

# Comparative Study on the "New Silk Road" Strategy Between China and the U.S.

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**Abstract:** This article focuses on comparing the Sino-US "Silk Road" strategies, in order to comprehend the efficiencies of both plans. Also the paper analyzes how these two plans affect the China-U.S. relationship under the international context. Finally, the authors call for Sino-US strengthen strategic communication and cooperation in the future.

**Keywords:** New Silk Road; Political purposes; Economic Impact; Strategic contrast

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## 1. Preface

The world's pattern is rapidly changing. All countries are experiencing rise, prosperity and recession. Only by constantly making proper policies according to the changes in the situation and implementation of improvement, a country can continue to move forward, striving to super over. In the age of globalization, mid-Asia's geopolitical value has been replaced by the huge potential of China and the United States, and the two countries have separately proposed a plan called: the "New Silk Road".

In 2011, U.S. Secretary of state Hilary Clinton clearly put forward the "New Silk Road" plan, in order to strengthen the economic ties in South Asia, and the recovery of the relationship with Afghan.

2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed to build the strategic idea of the "Silk Road Economic Zone" and "Maritime Silk Road" in the twenty-first Century. The "Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road" initiative is the main content of the strategy, namely, China's "New Silk Road".

In recent years, China's economic power strengthened, the international status gradually increased, but as the world's only superpower, the United States, in recent years, demonstrates its weaker domestic economic situation. She is trying to restore the economy through various measures, adjust the strategy in the Asia Europe region, and consolidating her existing position. The roles of China and the United States have attracted the world's attention in the world's stage, especially when both countries have

proposed the "New Silk Road" strategy almost at the same time. Due to their similar range, the two countries coexist in both competition and cooperation. From the aspect of intention, forms and attitude, what are the differences between these two countries on this strategy? What kind of cooperation between the two countries in the "New Silk Road" plan will be carried out? These are the questions the authors of this paper carry in mind.

## 2. China's "New Silk Road" Plan

### 2.1 The Belt and Road Strategy

Along the way is the "Silk Road Economic Belt" and "21st Century World Maritime Silk Road" two strategies, the Silk Road Economic Zone strategy covers the Southeast Asian economy, Northeast Asia economy, and integrated together, and eventually integrated into Europe, the formation of the economic integration of Europe and Asia, the global economic belt strategy from the sea China Unicom three continents and Silk Road Economic Belt strategy to form a sea, land, enough to combine the rapid development of China's economy with the interests of the country along the line.

### 2.2 Background of the Economic Belt of the "New Silk Road"

The Silk Road began in ancient China, ancient trade route, from the rise and flourish to decline across more than 2000 years of history. In nearly a hundred years for the redevelopment of the "Silk Road" has made unremitting efforts. 2013 in September, General Secretary Xi Jinping at the University of Kazakhstan Tanner Zalba Jef for speech

expounds the idea of the "New Silk Road" Economic Belt. This idea not only inherited the idea of the construction of the past of the Silk Road, and filled with the changing characteristics of the times. Silk Road Economic Belt covering the Northwest China, Shaanxi, Gansu, Qinghai, Ningxia, Xinjiang and other five provinces, southwest Chongqing, Sichuan, Yunnan, Guangxi And other four provinces in the urban area, the construction of this economic belt to narrow the economic ties between China and the Asian countries, political and cultural ties, for the future cooperation has laid the foundation (Feng, 2013).

### **2.3 Background of the Silk Road on the Sea in 21st Century**

Ocean is a natural link between the economic and cultural exchanges among countries, has a long history of Maritime Silk Road starting from Qin and Han Dynasties is the cultural exchanges between China and the West produced great and profound changes. Since the reform and opening up, China and the Southeast Asia regional exchanges have become increasingly close, and an important part of Southeast Asia is 21st century maritime silk Lu, in the current global political and trade pattern changing situation, China Construction of new trade routes, thereby gradually to link up the various regions of the world, which the core value is the channel value and strategic security. Especially the in China become the world's second largest economy, the global political and economic pattern of vertical and horizontal In the context of the "21st Century World Maritime Silk Road" will undoubtedly greatly enhance China's strategic security.

### **2.4 Relationship with the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.**

Asian infrastructure Investment Bank, referred to as the Asian Investment Bank, is a government based Asian regional multilateral development agencies, focusing on supporting infrastructure construction. 2014 in October, President Xi Jinping proposed to build the Investment Bank, as of April 2015, the Asian Investment Bank has reached 55 countries, including the major countries, such as the United States and Japan (Zhang, 2014).

"The Belt and Road" initiative is to strengthen the cooperation between the European and Asian countries, to promote trade and trade, to achieve mutual benefit and win-win situation. Asian Investment Bank focused on solving the problem of infrastructure, while stimulating the rapid development of economy.

"The Belt and Road", the Investment Bank will provide a strong financial support for the implementation of the "The Belt and Road", while the development of "The Belt and Road" will lead to more opportunities for the future development of the Asian Investment Bank and the devel-

opment of the "New Silk Road", the two plans will jointly promote the development of Asian and European countries and even the global economy, a broad prospect.

### **3. The United States' "New Silk Road" Plan**

Strategy in order to make Afghanistan in after rehabilitation exercise after smooth transition, the United States government proposed the Eurasian version of the "New Silk Road" strategy, although mainly in Afghanistan, but it is for the United States itself has strategic significance." a safe, stable and prosperous Afghanistan needs a security, stability and prosperity of the region is the "New Silk Road" starting point. However, the focus is not limited to this. Ambon research team's findings, the United States government on the "New Silk Road" was conceived early in 2009 have been prototype, 2009 October 6th, the United States Department of state for Political Affairs William Burns had to the American Chamber of Commerce published a speech, the theme is "the Silk Road trade and Investment: new path of the United States and Central Asia economic ties, he in his speech referred to the establishment and strengthening economic ties with Central Asia for several purposes: energy. The second is central Asia's economic and political modernization. The third is security issues; the United States hopes to keep partners together to maintain security in Central Asia. The fourth is linking local people and society (Zhao, 2012).

#### **3.1 Domestic Background**

1) The United States government in maintaining great economic expenditure of the war in Afghanistan the U.S. economic recovery more difficult, the expenditure of international studies, Watson, released in June 2011, the report, in 2011 dollars fixed value calculation, the federal government of the United States of America in the war in Afghanistan has spending war costs at about \$2.6 trillion, far higher than the official figures. If the tremendous pressure from the Obama administration together with the United States for veterans set of social security costs, expenditures will be as high as 3.7 trillion - \$4.4 trillion (Zhao, 2012);

2) Due to the long war on terror, it brought miserably heavy casualties to the US. The domestic economy is not Boom, people's weariness rise high. it's started by a 88% support of troops, then ended to only 39% support of the rate;

3) Obama's commitment, in order to obtain the re-election of the people support rate, in order to reflect their own political transcripts, strive to develop a strategic plan for the "New Silk Road".

#### **3.2 External Environment**

Afghanistan after years of war, the economy has been severely damaged, a substantial decline in the gross national

product, many people in exile. Although the United States has invested some resources in the economic reconstruction and humanitarian projects, with huge anti-terrorism military input apart, the people of Afghanistan and the region of the left "only anti-terrorism is not people's livelihood, leaving the negative image. In adjusted to its global strategy, since the "9.11", the United States has been concentrated energy to deal with the war in Iraq and Afghanistan war on terror that in a certain extent, ignored the development in the Asia Pacific region dealings. The United States engaged in counterterrorism, Asia Pacific area quietly developing. On the two level of economic and political power, the world powers shift from the west to the East. In order to solve this situation, the United States should not immediately change her strategy; focus will be shifted to the Asia Pacific region.

### 3.3 "New Silk Road" Strategic Contrast

China and the United States as the world's superpowers, chasing each other on the world stage, each of which has their own advantages, then on the plans to implement the "New Silk Road", the two countries have what kind of advantages and disadvantages?

#### 3.3.1 Strategic Scope

China and the United States "Silk Road" strategy is involved in Central Asia

United States: Afghanistan has been the center of the Central Asian region and the South Asia region plans to form a United States in Central Asia and South Asia to the United States as the leading geopolitical plate.

China: the scope of China's "New Silk Road" strategy than the scope of the Silk Road wider, land "Silk Road Economic Belt" relates to Central Asia, China, western provinces. In the 21st century "maritime Silk Road", relying on the construction of China ASEAN Free Trade Area, the economic belt along the coast of China and Southeast Asia, South Asia and Africa port city relate together.

#### 3.3.2 Strategic Intent

1) The United States Introduced the "New Silk Road" Plan.

Primary purpose is to restore the economic situation in Afghanistan, through to Afghanistan as the center, building and the surrounding area and South Asia trade networks, improve infrastructure construction and the legal system, parties attract investment and construction to achieve transformation and upgrading of economic success, achieve national the smooth transition of economic sustainable development and social and consolidate its up to ten years of victories. To improve America's position in the minds of the people of the region, to enhance the prestige, so that it can better establish long-term dominance. Furthermore, weaken Russia in Central Asia, China in Southeast Asia's potential force. Finally, to strengthen the

comprehensive national strength, enhance the international status, expanded in the United States in Southeast Asia and even the whole the influence of the Asia Europe region, "the New Silk Road" strategy is more like a foreign policy vision for Central Asia and South Asia.

2) China Introduced "The New Silk Road" Plan

The establishment of land on the Silk Road Economic Belt and the maritime Silk Road Economic Zone plans through economic and trade means to achieve economic exchanges, political union, the establishment of a peaceful environment for common development, is the heritage and development of the ancient Silk Road.

#### 3.3.3 Strategic Advantages and Disadvantages Contrast

1) Time: the United States Proposed the "New Silk Road" Plan Earlier.

The United States in 2011 proposed the "New Silk Road" strategy; take advantage of the time, the development and implementation of the relevant agreement can go ahead.

2) Area: China Being Close to Central Asia and Southeast Asia Region, Has Geographical Advantage

The United States is far from Asia, and China is the Asian countries. Her West and the southeast coast have implemented the policy of the economic opening. At the same time, the international voice pointed out that "the Silk Road should be lead by the Asian, western countries should not be involved too much". This shows that China's implementation of "New Silk Road" plan is easier than the United States.

3) Funding: China Gains More Funding than the United States in the "New Silk Road" Plan\

**Table 1.** COMPARISON OF CHINA AND THE U.S."NEW SILK ROAD" PLAN FUNDS

Country	U.S.A	China
	Dependent on Asian banks, foreign investors, private sector capital injection	Southeast Asia and Central Asia also have a lot of investment in Chinese enterprises, with a large economic complement
	Domestic financial downturn	China announced that the government will invest \$40000000000 to set up the Silk Road fund
Funding Situation	Has invested a lot of money to the Afghanistan and Iraq, it is difficult to independently support the recovery of Afghanistan's economy	Using a large quantity of foreign exchange reserves, inject \$62000000000 into the state-owned policy banks, creating a connection to the overseas market infrastructure projects
	A large number of national foreign exchange reserves.	Asian Investment Bank's financial support.

Source: Information compiled by the authors of this paper

4) Politics: China has more Political Advantageous than the U.S.

With the heart of Central Asia, has always been a strategic area of the Eurasian continental competitions in the world, China and the five Central Asian countries have united to form a strategic partnership of friendly relationship, higher trust degree due to the good neighborly and friendly relations. Non-interference with each other's foreign policy has also been an unprecedented benefit. This has achieved the win-win cooperation of the situation after bilateral cooperation that laid a good foundation (Zhao, 2012).

In the United States to Afghanistan for military war this ten years, its influence in the Asia Pacific region is also greatly enhanced; but under the situation compelled, the United States had to withdraw its troops in Afghanistan and Iraq, then through plans to use the "New Silk Road", continue to Afghan control, continuation of the interests of the occupation, it is conceivable that the Central Asian region know the actual intention, preparedness and vigilance is essential. Therefore for the U.S. version of the "New Silk Road" cannot completely open and equal were strategic cooperation.

**Table 2.** COMPARISON OF OIL PRODUCTION AND IMPORT VOLUME IN 2014

	Petroleum Production	2011-2014 Annual Rise Rate	Crude Oil Net Imports	Compared to 2012
China	4300000 barrels / day	6%	28900 tons / day	Fall 20.6%
U.S.A	13000000 barrels / day	28%	33500 tons /day	Rise 7.5%

Source: (Liu Fenghua, 1994).

As can be seen from Table 2, the United States to reduce oil dependence on the Middle East at the same time, China's dependence on the region's oil is increasing, which will have a significant impact on the geopolitical.

2) Tolerance: the United States "New Silk Road" Strategy is Relatively Low

America's "New Silk Road" in Afghanistan as the center, the scope excludes opponents of Russia and China, its essential purpose is to safeguard its own interests; and China's strategic plan for the "New Silk Road" open in most parts of Eurasia, with greater inclusiveness. The reason is that China occupies the center of the Asian continent, starting from the Chinese border, will run through the entire continent of Asia, so China's position determines China's "New Silk Road" strategy will have the biggest inclusion.

3) Strategies: China "New Silk Road" Strategy is More Feasible than the American's

Under the cooperation and support to get the United States "New Silk Road" program of domestic public support rate is low, mainly military plans expected value

is too high, the financial, to support Afghanistan's infrastructure construction plan to carry out power obviously insufficient, and Afghanistan and neighboring areas of the situation is not stable, the regime problem is severe, the environment is not conducive to economic development, but the United States did not pay attention to this, insist on not so clear, the complex relationship between the background of implementation of the silk road project, is undoubtedly overestimated their own strength and ignore the environment. Also, the United States "New Silk Road" strategy exclude Iran, Iran does not but Afghanistan's neighbors, and communication Very close trading partners, lack of participation in Iran, the United States of America's "New Silk Road" strategy is also more difficult to achieve(He and Zhang,2013).

#### 4. Sino-US "New Silk Road" Strategy Implementation Forecast

The propose and implementation of the "New Silk Road" strategy for both China and the United States demonstrated great economic, political and cultural development opportunities. But the implementation of the strategy needs to be carried out according to the comprehensive national strength and the status quo of the two countries.

##### 4.1 China's "New Silk Road" Strategy Implementation Forecast

Chinese version of the "New Silk Road" get the country's attention, the establishment of special funds to invest in the construction, and its strategy itself is in line with China's current national conditions.

From the following four aspects of China's "New Silk Road" strategy for the implementation of forecast:

##### 4.1.1 Geographical Advantages

China aims to promote exchanges and cooperation in the political, economic and cultural aspects of the three aspects of political, economic and cultural exchanges, China and the "New Silk Road" along the country's good relations, deepen regional cooperation to achieve win-win results are willing to see each country.

##### 4.1.2 Existing Geographical Position and Transport Network Advantages

Develop a good connection between countries, such as China and Central Asian railway facilities, in order to better implement the "New Silk Road" plan.

##### 4.1.3 Public Opinion Supports

The development of China's West has been relatively backward areas. There, people live in poverty, the economy of a single source, the industry is relatively backward, and the implementation of the "New Silk Road" will greatly improve its regional environment, promote

the positive development of various industries, increase employment rate, change the life of the region, there is a way to reduce terrorism, I believe people are very happy to accept.

#### **4.1.4 High Ethnic Tolerance**

China's "New Silk Road" strategy is the revival of the "Silk Road" in history, which is conducive to the integration of Chinese and Western culture, the high degree of national tolerance, the situation of economic globalization, a new way of regional cooperation will not only promote economic development, but also promote political exchanges between different ethnic groups, so that people can be expected to get the support of most countries in the region.

#### **4.2 The United States "New Silk Road" Strategy Implementation Forecast**

Although America's "New Silk Road" initiative surface won the response of the countries of Central Asia and South Asia, but due to various reasons, the development or to face a variety of difficulty. The strategic significance of the development with high-profile return to the United States in the Asia Pacific region Hongyuan target, is conducive to the consolidation of the America's war effort in Afghanistan, but the strategy of high starting point, need to solve the problem.

From the following four aspects to analyze the implementation of the United States, the "New Silk Road" and the future implementation of the forecast:

##### **4.2.1 Earlier Strategic Plan Establishment**

Some basic facilities have been completed, especially in the construction of Cross railway construction has made gratifying progress, which is conducive to the development of some of the plans.

##### **4.2.2 Low level of Tolerance**

Strategy with its own interests as the center, the program is low, with the United States known as the "World Police" title, and most of the South Asian countries in a tense state, Afghanistan's neighbors, to connect good Central Asia to South Asia's economic and political channels, the establishment of regional cooperation organization, good relations with Pakistan, Iran, India and other countries is an additional important, foreign war is the first step in the United States to address the task(Wang,2011).

##### **4.2.3 Afghanistan's Domestic Instability**

Due to the withdrawal of NATO troops, Afghanistan's domestic environment is still in a period of turmoil, which makes investors prohibitive, economic development is blocked, so the short-term economic development in Afghanistan is impossible.

##### **4.2.4 Low Public Support**

In the United States, the military is a major supporter of

the strategy, the State Council the prospect to doubt that the attitude of the.2014 there are plenty of people who years later, America's interest in Central Asia will decline sharply, the United States, political will and economic strength and resources to implement this state

#### **5. "New Silk Road" Strategic Competitive Analysis**

Because of the "New Silk Road" between China and the United States involved in the Central Asian region, there is a certain degree of competition and conflict between the two sides.

##### **5.1 Position and Attitude of the United States**

The recovery of the United States influence control strategy is actually dated from a very long time ago before the government launched the "Great Central Asia strategy". The U.S. version of "New Silk Road" program "Central Asia" plan of the premaster version is in the name of reviving Afghanistan region economy with transformation. There is no clear pointed out that China in the U.S. version of the "New Silk Road" of the position Role play how, which also may indicate that the US intends to avoid the sensitivity of this topic. In recent years, according to the U. S. President Barrack Obama's diplomatic moves, there are some hidden high-profiles show that the U.S is returning to the Asia Pacific, and America's biggest rival is increasingly powerful China, the United States has always been like to the bottom line of military exercises to challenge the enemy, for example by in the southwest Pacific, to contain the coastal areas of China, through the Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean trade routes.

##### **5.2 China's Attitude and Response Measures**

The face of the United States, China's attitude is friendly, should be correct attitude, active and positive, and based on the long-term to deal with. The main energy through the following six ways:

##### **5.2.1 Support Afghanistan Become Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member**

This is conducive to Chinese involvement in the process of revitalizing the country to go to Afghanistan.

##### **5.2.2 Develop Good Sino-India and Sino- Kazakhstan Relationship**

China and India in the world stage to develop rapidly, economic strength has gradually improved, good Sino-Indian relations are conducive to the development of bilateral economic and political fields, India is the most important country in South Asia, its strategic position is not to be ignored, China and India to establish a good ally, deepening interoperability, India has always insisted on independent foreign policy, not to worry about its dependence on strategic measures. Location (after I owned two already built

the railway, oil and Tim popularity pipeline also through this country), belong to our country on the west gate! Plus China has, for a long time and Kazakhstan relations more closely, with good political relations, trade turnover is the five Central Asian countries the highest, making it become the land Silk Road Economic Belt of the west a breakthrough, but the most suitable. If continued good momentum of development in bilateral relations, China's implementation of the "New Silk Road" program have a big advantage.

### 5.2.3 Take Advantage of China's Historical Influences

China is one of the origins of the Silk Road in history, and she has a long history. China should seize this point and increase the history of reconstruction of the "New Silk Road".

### 5.2.4 Planning More Funds

China should be called for more organizations establish Silk Road Fund, rely on bank and private units, obtain more funding, along the construction of the "New Silk Road", along the region's people and improve the strong financial backing.

### 5.2.5 Better Sino-Pakistan Relations

China and Pakistan is the name of "good friends", Pakistan is one of the key points of America's "New Silk Road" breakthrough, just as Pakistan Relations in tension and historical issues seriously. Deepen the affairs of China and Pakistan cooperation, can effectively confront the United States in China in the Western military containment.

### 5.2.6 Strengthen Regional Cooperation with Shanghai Cooperation Organization

America is not the Shanghai Cooperation Organization members, at present, the United States to weaken the influence of China in Central Asia, a series of threats to political security strategy deployment, so China should use wisely the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, clearly opposed to everything in the Middle East are likely to occur the threatened action and deepen the cooperation between the members of the Organization.

## 6. Conclusion

All the signs indicate that the relationship between China and the United States need a profound strategic mutual trust. The question of "What kind of impact China's "New Silk Road" strategy will bring to the world?" will be too early to put forward. China's "New Silk Road" plan will be promoted with China's future rise. Her influences in Asia and Europe is also expanding. Compared with China's "New Silk Road", America's plan proposed earlier, but the implementation needs much more to be done, and its strategic outlook seems less clear.

"The Belt and Road" plan has strong radiation and is

inclusive. The United States' "New Silk Road" strategic plan needs to cooperate and complementary to the Chinese one to reach win-win results. On the other hand, now in the United States strategic center has geared from the West to the East, under the background of countering terrorism, Chinese western regional security problem becomes particularly severe. The United States implement the "New Silk Road" plan in the south area of Asia, will affect the stability of China's western regional situation, economic and cultural development. And the government of the United States also understands China's influence in East Asia and Middle East; reduces the funds invested in the South Asia region. Thus seeking China's economic support and cooperation is essential. The Sino US strategic plan for the "New Silk Road" package development in the reconstruction of Afghanistan has formed a new area of cooperation, leading to the two countries to develop a new type of relations. The authors of this paper hope new fields, in addition to the traditional economic ties between the two countries, be paved to cooperate. Together the two countries will play the world a song.

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