



“In fact, the issue is always between two points”

# Weekly Political and Geopolitical Developments

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## Geopolitical and Global Developments:

### CHINA'S LONG-TERM STRATEGIC PLANNING AND THE PATH TO GLOBAL HEGEMONY Prof. Dr. Murat KOÇ

The People's Republic of China is pursuing its ambition to become a decisive actor in the global power competition of the 21st century not merely through rhetoric but by implementing precise and long-term strategic planning. Unlike Western powers, whose policies are often confined to four- or five-year political cycles, China has developed a layered and disciplined development vision spanning decades. This vision is shaped by the ideological guidance of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), a state-led market economy model, and a Confucian-inspired governance philosophy.

China's long march on the global stage is built upon two main strategic pillars: the Five-Year Development Plans and the Two Centenary Goals.

The Five-Year Plans guide the country's economic and technological progress step by step, while the Two Centenary Goals envision the reconstruction of China's national identity and its global role.

#### THE TWO CENTENARY GOALS:

The first of these goals coincided with the 100th anniversary of the CCP's founding, aiming for the establishment of a "moderately prosperous society." Within this framework, structural transformations such as eradicating poverty, strengthening infrastructure investments, and completing industrial modernization were accomplished; China also secured a globally competitive position in strategic fields like 5G technologies, artificial intelligence, and space technologies.

As of 2021, according to official reports, China had eradicated extreme poverty, become the world's second-largest economy by GDP, and achieved leading status in fields such as artificial intelligence and telecommunications. However, despite these successes, vulnerabilities remain in areas such as economic sustainability, income distribution fairness, and financial stability.

As the People's Republic of China approaches its 100th anniversary in 2049, the bar has been set significantly higher. In this period, China aims not only to be an economic giant but also to become a fully developed modern superpower, seeking global leadership in technological, military, and financial domains. The priority objectives within this vision include:

- **Technological Innovation:** Achieving absolute leadership in strategic areas such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and biotechnology.
- **Military Modernization:** Building a "world-class" army.
- **Economic Empowerment:** Growth focused on high value-added production and consumption.
- **Global Governance Role:** Increasing China's influence in international institutions and norms.

#### ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES, AND THE MARCH INTO THE FUTURE

It can be said that the goals set for 1921–2021 were largely achieved. However, the journey toward the 2049 objectives is far more complex and risky:

- **Economic Vulnerabilities:** China's economy has long been dependent on an export-driven model. Weak domestic consumption threatens the sustainability of growth.
- **Financial Risks:** Turmoil in the real estate market and private sector indebtedness create systemic risks.
- **Demographic Crisis:** A rapidly aging population and low birth rates threaten China's production capacity and social welfare systems.
- **Geopolitical Tensions:** Technology embargoes and economic restrictions imposed by the United States and its allies create serious external pressures intended to slow China's progress.

## THE FINAL STAGE IN CHINA'S QUEST FOR HEGEMONY: 2049

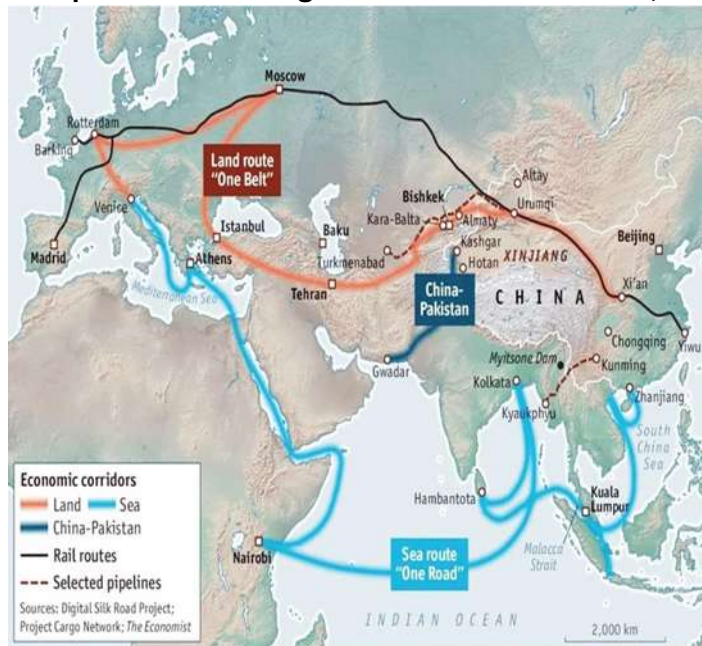
As China moves toward 2049, the fate of its global hegemony ambition will depend on the following key variables:

<b>Economic Sustainability</b>	Growth can continue if domestic consumption rises and financial stability is ensured.
<b>Technological Independence</b>	Achieving self-sufficiency in advanced technologies would enable global leadership.
<b>Military Modernization</b>	Enhancing deterrence would strengthen China's regional and global weight.
<b>Geopolitical Strategy</b>	The ability to manage competition with the U.S. and its allies will be decisive.

## CONCLUSION: AT A HISTORICAL CROSSROADS

China's objectives are not merely the story of a nation's development but represent steps in the redefinition of global power balances. Success or failure will depend not only on Beijing's efforts but also on the reactions of the international system, economic fluctuations, and geopolitical maneuvers. Through patient and systematic long-term strategic planning, China aspires to reshape history by the end of the 21st century.

The question is no longer whether China will rise, but how fast and to what extent it will rise.



China is diversifying its commercial relations. The Gwadar Port in Pakistan, the Hambantota Port in Sri Lanka, and railway projects in Africa are among the most prominent examples of this strategy. Other examples include:

**Indonesia:** Morowali Industrial Park (for nickel processing and battery production)

**Laos:** Vientiane Logistics Park (connected via the China-Laos Railway)

**Kenya:** Mombasa SEZ (a port-supported trade zone)

**Hungary:** Industrial clusters to be established for Chinese automotive and battery companies' investments

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