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## Research Article

# THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN THE MODERN POLITICS OF AFGHANISTAN

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## ABSTRACT

This article examines the increasing influence of the People's Republic of China on the economy and politics of Afghanistan. China is a global power, a member of all major political and economic coalitions and organizations. China is one of the most important partners not only for the US and Russia, but a necessary "friend" for a huge number of countries in Africa, Central Asia and the Asia-Pacific region. What resources allow China to be called a world power? In this article, we will try to consider and answer the question of why China needs Afghanistan and what plans it pursues there.

## KEYWORDS

PRC, IRA, "Great Game", geopolitical region, geostrategy, geopolitical resources, economic security, integration, trade, economy, infrastructure, conflict of interest.

## INTRODUCTION

The country's economy is the second economy in the world (after the United States) in terms of nominal GDP, and the first in terms of GDP at purchasing power parity (since 2014). China occupies a leading position both in terms of foreign trade and the volume of direct investment, as well as in terms of foreign exchange reserves. By August 2020, they amounted to more than \$3 trillion. If you look at the latest figures on GDP

growth, then at the beginning of the year this figure was equal to 3.2%. Despite the fact that the percentage is small, this is a very good indicator for a developed economy in a pandemic. In addition, industrial production increased by 14%. China joined the ranks of the World Trade Organization in 2004, and already in 2016, the yuan was recognized as the third reserve currency of the IMF. As for the military-political

resource, the PRC has its own military developments for certain types of weapons, they are highly valued. The Chinese army is the largest in the world. There are 2 million 480 thousand people in the army. The military budget is constantly growing. China began to protect its economic interests (investment projects) not only through diplomatic negotiations, but also through its private military companies [8].

### THE MAIN FINDINGS AND RESULTS

Chinese PMCs are currently present in Pakistan, where they are almost guarding the Chinese seaport in Karachi. In Yemen, they ensure the safety of their bulk carriers and tankers in the Gulf of Aden. Also, Chinese PMCs are located in Gorno-Badakhshan of Tajikistan and even have a joint base in Israel. Thus, it becomes clear that Beijing is no longer afraid to use methods of forcible cover for its business interests in other countries. Until recently, this was the exclusive prerogative of the United States, Great Britain and other Western countries [9]. The growth of China's influence on the territory of Afghanistan is not news to anyone, but not everyone knows that China has been present in Afghanistan for a long time, even at the time of its cautious policy, while the "yellow dragon" was still in deep hibernation, its paw was in Afghanistan

Afghanistan is one of the key regions of the world; it is located in the very heart of Eurasia. And many great powers tried to establish control over it. A striking example is the so-called "Great Game" - the rivalry between the Russian Empire and Great Britain for dominance in Central and South Asia in the 18th - 19th centuries, and Afghanistan is precisely at the junction of these two regions. After the October Revolution, Soviet Russia took over the baton from the Russian Empire in the struggle for influence in the region.

The Afghan war of 1979-1989 is known to everyone as "Soviet Vietnam" where the United States was able to recoup the USSR for losing in Vietnam, and the war in Afghanistan was one of the main steps towards the collapse of the USSR. It's no secret that the United States supported the Mujahideen in every possible way in the war against the Soviet army, but it was not the only one. I must say that the interests of China and the United States at that time coincided, they had one enemy - the USSR. For example, the Chinese and US teams did not come to the 1980 Olympics, their governments boycotted it. Until about 1985, the main burden of the war in Afghanistan against the USSR was taken by the Chinese, as well as Egypt, Iran and Saudi Arabia. By the 1980s, relations between the USSR and China had reached a deep crisis, aggravated by China's war with Vietnam, and the Afghan conflict became a continuation of the same rivalry. There are many opinions and versions. Someone argues that the USSR did not want to allow Afghanistan to fall into the zone of Chinese influence, like Cambodia, Kampuchea. But the fact is that even then China used the policy of "Machiavellianism", taking the first steps towards world domination. After the centralization of power, thanks to the USSR, the Republic of China first of all tried to get rid of the main obstacle for it, which was the USSR. The powerful Soviet forces on the border with the PRC, and even the Limited contingent in Afghanistan, posed a threat to China. As are the US troops at the moment. China and Afghanistan have a direct border through the Wakhan Corridor, where Chinese bases are already located, the place where the military base is located is strategic. The borders of three countries (Tajikistan, China and Afghanistan) converge there [10]. Why is this important for China? Because the corridor at the level of northern Afghanistan goes hand in hand with the Xinjiang problem, and in this regard, the Chinese government really wants to take everything under control so that

no terrorist forces can use the corridors, leaving for the territory of Afghanistan. Despite the fact that there is not a single Chinese soldier on the territory of Afghanistan, official Kabul puts pressure and says that they should be stationed there. This is the main contradiction. The PRC has long considered the territories of neighboring states to be part of its country, which is why for a long time there have been various conflicts of low and medium intensity related to border issues due to the aggressive attitude of the PRC. Afghanistan is no exception. China's interests in Afghanistan are a continuation of the same "Great Game", but with new participants, for the time being, only one continent has no interests there, and this is Antarctica. Afghanistan is necessary for Kitau as one of the main crossroads for the implementation of the land route of the One Belt One Road project there, which can actually be called "Chinese-style globalization", and the presence of military bases of NATO countries there pose a direct threat to China's sovereignty. Its participation in various anti-terrorist, as well as operations against drug trafficking, in the framework of the struggle of which the SCO was created, is direct evidence of these words because, despite various multilateral agreements within the framework of the Shanghai Security Cooperation Organization, China has signed and implemented other bilateral agreements between the participating countries represented by Tajikistan, Pakistan and Afghanistan as a reason to increase their influence in this zone. And these are only official projects and which we can observe even without comment from the Chinese side. We can't even guess how many unofficial and illegal projects China can implement on the territory of Afghanistan, the situation inside which we cannot constantly and objectively monitor due to the chaos due to the ongoing conflict on its territory. China's famous "soft power" is in full swing. China now intends to build a China-Pakistan-Afghanistan coalition, and the first step

was taken with the construction of the railway, which is part of the "One Belt - One Road". It would seem that everything was going well enough until a new government came to Pakistan, which began to criticize the large loans from China, and these loans were largely taken for the construction of the road. In this scheme, Afghanistan is seen as a third element rather than a second one. China has now sent a number of its economic advisers to Afghanistan in an attempt to reach out directly to the Afghan leadership in order to regulate local Afghan reforms there. But, apparently, so far this is not very successful: Afghanistan simply does not want to enter into economic reforms - it only talks about the need for investment [11]. Of course, there is some contact between the Chinese and the Afghans, and there are even known cases of communication between the emissaries of the PRC and representatives of the Taliban movement. Even according to a 2018 Gallup poll, China ranks just behind India in terms of Afghan people's approval of the powers involved in the Afghan crisis. But the PRC authorities do not understand all the specifics of life in the Islamic Republic and, as experts say, cannot build contact with the ordinary population. The problem is that the Chinese do not have the experience of working with religion and religious people as the US, Russia and especially the UK has. For communist China, this is an alien and irreconcilable ideology, and the situation with the Uighurs is a direct confirmation of this. Religion has always played a huge role in Afghanistan and rough and large-scale actions in the form of direct annexation or pressure that China is used to have no results, which can be seen from the experience of Great Britain and in 2 Anglo-Afghan wars, the USSR and the USA.

### CONCLUSION

An agreement with the elite is one thing, but attracting the ordinary civilian population, which really has a huge weight in Afghanistan, which is already incomprehensible to the CCP of the PRC, in its turn is much more difficult and at this stage of increasing the military presence and attracting various mercenary military formations. This can only strain relations between these countries, in connection with which the question arises, how long will it take until the PLA army enters Afghanistan and when will American troops leave Afghanistan?

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