

The brics group and the road and belt project of the silk road via corridors passing through Iran

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Abstract

China's New Silk Road, also known as the Initiative Road and belt, is a multi-faceted project that aims to develop the infrastructure and improve the connectivity of countries located among this Road and includes about 65 countries. This plan intends to expand regional and global cooperation in economic-commercial, political-security and cultural fields, and its success depends on the participation of as many countries as possible. Iran because of its geopolitical and geostrategic position, plays a significant part in this undertaking, its location on four transit routes and its stability and security compared to its neighbors. The main question of the current research is how China's new Silk Road strategy affects Iran's national interests. The hypothesis of the research suggests that Iran, due to its location on the route of China's new silk road, can take advantage of it to increase economic development, play its role in securing the region and expand cultural exchanges between Asia and Europe. In this research, with regard to the mutual cooperation between Iran, China and the BRICS group in the Belt and Road Initiative, the theory of complex interdependence is investigated with the explanatory-causal method. The results of this research show that the new silk road has an impact on the economic, political and cultural interests of Iran in such a way that it will increase trade, regional status and economic and cultural development of Iran in the region.

Keywords: The brics group, China's New Silk Road, belt project

Introduction

Partnership amongst South Africa, Brazil, Russia, India, and China (BRICS 1), after the first meeting of BRICS in 2006, has been increasing until now and has attracted academic attention towards this group of five powers. (Beeson & Zeng, 2018: 39) In the macro situation, China's presence in the BRICS group has improved its economic growth and the cooperation of this group with developing countries and has led to the stabilization of its political and economic power. The BRICS group has paved the way for China to reveal its policy towards the international system and the world economy and its rejection of the current division of power and to use it as a lever in the international arena. Considering the favorable economic growth, China has drawn its approach in the international system on the economic basis and has organized itself as a pacifist government. On the other hand, this country uses international institutions and regimes to emphasize a balanced multipolar system; Because this country is trying to promote its use of global power, consolidate its

international position, and provide the ground for the rise of emerging powers in relations with developing countries. In this regard, China, as a country that has tried to play an active role in the world economy, expresses dissatisfaction with the dominance of the great powers over the existing system and especially their global management. (Gundumella, 2018: 9). International To be able to effectively achieve its goals, it has focused on alliances with developing powers that are more aligned with China's goals and interests, and BRICS is considered an outstanding example in this regard.

Under the BRICS group

The New Development Bank is one of the organizations that China has created. and the Reserve Fund. In addition, Beijing has tried to use its other initiatives in this cooperation; Among them, it is possible to mention the One Belt One Road projec. World War has happened and then there will be an exploration About how China is trying to change global economic governance through BRICS

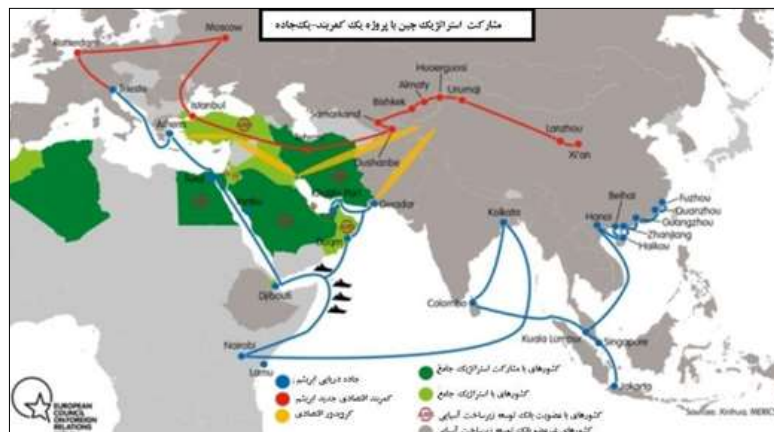


Fig 1: Drawing ab belt one

China, BRICS and the change of power in the international economic order

One of the most significant political and economic developments of the twenty-first century has undoubtedly been the emergence of China. Global governance, international development, and global security are all impacted by this. China is becoming a more powerful worldwide force in other areas as well, notwithstanding its impressive standing in international commerce. It is clear that China is becoming a more significant player in global production and financial markets, leading the globe in overall output, textile and electronics assembly, and developing economically, as evidenced by the presence of the four biggest banks in the world. Additionally, China is assuming a leading role in the world economy by creating new organizations like the Belt and Road Initiative, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. The following figure illustrates the extent of the belt and road More than 2,000 years ago, during the Han Dynasty, is when the Silk Road's history began, which was of special importance for commercial exchanges and trade among ancient civilizations. A German explorer by the name of Fernand Richthofen originally used the phrase "Silk Road" in the 19th century, considering the trade of valuable goods such as The historical Silk Road has been important as a bridge between China, Asia, Europe and Africa to promote trade, scientific exchanges, language, opinions, culture and religions of the different countries located on this route, but today the importance of this road for countries, especially countries which are located on the way of the Silk Road has emerged in another form, the most important of which can be seen in the economic and energy security fields.

New Silk Road initiative

The President of the Republic of China spoke for the first time about the details of his country's extensive plan for the Silk Road Economic Belt and the Maritime Silk Road at the Bao 2015 Conference, and the National Development and Reform Commission China, with the participation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Commerce, unveiled the implementation plan of this plan. From the beginning of introducing this plan, China intends to force different countries to cooperate by reading this equation as a win-win. Xi Jinping presented the important dimensions of

this plan as follows: political relations, establishing a transportation network to East Asia by joining a road from the Pacific to the Baltic Sea, West Asia, and South Asia. or connected, trade facilitation; Financial circulation and barter exchanges (Al-Rawashdeh & Al-Qatatsheh, 2017)He asked Central Asian countries to create a new Silk Road economic belt that will bring extensive economic benefits to the region. The aim of this proposal is to help Eurasian countries, especially the republics Central Asia leads to rapid economic development for them and China (Becard & Menechelli, 2019) China's New Silk Road Initiative.

The Belt and Road Initiative includes more than 65 countries on the land and sea routes in the regions of Asia, the Middle East, Europe and North Africa and includes 21 trillion dollars of GDP and two thirds of the world's population. The idea of the New Silk Road was first proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping in September 2013 during his visit to Central Asia. During his speech at Nazarbayev University in Kazakhstan, Xi presented the Silk Road Economic Belt plan, which will expand infrastructure, trade and financial connections from western China to Eurasia. The land section of the New Silk Road needs the extensive development of high-speed rail infrastructure, roads and highways, fiber optic networks, and the internet along two axes: the southern route, which runs from Western China (Xinjiang) to Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan, and then through Iran and Turkey to Southern Europe, and the northern route, which runs from Western China (via Xinjiang) to Kazakhstan, Russia, and Northern Europe (Fallon, 2015).

The countries that make up the Silk Road are classified into three sections by Zheng and Jia. The first section is the core of the Silk Road Economic Belt and consists of five Central Asian nations: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan. The second section, known as the Silk Road Economic Belt, spans Central, Western, and South Asia, encompassing countries like Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran, Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Georgia, as well as parts of Russia, Afghanistan, India, and Pakistan. The Asia-Europe belt, which spans Europe and North Africa, is the third regional segment of the Silk Road economic belt. Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Germany, France, Britain, Italy, Ukraine, and other North African territories are the main nations in this area.



Fig 2: the path of silk roak

The Silk Road project is a key element in China's grand strategy, which, in addition to the country's foreign policy, also has a significant impact on the international system. Xi Jinping considers the said project to be a huge move for the advantage of all the nations along the Silk Road, which as a result of coordinated strategy, infrastructural connections, trade facilitation, financial convergence and strengthening of cultural ties will lead to the connection and convergence between China and other countries. In fact, it provides the plan and we will continue to examine these dimensions.

1. Political communication

The Belt and Road Initiative is a model of a multilateral strategy that accelerates the development of cooperation with neighboring countries, and contributes to the close links of global economies, deeper cooperation and open space for development. China, in the form of development partnership diplomacy, enables countries to jointly deal with challenges and crises in order to promote regional and international peace and stability. In 2013, Xi Jinping announced that the path of peaceful development is the party's strategic choice over time and the basic interests of the country, and he considered the main goal of this diplomacy to be peace and stability in the region. He also specified the strategy of peripheral diplomacy; The principle of Chinese diplomacy is friendly friendship with neighbors and honesty is a way to cultivate more friends and partners. Cooperation with neighbors should be based on common interests and creating a network close to common interests (Haiquan, 2017).

The globalization of the globe and the spirit of the Silk Road—described as the shared cultural heritage and historical legacy of all nations—were highlighted in the Communist Party of China manifesto that was released in March 2015. Given the shared objectives and aspirations of human societies, the collaborative building of the One Belt One Road initiative is beneficial to the global community. It represents a positive endeavor to explore novel approaches to global governance and international cooperation, with the aim of fostering global peace and development (Fallon, 2015)

This requires that China take the leadership of the international system in order to create a multilateral and pro-majority international order. In order to achieve this goal, a series of international initiatives and cooperations were started, among which the Belt and Road Initiative. There is one way and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank In general, China expresses its goal of this plan to provide mutual benefits and concerns of the participating actors in order to create a kind of common interests and a meeting point for cooperation. As mentioned, this plan is a type of win-win cooperation that helps the development and economic prosperity by strengthening mutual understanding and trust, as well as comprehensive exchanges, which are considered a path to peace and friendship (Wastnidge, 2017).

Middle East, Persian Gulf and Iran

Since China joined the list of oil importers in 1993, its dependence on imported oil has increased rapidly; In such a way that in 2005, more than half of its consumed oil was supplied from foreign sources. The Middle East region and the countries located in it, due to having the largest energy reserves, naturally have the highest capabilities in supplying

China's energy and responding to the country's strategic needs. Understanding this issue, the Chinese have made extensive efforts in recent years to improve relations with oil-rich countries in the region; Especially the main countries have done so that in light of that they can increase their share of the reserves of this region as much as possible (Shariatinia & Azizi, 2020)

Also, the countries of West Asia in general and under the Persian Gulf system in its special sense, because of the role they have played in the energy security of great powers in the past century, are very important and this It makes it inevitable for China's leaders that in the medium term, Be more sensitive about the developments in this region and closely follow the developments in this region (Aoyama, 2016).

China has shown interest in the Islamic Republic of Iran as one of the major nations along the New Silk Road, both by land and by water. Due to its special location, Iran has a special place in terms of transportation of goods and oil and gas pipelines. In addition to its strategic location, Iran is also considered a valuable source of energy. Also, the long-term good relationship with China adds to its other advantages

Iran's cooperation in the Belt and Road Initiative

As two rich and ancient civilizations, Iran and China have established friendly relations with each other for a long time, and these relations date back to the period of the construction of the Silk Road. Iran has always been the focus of China due to its strategic and geographical location, which was considered as the link between East and West. In recent years, by presenting the Belt and Road Initiative, Xi Jinping has considered Iran's role as a transportation hub in this route to be important.

Iran's position in this region is as a bridge between the Middle East and Southwest Asia and between Russia and the Persian Gulf, as well as between the Persian Gulf, the Oman Sea and the Arabian Sea through the Strait of Hormuz. In the current situation, because of the benefits, which include being the hub for political and economic ties in the Caucasus and Central Asia and being the quickest route to Europe, Iran shows its geographical and geopolitical importance on the one hand and warns the countries of this region on the other hand. that access to the economy of an important part of the world through land, sea and air routes requires concerted policies (Zhongmin, 2011).The Belt and Road Initiative is a tool that Iran and China can use to achieve their vital interests and national goals, thus this project will significantly contribute to the improvement of the two nations' ties in a number of areas, such as political, economic, and security

In recent years, the Islamic Republic of Iran has adopted the strategy of looking to the East in its foreign policy. This strategy has meant a kind of political and economic balance with western and eastern countries as well as constructive interaction with the world. The Islamic Republic of Iran has shifted the priority of its foreign policy towards the east, considering the common interests and commonalities it has with the eastern countries, especially China. Iran and China are against the ruling order of the international system, which is based on the hegemony of the United States. Because America has challenged the hegemony of the two countries in the areas under their influence. Without a doubt, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the People's Republic of China will benefit from new prospects brought about by the

Belt and Road plan. In this instance, the political and economic interests of the partners are complementary. Iran has made an effort to reduce US influence in the area since 1979. This problem aligns with this nation's foreign policy objectives and Beijing's expectations. In addition to fostering commercial cooperation and peace in Eurasia, the Belt and Road programs aim to curtail American influence and assert American dominance in the region.

In promoting the Belt and Road initiative, China pays special attention to the railway, air and sea infrastructures located along the route. Because this country is trying to facilitate the advancement of the initiative by developing the infrastructure. Accordingly, this country has considered major investments in the field of infrastructure, among which the Asian Infrastructure Bank can be mentioned. The geopolitical position and being on the border with Central Asian countries has made Iran always be considered as an influential power in the Middle East region. Accordingly, this country urgently needs infrastructure, which is an important factor in development, in terms of economic, political, security, and increasing foreign investment, and on the other hand, to become a regional power with stability. Since 2016, Iran has focused on developing its railway infrastructure. According to Abbas Akhundi, Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development, this country is trying to improve its communication with neighboring countries by developing railway infrastructure. This initiative can also be a strong point in advancing Iran's transportation policies. In February 2016, the first major event within the Belt and Road Initiative's structure occurred. After traveling from Jiang to Tehran in around 14 days—30 days less than the sea voyage—the first direct train from China landed in Iran. It was a cargo train. February 2016 marked the inaugural momentous occasion under the scope of the Belt and Road Initiative. After traveling from Jiang to Tehran in around 14 days—30 days less than the sea voyage—the first direct train from China landed in Iran. It was a cargo train.

Parts of Iran are becoming a regional railway center that connects Chinese ships to Europe through its territory (Osiewicz, 2018).

The Islamic Republic of Iran is trying to expand domestic and foreign investments, develop trade and increase relations with other countries by connecting rail and road networks to neighboring countries, especially Central Asian countries, through the development of border roads. China needs such transportation infrastructure in this project. Because this initiative is a trade and commerce route that relies on reliable communication routes for its exports to other countries.

Accordingly, Iran can play an important role as a reliable center in this field. This country has always been the focus of Asian economic powers, especially China, in terms of its rich energy resources and ability to supply and demand it through sea routes. Iran is known as one of the big producers in the field of energy and China as one of the emerging economic powers depends on energy sources. Therefore, the cooperation between the two countries in the field of energy is a joint action in the Belt and Road Initiative. China's energy needs play an important role in the relationship with Iran. China's continued economic development increasingly depends on the availability of Persian Gulf oil. In 2011, China was the world's largest importer of oil from the Persian Gulf (12% of its total

consumption). Since 2014, Iran has accounted for 10% of China's oil imports. The close relations between Beijing and Tehran go back to the beginning of accepting China as a member in 2001 (Rana, 2015)^[10].

In recent decades, energy security is one of the challenges that China has faced due to its economic growth. Because Beijing is looking for a reliable partner and ally to meet its energy needs in achieving its long-term goals. Iran, as one of the pioneer countries in the field of energy production, can play the role of a reliable ally for China. In this regard, between 2005 and 2010, Chinese companies have signed contracts worth 120 billion dollars with Iran's oil and gas sector. In addition, the Islamic Republic of Iran is of special importance due to its border with the Caspian Sea and the Persian Gulf. On the other hand, Iran is for Beijing as a way to achieve balance with the Arab countries desired by the United States.

One of China's efforts in the Belt and Road Initiative is the development of its western regions. Because this region is much lower than the eastern regions of China in terms of transportation connections, economic development and GDP. Therefore, by cooperating in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, Iran can provide the energy needed in the western regions of China. In general, Iran's cooperation in the Belt and Road Initiative is important for China in several ways; Huge energy resources, required markets for the export of Chinese goods. The mostly neutral, non-ideological positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran towards China, in this regard, the most important indicators that showed Iran's lack of sensitivity and adopting neutral positions towards China are; The lack of serious competition between Iran and China in Central Asia, the lack of emphasis on the ideological and support-seeking aspect against the Muslims of Xinjiang, especially in the events of May 2009, the lack of sensitivity towards the relations between China and Israel (Esteban & Li, 2017)^[5].

Iran's transit position in the Belt and Road initiative

The transit position in any country causes the development of infrastructure in the transportation sector, increases foreign investment, and also facilitates trade between the countries of the region and the world. Therefore, the countries are trying to develop their transit capacities, and also the countries that do not have this advantage are seeking to use the transit position of other countries to achieve economic goals and communication with other regions of the world. achieve

In terms of its geographic location, the Islamic Republic of Iran is located as a transit crossroads in the north-south and east-west. Iran is located on the southern border with the countries of the Persian Gulf, which are mainly oil-rich areas, and on the northern border of the Caspian Sea, which has become a barrier in the relationship with the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus, including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. Because these countries are trying to take advantage of Iran's transit position due to being landlocked and not connected to the open water borders of the world. On the other hand, Iran can take sufficient advantage in strengthening and developing its transit routes due to the huge resources that exist in these areas. The Islamic Republic of Iran has two potential advantages from the point of view of the transit situation,

including the strategic port of Chabahar and the other north-south corridor.

North-South Corridor

The geographical location of Iran has made it play a special role in the field of transportation of goods, energy and oil and gas pipelines. This factor plays an important role in facilitating trade with Asian countries, especially the countries of Central Asia and the Persian Gulf, the development of regional markets and economic growth and development in less developed countries. One of the most important international transport corridors is the North-South corridor. This transit route was created based on an agreement between the three countries of Iran, Russia and India, which connects Asian and European countries.

On the other side, this corridor links Fern to Chabahar in the interior of Iran. The North-South Corridor links Europe, Scandinavia, and Russia through Iran to the countries of the Persian Gulf, Indian Ocean, and Southeast Asia. This transit corridor is now one of the quickest, cheapest, and most direct routes between Asia and Europe; a significant portion of it travels via Iran. Iran wants to deepen its connections with the nations in the area;

1. Reconstruction of the Taftan-Kuwait railway in Pakistan to connect the railway networks that communicate with Europe and Asia.
2. Connecting Iran and Azerbaijan through Qazvin-Rasht-A-Nazli-Astara railway (Alipour, 2018)^[2]

Due to the development of infrastructure in the transportation sector and the equipping of facilities in this direction, it has attracted the attention of many countries. The cost of transit goods through the North-South corridor is up to 30% cheaper than traditional routes, and up to 40% more time-efficient. In addition, this corridor has many intersections with existing corridors between Central Asian countries and Europe, including Traska and Altid, and these intersections greatly contribute to the balanced distribution of the load in the region (Yazdani and Shah Mohammadi, 2013) This transit route allows Iran to enjoy extensive economic and commercial advantages at the regional and international level.

The development of the eastern border of the country has been the focus of policy makers due to its special economic position in the export sector as well as geopolitical capacities. Chabahar region is the most important port in the southeast of the country. This port is located in the north of the Oman Sea and the Indian Ocean and is the closest route in connection with the open waters of the world. This region brings a potential foreign exchange capacity to the country in terms of goods and energy transit thus it's crucial for a number of reasons; Having access to open oceans and not being in the Persian Gulf, being located on the North-South transportation route, the shortest distance from Central Asia for the transit of goods, and having the necessary infrastructure are the advantages of Chabahar region, This free trade zone is located on the international waterway and acts as a bridge between the member countries and ECO Economic Cooperation Organization, Southeast Asian Nations Union and other countries of the world for production, export, exchange and transfer of goods (He, 2020)^[8].

Therefore, the Islamic Republic of Iran, being located in West Asia as an east-west and north-south communication

point and neighboring with the countries of the Persian Gulf, the Caspian Sea and the countries of Central Asia, has always been the focus of regional powers, especially India. And it has been China. Iran is a major player in the China Silk Road initiative, which is divided into the Maritime Silk Road and the Silk Road Economic Belt, because to its geographic position. One of the goals of the Belt and Road Initiative is access to the countries of Central Asia and the Middle East. Accordingly, Iran, as the main artery in this initiative, can help China achieve its long-term goals. Because one of the important economic corridors in the Silk Road belt passes through Iran.

China's participation in the Silk Road initiative benefits from the China-Central Asia-West Asia economic corridor in two ways. On the one hand, this corridor acts as a communication bridge with the Middle East, which facilitates access to energy resources in this region and the Persian Gulf. Therefore, as an influential actor in these regions, Iran can play a special role in achieving China's economic and geostrategic goals in this plan. On the other hand, China aims to reach various markets of European countries through this corridor, this route is also followed by Turkey as an East-West corridor. (Alipour, 2018)^[2]

The advantage of the Belt and Road Initiative for Iran

Iran has always been the focus of many countries due to its capacities in the field of energy resources, geographical location and transit routes. And due to the sufficient recognition of its opportunities and capacities, it can take sufficient benefit in the field of economic development, infrastructure improvement, and expansion of its influence and sphere of power in the region and beyond. In recent years, Iran has faced challenges due to the US sanctions on financial institutions, energy sources in the oil and gas sector, as well as the country's withdrawal from the JCPOA. China's opposition to US policies at the international level has made this country a reliable and reliable partner for Iran. Because China has always been a buyer of Iranian oil during the US sanctions. The two countries also became a strategic and strategic partner after the nuclear agreement and the implementation of the JCPOA. So that after the sanctions of the United States in 2009, in the field of gasoline export, Chinese companies have invested about 3 billion dollars to improve the refining of gasoline in Iran. In the same year, China National Oil Company invested 4 billion dollars for the 11th phase of the South Pars gas field project. Also, in 2011, China signed a contract to invest 5.2 billion for the development of the southern Azadegan oil field signed (Nader & Scobell, 2016)

The investment of Chinese companies in Iran's oil and gas sector shows that China needs these energy sources for the development and growth of its industries. Due to its location on the main route of the Silk Road, Iran can use this opportunity to strengthen its economic development in the oil and petrochemical industry, because China has considered special investments in advancing the Belt and Road Initiative, and the Islamic Republic of Iran in the field of energy infrastructure is needed. This initiative will also increase foreign investment in the country because many countries, especially European countries, do not want to invest in Iran due to the sanctions of the United States. This project can provide opportunities for the country.

Considering the influence it has in the West Asian region, Iran is trying to change the order of the region to prepare the

ground for becoming a regional power. The geopolitical, geoeconomics and geostrategic position of this country has paved the way to achieve the goal. Therefore, by playing an active role in the region, our country is trying to increase regional convergence, common interests with neighboring countries, the basis for expanding its influence in the region, as well as economic and commercial productivity. On the one hand, this factor increases the profit and economic benefits of the countries, and on the other hand, it causes Iran to play a more effective role as a new economic hub in the region and increase its role in world trade. Therefore, the Belt and Road initiative as a regional union creates such opportunities for Iran. This process provides an opportunity for Iran to seek to restore its position through the formation of a Chinese-Iranian coalition against its Arab-American type, which is sometimes under the influence of American support in the region (Wittine *et al.*, 1943) ^[13]. This initiative also provides a kind of self-reliance in the field of production of products and goods for the country, and by creating joint memorandums and low tariffs, it increases trade exchanges in the countries located on the Silk Road. Regional organizations are considered an important factor in expanding cooperation, creating security, and preventing any war and conflict, and they pursue multiple goals in the economic, political, military, and cultural fields. Therefore, countries are looking to become members of these organizations. The Islamic Republic of Iran is trying to become a permanent member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is an intergovernmental organization in the field of economy, security and culture, and its members consist of the countries of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. In 2005, Iran, India and Pakistan joined this organization as observer members. In 2017, India and Pakistan were introduced as permanent members of this organization, but Iran remained as an observer member.

Conclusion

The Belt and Road Initiative, which is one of China's ambitious ideas for the development of extensive communication networks, including infrastructure and transportation networks, is an economic, political and geopolitical plan that is the cooperation of many countries, especially the countries of the Middle East, which is one of the Key areas in this initiative require This region, which is very important for China in terms of its geopolitical and geostrategic position, as well as having huge energy resources, is facing many obstacles and this plan will not be possible until these obstacles are removed in the countries located in these areas. Among these tensions and security problems in this region, which have caused instability and lack of convergence of the Middle East countries, are the long-term Arab-Israeli conflicts, the occurrence of some developments such as the Arab Spring, which led to civil wars in Syria, Iraq, and Yemen. which ultimately led to a religious extra-regional disputes and the concern of some big powers, especially Russia, the United States and the European Union, about increasing China's influence in the areas under the influence of these countries and preventing China's geopolitical and political hegemony in these areas. These are the challenges that China It is faced in this plan. To advance the Belt and Road Initiative in the Middle East, China needs partners who, in addition to being reliable, do not have long-standing relations with the United States.

Iran, considering its powerful regional role, stability-oriented country in the Middle East, and anti-Western tendencies, especially Sea and land routes are of vital importance to China. In terms of security, China and Iran are dissatisfied with the existing international order led by the United States, and on the other hand, in the geopolitical dimension, the two countries seek to prevent the regional order from becoming hegemonic and American dominance in the areas under their influence, as well as the constructive role of this country. In the fight against terrorism and establishing peace and stability in the region, China has come to the conclusion that security and military cooperation is not easy without accompanying Iran and considers Iran's security role in this initiative very important.

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