



# **China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI): An Indonesia Perspective**

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# Speech's Structure

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. The China's Rise and BRI**
- 3. Indonesia's Concerns and Expectations**
- 4. Conclusion**

# 1. Introduction

- 1. China's reemergence as one of important global phenomenon of our lifetime.**
  - Economic strength leads to political influence and military enhancement
  - China's behavior as a big power; Will it follow the West?
- 2. Indonesia's principle of independent and active**
  - Accepting no domination by big powers
  - Pursuing Win-win relations
  - Concerning regional stability and prosperity, and beyond
- 3. BRI as China's new diplomacy**

# Evolution of the Initiative

2013

- The 21<sup>st</sup> Maritime Silk Road

2015

- OBOR
- AIIB

2016

- BRI
- Military Facilities in the South China Sea
- Incidents in the Natuna Sea

2017

- BRI Forum in China



## 2. The China's Rise and BRI

### **BRI**

- \* Involving 68 countries in Southeast Asia, South Asia, Central Asia, East Africa and South Europe
- \* Connecting approximately 4.4 billion people (60% world's population and 30% world's PDB)

### **Chinese officials:**

- \* To revive ancient trade route that used to create peace and welfare along the way, through the development of infrastructures (road, railway, ports, etc) to connect peoples and cultures in Asia, Africa, and Europe.

### **China's scholars:**

BRI is public goods from China to the world

BRI is market oriented, need a government institution to supervise

## 2. The China's Rise and BRI

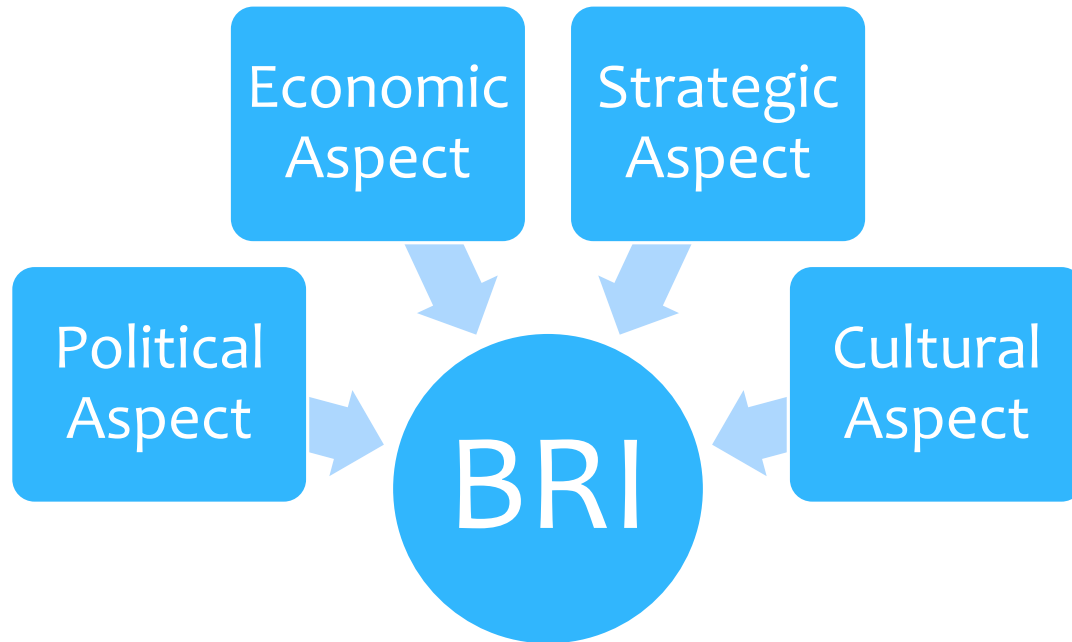
### **Five Cooperation Between China and involved countries**

1. Policy Coordination
2. Facilities Connectivity
3. Investment and Trade Cooperation
4. Financial Integration
5. People-to-people Bond

## 2. The China's Rise and BRI

BRI as a new world order?

But what is BRI or OBOR?





# 3.1. An Indonesian Perspective

- 1. BRI is not only economic matter, it has high geo-politic and geostrategic matters.**
- 2. BRI is China's strategy of reshaping regional and global order**
  - **Confirmed by Prof. Sun: China to give “public goods”**
  - **Confirmed by Prof. Lin: OBOR stimulates great power competition**
- 3. BRI is opportunities as well as problems for Indonesia and ASEAN.**
- 4. Indonesia welcome China's OBOR as long as it does not follow hugely-criticized West countries' domination and exploitation.**

## 3.1. Indonesia's Concerns on BRI

1. **A network of cooperative institutions with China in the center? (existing institutions vs. OBOR/BRI?)**
  - This is unilateralism not multilateralism
  - Confirmed by Prof. Sun Jie: OBOR concept from China;, OBOR needs an institution in China to supervise etc;
2. **Is there any relations between BRI and the development of military facilities in the South China Sea?**
3. **China's influence in the SEA vs. ASEAN Unity**

## 3.2. Indonesia's Expectations

1. BRI to be developed as a multilateral framework
2. China-Indonesia to balance the economic, political and socio-cultural cooperation of the Comprehensive Partnership Agreement
3. BRI will also be parallel with China's peaceful rise in the South China Sea.
4. Improvement of BRI projects
5. ASEAN-China to build strategic trust through BRI: improve people-to-people interaction

## 4. Conclusion

- 1. BRI is expected to be one of instruments of China's peaceful rise, not China's domination**
- 2. China's peaceful rise to be implemented in the South China Sea, in parallel with the BRI.**
- 3. Strategic trust is needed between China and ASEAN countries.**
- 4. China needs to address the 'debt trap' of the BRI.**

## 4. Conclusion (continue)

**5. Social and cultural aspects of the BRI/OBOR are to be prioritized, not infrastructure.**

***6. Thus, while it is important to welcome the initiative, critical assessments of the project are indeed necessary in order to understand its impact on the geo-economy and geo-politics of involved regions and on future relations between the involved countries and China.***

# Thank you

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