

THE IMPACT OF CHINA'S BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE ON RUSSIA-CHINA ENERGY RELATIONS

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Introduction

The Belt and Road Initiative, proposed by China in 2013, is an ambitious global infrastructure and economic project covering over 140.¹ Energy cooperation is among the main directions of BRI, ensuring China's energy security and strengthening its positions in the international arena.²

Russia is an important partner for China in the execution of energy projects within the framework of the BRI due to the substantial reserves of oil and gas.³ Analysis of the influence of BRI on Russia-China energy relations gives ground for evaluating the economic and political consequences of their cooperation and consequences for regional and global energy security.⁴

Research Aim

To analyze China's influence through the Belt and Road Initiative on the Russia-China strategic energy projects and their consequences in a political and economic way.⁵

Research Objectives

¹ Wang, J. (2023). Research on the Expansion of China-Russia Energy Cooperation in the Context of the Belt and Road. *The Frontiers of Society, Science and Technology*, 5(5), 35-38. <https://doi.org/10.25236/FSST.2023.050505>

² Zemánek, L. (2020). Belt & Road Initiative and Russia: From Mistrust Towards Cooperation. *Human Affairs*, 30(2), 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.1515/humaff-2020-0019>

³ Zhang, X. (2017). Analysis of Oil and Gas Cooperation between China and Russia. *SHS Web of Conferences*, 39, 01034. <https://doi.org/10.1051/shsconf/20173901034>

⁴ Liu, N.-X. (2019). How the Belt and Road Initiative Can Help Strengthen the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. *International Quarterly*, 75(1), 56-68. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21599165.2019.1576802>

⁵ See footnote 2

— Study the history and dynamics of the participation of Russia in the BRI's energy component.⁶

— To analyze key energy projects between Russia and China, including a possible second gas pipeline Power of Siberia 2 and East Siberian oil pipelines⁷.

— To analyze the political and economic impacts of cooperation on both countries and the region.⁸

— To determine the prospects for further development of relations and possible risks associated with the energy dependence⁹.

Hypothesis

Energy cooperation within the BRI framework forms a strategic tool for boosting political partnership and regional stability between Russia and China, forms a new form of economic interdependence, and shapes the global energy market.¹⁰

Materials and Methods

Materials:

- Strategic documents and agreements between Russia and China.
- Data on gas and oil pipeline projects (Power of Siberia 2, East Siberia pipelines).
- Open-access publications and analytical articles.

Methods:

- Political analysis of strategic documents and agreements¹¹.

⁶ Liu, N.-X. (2019). How the Belt and Road Initiative Can Help Strengthen the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. *International Quarterly*, 75(1), 56-68. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21599165.2019.1576802>

⁷ Reuters. (2025b, September 1). Russia's Growing Energy Ties with China Since the Ukraine War. <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/russias-growing-energy-ties-with-china-since-ukraine-war-2025-09-01/>

⁸ Wang, J. (2023). Research on the Expansion of China-Russia Energy Cooperation in the Context of the Belt and Road. *The Frontiers of Society, Science and Technology*, 5(5), 35-38. <https://doi.org/10.25236/FSST.2023.050505>

⁹ Zemánek, L. (2020). Belt & Road Initiative and Russia: From Mistrust Towards Cooperation. *Human Affairs*, 30(2), 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.1515/humaff-2020-0019>

¹⁰ See footnotes 8,9

¹¹ Zhang, X. (2017). Analysis of Oil and Gas Cooperation between China and Russia. *SHS Web of Conferences*, 39, 01034. <https://doi.org/10.1051/shsconf/20173901034>

- Case study analysis for certain projects¹².
- Comparative analysis of the dynamics of energy supply and investment flows¹³.
- Expert analysis on how the cooperation will influence political issues both regionally and globally.¹⁴

Expected Results

The establishment of drivers that shape strategic energy partnership between Russia and China.¹⁵

Assessment of political and economic implications of energy cooperation.¹⁶

Analysis of BRI's impact on the global energy market and strengthening multipolarity.¹⁷

Recommendations for further enhancement of cooperation with minimization of risks of energy dependence.¹⁸

Conclusion

Energy cooperation between Russia and China under BRI develops strategic partnership and political interdependence¹⁹. Joint energy projects shape regional stability and the global energy market²⁰. BRI opens a new window of opportunities and challenges for both countries and requires an adaptive strategy in political and energy policies²¹.

¹² Reuters. (2025b, September 1). Russia's Growing Energy Ties with China Since the Ukraine War.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/russias-growing-energy-ties-with-china-since-ukraine-war-2025-09-01/>

¹³ Wang, J. (2023). Research on the Expansion of China-Russia Energy Cooperation in the Context of the Belt and Road. *The Frontiers of Society, Science and Technology*, 5(5), 35-38. <https://doi.org/10.25236/FSST.2023.050505>

¹⁴ Liu, N.-X. (2019). How the Belt and Road Initiative Can Help Strengthen the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. *International Quarterly*, 75(1), 56-68. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21599165.2019.1576802>

¹⁵ See footnote 14

¹⁶ See footnote 13

¹⁷ Zemánek, L. (2020). Belt & Road Initiative and Russia: From Mistrust Towards Cooperation. *Human Affairs*, 30(2), 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.1515/humaff-2020-0019>

¹⁸ Reuters. (2025a, May 6). Putin and Xi to Talk Energy, Discuss Power of Siberia 2 Gas Pipeline. <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/putin-xi-talk-energy-discuss-power-siberia-2-gas-pipeline-2025-05-06/>

¹⁹ See footnote 13

²⁰ Zhang, X. (2017). Analysis of Oil and Gas Cooperation between China and Russia. *SHS Web of Conferences*, 39, 01034. <https://doi.org/10.1051/shsconf/20173901034>

²¹ Liu, N.-X. (2019). How the Belt and Road Initiative Can Help Strengthen the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. *International Quarterly*, 75(1), 56-68. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21599165.2019.1576802>

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5. Zemánek, L. (2020). Belt & Road Initiative and Russia: From Mistrust Towards Cooperation. *Human Affairs*, 30(2), 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.1515/humaff-2020-0019>
6. Zhang, X. (2017). Analysis of Oil and Gas Cooperation between China and Russia. *SHS Web of Conferences*, 39, 01034. <https://doi.org/10.1051/shsconf/20173901034>