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**President Xi Jinping's Vision of Building a  
Community with a Shared Future for Mankind:  
A Review of the Past Decade**



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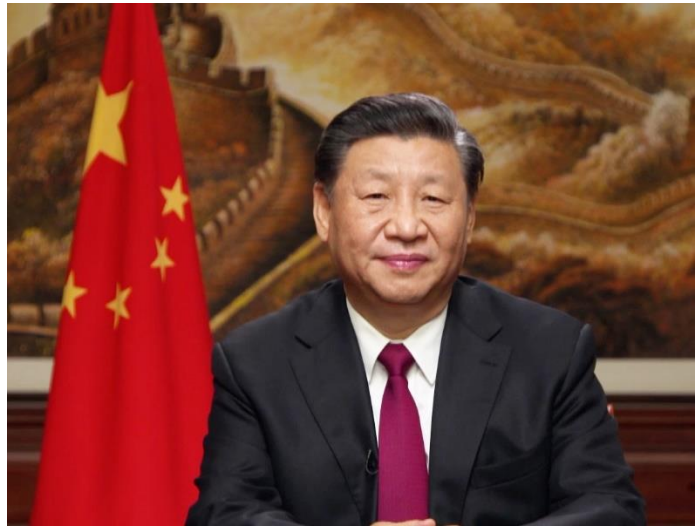
## **Abstract**

Chinese President Xi Jinping's vision of a community for the shared future of mankind has become a focal point of global discussion since its introduction in 2013. This visionary concept is based on the idea of creating a world where countries work collaboratively to address global challenges and promote common development, in pursuit of a peaceful and stable world order. The vision has three main initiatives, namely the Global Security Initiative (GSI), the Global Development Initiative (GDI), and the Global Civilization Initiative. Despite a mixed track record of success in their implementation, these initiatives signify China's commitment to realising this global vision. However, the concept of a Chinese-led world order poses a challenge to the Western world, which has traditionally dominated global power structures. The rise of China as a global superpower with its vision of a shared future for humankind has sparked debate about the future of international relations and global governance. This article argues that China presents a unique vision of a community for the shared future of mankind that sets the stage for a new paradigm of global cooperation and competition. While it challenges the existing order, it also holds promise for a more equitable and collaborative global future. Therefore, this vision and the Chinese model of development merit attention and study in academia, policymaking, and global civil society.

## **Introduction**

Chinese President Xi Jinping's vision of a community for the shared future of mankind is a concept that has gained significant attention in recent years. This visionary concept was first introduced by Xi Jinping in 2013<sup>1</sup> and has since been reiterated several times by the Chinese president. This vision aims to create a peaceful and stable world order, where countries work together to address global challenges and promote common development.<sup>2</sup>

In line with this vision, President Xi has launched three key initiatives: the Global Security Initiative (GSI), the Global Development Initiative (GDI) and the Global Civilisation Initiative. These initiatives have seen some successes over the years.



## **Building a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind**

President Xi Jinping's vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind is rooted in the belief that the world is an interconnected and interdependent community where countries share common interests and responsibilities. It acknowledges that nations have diverse histories, cultures, and values, but recognizes that this diversity should be

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<sup>1</sup> "March 23, 2013A Community with a Shared Future for Mankind," *China Internet Information Center*, May 2021, [http://www.china.org.cn/china/2021-05/25/content\\_77470543.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/china/2021-05/25/content_77470543.htm).

<sup>2</sup> Xu Xiujun, "China's Vision for Building a Community of a Shared Future for Mankind," *CGTN*, October 30, 2022, <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2022-10-28/China-s-vision-for-building-a-community-of-a-shared-future-for-mankind-1es053cjoYg/index.html>.



seen as an asset rather than a source of division.<sup>3</sup> The main goal of this vision is to create a more peaceful and stable world by promoting dialogue and cooperation, respecting diversity, and pursuing common development. In practical terms, this means that China seeks to engage in peaceful diplomatic relations with other countries, promote economic cooperation to achieve mutual benefits, and work towards addressing global challenges such as climate change and poverty.

The emergence of an Asian world order, symbolised by Chinese President Xi Jinping's vision of a modernised and powerful China, has led to a great deal of apprehension and concern in the Western world. The prospect of a shift in global leadership away from the West towards an Asian superpower has raised questions about the future of the existing world order and the role that the US and its allies will play in it.<sup>4</sup>

At the core of this anxiety is the recognition that China has made incredible strides in areas such as economic growth and technological innovation in recent decades. China's gross domestic product (GDP) reached US\$17,881.30 billion in 2022, up three percent year on year, according to the National Bureau of Statistics on January 17, 2023<sup>5</sup>, making it the world's second-largest economy and a key driver of global trade. In addition, China has invested heavily in areas such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and

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<sup>3</sup> Zhang Lihua, "China's Traditional Cultural Values and National Identity," *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*, November 21, 2013, <https://carnegieendowment.org/2013/11/21/china-s-traditional-cultural-values-and-national-identity-pub-53613>.

<sup>4</sup> G. John Ikenberry, "The Rise of China and the Future of the West: Can the Liberal System Survive?" *Foreign Affairs* 87, no. 1 (2008): 23–37, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20020265>.

<sup>5</sup> Qian Zhou, "China's GDP Grew by 3 Percent in 2022," *China Briefing News*, January 17, 2023, <https://www.china-briefing.com/news/chinas-gdp-grew-by-3-percent-in-2022-population-declined-0-85-million/>.



biotechnology, positioning itself to be a global leader in these critical areas.<sup>6</sup> These developments are particularly concerning for the US, which has for decades played a dominant role in shaping the global economic and political landscape. As China continues to rise, there are fears that the US may lose its status as the world's preeminent power.<sup>7</sup>

### **The Global Security Initiative (GSI)**

As part of his vision of a community for the shared future of mankind, the Global Security Initiative (GSI)<sup>8</sup> aims to promote dialogue over confrontation, partnership over alliance, and win-win cooperation over zero-sum thinking. This initiative is based on a set of six core principles that guide its approach to addressing a range of security threats and challenges.<sup>9</sup>

The first principle emphasises the importance of taking a holistic approach to security that goes beyond traditional military and defence measures. The second principle stresses the importance of respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries. The third principle of the Global Security Initiative requires the adherence to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. This includes respect for human rights, the rule of law, and the peaceful settlement of disputes, among other fundamental principles. The fourth principle acknowledges the importance of taking the legitimate security concerns of all

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<sup>6</sup> “China Leads Us in Global Competition for Key Emerging Technology,” *Reuters*, March 2, 2023, <https://www.reuters.com/technology/china-leads-us-global-competition-key-emerging-technology-study-says-2023-03-02/>.

<sup>7</sup> Robert J. Art, “The United States and the Rise of China: Implications for the Long Haul,” *Political Science Quarterly* 125, no. 3 (2010): 359–91, doi:10.1002/j.1538-165x.2010.tb00678.x.

<sup>8</sup> “Xi Proposes Global Security Initiative,” *The National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference*, April 21, 2022, [http://en.cppcc.gov.cn/2022-04/21/c\\_745515.htm](http://en.cppcc.gov.cn/2022-04/21/c_745515.htm).

<sup>9</sup> “The Global Security Initiative Concept Paper,” *Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China*, February 21, 2023, [https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/wjbxw/202302/t20230221\\_11028348.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjbxw/202302/t20230221_11028348.html).



countries seriously. The initiative emphasises the importance of addressing security concerns through collaborative, multilateral efforts that prioritise dialogue and diplomacy over military action. The fifth principle prioritises the peaceful resolution of conflicts. This requires a commitment to dialogue, negotiation, and mediation, as well as a recognition that violence and conflict can never be a sustainable solution to security challenges. Finally, the sixth and final principle of the GSI emphasises the importance of maintaining security in both traditional and non-traditional domains. By recognizing the interconnectedness of these different domains, the initiative seeks to develop a more nuanced and comprehensive approach to security that can effectively address the complex and evolving nature of global security threats and challenges.

In February of 2023, China released a series of documents and position papers regarding the ongoing war in Ukraine.<sup>10</sup> These materials were intended to demonstrate China's commitment to finding a solution to the conflict while simultaneously countering Western narratives that positioned China as a supporter of Russian intervention. The underlying motivation for these actions stemmed from a desire to present China as a responsible global actor and mediator, thereby enhancing its standing in the international community.<sup>11</sup> Additionally, China hoped to align itself with the Global South, which had been adversely affected by the escalating hostilities and resultant economic fallout.

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<sup>10</sup> "China's Position on the Political Settlement of the Ukraine Crisis," *Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China*, February 24, 2023, [https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/zxxx\\_662805/202302/t20230224\\_11030713.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/zxxx_662805/202302/t20230224_11030713.html).

<sup>11</sup> Md. Himel Rahman, "Mediation with Chinese Characteristics: Navigating China's Rise as a New Mediator," *Eurasia Review*, July 14, 2023, <https://www.eurasiareview.com/14072023-mediation-with-chinese-characteristics-navigating-chinas-rise-as-a-new-mediator-oped/>.



China's official stance on the Ukraine crisis was detailed in a document titled, 'Position on the Political Settlement of the Ukraine Crisis'.<sup>12</sup> The paper outlined a twelve-point plan for resolving the conflict, highlighting China's interests in the region. These interests included respect for national sovereignty, a cessation of hostilities, indivisible security, rejection of block formation, and an aversion to sanctions, among other general proclamations. Through this position paper, China sought to promote its vision of a fair and peaceful global order, grounded in the principles of the UN Charter. The document also suggested that the international community should play a more active role in resolving conflicts of this nature, with the UN assuming a more central and critical role in such crises. Overall, China's approach to resolving the crisis in Ukraine was one that emphasised diplomatic dialogue and negotiation, in line with its broader vision of a global order anchored in shared values of cooperation, mutual respect, and sovereignty.

The GSI has had several successes over the past 10 years. One of its major achievements has been facilitating dialogues and negotiations to resolve regional tensions. China's diplomatic efforts were instrumental in bringing together Saudi Arabia and Iran, two long-time rivals in the Middle East, to achieve a historic reconciliation in March 2023.<sup>13</sup> This demonstrates the capacity of the GSI to resolve complex problems through dialogue and consultation.

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<sup>12</sup> "China's Position on the Political Settlement of the Ukraine Crisis," *Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China*, February 24, 2023, [https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/zxxx\\_662805/202302/t20230224\\_11030713.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/zxxx_662805/202302/t20230224_11030713.html).

<sup>13</sup> Ozden Zeynep Oktav, "Saudi-Iran Reconciliation: China's Mediator Role in Middle East," *Daily Sabah* (Daily Sabah, April 20, 2023), <https://www.dailysabah.com/opinion/op-ed/saudi-iran-reconciliation-chinas-mediator-role-in-middle-east>.



Another success of the GSI is the establishment of the China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Trilateral Dialogue<sup>14</sup> which aims to promote cooperation and stability in the region. The trilateral dialogue has played a significant role in facilitating peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban, a key step towards achieving lasting peace in the region.

### **Global Development Initiative (GDI)**

In addition to the GSI, President Xi Jinping also launched the Global Development Initiative (GDI)<sup>15</sup> to address global development challenges. The GDI represents a new approach to development by China, one that is distinct from its traditional Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) strategy. While the BRI focuses on large-scale infrastructure projects, the GDI is geared towards smaller, more targeted development programs in areas such as healthcare, poverty alleviation, environmental sustainability, digital innovation, and low-carbon economies.

The GDI promotes sustainable development through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which aims to improve infrastructure, trade, and economic development across Asia, Europe, and Africa. The GDI has had several successes over the past decade, including the establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)<sup>16</sup>, which has provided funding for infrastructure projects across Asia, and the China-proposed Forum on China–

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<sup>14</sup> "Joint Statement of the 5th China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Dialogue," *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*, n.d., <https://mofa.gov.pk/joint-statement-of-the-5th-china-afghanistan-pakistan-foreign-ministers-dialogue/>.

<sup>15</sup> Xi Jinping, "Bolstering Confidence and Jointly Overcoming Difficulties to Build a Better World," General debate of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, September 21, 2021.

<sup>16</sup> "About AIIB," *AIIB*, n.d., <https://www.aiib.org/en/about-aiib/index.html>.





Africa Cooperation (FOCAC)<sup>17</sup>, which has facilitated economic cooperation and development between China and African countries. One of the primary benefits of the Global Development Initiative is that it has the potential to motivate the international community to take a more proactive approach to advocating for better development outcomes. The Initiative emphasises the need for a people-centred approach to governance, providing a framework for governments and civil society organisations to work together to achieve sustainable and equitable development goals. In addition, the Initiative's emphasis on creating a fairer international economic order will help to mitigate the negative impacts of globalisation, ensuring that all nations have an equal opportunity to benefit from the process of economic integration.

### **Global Civilization Initiative (GCI)**

The Global Civilization Initiative (GCI)<sup>18</sup> recognizes the importance of cultural diversity in promoting mutual learning, dialogue, and inclusiveness among civilizations. The organisation champions the principles of equality, respect, and the common values of humanity, specifically peace, development, equity, justice, democracy, and freedom. It emphasises the equal relevance of all civilizations and urges nations to maintain an open mind in appreciating diverse perceptions of values.

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<sup>17</sup> "Focac Mechanisms," *Forum on China-Africa Cooperation*, n.d., [http://www.focac.org/eng/ltjj\\_3/ltjz/](http://www.focac.org/eng/ltjj_3/ltjz/).

<sup>18</sup> "Xi Proposes Global Civilization Initiative," *The State Council, The People's Republic of China*, March 15, 2023, [http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202303/15/content\\_WS6411d42ac6d0f528699db528.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202303/15/content_WS6411d42ac6d0f528699db528.html).



The Initiative stresses the importance of sustaining cultural inheritance and encouraging innovation to advance and transform traditional culture to meet contemporary demands. It advocates for robust international people-to-people communication and cooperation, aimed at fostering a global network for inter-civilization dialogue and collaboration.<sup>19</sup> The exchange of knowledge and ideas will enhance mutual understanding, promote friendship among all people, and collectively advance human civilization progress.

The GCI encourages nations to refrain from attempting to impose their values or models on others and avoid ideological confrontation. Such an approach fosters mutual respect, tolerance, and a willingness to explore diverse solutions to the problems facing modern society. The Global Civilization Initiative is committed to advocating for cultural diversity, equal representation, and the common values of all humanity.<sup>20</sup> It encourages all nations to embrace these principles and participate in international communication and cooperation. By doing so, collectively we can promote peace, development, equity, justice, democracy, and freedom across the globe and advance human civilization progress.

### **Western Criticism of Xi's Vision of a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind**

The rise of China as a global power has led to growing concerns and anxieties in the West regarding its leadership of the world order and the concept of a community with a shared future. The West sees China's increasing influence as a threat to its dominant position in

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<sup>19</sup> Liu Jianchao, "Implementing the Global Civilizations Initiative and Promoting the Progress of Human Civilizations," *CPC Central Committee Bimonthly Qiushi*, July 11, 2023, [http://en.qsttheory.cn/2023-07/11/c\\_900689.htm](http://en.qsttheory.cn/2023-07/11/c_900689.htm).

<sup>20</sup> Xu Liuliu, Li Qian, and Hu Yuwei, "The Global Civilization Initiative Full of Chinese Wisdom, Injects Fresh Momentum into Bright Shared Future," *Global Times*, April 17, 2023, <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202304/1289306.shtml>.



the global political and economic system and fears that China's rise will challenge its values, norms, and interests.<sup>21</sup>

### **Human Rights and Liberal Freedoms**

One of the main reasons why the West has a problem with a Chinese-led world order is related to the issue of human rights. China's record on human rights, including political freedoms, civil liberties, and the treatment of ethnic minorities, has been criticised by the West.<sup>22</sup> The Western countries argue that a Chinese-led world order could undermine the promotion and protection of human rights, democratic governance, and the rule of law that the West champions.

The Western world has long been vocal in its criticism of the Chinese government's human rights and liberal freedom record, often citing issues such as censorship and suppression of dissidents as evidence of its failings. However, such criticism can be viewed as hypocritical when considering their own records of championing human rights and liberal freedoms.<sup>23</sup>

In recent years, numerous reports have highlighted the growing incidence of human rights violations in Western countries, particularly concerning minority groups. The United States, for example, has been widely criticised for its discriminatory treatment of African American communities, with issues such as police brutality and mass incarceration

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<sup>21</sup> Bruce Jones and Andrew Yeo, "CHINA AND THE CHALLENGE TO GLOBAL ORDER" (Washington: The Brookings Institution, November 2022).

<sup>22</sup> "China's Disregard for Human Rights," *U.S. Department of State*, n.d., <https://2017-2021.state.gov/chinas-disregard-for-human-rights/>.

<sup>23</sup> Liu Xin, "Western Nations Criticized for Hypocrisy on Human Rights at Sideline Meeting of UN Body," *Global Times*, July 10, 2021, <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202107/1228297.shtml>.



garnering significant attention.<sup>24</sup> Similarly, numerous European countries have come under scrutiny for their treatment of refugees and migrants, with allegations of widespread xenophobia and human rights abuses.<sup>25</sup>

Furthermore, when examining the history of Western powers, it becomes clear that their own records of championing liberal freedoms and human rights have been marked by numerous contradictions and inconsistencies. For instance, many Western countries have a long history of overthrowing democratically-elected governments in favour of authoritarian regimes that are more aligned with their interests.<sup>26</sup> In addition, the Western world was built on colonialism, with countless examples of the brutal suppression of indigenous peoples and cultures in the name of "civilization" and "progress".<sup>27</sup>

In light of these facts, it is clear that Western criticism of China's human rights and liberal freedom record must be viewed through a critical lens. While there are undoubtedly many issues that need to be addressed in China, Western powers must also address their own failings in this area if they wish to maintain any degree of moral authority and credibility in the global arena. Only then can we hope to build a truly fair and just world order that respects the dignity and rights of all people, regardless of their nationality or cultural background.

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<sup>24</sup> "The Report on US Human Rights Violations in 2022," *The State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China*, March 28, 2023, [http://english.scio.gov.cn/scionews/2023-03/28/content\\_85195778.htm](http://english.scio.gov.cn/scionews/2023-03/28/content_85195778.htm).

<sup>25</sup> "UNHCR Warns of Increasing Violence and Human Rights Violations at European Borders," *UNHCR*, February 21, 2022, <https://www.unhcr.org/news/news-releases/news-comment-unhcr-warns-increasing-violence-and-human-rights-violations>.

<sup>26</sup> Becky Little, "10 Times America Helped Overthrow a Foreign Government," *History.Com* (A&E Television Networks, June 7, 2022), <https://www.history.com/news/us-overthrow-foreign-governments>.

<sup>27</sup> Brett Bowden, "In the Name of Civilization: War, Conquest, and Colonialism," *Pléyade (Santiago)*, no. 23 (June 2019): 73–100, doi:10.4067/s0719-36962019000100073.



## **BRI and the Politics of Dependency**

The West is concerned about China's economic practices, particularly in relation to trade and investment.<sup>28</sup> China's state-led capitalism and its protectionist policies have been challenging the Western liberal economic order and causing economic imbalances. The West also fears that China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)<sup>29</sup>, which aims to enhance connectivity and economic integration across Asia, Africa, and Europe, could increase China's economic influence and create dependencies that may compromise the sovereignty and autonomy of other countries.

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) proposed by China has garnered significant attention globally due to its potential impact on economic integration across Asia, Africa, and Europe. However, amidst the growing apprehension among western nations over the possibility of increased Chinese economic influence and compromised sovereignty of participating nations, it is crucial to acknowledge the inherent contradictions and hypocrisy within the West's stance.

A key critique of the BRI is the fear of creating dependencies that may lead to compromised autonomy of participating countries. The West's own history of exploiting countries in the global south and creating dependencies for their resources is a poignant example of the same. The legacies of colonialism are still evident in the economic and political landscape of many nations that were subjected to European powers' subjugation. Despite the rhetoric

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<sup>28</sup> Wayne M. Morrison, "China-U.S. Trade Issues," *Congressional Research Service*, July 30, 2018, <https://sgp.fas.org/crs/row/RL33536.pdf>.

<sup>29</sup> Andrew Hammond, "Why the West Is so Worried by China's Belt and Road," *Arab News*, April 27, 2019, <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1488926>.



of a post-colonial world, the exploitation and dependence have continued through extractive industries, foreign aid, and imposing trade policies.<sup>30</sup>

The West's dependence on oil from the Middle East and Africa is an apt example of creating dependencies on other nations' resources.<sup>31</sup> The destabilisation of regions through western intervention and military occupation has left many countries unable to self-govern and reliant on external aid and investment. Simultaneously, the western nations' control over multilateral institutions such as the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and World Trade Organization has imposed structural adjustment policies that have perpetuated economic inequality and poverty.<sup>32</sup>

Moreover, the West's hypocrisy can also be seen in its exploitation of the labour force in countries such as Bangladesh and Vietnam.<sup>33</sup> Fast-fashion companies that rely on cheap labour in these countries often subject workers to deplorable working conditions, low wages, and no job security.<sup>34</sup> The profits reaped by these companies come at the cost of the workers' well-being and the countries' overall development.

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<sup>30</sup> Jason Hickel, Dylan Sullivan, and Huzaifa Zoomkawala, "Rich Countries Drained \$152TN from the Global South since 1960," *Al Jazeera*, May 6, 2021, <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2021/5/6/rich-countries-drained-152tn-from-the-global-south-since-1960>.

<sup>31</sup> Thomas C. Barger, "Middle Eastern Oil Since the Second World War," *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 401 (1972): 31–44.

<sup>32</sup> Jason Hickel, "Apartheid in the World Bank and the IMF," *Al Jazeera*, November 26, 2020, <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2020/11/26/it-is-time-to-decolonise-the-world-bank-and-the-imf>.

<sup>33</sup> "Global Fashion Brands Exploiting Bangladesh Workers: Study," *Al Jazeera*, January 11, 2023, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/1/11/fashion-brands-paid-less-than-production-cost-to-bangladesh-firms>.

<sup>34</sup> "Fast Fashion Getting Faster: A Look at the Unethical Labor Practices Sustaining a Growing Industry," *International Law and Policy Brief*, October 28, 2021, <https://studentbriefs.law.gwu.edu/ilpb/2021/10/28/fast-fashion-getting-faster-a-look-at-the-unethical-labor-practices-sustaining-a-growing-industry/>.



While the concerns raised by the West over China's BRI cannot be disregarded, it is essential to acknowledge the inherent contradictions and hypocrisy within the western perspective. It is imperative to reflect on the legacies of colonialism and the continued exploitation of countries in the global south. If the West genuinely wishes to foster cooperation and sustainable development, it needs to re-evaluate its own practices and policies that perpetuate economic inequality and dependence.

### **Chinese Military Modernisation and the Western Policy of Containment**

The West has criticised China for its assertive foreign policy and territorial ambitions, especially in the South China Sea and Taiwan.<sup>35</sup> The West sees China's actions as a violation of international law and norms and a threat to regional stability and security.<sup>36</sup> China's military modernization and its increasing global military footprint have also raised concerns in the West about its intentions and capabilities.

The US' strategic move to forge anti-China alliances in the Indo-Pacific region is part of a larger effort to maintain its global hegemony and prevent the emergence of a rival power. China's phenomenal economic growth and military buildup pose a significant challenge to the US-dominated world order, and the Biden administration's policy is reflective of this concern.<sup>37</sup> This, in turn, has led to the modernization and strengthening of the existing

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<sup>35</sup> "Europe Must Unite against China's Aggressive Foreign Policy," *EPP Group in the European Parliament*, April 28, 2023, <https://www.eppgroup.eu/newsroom/opinions/europe-must-unite-against-china-s-aggressive-foreign-policy>.

<sup>36</sup> Robert D. Williams, *International Law with Chinese Characteristics: Beijing and the "Rules-Based" Global Order*, October 2020, [https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FP\\_20201012\\_international\\_law\\_china\\_williams.pdf](https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FP_20201012_international_law_china_williams.pdf).

<sup>37</sup> Ian Johnson, "Biden's Grand China Strategy: Eloquent but Inadequate," *Council on Foreign Relations*, May 27, 2022, <https://www.cfr.org/in-brief/biden-china-blinken-speech-policy-grand-strategy>.



alliances between the US and its regional partners, as well as the formation of new partnerships.

These partnerships and alliances serve various purposes, including shared defence arrangements, joint military exercises, information-sharing, and intelligence cooperation. The Quad, composed of the US, Japan, India, and Australia, has been revitalised as a security alliance to deter Chinese aggression and provide a counterbalance to China's growing influence in the region.<sup>38</sup> The recently formed AUKUS, comprising the US, UK, and Australia, is seen as a significant step towards countering China's military modernization and aspirations for global power projection.<sup>39</sup> Additionally, the US has been strengthening its partnership with ASEAN, which is seen as a crucial diplomatic and economic bloc in the region.

Moreover, the US is building a network of support among smaller Pacific island nations that are strategically located and can provide critical basing and logistical support in times of conflict.<sup>40</sup> These island nations had long been neglected in the US' strategic calculus, but are now viewed as essential allies to counter China's territorial ambitions in the South China Sea.

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<sup>38</sup> Zaheena Rasheed, "What Is the Quad and Can It Counter China's Rise?," *Al Jazeera*, November 25, 2020, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/11/25/what-is-the-quad-can-us-india-japan-and-australia-deter-china>.

<sup>39</sup> Hilary Whiteman and Angus Watson, "Australia, the UK and US Are Joining Forces in the Pacific, but Will Nuclear Subs Arrive Quick Enough to Counter China?," *CNN* (Cable News Network, March 14, 2023), <https://edition.cnn.com/2023/03/14/australia/aukus-deal-china-tensions-analysis-intl-hnk/index.html>.

<sup>40</sup> Alec Dionne and Maggie Sparling, "A New U.S. Approach to the Pacific Island Countries," *New Lines Institute - New Lines Institute Is the First Independent, Non-Partisan American Think Tank*, October 13, 2022, <https://newlinesinstitute.org/u-s-foreign-policy/a-new-u-s-approach-to-the-pacific-island-countries/>.





All these developments and coalition building suggests that the US is increasingly pursuing offensive alliances and military deployments in the region, with the goal of constraining China's strategic reach and influence. However, this approach has only heightened China's security concerns and contributed to a growing sense of vulnerability and insecurity. China's response, therefore, must be seen as a natural and legitimate effort to safeguard its territorial interests and maintain its security in the face of aggressive Western coalitions. China has pursued a variety of measures to counterbalance the US-led military build-up in the region, including the development of advanced military technologies, strategic partnerships with other regional powers, and the active assertion of its maritime claims in the South China Sea.

The root cause of this security dilemma, therefore, lies in the inherently competitive and confrontational nature of great power politics, and the perceived need for states to constantly assert their strength and protect their interests. This dynamic is further compounded by the lack of trust and transparency between the US and China, as well as the complex web of strategic and economic interdependencies that bind the two nations together. Ultimately, the key to resolving this security dilemma lies in finding ways to build trust and cooperation between the US and China, and in promoting a more inclusive, multilateral approach to regional security that takes into account the interests and concerns of all stakeholders. This will require a sustained and concerted effort on the part of both nations, as well as a willingness to set aside short-term interests in the pursuit of long-term stability and security in the Asia Pacific region.



## **Conclusion**

The notion of a Chinese-led world order, being a paradigm shift that challenges the Western world, is a concept that has been both received with apprehension and fascination. This shift in the international order brings about an alternative mode of conduct that challenges the Western status quo. The concept of “community with shared future” posits that this framework provides an opportunity for international cooperation and interdependence. While the Western world has traditionally situated itself as the global leader in power and influence, China's emergence as a prominent world power presents an obstacle to this hegemony.

The Chinese worldview is in stark contrast to the Western model, with both systems having their unique strengths and weaknesses. The Western system has historically held individualism and self-determination as core values with a focus on free market capitalism and democratic governance, while the Chinese system levitates towards collectivism and social harmony, with a more centralised government structure. These respective models rest on fundamental differences of values and governance, which pose significant challenges in the formation of a shared future rooted in cooperation and interdependence.

In view of the foregoing, it is imperative that academic scholars and policymakers alike continue to research and engage in constructive dialogue to forge a dynamic shared future. There is a critical need to account for the nuances of culture, governance, and values inherent in these two distinct worldviews in order to establish a functional cooperation framework that is socially, economically, and politically sustainable. Acknowledging these



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differences is essential in building an effective and durable framework for international relations that appreciates the diversity and utility of individualism and collectivism as instruments of growth, and which advances the values of cooperation, mutual respect, and tolerance.