

China the World Leader: China as the strongest power by 2050, singular vision for economics politics and defense

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Abstracts

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SUMMARY

China's actions around the world in 2019 are so significant that China is close to becoming the most influential country worldwide. China's actions can be viewed as a hand in a global card game, cards being played one by one across multiple economic, political and military areas of competition with a single unified purpose in mind, to ultimately win the game.

Chinese leaders have made no bones about their plans to make China the "most important nation" on the planet by 2050 and various tactics are being deployed across multiple industries in order to achieve this aim. However, there is much commentary on Chinese expansion and general concern from western analysts as they wrongly presume that China is hell bent on military or economic domination.

The truth is much more evasive as China is looking for a competitive edge and has shown no signs of outright aggression in the vast majority of global conflicts. Chinese strategic efforts around the globe are far from perfect and many have ended up counterproductive and regressive for the Chinese state. That being said, China is an ambitious competitor and its willingness to invest heavily around the world is to make the country an increasingly important global player.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

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A Chinese company buying a leading foreign company has become an increasingly common story published in the international business press, especially for titles based in Europe. Though the specific reasons for why Chinese companies are so keen to buy foreign companies vary, a common thread is the importance of gaining access to foreign markets and thus exerting influence to suit Chinese interests. Dystopian analysis, however, is wide of the mark. Chinese companies are building international portfolios as a means of wielding a greater influence on global business affairs rather than for world domination. Yet now those plans are running into trouble and the Chinese expansion is coming under strain.

In technology and defense, China needs to collect intellectual property and learn how to build advanced weapons or the best mobile phones so that it can become the key global manufacturer selling to the world and retaining the best for itself. Politically the country needs allies and diplomatic favor so it funds huge infrastructure projects all over the world, which has the additional benefit of providing assets and income in years to come. China has ambitions to control what it sees as its territory in the South China Sea and it has to become a significant naval power in order to do so, this has the side benefit of allowing China more clout on the international stage further enhancing its status. Not all of China's ploys are successful however and many are becoming counterproductive, but at the current rate of progress it is hard to see China not at least drawing parallel with the US by 2050 if not ahead in global power terms.

Chinese technology companies are now a global force having successfully become market leaders not only domestically but also popular across many advanced economies. Major problems exist, however. Big Chinese technology companies are vulnerable to trade disruptions; loss of intellectual property within China, destroying unique selling points and commercial value, is another. Undoubtedly technological innovation has been rapid, driving global expansion, but that is now under pressure. The business environment for the likes of Huawei is becoming much tougher amid US diplomatic efforts directed towards stemming the international business of that company.

SCOPE

Look at China's influence on the global stage and how it is developing

See what industries China is focusing on and why

Learn about what goals China has in mind and why

See the problems that China will encounter over the coming decade

REASONS TO BUY

Why is China building up its defense industry?

What are China's long term goals?

What obstacles will China face in future?

How strong is its economic outlook?

Can China become the 'most important' country within twenty years?

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Executive Summary

Chinese firms buying assets overseas in bid for greater global commercial influence

Chinese overseas infrastructure investments expand global influence

Chinese defense industry and military goals tie in with the country's broader ambitions

China tech firms are innovating rapidly but face big problems on international stage

Chinese firms buying assets overseas in bid for greater global commercial influence

Chinese expansion into Portugal signals wider intentions on exerting influence around the world

Expect minority shareholdings as China scouts out future options

Activity in Germany is indicative of wider Chinese global ambitions and problems

European governments are now acting to stem influence of China on critical economic sectors

China will continue to seek big-budget takeovers of European companies

Chinese overseas infrastructure investments expands global influence

Belt and Road Initiative is propelling Chinese power around the world

Purchasing of European ports represents big extension of Chinese influence

Infrastructure Investment into Africa translates into rising Chinese influence, overtaking the United States

Chinese companies and government stand to gain heavily from current arrangements in Africa

Exporting of Chinese power generation infrastructure helps to expand global influence

Chinese defense industry and military goals tie in with the country's broader ambitions

China has significant long-term goals for the PLA

In many ways China's future plans for the PLA are cautious considering what impressive progress has already been made

China already has a top tier military when taking into account budget, financial health and manpower

By 2030 only the US will have similar or better capabilities than China

China wants significant military power to feed into its wider political and economic goals

Chinese defense firms are now unofficially in the global top ten

The majority of Chinese arms stay in China, but growing amounts exported within Asia and Africa

Building the hardware is less of a challenge for China, but training troops for it is

China is gathering military knowledge, as it is in other industries

China buys military equipment from Russia, but Russia has been displeased with China's apparent copying

Copying foreign designs by any means necessary is not sensible for multiple reasons

China has still not developed its own military doctrine and appropriate equipment
“Freedom of Navigation” operations are evidence of a significant push back on China’s defense policies

China Djibouti base is an attempt to replicate western idea of military power

China tech firms are innovating rapidly but face big problems on international stage

Silicon Valley is increasingly copying China, evidencing innovation of new Chinese players

Chinese technology is going global, and the pace of expansion is likely to speed up

Intellectual property problems have harmed Chinese global expansion

Chinese technology companies face major threats in US trade war

Key Findings

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