



# Belt, Road, and Beyond

*The CSIS Belt and Road Executive Course*

## About the Course >

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a \$1 trillion flagship foreign policy effort of Chinese president Xi Jinping, could reshape global networks of trade, transport, and political ties within and between countries for decades to come. But since its announcement, the BRI has remained shrouded in confusion and controversy, and it now faces major challenges, including the Covid-19 pandemic. Drawing insights from leading experts and the Reconnecting Asia Project, the most extensive effort to map and analyze these developments to date, CSIS has developed a Master's-level introduction to China's BRI. This private, virtual course explains what the BRI is, what it is not, and how it is impacting commercial and strategic realities on the ground.

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*Applicants are admitted on a rolling basis.*

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## Sample Course Schedule >

TIME (ET)	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8 AM	Welcome & Introductions	Russia & Central Asia	BRI, Energy, & the Environment	The Health Silk Road	Armchair Conversation: Next Directions
	Five Myths about the Belt & Road				
9 AM	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK
	BREAK	Debt Sustainability	Southeast Asia	The Polar Silk Road	The Digital Silk Road
How the Belt & Road Gained Steam					
10 AM	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK
	BREAK	China in Africa	South Asia	Latin America	The U.S. Toolkit
China Inc. 2.0					
12 PM					Concluding Remarks

*Course sessions, speakers, and times are subject to change.*

## Seminar Descriptions >

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### *Five Myths about the Belt and Road*

Popular descriptions of the BRI abound with colorful characterizations, from a Chinese version of the Marshall Plan, to the return of the ancient Silk Road. Jonathan E. Hillman, director of the CSIS Reconnecting Asia Project, tests these and other claims.

### *How the Belt and Road Gained Steam*

The BRI is the culmination of a decades-long shift towards China and away from traditional western development lending for infrastructure. Michael Bennon, managing director at the Stanford Global Projects Center, describes the scale of this trend and its root causes in China's domestic and international development policies.

### *Russia and Central Asia*

Dr. Alexander Cooley, Claire Tow Professor of Political Science and Director of The Harriman Institute at Columbia University, explores China's growing influence in Central Asia and the great power dynamics of Sino-Russian cooperation and competition.

### *Debt Sustainability*

Many emerging markets and low-income economies have turned to foreign loans and complex agreements to finance their infrastructure investment. The resulting debts, and often opaque lending practices, have raised concerns about debt sustainability. Stephanie Segal, senior fellow of the CSIS Economics Program, examines the potential consequences for recipient countries.

### *China in Africa*

With nearly two decades of experience working in the policy and intelligence communities on sub-Saharan Africa, CSIS Africa Program director Judd Devermont leads a discussion on the need to balance responses to the strategic risks of Chinese projects with local development imperatives in a region that now hosts the first overseas Chinese naval base. The conversation will identify overarching issues as well as recent developments and trends during the Covid-19 pandemic.

### *South Asia*

The BRI has been embraced in parts of South Asia, but its expansion has also kindled sparks over historic border conflicts and potential "debt traps." Richard M. Rossow, senior adviser and Wadhvani Chair in U.S.-India Policy Studies, discusses regional reactions to the BRI and their implications.

## *Southeast Asia*

Southeast Asia has long been a battleground for great power politics, particularly in the maritime domain. Gregory B. Poling, senior fellow for Southeast Asia and director of the CSIS Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative, contrasts China's Belt and Road approach with U.S. efforts under its "Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy."

## *BRI, Energy, and the Environment*

Xi Jinping has said that the BRI must be green, sustainable, and fuel high-quality growth. Critics say Beijing is exporting old technology and locking countries into inefficient or high emissions hydrocarbon-based technologies. Sarah Ladislaw, CSIS senior vice president and director of the Energy Security and Climate Change Program, talks about the BRI's implications for global climate efforts.

## *The Health Silk Road*

The Covid-19 pandemic that originated in Wuhan has rippled throughout China's economic and diplomatic relations with countries around the world. Dr. J. Stephen Morrison, CSIS senior vice president and director of the Global Health Policy Center, examines how the pandemic has affected China's posture and aid toward BRI recipient countries since the outbreak began.

## *The Polar Silk Road*

Since the release of its first ever Arctic Policy White Paper in 2018, Beijing has increased its infrastructure, digital, and scientific presence across the circumpolar Arctic. Heather Conley, CSIS senior vice president for Europe, Eurasia, and the Arctic lends insight into Beijing's long-term strategic interests and emerging Arctic capabilities as it pursues a global diversification strategy for its future energy, mineral, protein, and shipping needs.

## *Latin America*

The Belt and Road was officially extended to Latin America in 2018. Margaret Myers, director of the Asia and Latin America Program at the Inter-American Dialogue, will explore the significance of the region's recent incorporation in the initiative for both Latin American governments and U.S. policymakers.

## *Expert Conversation: Next Directions*

As the BRI has expanded globally, it has also evolved. CSIS senior vice president for economics, Matthew P. Goodman and Dr. Zhang Haibing, assistant president and director of the Institute of Global Governance at

the Shanghai Institute for International Studies, discuss “the view from Beijing” and the next directions for BRI in the wake of Covid-19 and other developments since the initiative began.

### *The U.S. Toolkit*

As global infrastructure demand rises, the U.S. is attempting to sharpen its toolkit for delivering projects abroad. 2019 marked the launch of the multi-stakeholder “Blue Dot Network” and the U.S. Development Finance Corporation (DFC) also began operations in 2019 with an updated mandate and suite of tools. The CSIS Project on Prosperity and Development’s deputy director and senior fellow, Erol Yayboke, and senior fellow, Romina Bandura, discuss the emerging roles of these and other efforts in the U.S. development toolkit.

### *The Digital Silk Road*

China’s Digital Silk Road is set to expand in the wake of Covid-19 due to a combination of internal and international political pressures and economic incentives. Reconnecting Asia director Jonathan Hillman explores these dynamics and the future of China’s technology exports along the BRI.

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## Apply Online

*Applicants are admitted on a rolling basis. Limited space is available.*

**Tuition:** \$3,000 per person

**Location:** Online

**Contact:** For more information, please contact Barbara E. Petzen, Director of Training Initiatives, at [bpetzen@csis.org](mailto:bpetzen@csis.org)

## About the Reconnecting Asia Project >

The Reconnecting Asia Project has assembled a unique and growing database of detailed information on over 14,000 infrastructure projects. Leaders in government, the private sector, and academia use these resources to shape policy, identify commercial opportunities, and conduct research. Reconnecting Asia and its scholars have been cited in *The New York Times*, *The Economist*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Financial Times*, and other leading outlets.

## About CSIS >

The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) is a bipartisan, nonprofit organization headquartered in Washington, D.C. founded by David M. Abshire and Admiral Arleigh Burke in 1962. For over 50 years, CSIS has been dedicated to developing practical solutions to some of the world's greatest challenges. Voted the world's number one defense and national security think tank for the past eight years, CSIS has become one of the preeminent international policy institutions focused on defense and security, regional stability, and transnational challenges ranging from energy and climate to global development and economic integration. Tom Pritzker, executive chairman of Hyatt Hotels Corporation and chairman and CEO of the Pritzker Organization, became chairman of the CSIS Board of Trustees in November 2015. Former senator Sam Nunn (D-GA), who served as chair for 16 years, remains on the Board as chairman emeritus. John J. Hamre became the Center's president and chief executive officer in April 2000.

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