

## PREFACE

This book is the proceedings of the international forum “The Belt and Road to a Better Future: China–Europe Youth Dialogue,” initiated by Dr. Yu Cheng, Dr. Lilei Song, and Dr. Lihe Huang. This forum was hosted by the International School of Tongji University and supported by the Shanghai Overseas Returned Scholars Association, Shanghai Institute for European Studies, and the Collaborative Innovation Center for Belt and Road Security Issue, Tongji University. Twenty young scholars from both China and Europe presented their research outcomes on the forum and fourteen papers were selected for inclusion in this volume, after peer review.

The forum assembled a package of next-generation ideas for the patterns of regional trade, investment, and infrastructure development. It also discussed the next steps for promotion of enhanced policy coordination across the Eurasian continent and strategic implications for EU, Russia, and other major powers. This new publication is a comprehensive presentation of diverse papers on the Belt and Road initiative from the perspectives of spatial, temporal, geopolitical, economic, cultural, and other dimensions.

The volume mainly focuses on four important themes of the Belt and Road initiative: comprehension and communication, regional cooperation, economic cooperation, and geopolitical challenge.

“Part One, Comprehension and Communication on the Belt and Road Initiative,” includes four articles: “Public Opinions on the Belt and Road Initiative: A Cross-Cultural Study” by Yu Cheng. This paper

conducts a comparative study to examine cross-cultural differences in shaping the image of the Belt and Road initiative as well as the functions of public opinion and media in this process. Cheng suggests a communication strategy for launching the initiative. In the paper “China’s Belt and Road Initiative: Connecting and Transforming Initiative,” Dragana Mitrovic discusses China’s bold attempt to reshape the existing global order and transform it into something new, more multipolar, and more Sinocentric.

Lihe Huang’s paper “Intercultural Education on the Theme of the Belt and Road Initiative: A Multimodality Oriented Pedagogical Design” discusses how to make full use of the Belt and Road initiative to develop Chinese students’ intercultural competence using a blended instruction pattern. The main purpose of this paper is to introduce a pedagogical design by using international and domestic affairs for students’ intercultural education, which is a practice of “internationalization at home.”

Lilei Song and Zhao Qiqi’s paper “A Model for the Belt and Road Initiative: China’s Cultural Diplomacy Toward Central and Eastern European an Countries” explores the roadmap China has formulated for its cultural diplomacy toward CEE countries and examines the developments and problems of China’s cultural diplomacy to CEE countries in recent years.

Part Two mainly talks about regional cooperation in the Belt and Road initiative. Ágnes Szunomár’s paper “One Belt, One Road: Connecting China with Central and Eastern Europe” suggests that the One Belt, One Road initiative could provide a new framework for cooperation between China and CEE countries because it offers several opportunities for countries that wish to participate in implementing the strategy. “Determinants and Directions of Polish–Chinese Cooperation in the Context of the One Belt, One Road initiative” is by Piotr Bajor. The author discusses the political and economic cooperation between China and Poland, with particular emphasis on the changes that have occurred in China’s relations with CEE countries after the accession of some of them to the European Union. Ikboljon Qoraboyev’s paper “One Belt, One Road: A Comparative Regionalism Approach” contributes to efforts at conceptualizing the initiative using alternative theoretical and conceptual frameworks.

Part Three refers to economic cooperation in the Belt and Road initiative. Balázs Sárvári and Anna Szeidovitz use the modern Silk Road concept as an example of China’s foreign policy in the wake of globalization

and the emergence of a new multipolar world order. Ida Musiałkowska's paper "Subnational Development Policy as the Area of Common Interest Under the One Belt, One Road Initiative? The Case of Regional Policy-Making in Poland" provides an analysis on the evolution and evaluation of regional policy-making (at subnational level) in Poland, one of the 28 EU Member States, in the period just before entry to this organization in 2004 to the present. Dmitry Doronin's paper "Comparative Study of the Labor Markets for Distant High-Profile Specialists in China and Russia" discusses how China and Russia could cooperate within the globally emerging creative economy. It describes the potential that could be exploited by opening the labor market for high-profile specialists and those who work in knowledge-intensive and creative industries. "China–Europe Investment Cooperation: A Digital Silk Road" is written by Mireia Paulo. She explores a specific field, the digital industry, and particularly the fifth-generation (5G) market, which opens a number of doors for the Silk Road and the European Fund for Strategic Investments.

Part Four is "Geopolitical Challenge in the Belt and Road Initiative." The paper "One Belt, One Road and Central Asia: Challenges and Opportunities" is submitted by Filippo Costa Buranelli. He contribute to the debate surrounding the One Belt, One Road project by addressing the views, concerns, political, and economic considerations of the Central Asian governments, thus adding new voices and new perspectives to the current literature (academic and specialized) on the project. Péter Marton's paper "Is Afghanistan in the Way or on the Way of the New Silk Road?" formulates some modest proposals as to what can be accomplished, and within which policy framework, for key actors, including China, to take the idea of a Silk Road connection forward. The paper "China in Central Asia and the Balkans: Challenges from a Geopolitical Perspective" by Junbo Jian suggests that China should do much more than reduce questions from other powers while involving the great geopolitical game through the One Belt, One Road initiative. Beijing should never pretend that the One Belt, One Road project is only about economy.

In today's academia, young scholars are playing a more pivotal role in contemporary Chinese studies all around the world. Their passion and creativity are the source of the innovation in this book, and inspire the editors to present their ideas to academia. The editors would like to thank all the authors for their active involvement in the forum and their

agreement to publish their research in this volume. Anyone interested in the investment, infrastructure development, and policy coordination across Eurasia and strategic implications for the EU, Russia, and China under the Belt and Road initiative is invited to read this publication.

Shanghai, China

Yu Cheng  
Lilei Song  
Lihe Huang

The Belt & Road Initiative in the Global Arena

Chinese and European Perspectives

Cheng, Y.; Song, L.; Huang, L. (Eds.)

2018, XXV, 266 p. 9 illus., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-981-10-5920-9