|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Pro** | **Con** |
| Communist values good | CCP values bad |
| Greater regional stability | Surveillance bad |
| More integrated trade: BRI | Human rights abuses |
| China should increase its own power | Increases chance of conflict with USA |

**Pro 1: China’s rise leads to better technology**

#### **World Economic Forum. (2019).***6 things to know about China's historic rise*. [online] Available at: https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/10/china-economy-anniversary/ [Accessed 24 Dec. 2019].

**China is going big on**[**research and development**](https://us.matthewsasia.com/resources/docs/pdf/Perspectives/Unicorns.pdf), with spending in the area 70% higher in 2017 than in 2012, according to analysts at Matthews Asia**. It’s also investing in high-tech industrial parks and incubators focusing on technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics and big data. Internet companies like**[**Alibaba, Tencent and Baidu**](https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/09/why-the-internet-is-yesterdays-news-in-chinas-digital-leap-forward/)**are investing billions in new research centres, AI experts and data scientists. Partly as a consequence of this, high-value businesses are being funded faster than anywhere else in the world.** As of February 2018, China ranked second behind the US in terms of its number of unicorns – privately held startup companies valued at $1 billion or more.

**Pro 2: Peaceful Rise**

#### **Beggs-French**, Amy. DOES THE RISE OF CHINA THREATEN REGIONAL PEACE AND STABILITY? Regionalsecurity.org.au. (**2019**). [online]

**China wants and needs to maintain economic growth, which is critical for the regime of the Communist Party to survive. To achieve this goal, China requires regional peace and stability and therefore Beijing seeks cooperation, not conflict**.

**Pro 3: Belt and Road**

#### **World Bank. (2019).** *Belt and Road Economics: Opportunities and Risks of Transport Corridors*. [online] Available at: https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/regional-integration/publication/belt-and-road-economics-opportunities-and-risks-of-transport-corridors [Accessed 24 Dec. 2019].

**Belt and Road transport corridors have the potential to substantially improve trade, foreign investment, and living conditions for citizens in its participating countries—**but only if China and corridor economies adopt deeper policy reforms that increase transparency, expand trade, improve debt sustainability, and mitigate environmental, social, and corruption risks.

**BRI transport projects can expand trade, increase foreign investment, and reduce poverty**—by lowering trade costs. Yet, for some countries, the costs of new infrastructure could outweigh the gains.

**Con 1: Corruption & Debt Traps**

**Diplomat**, T. (**2019**). *Why Is Anti-Chinese Sentiment on the Rise in Central Asia?*. [online] Thediplomat.com. Available at: https://thediplomat.com/2019/10/why-is-anti-chinese-sentiment-on-the-rise-in-central-asia/ [Accessed 24 Dec. 2019].

However, **Beijing’s presence in Central Asia is at times controversial, and rife with confusion and complications**.

**Chinese dominance in the region has raised major debates about high-level corruption and demands for transparency in government financial activities, especially regarding expenditure of Chinese grants and loans.** Borrowing from Beijing, in particular, has accelerated in the last decade.

**A**[**2018 report**](https://www.cgdev.org/publication/examining-debt-implications-belt-and-road-initiative-a-policy-perspective)**listed Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan among eight countries which might be vulnerable to “debt distress” given China holds**[**41**](http://www.minfin.kg/ru/novosti/novosti/struktura-gosdolga-kr-po-sostoyaniyu-na-31-avgusta.html)**percent and**[**53**](https://www.asiaplus.tj/en/news/tajikistan/economic/20170406/238357)**percent of the countries’ respective debts.**

**Con 2: US-China Conflict**

#### **The National Interest. (2019).** This Is How World War III Would Begin (As in a U.S.-China War). [online] Available at: https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/how-world-war-iii-would-begin-us-china-war-97697 [Accessed 24 Dec. 2019].

This has changed**. The expansion of Chinese interests and capabilities means that we can envision several different scenarios in which direct military conflict between China and the United States might begin.** These still include a Taiwan scenario and North Korea scenario, but now also involve [disputes in the East and South China Seas](http://finance.yahoo.com/news/japan-says-continue-patrols-china-041327811.html?soc_src=mediacontentsharebuttons), as well as potential conflict with India along the Tibetan border.

**The underlying factors are the growth of Chinese power, Chinese dissatisfaction with the US-led regional security system, and US alliance commitments to a variety of regional states. As long as these factors hold, the possibility for war will endure.**

**Con 3: China rise hurts democracy**

#### Shullman, D. **Brookings (2019).** *Protect the Party: China’s growing influence in the developing world*. [online] Brookings. Available at: https://www.brookings.edu/articles/protect-the-party-chinas-growing-influence-in-the-developing-world/ [Accessed 24 Dec. 2019].

**[China] is still frequently corrosive of democratic institutions, increasing corruption and undermining financial and political independence.**[**[12]**](https://www.brookings.edu/articles/protect-the-party-chinas-growing-influence-in-the-developing-world/#footnote-12)**China, in part to defend its economic interests, also interferes in the political systems of developing countries around the world, tipping the scales towards China-friendly politicians and policies.**[**[13]**](https://www.brookings.edu/articles/protect-the-party-chinas-growing-influence-in-the-developing-world/#footnote-13)

**The CCP judges that, as China continues to “open up” to reap the benefits of playing a more central role in the global economy, it will need to “sanitize” the external information environment to ensure that such opening does not invite ideological challenges to Party control.**