

## Chinese foreign policy

Long-standing principles of Chinese foreign policy are expressed in the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence: mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence. The Chinese leadership originally enumerated these principles in 1954 when China, with a communist government, was trying to reach out to the non-communist countries of Asia to assure them that China would not interfere in their internal affairs.

Chinese officials' position on most disputes around the world is that they should be solved by peaceful negotiations. This has been their view on the war in Afghanistan, the struggle between Israel and the Arabs, the rivalry between North and South Korea, and ethnic conflicts in Eastern Europe and Africa. At the U.N., China often abstains or refrains from voting on resolutions that mandate sanctions or interventions to reverse invasions, end civil wars, or stop terrorism. As a permanent Security Council member China's negative vote would constitute a veto, angering countries who favor intervention. By not voting or casting an abstention, China has allowed several interventions to go ahead without reversing its commitment to non-intervention.

China's regional strategy, meanwhile, has focused on deepening interdependence through infrastructure and investment. The Belt and Road Initiative represents a multifaceted effort to link China to strategic regions including Southeast Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East (Petry, 2022). By financing and constructing critical infrastructure projects, Beijing is gradually expanding its economic footprint, while also enhancing its political leverage and strategic access in key transit corridors.

China's strategy demonstrates a hybrid approach, combining multilateral engagement with alternative institutional creation. Beijing has actively increased its participation in organizations like the United Nations and the World Trade Organization, projecting itself as a cooperative global player (Dunford & Liu, 2024).

At the same time, it has developed new frameworks, such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the Belt and Road Initiative, that allow it to wield influence outside traditional Western-led institutions and build a parallel structure of global economic and political connectivity