

# Evaluation and Analysis of “Green Belt and Road Initiative”

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## Abstract

The “Belt and Road Initiative” is in line with the beautiful vision of mankind to pursue a happy life, meets the needs of building a community with a shared future for mankind, and tells the world about Chinese wisdom on the direction of a community with a shared future for mankind. In order to adapt to the changes in the global ecological governance system, my country must pay attention to the weak links in the green development of countries and regions along the route, actively assume environmental responsibilities in the “Green Belt and Road Initiative”, and use a green development cooperation platform to break through the space barriers to control the overall situation of the “Green Belt and Road Initiative”.

## Keywords

**Belt and Road Initiative; Green Development; Human Destiny Community.**

## 1. Introduction

The “Belt and Road Initiative” is a major decision made by the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core in coordinating the overall situation at home and abroad. It conforms to the transformation needs of China’s opening-up regional structure and adheres to the principles of extensive consultation, joint construction, and sharing to achieve peace among countries along the route. Regional cooperation and win-win situation. The essence of the “Belt and Road Initiative” is to always integrate the concept of sustainable development into all aspects of project selection and implementation, and regard green as high quality as the most distinctive background color for the development of the “Belt and Road Initiative”. It is necessary to implement the concept of green development and promote the establishment of resource conservation, green consumption, and low-carbon wisdom in the countries along the route, which will effectively promote the green transformation of some industries in my country, eliminate the international community’s concerns about integrating into the “Belt and Road Initiative”, and greatly promote human ecological civilization process.

## 2. The Background and Connotation of “Green Belt and Road Initiative”

### 2.1. The Background of the “Green Belt and Road Initiative”

In May 2017, the Development and Reform Commission and other four ministries and commissions jointly issued the “Belt and Road Initiative Ecological Environmental Protection Cooperation Plan” and the “Guiding Opinions on Promoting “Green Belt and Road Initiative”, which clarified the overall idea of the “Green Belt and Road”, namely Comprehensively promote the greening of policies, facilities, and trade, and make ecological cooperation the main theme of the “Green Belt and Road”. At the 2018 China-Africa Cooperation Forum, Xi Jinping pointed out that the “Belt and Road Initiative” will be built into a road of peace, prosperity, openness, innovation and civilization; in 2019, at the second “Belt and Road Initiative” International

Cooperation Summit Forum, Xi Jinping innovated Proposes “taking green as the background color” and “promoting green infrastructure construction, green investment, and green finance”. At the same time, the joint construction of the “Belt and Road” can fully realize the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and implement the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The framework of the “Green Belt and Road Initiative” is gradually transforming from concepts and principles to specific policies, and is developing towards binding rules and standards.

## 2.2. The Connotation of the “Green Belt and Road Initiative”

First, the “Green Belt and Road Initiative” is a common path of opportunity and a vivid practice to realize the concept of resource conservation and green development. The 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China proposed that the green concept of respecting, conforming to, and protecting nature must be established. The 19th National Congress of the Party once again sublimated the concept of sustainable development and put forward the concept of “Practicing the concept that green water and green mountains are golden mountains and silver mountains”. In June 2016, Xi Jinping proposed to jointly build the “Green Silk Road” with countries along the route, and then the general secretary pointed out again at the second “Belt and Road” summit forum that “everything gets its own life, and everything gets its way”. Promoting the “Belt and Road Initiative” to adhere to a green, circular, and resource-saving sustainable development path is the main manifestation of the Chinese government’s important strategic position on environmental protection, and conforms to the era’s requirements for the reform of the global governance system. The effective path to realize the rational allocation, efficient use, recycling and effective protection of resources is in line with this “Tao”.

Second, the “Green Belt and Road Initiative” is a road to common prosperity and a concrete plan to create a green community with a shared future for mankind. Many countries and regions along the “Belt and Road Initiative” have complex ecological environments, and the contradiction between universal development and environmental protection has become increasingly prominent, and the awareness of promoting green development has become stronger. “Building a community with a shared future for mankind” has become the consensus of all countries in the world. Only build countries along the route Only on the basis of common interests can we better realize the “Belt and Road Initiative”. Rivers and seas do not choose small streams, so they can be deep. The “Green Belt and Road Initiative” adheres to the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, and deepens cooperation in key areas such as ecological protection, and promotes all parties to implement their own strengths and do their best. It will provide a solid guarantee for the smooth implementation of the “Belt and Road Initiative” international infrastructure construction and the maximization of ecological benefits.

Third, the “Green Belt and Road Initiative” is a common path of smart innovation and a development path to explore new growth momentum. The innovation of the “Green Belt and Road Initiative” is to fully integrate the requirements of green development into the “five links”, conform to the new changes and new directions of the information technology revolution, and jointly grasp the opportunities for digital, networked, and intelligent development. The wisdom of the “Green Belt and Road Initiative” lies in not taking the old road of “destruction first, governance later”, and conforming to the strong desire of countries along the route to seek their own development, and aiming to realize the common development of countries along the route and improve the public goods of global economic governance. From the beginning of construction to plan for environmental protection issues, and work with all parties to implement the four major measures to promote scientific and technological humanities exchanges, jointly build joint laboratories, promote cooperation in science and technology parks, and accelerate technology transfer, so as to promote a fundamental change in the mode

of economic development.

### 3. Green “Belt and Road Initiative” Development Vision and Opportunities

The “Green Belt and Road Initiative” conforms to the needs and trends of global sustainable development. From the “Paris Road Map” and “Copenhagen Agreement” formulated by the international community in the 20th century, to the 2012 Rio Summit incorporating the green economy into the scope of global governance, 49 countries and regions have successively formulated their own green economic development strategies, such as The European Union’s sustainable development strategy, South Africa’s “green economy”, and Kazakhstan’s “green bridge”. At present, environmental sustainability is fully integrated into the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Starting from a perspective and establishing a sustainable development concept, we can seek common global development. The “Belt and Road Initiative” conforms to the overall trend of global development and carries our pursuit of common development. It will help countries break the bottleneck of “extensive” development and share the high-quality results of sustainable development.

The “Green Belt and Road Initiative” is an inevitable choice for the industrial structure adjustment and high-quality development of the countries along the route. At present, the economic development of the “Belt and Road Initiative” countries and regions is more dependent on the exploitation and utilization of resources. The steel consumption, heavy metal consumption and water consumption per unit of GDP are twice the world average. At the same time, the China-Central Asia-West Asia Economic Corridor is facing the dilemma of increasing the area of salinized land, the New Eurasian Continental Bridge is facing the Aral Sea crisis, and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and the China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor are showing aging energy equipment and high energy consumption. In the next few decades, most of the global infrastructure investment will take place in the “Belt and Road Initiative” region. The “Green Belt and Road Initiative” will take full account of the environment, climate and society and other sustainable factors to solve the problem of capital and regional investment in countries and regions along the route. With regard to the lack of technology, it is in line with the wishes of all parties to provide supporting services for the upgrading of the ring industry in key areas along the “Belt and Road Initiative”.

The “Green Belt and Road Initiative” provides a strong internal impetus for China’s sustainable development. From a macro perspective, China’s provinces along the route have comparative advantages over neighboring countries in terms of industrial competitiveness. They are the main force in advancing the implementation of the “Green Belt and Road Initiative”. They can fully leverage on the “Belt and Road Initiative” development platform and give full play to their own advantages. “Bridgehead economic effect”, speed up green production, and seek high-quality development of its own economy. From a micro perspective, the greening of business investment and business activities is the background color of the “Belt and Road Initiative”. China’s ascendant green finance and credit policies will serve as an effective market-oriented institutional arrangement to provide for the “Belt and Road Initiative”. Matching green financial services, promote the of corporate recycling systems, promote enterprises to improve resource output efficiency and ecological efficiency in the of the “Belt and Road”, forcing enterprises to develop and apply zero-emission industrial linkage technology, and promote typical models of circular economy.

The “Green Belt and Road Initiative” strengthens China’s institutional voice in global environmental governance. At present, several “black swans” events such as Brexit and Trump's claim to withdraw from the Paris Agreement have made the global green development momentum led by major developed countries insufficient. As a responsible major country, China should lead with green development as a link international cooperation in tackling

climate change, becoming an important participant in global climate change governance, a contributor and leader in the of global ecological civilization, strengthening the right to speak in global climate governance, and promoting the establishment of equal and reasonable Global climate governance system. In 2015, President Xi Jinping announced when attending the South-South Cooperation Roundtable that China will provide 100 ecological protection and climate change projects to developing countries by 2020. All this shows to the world that China and the countries along the Belt and Road are equal and mutually beneficial, and positive measures to increase trust and dispel doubts and build consensus are writing a new chapter in a green “community with a shared future for mankind.”

#### 4. Problems of the “Green Belt and Road Initiative”

The economic adjustment of China's key provinces along the route has a long way to go, and sustainable development is imperative. China's land-based provinces along the “Belt and Road” need to shoulder the historical responsibility of “catching up” (catch up with the pace of a comprehensive well-off society) and “turn” (transforming the mode of economic development) in the next few years. The blind pursuit of GDP growth is not conducive to With the implementation of the concept of green development, a series of environmental problems caused by extensive economic growth have become bottlenecks restricting its green development; Yunnan, Guangxi, Tibet, Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang, Qinghai, Ningxia and other key provinces along the route are poverty-stricken and ecological Vulnerability and resource importance are equal to the special environmental main function area, which is an important ecological barrier of the “Belt and Road”. However, it should be noted that the provinces along the route will transform the “green water and green mountains” into the path of “golden mountains and silver mountains”. There are still many ideological constraints in choice, and there are still many concerns about transforming ecological potential into economic benefits.

The foreign investment environmental supervision system has yet to be established, and the overseas environmental protection practices of Chinese companies need to be improved. In terms of environmental legislation, my country lacks special environmental laws and regulations to regulate enterprises' foreign investment behavior, and over-relies on the self-discipline of “going out” enterprises in the field of environmental protection. In terms of environmental compliance, it is not uncommon for some foreign-invested companies to cross minefields and fail to control pollutant discharge in accordance with the requirements of pollution permits, causing local environmental pollution damage to be prosecuted and punished frequently.

The ecological environmental impact of the “Belt and Road Initiative” project may be amplified by hype, and international political pressure will increase. Environmental issues carry factors of competition for interests that cannot be ignored in current international politics. Most countries and regions along the route are geopolitical sensitive and religiously powerful regions. Some countries have a very complicated mentality towards of the “Belt and Road Initiative”, either explicitly or implicitly. They may adopt a boycott strategy. If my country triggers environmental disputes in the areas along the “Belt and Road”, it is very likely to alienate the ecological and environmental issues into sensitive political disputes, and use this as an excuse to oppose my country's investment and construction in the countries along the “Belt and Road” and make it useful for relevant countries. As a tool for political and diplomatic games. That is, if China does not join the international conventions undertaking environmental protection, it will become a target of public criticism, and it may be in the international arena. In an isolated situation, on the contrary, when the international environmental conventions signed and promised by my country are transformed into domestic laws, the environmental effects of

corporate investment will be further restricted, and legal enforcement will directly affect the vital interests of “going global” companies.

## 5. Path Selection for “Green Belt and Road Initiative”

Pay attention to the weak links of green development in countries and regions along the route, and formulate differentiated green development cooperation strategies. First, in the New Eurasian Land Bridge, it is necessary to address the Central Asian Aral Sea crisis and insufficient green energy extraction, establish an intermediate coordination agency to increase political mutual trust between Central Asian countries, and use major channels and information such as the China-Europe railway line and the new land-sea channel. The highway is the backbone to promote technology sharing among environmental protection companies, and form a “multi-subject” cooperation system of governments, enterprises, think tanks, and non-governmental organizations, and strive to build a pragmatic and efficient ecological and environmental protection cooperation and exchange system within 5 years; second, in The China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor addresses the practice of “taking quantity and discarding quality” in Russia and Mongolia, and builds an effective environmental protection information sharing platform around “green energy mining”, and strengthens the exchange of clean energy technologies among the three countries; third, the Indochina Peninsula Economic Corridor is aimed at As for the problem of weak economic development in ASEAN countries, China will further reduce tariff levels, eliminate various non-tariff barriers, import competitive high-quality agricultural products, manufactured products and services from Thailand, Vietnam and other countries and regions, and promote balanced trade development; in China The Pakistan Economic Corridor and the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor should specifically address the problems of land degradation and air pollution caused by agricultural pollution, continue to implement the “Green Belt and Road Initiative”, implement green goals in infrastructure connectivity, and deepen agriculture and water pollution. Cooperation in resources and other fields will effectively narrow the development gap.

Actively assume environmental responsibilities in the “Green Belt and Road Initiative”, and innovate mechanisms and platform construction to promote green investment construction. First, focus on improving their own green development capabilities in key provinces along the route. At the national level, the top-level design should be further done, clarifying the functional positioning of provinces participating in the construction of the “Green Belt and Road Initiative”, and establishing ecological security barriers in border areas; the provinces along the line should establish a green GDP outlook. The key is “practical” and local governments at all levels It is necessary to brainstorm ideas and go to the grass-roots level to conduct on-the-spot investigations, extensively listen to the real thoughts and suggestions of the masses, and implement various measures for green development through “practical work”. Second, promote the “Belt and Road Initiative” investment environment supervision and provide international legal assistance services for “going global” enterprises. Environmental legislation based on the “Green Belt and Road Initiative”, implement the “Belt and Road” Green Investment Principles, increase the environmental protection obligations and detailed rules of rewards and punishments for “going out” companies, so as to enhance the environmental protection capabilities of Chinese companies; strengthen the performance of Chinese companies Legal advisory work and environmental law training work emphasizes on-site investigation of the host country’s environmental law application situation, and actively urges Chinese-funded enterprises to comply with the host country’s environmental laws and regulations through guidance and supervision, so as to prevent investment companies from falling into local environmental disputes due to differences in law enforcement standards Dilemma. Third, do a good job in the top-level design of the green financial system under the “Belt and Road Initiative”

framework. In the “Promotion of the Vision and Actions for the Joint of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road”, the “Co- Principles” add “actively encourage the diversification of participating entities and trading products in the carbon trading market, and gradually establish a dedicated Silk Road Low-carbon special funds, forming a pattern of coordinated green development of green banks, further promoting green insurance products, launching pilot projects for catastrophe risk securitization, and effectively promoting the “two banks and one fund” to actively integrate environmental and social risk management into the project management life cycle The content is elaborated.

Improve the international environmental protection cooperation mechanism, and break through the space barriers with the green development cooperation platform. First, systematically plan the “Green Belt and Road Initiative” environmental diplomacy. Promote the establishment of “Green Belt and Road Initiative” sub-forums under official cooperation platforms such as the BRICS Cooperation Mechanism, China-Africa Forum, China-ASEAN Free Trade Area, or major international conferences to share ecological civilization and China’s green ideas through multiple channels; actively strive for international The right to speak, establish and improve the principles of diversified dispute resolution mechanisms, and contribute to the world the Chinese solution of diversified dispute resolution mechanisms. Second, build a community of interests in collaborative governance of multiple entities. Promote the “Green Belt and Road Initiative” people-to-people bond, and rely mainly on think tanks such as the China-ASEAN Environmental Protection Cooperation Center and the SCO Environmental Protection Cooperation Center to strengthen the exchanges and capacity building of “industry-university-research” personnel in the areas along the route to “communicate, share, and build together To achieve win-win and shared development, for example, China takes the initiative to learn from advanced technologies in developed countries’ cutting-edge environmental protection technology research and development, industrial green transformation and upgrading, and provides a green benchmark for key cooperation among countries along the route, focusing on the environmental demands of countries and regions along the route. , The establishment of environmental protection cooperation technology projects, so as to practice the “learning-absorption-promotion” cooperative road, reflecting China's responsibility. Third, integrate existing bilateral and multilateral environmental international cooperation resource networks. Jointly grasp the opportunities for digital, networked, and intelligent development, build the “Belt and Road” ecological and environmental protection highway and ecological and environmental protection big data service platform, explore new growth momentum and development paths in the “Belt and Road” and other international cooperation, and actively promote information The industry, big data industry, and financial industry have taken root in developing countries along the route, and support enterprises from all countries to cooperate in the promotion of recyclable and clean energy technologies, and improve the level of network interconnection.

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