Belt, Road, and Beyond

The CSIS Belt and Road Executive Course

About the Course

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a $1 trillion, flagship foreign policy effort of Chinese President Xi Jinping, could reshape global networks of trade, transport, and political ties within and between countries for decades to come. But since its announcement, the BRI remains shrouded in confusion and controversy. Drawing insights from leading experts and the Reconnecting Asia Project, the most extensive effort to map and analyze these developments to date, CSIS will host a three-day Master's-level introduction to China's BRI. The course will explain what the BRI is, what it is not, and how it is impacting commercial and strategic realities on the ground.

Apply Here

Applicants are admitted on a rolling basis.
### Belt, Road, & Beyond
#### Spring 2020 Course Schedule

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<th>TIME</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11</th>
<th>THURSDAY, MARCH 12</th>
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| 9 AM  | Welcome & Introductions  
     Nahmyo Thomas  
     Jonathan E. Hillman | Project Finance 101  
     John G. Graham  
     Lor Kerr | The Polar Silk Road: China in the Arctic  
     Heather A. Conley |
| 10 AM | The View from Beijing  
     Dr. Rush Doshi | Break | Break |
| 11 AM | Break | Asia's Battleground: South & Southeast Asia  
     Dr. Amy Searight  
     Richard M. Rossow | A Road to Paris? BRI, Energy, and the Environment  
     Dr. Kelly Sims Gallagher |
| 12 PM | Mapping Exercise | Lunch | Lunch Discussion: The View from Malaysia  
     H.E. Dato’ Azmil Mohd. Zabidi  
     Matthew P. Goodman |
| 1 PM  | Lunch Discussion: Five Myths about the Belt & Road  
     Jonathan E. Hillman | Lunch Discussion: China in Africa  
     Judd Devermont | Break |
| 2 PM  | Break | China's Middle East Model  
     Dr. Jon B. Alterman | Break |
| 3 PM  | A Great Game for the 21st Century: Russia & Central Asia  
     Dr. Jeffrey Mankoff | Break | The 5G Race  
     Paul Triolo |
| 4 PM  | Break | Port Negotiation Simulation  
     Dr. Anthony Wanis-St. John | Break |
| 5 PM  | Deals & Debt Sustainability  
     Stephanie Segal | Networking Reception | The Road Ahead: Lessons Learned & Looking Forward  
     Matthew P. Goodman  
     Jonathan E. Hillman |
| 6 PM  | | | Closing Remarks & Evaluations |
Seminar Descriptions

Seminars and speakers are subject to change.

DAY ONE
THE BELT

The View from Beijing
As China’s most powerful leader since Mao Zedong, Xi Jinping aims to restore China’s global power status. The BRI builds upon his predecessors’ efforts and harnesses China’s domestic interests toward achieving these global ambitions. Chinese officials recognize the BRI is not without risks, however, and they are already making course corrections, as Dr. Rush Doshi, fellow at the Brookings Institution and director of the Brookings China Strategy Initiative, explains.

Five Myths about the Belt and Road
Popular descriptions of the BRI abound with colorful characterizations, from a Chinese version of the Marshall Plan, to the return of the ancient Silk Road. Jonathan Hillman, director of the CSIS Reconnecting Asia Project, tests these and other claims.

A Great Game for the Twenty-first Century
Russia and Central Asia
Dr. Jeffery Mankoff, senior fellow and deputy director of the CSIS Russia and Eurasia Program and author of Russian Foreign Policy: The Return of Great Power Politics, discusses China’s growing influence in Central Asia and the great power dynamics of Sino-Russian cooperation and competition.

Deals and Debt Sustainability
Many emerging markets and low-income economies have turned to foreign loans and complex agreements to finance their infrastructure investment. The resulting debts, and often opaque lending practices, have raised concerns about debt sustainability. Stephanie Segal, senior fellow of the CSIS Simon Chair in Political Economy, examines the potential impacts for recipient countries.
DAY TWO

THE ROAD

Project Finance 101
Drawing from decades of experience at the World Bank’s International Finance Corporation, the Inter-American Development Bank, and in the private sector, Lori Kerr and John G. Graham cover the basics of how infrastructure projects are conceived, negotiated, financed, and executed in an international context.

Asia’s Battleground
South and Southeast Asia
There are few places the BRI is as warmly embraced and fiercely contested as South and Southeast Asia, where it has surfaced in debates about elections and even regional conflicts. Dr. Amy Searight, senior adviser and director of the CSIS Southeast Asia Program, and Richard M. Rossow, senior adviser and Wadhwani Chair in U.S.-India Policy Studies, put this full range of regional reactions into context.

China in Africa
With nearly two decades of experience working in the policy and intelligence communities on sub-Saharan Africa, the director of the CSIS Africa Program, Judd Devermont, leads a discussion on how all BRI projects may not be created equal. On a continent that is now host to the first overseas Chinese naval base, there is a pressing need to balance responses to the strategic risks posed by Chinese projects with local development imperatives.

China’s Middle East Model
China’s rising energy demands have led to deepening bilateral relationships with its partners in the Middle East. Dr. Jon B. Alterman, CSIS senior vice president, Zbigniew Brzezinski Chair in Global Security and Geostrategy, and director of the Middle East Program, discusses the role of China’s Belt and Road Initiative in its approach to this resource-rich, yet politically-fraught region at the cross-roads of some of the world’s busiest trade routes.

Port Negotiation Simulation
Every BRI project is the result of negotiations between China and its partners as well as interest groups from both countries. Step into the shoes of dealmakers and experience the complexities of negotiating a port project with expert coaching from Dr. Anthony Wanis-St. John, an instructor of international negotiation at American University’s School of International Service.
The Polar Silk Road
China in the Arctic
Since its announcement in 2013, the Belt and Road has expanded to the Arctic. Heather Conley, CSIS senior vice president for Europe, Eurasia, and the Arctic, will lend insight into Beijing’s long-term strategic interests there in its search for energy, mineral, and protein resources and new shipping routes and discuss China’s emerging Arctic Capabilities.

A Road to Paris?
BRI, Energy, and the Environment
Xi Jinping has said that the BRI must be green, sustainable, and fuel high-quality growth. Critics say Beijing is exporting old technology and locking countries into dirty fuel sources. Dr. Kelly Sims Gallagher, professor of energy and environmental policy and director of the Center for International Environment & Resource Policy at Tufts University, examines the BRI’s implications for global climate change.

The View from Malaysia
Far from being pawns in a great power game, recipient countries are often the most powerful and consequential actors. CSIS senior vice president and Simon Chair in Political Economy, Matthew P. Goodman moderates a lunch discussion with H.E. Dato’ Azmil Mohd. Zabidi, Malaysia’s ambassador to Washington D.C., about his country’s viewpoint as an active participant in the initiative.

The U.S. Toolkit
As global infrastructure demand rises, the U.S. is attempting to sharpen its toolkit for delivering projects abroad. November 2019 marked the launch of the multi-stakeholder “Blue Dot Network” and the U.S. Development Finance Corporation (DFC) is set to begin operations in 2020. The CSIS Project on Prosperity and Development’s deputy director and senior fellow, Erol Yayboke, and senior fellow, Romina Bandura, discuss the emerging roles of these efforts in the context of the broader U.S. development toolkit.
**The 5G Race**
China's national champions are racing to deploy fifth generation (5G) networks that could transform the global economy. This global competition has sparked a debate about the security risks of Chinese technology, the future of the global 5G industry, and the spread of digital authoritarianism. Paul Triolo, Practice Head of Geotechnology at Eurasia Group, explains where the 5G race stands, what's at stake, and what to expect.

**The Road Ahead**

*Lessons Learned and Looking Forward*
Matthew Goodman and Jonathan Hillman lead a discussion about key takeaways and lessons learned throughout the course—and aspects of the Belt and Road to watch moving forward.

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**Tuition:** $4,000 per person
*A limited amount of financial aid is available for candidates in the not-for-profit sector.*

**Date:** March 11-13, 2020

**Location:** CSIS Headquarters in Washington, D.C.
1616 Rhode Island Ave. NW

**Contact:** Barbara E. Petzen at bpetzen@csis.org

**Online:** www.csis.org/programs/executive-education/recurring-programs
*Applicants are admitted on a rolling basis. Limited space is available.*

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**About the Reconnecting Asia Project**
The Reconnecting Asia Project has assembled a unique and growing database of detailed information on over 14,000 infrastructure projects. Leaders in government, the private sector, and academia use these resources to shape policy, identify commercial opportunities, and conduct research. Reconnecting Asia and its scholars have been cited in *The New York Times*, *The Economist*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Financial Times*, and other leading outlets.
The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) is a bipartisan, nonprofit organization headquartered in Washington, D.C. founded by David M. Abshire and Admiral Arleigh Burke in 1962. For over 50 years, CSIS has been dedicated to developing practical solutions to some of the world's greatest challenges. Voted the world's number one defense and national security think tank for the past eight years, CSIS has become one of the preeminent international policy institutions focused on defense and security, regional stability, and transnational challenges ranging from energy and climate to global development and economic integration. Tom Pritzker, executive chairman of Hyatt Hotels Corporation and chairman and CEO of the Pritzker Organization, became chairman of the CSIS Board of Trustees in November 2015. Former senator Sam Nunn (D-GA), who served as chair for 16 years, remains on the Board as chairman emeritus. John J. Hamre became the Center's president and chief executive officer in April 2000.