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## **A STUDY ON GEOPOLITICAL RISK OF THE BELT AND ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN CENTRAL ASIA**

The Belt and Road Initiative is a cross-regional cooperation framework linking China and the three continents of Asia, Africa and Europe. The proposal of the “One Belt, One Road” construction conforms to the trend of the world and China’s development, and expresses China’s determination to deeply integrate into the world political and economic system. Central Asia is an important part of China’s major neighboring diplomacy. The joint construction of the “Belt and Road” in Central Asia is an important decision for China to maximize the common interests with the Central Asian region on the basis of a profound grasp of the new international political and economic situation and new trends. The independence of Central Asian countries is relatively short. Under the influence of many international and domestic factors, the geopolitical risks and challenges in the region are relatively severe, which will bring difficulties and obstacles to the advancement of the “Belt and Road” initiative in Central Asia. Therefore, it is of great research value and theoretical significance to effectively predict and control the geopolitical risks of the Belt and Road construction in Central Asia.

This paper analyzes the background and reasons of taking Central Asia as the research area, and comprehensively analyzes the geopolitical significance of Central Asia to the construction of the “Belt and Road”, including from an objective point of view, the geopolitics of the “Belt and Road” in Central Asia benefits, and the consensus of Central Asian countries on the construction of the “Belt and Road” on the subjective level. This paper systematically analyzes the geopolitical risks and their factors in Central Asia under the construction of the “Belt and Road”, mainly from four aspects: bilateral, major power game, multilateral relations, and regional security. influencing factors. It provides ideas for avoiding the geopolitical risks faced in the implementation of the “Belt and Road” construction in Central Asia.

**Key words:** “Belt and Road”; China; Central Asia; geopolitics; risk

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### **Орталық Азиядағы «Белдеу және жол» жобасының геосаяси сын-қатерлерін зерттеу**

«Белдеу және жол» бастамасы Қытай мен Азия, Африка және Еуропа құрлықтарын байланыстыратын аймақаралық ынтымақтастық шеңбері болып табылады. «Бір белдеу, бір жол» құрылысының ұсынысы дүниежүзі мен Қытайдың даму үрдісіне сәйкес келеді және Қытайдың әлемдік саяси және экономикалық жүйеге терең енгуге деген жігерін білдіреді. Орталық Азия Қытайдың ірі көрші дипломатиясының маңызды бөлігі болып табылады. Орталық Азиядағы «Белдеу және жолды» бірлесіп салу Қытай үшін жаңа халықаралық саяси және экономикалық жағдай мен жаңа үрдістерді терең меңгеру негізінде Орталық Азия аймағымен ортақ мүдделерді барынша арттыруға бағытталған маңызды шешім болып табылады. Көптеген халықаралық және ішкі факторлардың әсерінен аймақтағы геосаяси тәуекелдер мен сын-қатерлер салыстырмалы түрде ауыр болып табылады, бұл Орталық Азиядағы «Белдеу және жол» бастамасын ілгерілетуге қиындықтар мен кедергілер әкеледі. Сондықтан Орталық Азиядағы «Белдеу, бір жол» құрылысының геосаяси тәуекелдерін тиімді болжау мен бақылаудың үлкен ғылыми-зерттеу құндылығы мен теориялық маңызы зор.

Бұл жұмыста Орталық Азияны зерттеу аймағы ретінде алудың алғышарттары мен себептері талданады және Орталық Азияның «Белдеу және жол» құрылысын салудағы геосаяси маңызы, оның ішінде объективті көзқарас тұрғысынан жан-жақты талданады. Бұл мақалада «Белдеу және жол» құрылысы аясында Орталық Азиядағы геосаяси тәуекелдер мен олардың факторлары негізінен төрт аспектіден: екіжақты, ірі державалар ойыны, көпжақты қарым-қатынастар және аймақтық қауіпсіздік бойынша жүйелі түрде талданады. Сонымен қатар, Орталық Азиядағы «Белдеу және жол» құрылысын жүзеге асыру кезінде кездесетін геосаяси тәуекелдерді болдырмау идеялары ұсынылады.

**Түйін сөздер:** «Белдеу және жол»; Қытай; Орталық Азия; геосаясат; тәуекел

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### Изучение геополитических рисков проекта «Пояс и путь» в Центральной Азии

Инициатива «Один пояс, один путь» представляет собой межрегиональную структуру сотрудничества, связывающую Китай и три континента Азии, Африки и Европы. Предложение строительства «Одного пояса, одного пути» соответствует тенденции развития мира и Китая и выражает решимость Китая глубоко интегрироваться в мировую политическую и экономическую систему. Центральная Азия является важной частью крупной соседней дипломатии Китая. Совместное строительство «Пояса и пути» в Центральной Азии является для Китая важным решением, позволяющим максимально реализовать общие интересы с центрально-азиатским регионом на основе глубокого понимания новой международной политической и экономической ситуации и новых тенденций. Под влиянием многих международных и внутренних факторов геополитические риски и вызовы в регионе относительно серьезны, что создаст трудности и препятствия для продвижения инициативы «Один пояс, один путь» в Центральной Азии. Поэтому большое исследовательское и теоретическое значение имеет эффективное прогнозирование и контроль геополитических рисков строительства «Пояса и пути» в Центральной Азии.

В данной статье анализируются предпосылки и причины выбора Центральной Азии в качестве области исследования, а также всесторонне анализируется геополитическое значение Центральной Азии для строительства «Пояса и пути», включая с объективной точки зрения геополитику «Пояса и пути» в Центральной Азии, так и консенсус стран Центральной Азии по строительству «Пояса и пути» на субъективном уровне. В данной статье систематически анализируются геополитические риски и их факторы в Центральной Азии при строительстве «Пояса и пути», главным образом, с четырех аспектов: двусторонний, игра крупных держав, многосторонние отношения и региональная безопасность. влияющие факторы. Предлагаются идеи по избеганию геополитических рисков, возникающих при реализации строительства «Пояса и пути» в Центральной Азии.

**Ключевые слова:** «Пояс и путь»; Китай; Центральная Азия; геополитика; риск

#### Introduction

The “Belt and Road” initiative is an economic cooperation initiative based on the Eurasian continent. It will closely connect the three continents of Asia, Europe and Africa, open up huge markets in the heart of the East and the West, and establish a “community of destiny” for countries along the route to achieve Mutual benefit and development and prosperity. China’s future construction of a global community with a shared future will be carried out in an orderly manner around the “Belt and Road” initiative, and China’s future major decisions on opening up will also be affected by the development trend of the “Belt and Road” construction. Central Asia is an important hub and key node of the Eurasian continent. As a surrounding area of China, Central Asia is an inevitable place for the westward extension of the “Belt and Road” initiative. It is to prevent security risk factors such as the “three evil forces” from entering the buffer zone within China, and to jointly build the “Belt and Road” in Central Asia. It is an important decision to realize the common political, economic and security interests of China and Central Asian countries on the basis of

China’s profound grasp of the new trends in international politics and economy and the new opportunities of China’s opening to the outside world.

However, geopolitical gains in the geopolitical sense do not constitute all of the construction of the “Belt and Road”, but are always accompanied by high-risk threats. The world today is undergoing major changes and adjustments, and a new global governance system and international political and economic order are taking shape. Along with the major changes and adjustments in the world’s political economy, there are also geopolitical risks and challenges caused by cross-influence such as the trend of anti-globalization, the rise of unilateralism and protectionism, and the game of power between major powers led by the United States. Under the influence of the “China Threat Theory”, the rise of China’s power has aroused the panic of neighboring countries, and has also invisibly worsened the geopolitical environment for the construction of the “Belt and Road” in Central Asia in western China. The complex environment and changes in international and domestic situations have exacerbated conflicts and turmoil in Central Asia. These are all practical backgrounds that must

be considered in the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative in Central Asia. Therefore, we must pay more attention to the construction process of the “Belt and Road” in Central Asia, identify and predict, manage and control the geopolitical risk factors that may arise in Central Asia, and come up with strategies and plans to prevent and resolve various risks in advance. It has important theoretical significance for the smooth progress of the “Belt and Road”, which is also the reason for choosing the topic of this paper.

At present, the research related to the construction of the “Belt and Road” is mainly embodied in the “‘Belt and Road’ geopolitical risk management”, or “the ‘Belt and Road’ China’s Central Asian foreign policy”. Sub-geopolitical risk research” is rarely a topic. Therefore, this article attempts to take Central Asia as the research area and the geopolitical risks of the “Belt and Road” as the main research field to explore targeted risk management and control schemes, which have implications for the development and practice of geopolitical risk aversion in the “Belt and Road” initiative. certain reference value.

### **Material and Methods**

This paper adopts the literature research method. After consulting the works and references related to the “Belt and Road” initiative, the five Central Asian countries, and geopolitical risks, the final research thesis is put forward. On the basis of summarizing and analyzing many articles and research results, this paper discusses the subjective and objective significance of the development of the “Belt and Road” initiative in Central Asia, the connotation of geopolitical risk factors and the corresponding control measures.

This paper also uses the analysis and induction method. At present, when academic circles study the geopolitical risks of the “Belt and Road” initiative, most scholars start from the perspective of the political game between China and Central Asian countries. There are few works and literatures on geopolitical risk from the perspective of Therefore, this paper adopts the analysis and induction method to analyze, summarize and improve the research from relevant perspectives, and dig out the geopolitical risk factors faced by the “Belt and Road” initiative in Central Asia, hoping to find effective policies and strategies to control geopolitical risks. Suggestions for the smooth success of the Belt and Road Initiative in Central Asia.

### **Literature review**

Since China’s “One Belt, One Road” initiative was put forward, it has immediately attracted extensive attention and discussion in the academic circles at home and abroad. Scholars have rich theories on related research, such as the study of the geopolitical risks of the “Belt and Road” initiative, China’s Central Asian diplomacy under the construction of the “Belt and Road”, and the geopolitical game in Central Asia. Research results. However, in the existing works, papers and journals, there are very few articles that specifically focus on the geopolitical risks faced by the construction of the “Belt and Road” in Central Asia.

When Colin Flint, Professor in the Department of Politics at Utah State University and Zhang Xiaotong, School of Political Science and Public Administration, Wuhan University discussed the research results of typical representative schools of geopolitical theory in “The Belt and Road Initiative and Geopolitical Theory Innovation” (Flint, Xiotong, 2016), they focused on the relevant aspects of the Belt and Road Initiative. On the discussion of theoretical innovation points. From the perspective of geopolitics, the conflicting geopolitical imaginations of classical geopolitics are an important source of threats at the theoretical level of BRI geopolitical risks. Western scholars have interpreted the geopolitical risks in the “Belt and Road” initiative from two levels: first, to compare and analyze the rise of various major powers in history and China’s rise; second, to imagine that China will Mimic the expansionary hegemony of the West. Starting from the process of analyzing classical geopolitics in geopolitics, the article points out that the Silk Road can also be reinterpreted from the perspective of cooperation.

Saul Bernard Cohen in his book ‘Geopolitics of the World System’ (Cohen, 2003), first comprehensively expounded the theoretical framework of Cohen’s multipolar model and the analysis of geopolitical dynamics in Central Asia under this theoretical framework. Cohen believes that geopolitical structures are formed by the constant interaction between international political actors and geographical environmental factors, and this interaction will have a chain reaction to establish a geopolitical system. When we study Central Asian diplomacy from the perspective of geopolitics, this theoretical tool can be used to study the dynamic changes of the geopolitical structure of Central Asia under the Belt

and Road Initiative, so as to achieve the purpose of analysis and prediction.

Mackinder first proposed the concept of “world island” in “The Hub of Historic Geography” (Mackinder, 1903), which refers to the terrestrial cluster consisting of the three continents of Asia, Europe and Africa. He defined Central Asia in history as a hub of historical and geographical significance in Eurasia. As the heart of Eurasia, Central Asia has profound historical and cultural accumulation and geographical advantages, and plays an important geopolitical role. Value is the object of competition among major powers. The book proposes that whoever can occupy the center of the “world island”, that is, the core area of geopolitics, can rule the “world island”. From this, it can be seen that Mackinder placed Central Asia in an extremely important position in geopolitical research, highlighting the importance of diplomacy between countries and Central Asia.

In “The New “Silk Road” and the Geopolitics of Contemporary Central Asia (Liu, 2014), Liu Fenghua focused on the analysis of the impact of the development of the new “Silk Road” on Central Asian countries, and analyzed the Central Asian region’s consequences. resulting geopolitical factors. This paper finds in the research that the Central Asian countries have realized the interaction with other countries under the drive of the New Silk Road, which can undoubtedly help the Central Asian countries to better complete their diplomatic activities and improve the international status of the Central Asian countries. the right to speak. However, the competition and game of many major powers in the diplomatic field will inevitably exacerbate the instability of the geopolitical situation in Central Asia.

Yuan Shengyu and Wang Weimin in “Silk Road Economic Belt and China’s Central Asia Policy” used rich and delicate language and typical vivid cases to analyze the reasons, advantages, advantages, Risks and challenges and ways to deal with them. First, the author proposes the comparative advantages of geopolitics, geoeconomics, international security, energy security, and cultural traditions that Central Asia has as a key region for the implementation of the Silk Road Economic Belt. Secondly, the article uses a lot of ink to discuss the challenges that have occurred in the development of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the potential challenges in and outside the region under the drastic changes in Central Asia and the international situation. On this basis, a feasible coping path is proposed from six specific entry points.

Lu Gang comprehensively analyzed China’s Central Asian foreign policy in “China’s Reflections on Central Asian Diplomacy in the Background of the “Belt and Road”, and found that there are thousands of threads between China’s ancient Silk Road and the modern Silk Road. It is precisely because of this that the “Belt and Road” initiative has played the greatest role in the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Central Asian countries. It comprehensively analyzes the problems existing in China’s foreign policy in Central Asia.

In a word, scholars at home and abroad have made very rich research results on related issues. The above literatures provide a more comprehensive and specific perspective and analysis on the research content of the “Belt and Road” construction and geopolitical risks in Central Asia.

## Results and Discussion

Since the “Belt and Road” initiative has been promoted, China has always respected and supported the dominant position of Central Asian countries in regional cooperation, and has joined hands with Central Asian countries to seek rare economic opportunities, create a favorable development environment, jointly safeguard regional security, and achieve fruitful results. In particular, the vigorous development of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization has provided new directions and opportunities for the construction of the “Belt and Road” and the cooperation between the two.

From the perspective of geopolitics, Central Asia has become an important support area for China’s large-scale peripheral diplomacy. China is one of the countries with the most land and sea neighbors and the most complex surrounding environment in the world. “Neighboring diplomacy” is the top priority, and stabilization of the “surrounding environment” is the first goal. Looking at the world, Central Asia is located in the center of Eurasia, and the Eurasian Land Bridge extends westward from here. Winning the “heartland” of Eurasia means occupying the commanding heights of geopolitics. For China, Central Asia is an important part of China’s surrounding environment in terms of geographical location, it is the necessary place for the development of the “Belt and Road” construction to the west, and it is a regional platform that can be relied on to build a community of regional destiny and give play to geopolitical advantages. . Generally speaking, political relations between China and Central Asian countries are gradually becoming harmonious, and high-level visits have become the norm.

In the face of major issues, the two sides exchange views on the principle of equality, mutual trust and mutual benefit. The political, economic and cultural exchanges, cooperation and positive interactions between the two sides have laid a solid foundation. In the relations with neighboring countries, Central Asia is the preferred direction for China's "Belt and Road" construction. The increasingly prominent geopolitical features of Central Asia have also attracted the attention of major powers and various forces. Therefore, based on adhering to the path of peace and development, grasping the diplomatic advantages of neighboring countries and promoting the smooth implementation of the "Belt and Road" initiative in Central Asia have great advantages immeasurable geopolitical significance.

From the perspective of geo-economics, China and the five Central Asian countries have obvious complementary advantages in economic development. Central Asia is one of the few underutilized resource-rich regions in the world, known as the "Second Middle East" and has great potential for development. Among them, oil and natural gas are the most advantageous resources in Central Asia. According to relevant data, "the proven oil reserves in the Caspian Sea range from 2.4 to 4.6 billion tons, and the unproven reserves are about 32.2 billion tons. The unproven natural gas reserves exceed 7.6 trillion cubic meters"(Damdorov, 2018). Since the independence of Central Asia, The cooperation between my country and Central Asian countries in the fields of logistics, trade, investment, finance, communication and other fields shows obvious complementarity, and multilateral trade relations are gradually established, which provides the possibility for mutual benefit and win-win cooperation in trade and economic cooperation between the two sides.

From a geocultural perspective, people-to-people and cultural exchanges and cooperation between China and Central Asian countries continue to deepen. Since ancient times, China has had the custom of conducting political, economic and cultural exchanges with Central Asia. The ancient Silk Road established by early China established China's foreign exchange network. Zhang Qian's departure from the fortress is an unprecedented feat of opening up to the west in Chinese history, and this feat has a profound impact on the integration of regional cultures. In the process of advancing the construction of the "Belt and Road", the people of China and Central Asia are jointly creating a new "Silk Road Spirit" and "Shanghai Spirit". In recent years, China and Central Asian countries have given full play to the power of civil society to carry out

public diplomacy on the basis of the "five links", and people-to-people exchanges and cooperation have continued to deepen.

From the perspective of geopolitical security, Central Asia is a buffer zone for safeguarding the security of western China. Central Asian countries have been independent for a short period of time, and the security situation at home and abroad is still unstable. Because they are located in a geopolitical turmoil zone, they are challenged by multiple security risks such as the geopolitical game of major powers and the expansion of the "three forces" in West Asia, South Asia and the region. These security risks threaten Central Asian countries, but also indirectly threaten China's western frontier. To some extent, Central Asia is a buffer zone for safeguarding the security of western China and a security barrier to prevent the infiltration of the "three evil forces". China and Central Asian countries share common interests on security issues. In recent years, with the construction of the "Belt and Road" in Central Asia, the political mutual trust between China and Central Asian countries has been enhanced, and the two sides have reached many agreements. The security cooperation agreement not only brings positive significance to safeguarding China's national defense and security, but also achieves a comprehensive upgrade of the relationship between the two sides, consolidating the friendly and harmonious relationship of equality, mutual benefit and mutual benefit.

Since the "Belt and Road" construction has been promoted in Central Asia, the two sides have actively promoted multi-field and multi-faceted cooperation, which has produced a good geopolitical effect. The Central Asian countries have an overall positive attitude towards the construction of the "Belt and Road". Officially, they have expressed their willingness to support and participate in cooperation.

Since the establishment of the "Belt and Road" in Central Asia, Central Asian countries have shown respect, support and active participation in the initiatives proposed by China. The strategic alignment between the two sides has achieved remarkable results and produced an overall good geopolitical effect. However, good geopolitical effects are not the whole of the "One Belt, One Road" construction in Central Asia. From a deep perspective, due to the uneven development level of Central Asian countries and the different degrees of diplomatic relations with China, they are not interested in the "One Belt and One Road" initiative. The perception of the "One Road" initiative presents

complexities. On the one hand, Central Asian countries are eager to ride on the express train of China's westward advance to build and share with China; on the other hand, Central Asian countries are on guard and guard against a powerful China. Therefore, when we study how to ensure the smooth progress of the "Belt and Road" in Central Asia, we need to focus on the risks and factors during the period.

In recent years, China has achieved a rapid development of its own comprehensive national strength, which has also caused a major adjustment in the global geopolitical and economic map. Developed countries are already terrified of China's development, feeling the threat from eastern Asia. As for China's neighboring countries, China's strength will inevitably arouse the vigilance and anxiety of these countries, resulting in a crisis of bilateral trust. Since the "Silk Road Economic Belt" was proposed in 2013, the international community has been scrutinizing and speculating on China. Various "China threat theories" such as plundering resources, transferring backward production capacity, emerging hegemony, and neo-colonialism have become China's "Belt and Road Initiative". The major risks and resistances to the advancement of the "One Road" initiative have also created the risk of a trust deficit between China and other countries (Endor, 2016).

The "China threat theory" still has a market in Central Asia (Emma V. Broomfield, 2003). Since the implementation of the "Belt and Road" initiative, China and Central Asian countries have carried out in-depth docking and cooperation in various fields. The "Silk Road Fund" has been established and played a huge role. The bilateral trade and investment exchanges have continued to expand, achieving mutual benefit and win-win results. However, it is undeniable that Central Asian countries still cautious and with varying degrees of skepticism.

After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the world structure has undergone drastic changes. After independence, Central Asia began to face the hegemony and game of major political forces in the region due to its own weak position and special geopolitical location. In order to maintain regional security and stability and maximize their own interests, the five Central Asian countries have adopted a "balanced diplomacy" strategy. "Balanced diplomacy" refers to actively attracting world powers into the region, directly obtaining economic assistance, or coordinating different forces to check and balance each other to obtain opportunities for

the region's own development. Due to the different levels of development among countries and their diplomatic relations with China, under the guidance of the "balanced diplomacy" strategy, the degree of cooperation between Central Asian countries and China presents a trend of complexity and diversity (Feiteng, 2014).

In the context of the geographical environment of the game of great powers, Central Asian countries tend to use "balanced diplomacy" as a way to get along with the outside world. For Central Asian countries, implementing a balanced foreign policy is a no-choice option, and it is a self-protection for Central Asian countries to deal with the complex geopolitical environment. Nevertheless, for China, "balanced diplomacy" brings more uncertainty to the "Belt and Road" initiative, and tends to bring more risks of trust deficit to the cooperation between Central Asia and China.

Because of its important geographical position and rich resources, Central Asia has always become the focus of the interests of major powers in the world and the center of international geopolitical competition, including the United States, Russia, Japan and other major powers have penetrated into Central Asia, and launched a fierce battle (Li, 2014). The United States strives to establish the authority of the United States by implementing the "Asia-Pacific Rebalancing Strategy" and the "New Silk Road Plan"; Russia has launched the "Eurasian Economic Union", making Central Asia an important region for arms trade and economic cooperation; The Silk Road Diplomacy" program also aims to expand its influence in Central Asia. The geopolitical game of great powers will exacerbate the complexity of the geopolitical environment in Central Asia, bring about changes in the geopolitical pattern, and bring real and potential threats and obstacles to China's "Belt and Road" construction. Therefore, it is necessary to do relevant risk research and analyze the risk factors brought about by the game of power among major powers.

After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, although the United States did not formulate an independent Central Asia strategy, it has always regarded Central Asia as an indispensable geopolitical plate in the U.S. Eurasian strategy. Its interests in Central Asia are maximized. As early as 1999, the United States introduced the "Silk Road Act", the core content of which is to reduce the dependence of Central Asian countries on Russia and to integrate Central Asia into the NATO system. In 2001, the United States launched an anti-terrorism strategy, increased military investment in Central Asia, and

actively promoted the Westernization of political and economic reforms in Central Asian countries. In 2005, the United States promoted the “color revolution”, which caused its diplomatic stalemate in Central Asia, and the “Greater Central Asia Plan” proposed by Starr became a successful ice-breaking weapon, laying a good foundation for the cooperation between the United States and Central Asia. During the Obama era, the U.S. government shifted its strategic focus to the Asia-Pacific region and proposed the “Asia-Pacific Rebalancing” strategy, and regarded Central Asia as an important region for the implementation of this strategy. The Financial Times once published an article pointing out that the United States is obviously confrontational in terms of its return to the Asia-Pacific strategy, and its essence is a provocative war plan against China, trying to disrupt the relationship between China and Central Asian countries by promoting the “China Threat Theory” (Emma V. Broomfield, 2003). In 2011, the United States officially proposed the “New Silk Road” plan. The main purpose of this policy is to change the political and economic order in Afghanistan, but it also contains the intention of promoting the democratization of Central Asia by taking Afghanistan’s democratic reform as a model. In recent years, the promotion of the “New Silk Road” plan has slowed down. The main goal is to “go north for commodities and go south for energy”, to open up channels for Central Asia to go south through Afghanistan and India to the Indian Ocean, hoping to free Central Asian countries from Dependence on Russia and China. In this plan, the United States regards India as a strategic support point, strives to introduce Indian forces in Central Asia, emphasizes the geographical and policy relevance of Central Asia and South Asia, and makes India a “Trojan horse” of the United States in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to This weakens the functions of the Belt and Road Initiative and the SCO.

China and Russia have a comprehensive strategic partnership and friendly diplomatic relations, but the “Belt and Road” construction in Central Asia still faces competition from Russia in the geopolitical aspect. For Central Asia, Russia is also increasingly aware of its importance. By comparing and analyzing the specific policies of the United States and Russia in Central Asia, it can be seen that, compared with the United States, Russia has put more energy into building regional cooperation platforms, such as the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the Eurasian Economic

Union. The role of a sexual platform has continued to deepen its wide-ranging influence on Central Asia, including the political, economic, cultural, and military fields (Feiteng, 2014).

The three regional platforms built by Russia in the political, security and economic fields are all part of Russia’s strategic deployment of Eurasian integration. With their establishment and mature operation, they will be more conducive to Russia’s geopolitical competition in Central Asia. At present, the “Belt and Road” initiative and the “Eurasian Economic Union” have officially launched docking cooperation. Although the “One Belt, One Alliance” is in line with the current strategic goals of the two major powers, China and Russia, and its promotion will bring huge benefits, but in the process of its promotion, in the face of an increasingly powerful China, Russia’s concerns and concerns have always existed, and Make China the main competitor in Central Asia. Friction and risk remain between the two powers.

As one of China’s important neighbors, Japan’s geopolitical policies and plans will have a certain impact on China. From the perspective of Japan, China’s “One Belt, One Road” initiative poses a greater threat to it, especially in Central Asia, where the implementation of “One Belt One Road” construction has weakened Japan’s influence in this region. Japan is not reconciled to this, and is gathering momentum in Central Asia to compete with China in geopolitical competition.

In the process of the gradual formation of the geopolitical pattern of Central Asia under the construction of the “Belt and Road”, the participation of multiple forces and factors has obvious characteristics, resulting in the changeable political situation and complex social composition in the region. Today, instead of disappearing, this complexity and variability is growing. The effects of multiple international organizations, mechanisms and major powers, which increases the possibility of geopolitical risks and brings some negative effects, affect the Central Asian region. First, vicious competition and confrontation among various regional cooperation mechanisms will bring multiple risks to the Central Asian region, and also invisibly increase the geopolitical risks of the Belt and Road Initiative in Central Asia. Second, competition among multiple international actors can easily lead to conflicts and turmoil in Central Asian countries. For the Central Asian region, major countries such as the United States, Russia, the European Union, and Japan have formulated direct or indirect major national plans. These policy plans are proposed

from the interests of different countries themselves, so it is easy to break out in the Central Asian region. Geopolitical struggles and contradictions between different countries. Finally, the competition of multiple international cooperation schemes tends to increase the cost of docking cooperation. Under the competitive game of multiple cooperation schemes, especially vicious competition, it is easy to raise the construction cost of the “Belt and Road” initiative.

The threat of regional security risk spillover is the most direct risk factor that the Belt and Road Initiative may encounter in the process of advancing in Central Asia. At present, in general, the security situation in Central Asia has gradually stabilized and entered a new period of development. However, Central Asia still faces a series of internal threats including political instability, slow economic development, prominent social contradictions, extremism, and a series of external factors including surrounding environment and competition between major powers. “Construction poses the threat of risk spillovers.

After the independence of the five Central Asian countries, the political transformation of the Central Asian countries took the Western democratic system as the basic framework, and established a political system suitable for their own country based on their own actual conditions. At present, the core problem facing Central Asian countries is the change of regime and the handover of power. For the leaders of the Central Asian countries, the current priority is to maintain political stability after the handover of power and carry out corresponding political reforms. In recent years, the institutional arrangements and personnel adjustments of Central Asian countries have mainly revolved around the strengthening of presidential power and the balance between political interest groups, but these measures are often more likely to cause political conflicts.

The current security situation in Central Asia is complex and changeable, and faces the agglomeration effect of traditional and non-traditional security factors. In recent years, under the influence of the anti-terrorism situation in the Middle East and Afghanistan, extremist ideology in Central Asia has become extremely active, and the terrorist threat has shown a clear upward trend.

After independence, Central Asian countries experienced the great recession in the 1990s, and the social and economic situation was severe. At present, most of the Central Asian countries have not successfully achieved economic transformation, and the economic structure is difficult to adjust. In addition, the gap between the rich and the poor in the

Central Asian countries is very significant, which is the main reason for the frequent outbreak of large-scale riots and imbalances in the social structure in Central Asian countries.

In recent years, under the background of the overall sluggish international economic situation, the economic problems of Central Asian countries have become more prominent, and problems such as inflation, employment difficulties and social conflicts have become increasingly serious. The unemployment rate in Kazakhstan is rising, the gap between the rich and the poor is serious, and the problem of poverty has become an urgent problem to be solved in the country. Due to corrupt domestic officials and high taxes, the shadow economy of Kyrgyzstan is huge and carries significant risks. A considerable proportion of the people in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan live below the poverty line, and many workers in science, education, culture and health have even become “new poor classes”. Since 2016, Turkmenistan’s foreign exchange reserves have been tight, prices have risen sharply, food supply has not been able to meet the needs of the people, the contradictions of the country’s people’s livelihood have increased, some anti-government voices have emerged at the civil level, and small-scale protests have broken out. Coupled with the fact that many people are not well educated and are easily incited by extremist ideology, Turkmenistan is highly nervous about border terrorist activities. Xu Tao, an international relations scholar, believes: “The local “Islamic State” with widespread influence recruits young unemployed, which will form a new threat in Central Asia. The economic situation and risks of Central Asian countries may cause large-scale turmoil in the region at any time, and will also bring obstacles and risks to the advancement of the “Belt and Road” initiative.

At this stage, the construction of the “Belt and Road” indicates that the exchanges between China and Central Asian countries will be closer, and the interest factors involved are gradually diversified. In the process of cooperation, the current relatively weak security support system may not be able to cope with various regional security. Therefore, it is necessary to formulate a management and control plan to resolve the geopolitical risks in Central Asia, and it is also necessary to implement the construction and improvement of the security early warning mechanism (Kerry, 2022).

Central Asia is the only place where the “Belt and Road” will go westward. At present, the region is faced with development problems such as economic backwardness, unstable security situation,

and interference from major power games. At the same time, it also has its own doubts about China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative. and consideration. Promoting the construction of the "Belt and Road" in Central Asia requires facing and controlling the foreseeable geopolitical risks in the future. From the perspective of China itself, it should formulate an overall plan to resolve the risks and do a good top-level design, so as to plan the overall situation and be prepared. Anticipate, prevent, manage and control risks at their source.

### **Conclusion**

Since 2013, the construction of the "Belt and Road" has continued to overcome various risks and difficulties in Central Asia. Each policy has moved from vision to reality, and each project has grown from weak to strong. Over the past few years, China and Central Asian countries have joined hands to seek rare economic opportunities, create a favorable development environment, and jointly safeguard regional security, and have achieved fruitful results. In particular, the vigorous development of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization has made the construction of the "Belt and Road" relatively smooth in handling relations between major countries. At present, the Central Asian countries have deepened their understanding of the "Belt and Road" initiative and the Chinese culture located in the East of Asia, and their sense of identity is also increasing. In the future, the level and level of openness and integration between the two sides will continue to improve.

As the "heartland" of geopolitics on the Eurasian continent, Central Asia has increasingly become a stage for major powers and various forces to compete. In the next few years, the internal environment of Central Asian countries will be relatively stable, and the political situation and economic situation will maintain a good development as expected, which will provide a favorable environment for the implementation of the "Belt and Road" in Central Asia. However, at the same time, affected by the economic crisis and the transformation of domestic industrial structures, the economic development of Central Asian countries is still facing a difficult process; the external security environment in Central Asia is not ideal, with bilateral trust deficits,

major power games, multilateral interests and non-traditional security.

Geopolitical risks such as threats are on the rise. The superposition of these risk factors has also become a challenge for the implementation of the "Belt and Road" construction. The current stage of the "Belt and Road" construction indicates that the exchanges between China and Central Asian countries will be closer, and the interest factors involved are gradually diversified. In the process of cooperation, the current relatively weak security support system may be in various unexpected situations. In the face of the problem, it is impossible to deal with it, so it is necessary to formulate a management and control plan to resolve the geopolitical risks in Central Asia. We must coordinate the overall situation of international and domestic resources, not only make full use of public diplomacy and other means to strengthen international cooperation, but also properly handle the relationship between the central government and local governments on risk sharing; fully understand the different national conditions of the five Central Asian countries. On the basis of this, we can not only grasp the main contradiction but also analyze specific problems in detail, so as to improve the trust and satisfaction of both parties.

Looking forward to the future, in the process of strengthening cooperation with Central Asian countries, China must, as always, demonstrate the open and inclusive attitude of the Belt and Road Initiative and advocate the path of common prosperity with practical actions, and jointly establish a geo-risk prevention system with Central Asian countries. At present, China has become an indispensable partner in the construction of Central Asian countries in various fields. China will actively expand and deepen public diplomacy, neighboring diplomacy and major-country diplomacy, do a good job in the balance of existing strategies and multilateral mechanisms, and provide more Multiple effective public goods will guide China and Central Asian countries from a community of interests to a community of shared destiny. We believe that as long as all countries respect and trust each other, help each other with one heart, and win-win cooperation, we will be able to write a new chapter in the future cooperation between the "Belt and Road" construction and Central Asian countries.

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