..requires huge investments, such as funding the building of powerful ice breakers. With Russia strapped for cash, [China’s BRI is] the only...source of financing.

Preventing drilling is crucial for the environment. [Stockman of Greenpeace](#) quantifies: Arctic drilling would unlock new and unburnable carbon...[and] will lead to at least 5 degrees Celsius warming.

The second is by locking in the use of dirty energy.

While China and its government may be going green, private corporations continue spreading dirty energy. Gary [Sands of The SCMP](#) writes this June: As Beijing...shifts towards...renewable energy, its coal companies are looking overseas for profits, bringing promises of [BRI] funding to lesser-developed countries [by building] coal power plants. [For example, [1,600 private Chinese coal plants](#) are planned or under construction through the BRI.]

In fact, Chinese companies will never stick to clean energy. [Saha of The National Interest](#) explains: [China] must keep...coal manufacturers afloat because [they] are a solution for excess capacity [and] supply [millions of] jobs...[Thus,] projects backed by Chinese development...will [always] produce more coal power than clean energy...

When countries are flooded with cheap coal, it becomes permanent. [Yale Professor Isabel Hilton](#) writes: coal plants...will become a financial burden..to the governments or consumers [and] lock out cheaper and cleaner alternatives.

The reason comes from Saha, who explains: Because [dirty energy] is so expensive to build, [it] is financed over decades on long term contracts...By locking in that demand...these...investments [crowd] out competition [for other energy sources].

Overall, [Simon Zadek of The Brookings Institute](#) this week concludes: China's...new [BRI] infrastructure will be a major contributor to global carbon emissions over the coming decades, accounting for over half of new [emissions]...failure to rein in the growth of carbon emissions by these countries could...result in a nearly 3 degrees of warming.

The impact is permanently damaging the environment.

Every effort to stop warming matters. [Adam Aton of Scientific American](#) quantifies: Each degree celsius increase of warming will decrease...food yields 7.4 percent.

Overall, [Sean Gilbert for Boston University](#) concludes: An additional 100 million people will live in poverty due to climate change by 2030...[only]... investments in low-carbon infrastructure...can bring... long-term poverty reduction.

Climate change is coming, and only preserving green technology will stop it. Thus, we negate.