

CHINA AND THE WORLD ORDER

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Executive Summary

1. China as the second largest economy today is set to gradually shape and reconstruct the international order.
2. China has been paying increasing attention to its maritime interests following its growing integration with the global economy.
3. In 2013, the Chinese leadership announced the One Belt, One Road initiative which is a strategic construct of Chinese peripheral influence and regional integration.
4. To China, the South China Sea in many ways is far more important than the East China Sea and the Indian Ocean; it is currently facing a lot of uncertainties in the territorial disputes.
5. Central to China's great power politics is China-US relations, the dominant relation in the international order today.
6. China and the United States have huge incentives to explore a new cooperative model of "new relations between great powers" to avoid the so-called "the tragedy of great power politics", namely conflict or war between two great powers.
7. A "new type of great power relations" could help to break old mindsets, challenge realist thinking and erase Cold War mentality.
8. However, there are challenges in big power relations especially with globalisation.
9. Globalisation has weakened national economic sovereignty, causing nation-states to face unprecedented difficulties in various economic aspects, including employment, tax collection and social equality.

10. The United States too is negatively impacted by globalisation, hampering its ability to maintain the current world order.
11. While China and the United States share many common interests and are highly interdependent, a new world order is viable only with the cooperation of China and the United States.
12. As a great power, China needs to take the initiative to go beyond its responsibility as a “developing nation” to advance larger regional and global peace and prosperity.