



China's Nervous Neighbors



THIRD WAY



Introduction

From NATO to AUKUS, the US has global alliances such that the sum of likeminded nations' power is greater than each nation separately. But a growing strain of isolationism will weaken and threaten this community of nations as the People's Republic of China rises.

The fact is America has more than alliances, but true and trusted friendships. We have a “special relationship” with Great Britain. A nearly seamless border with Canada. Cooperation and mutual respect with Mexico. And deep ties with Australia, Japan, France, Germany, and many other nations. China has few true friends. It has transactions of mutual benefit and convenience with other nations, each of which are complicated and many subject to fracture. That is an advantage for the US.

Nowhere is this advantage more evident than each country's borders. America benefits from trust and partnership on our borders. There are no disputes over territory; there are no armies facing each other. China and its neighbors stare warily and sometimes with hostility across an often-armed border. This paper looks beyond Russia at 18 of China's neighbors and shows why they are nervous.



Why China's Neighbors are Important

Emergent Economies

Many are mineral rich economies seeking to bolster trade and be economically robust.

Politically Independent

Many have young political systems and are still charting their identities and governance free from domination.

Nexus to the World

China neighbors occupy four regions that serve as critical gateways to markets in Africa, Europe, Australia, and South America.



Why China's Neighbors are Nervous

Tough Neighborhood

Many countries border not only China but other superpowers or emerging powers.

Complicated Relationships

Many countries have long, complicated histories with China. Many fell in the Soviet sphere of influence and are now vying for independence.

History of Conflicts

Several nations have border disputes, recent conflicts, or wars with China. China's growth into a global power has put further risk of conflict on these nations.



Why Countries look to the US

Global Alliances

NATO, AUKUS, the Five Eyes - the US has global alliances with partner nations who could never stand up to the PRC on their own.

Geographically Stable

The US has no territorial ambition in Asia, just as it has no territorial ambition near its own shores.

Economic Cooperation

The US has trade agreements with many nations in the world. Foreign investment, technology sharing, and tourism strengthen both allied nations and the US.



China's Nervous Neighbors Occupy Four Distinct Regions

Central Asia

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan,
Mongolia, Tajikistan

East Asia

Japan, North Korea, South Korea,
Taiwan

Southeast Asia

Laos, Myanmar, Philippines,
Vietnam, Indonesia

South Asia

Afghanistan, Bhutan, India,
Nepal, Pakistan



Central Asia + Mongolia

Kazakhstan

Key Facts:

- **Population:** 19,543,464, **64th Globally** in population
- **Government:** *De jure*: Democratic Republic; *De facto*: Authoritarian
- **International Memberships:** Shanghai Cooperation Organization
- **Power Status:** Central Asia regional power
- **Military Agreements:** Collective Security Treaty Organization, relationship with NATO, Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Kazakhstan-China Relations:

- **Border with China:** ~1194mi
- **Diplomatic Relations:** Warming
- **Key Exports:** Petroleum (30.4%), Copper (23%), Iron & Steel (9.13%)
- **Bi-lateral Agreements:** Silk Road Initiative, Belt & Road Initiative, trade agreements totaling \$22 Billion.

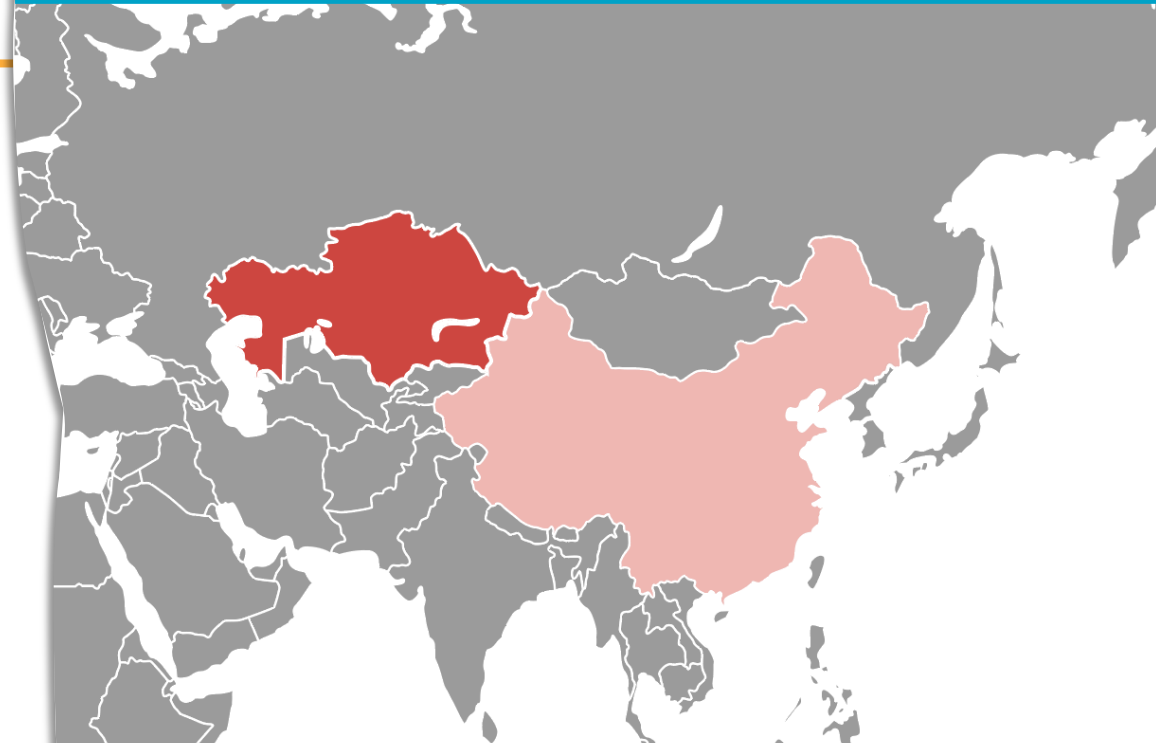
Outlook: A regional power, seeking new independence from Russian influence.

Kazakhstan's relationship with China is marked by a nation seeking to break from its heavily Russian dominated past. Kazakhstan is leveraging its geostrategic location to bolster Chinese investment in its stagnant economy. The nation has placed itself as a key partner in fueling Chinese energy and material needs, in return China has bolstered foreign direct investment. While the relationship looks bright, Kazakhstan has not completely freed itself from Russian influence, requesting Russian security forces during a period of unrest in 2022.

Further reading:

[Kazakhstan Cautiously Builds Ties with China](#)

[China's Kazakhstan Gambit](#)



Kyrgyzstan

Key Facts:

- **Population:** 6,122,781, **112th Globally** in population
- **Government:** Parliamentary Republic
- **International Memberships:** Organization For Security and Co-operation in Europe
- **Power Status:** Small, Developing Eurasian Country
- **Military Agreements:** Collective Security Treaty Organization, Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Kyrgyzstan-China Relations:

- **Border with China:** ~661 mi
- **Key Exports:** Ores (41%), Precious Stones (23.1%)
- **Economic Agreements:** , Eurasian Economic Union, Belt and Road Initiative.

Outlook: A weak former Soviet state, seeking stability and improved prosperity.

Kyrgyzstan has had difficulty stabilizing its political and economic systems following the collapse of the Soviet Union. Since the collapse, Kyrgyzstan has increasingly strengthened its ties to China. Joint-military exercises have increased due to concerns surrounding drug trafficking and the Uyghur population of both nations. Economically, Kyrgyzstan is deeply connected with Chinese trade, often compared to the previous reliance the nation had on Russia.

Further reading:

[Sino-Kyrgyz Relations: A \(Very One-sided Relationship\)](#)

[Debt to China fuels anxiety in Kyrgyzstan](#)



Mongolia

Key Facts:

- **Population:** 3,255,468, **133rd Globally** in population
- **Government:** *Semi-Presidential Republic*
- **International Memberships:** Shanghai Cooperation Organization
- **Power Status:** Central Asia regional power
- **Military Agreements:** N/A

Mongolia-China Relations:

- **Border with China:** ~2,880 mi
- **Key Exports:** Cars and Tractors (\$626 million 20.5%), Machinery and Appliances (\$388 million, 12.7%), Iron & Steel (\$325 million, 10.16%)
- **Bi-lateral Agreements:** Belt & Road Initiative, trade totaling \$3.06Billion.

Outlook: A long-standing nation with deep ties to both Russia and China, Mongolia has promising development due to the rich minerals within its borders. However, ethnic Mongolians are divided between those in Inner Mongolia (a Chinese province) and the nation of Mongolia.

Mongolia's foreign policy toward China has often been shaped through its close relationship to Russia. Since the 1990s, Mongolia's relationship with China has improved greatly, though the PRC has concerns over non-ethnic Chinese living in Mongolia. Today, Mongolia enjoys close military and political ties with both Russia and China, as well as a warm relationship with the United States. A balancing act, Mongolia calls the US "its 3rd most important neighbor." Mongolia is seeking to develop its mineral rich lands and improve the overall economic capacity of the country.

Further reading:

[What Does Xi Jinping's Third Term Mean for China-Mongolia Relations?](#)

[Over 50 Memorandums of Cooperation Signed between Mongolia, Russia and China](#)



Tajikistan

Key Facts:

- **Population:** 10,394,063, **92nd Globally** in population
- **Government:** *De jure*: Presidential Republic; *De facto*: Authoritarian
- **International Memberships:** Commonwealth of Independent States
- **Power Status:** Small underdeveloped country
- **Military Agreements:** Shanghai Cooperation Organization, CSTO

Tajikistan-China Relations:

- **Border with China:** ~296 mi
- **Key Exports:** Precious Metal (\$206 million, 50.9%), Gold (\$154 million, 38.1%)
- **Bi-lateral Agreements:** Belt & Road Initiative, economic trade with China totaling \$404 million.

Outlook: A small former Soviet client state seeking economic development and growth opportunities from a developed Chinese economy.

Tajikistan has developed much closer ties with China since the reform of its government in the 1990s. The economy still suffers from issues related to corruption and illicit drug trade. Increasingly the Tajikistan government has sought opportunities to grow its economic and military relationship with China. Tajikistan is suspected to host Chinese troops and rely on Chinese cooperation to maintain control over ethnic minorities and its border with Afghanistan.

Further reading:

[China's Rise Reverberates in Tajikistan](#)

[Xi's visit to bolster China-Tajikistan cooperation](#)

[Nation to strengthen ties with Tajikistan](#)





East Asia

Japan

Key Facts:

- **Population:** 123,201,945, **11th Globally** in population
- **Government:** Parliamentary Constitutional Monarchy
- **International Memberships:** Association of Southeast Asian Nations, G5, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Partner
- **Power Status:** Regional Military Power, Global Economic Power
- **Military Agreements:** Non-officially, alliances with US, UK, Korea, Australia

Japan-China Relations:

- **Border with China:** Sea border
- **Key Exports:** Machines (\$58.3bn, 44%), Chemical Products (\$17.2 bn 14%), Metals (\$14bn, 9.13%)
- **Bi-lateral Agreements:** \$206 billion in exports to China.

Outlook: Stable global economic power with large influence in Asian affairs. Possible emergence into a greater military power with continued expansion of Chinese military power.

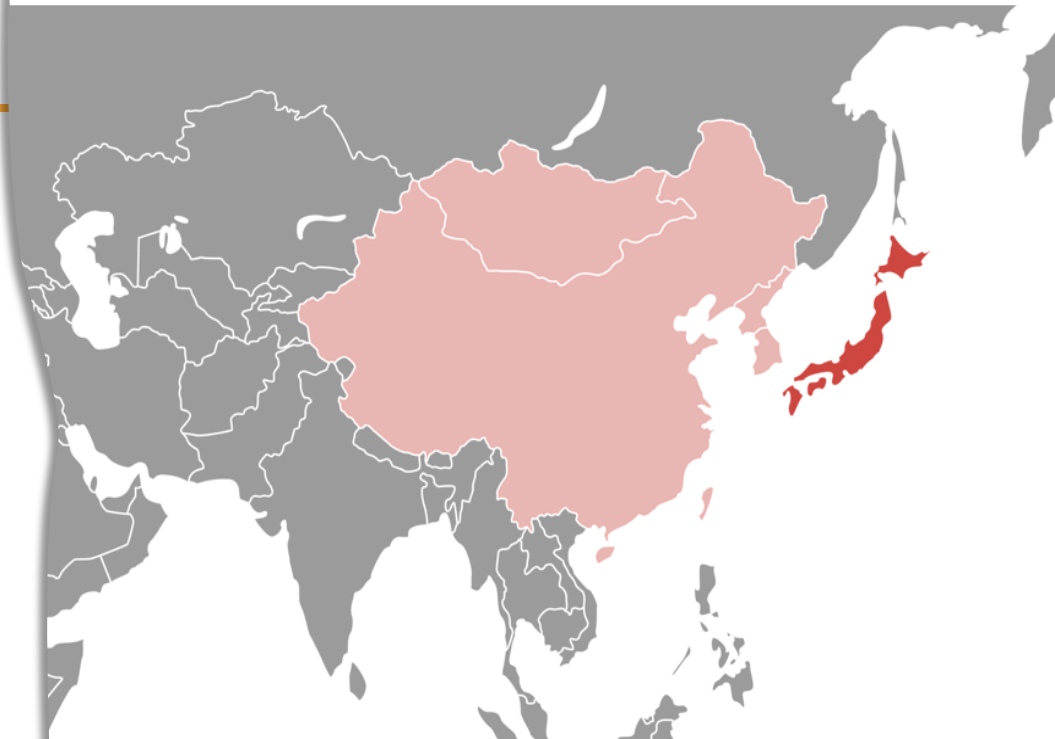
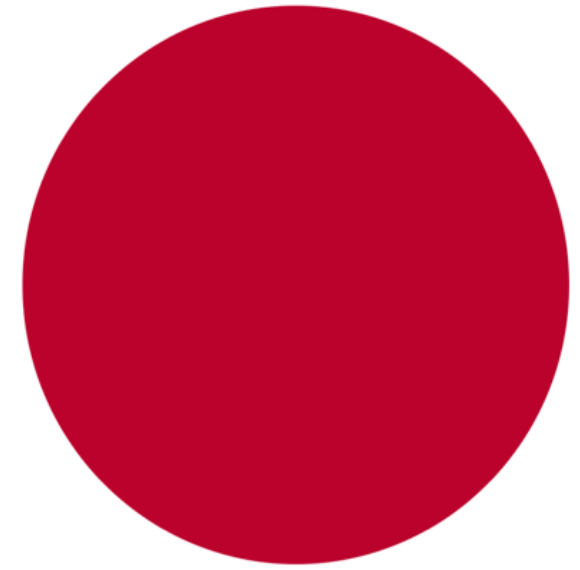
Japan's relationship with China is long and strained due to the deep traumas from WWII. In the 1970's Japan and China normalized diplomatic and trade relations. In the 2000s, Japan's relationship warmed rapidly due in part to the work of Shinzo Abe. Today, tensions still exist surrounding China's military expansion into the South China and East seas. Territorial disputes continue to exist between the two nations. Japan's growing military suggests a greater role in deterring Chinese aggression within the Pacific.

Further reading:

[China and Japan: Economic Partnership to Political Ends](#)

[Work to improve Japan-China relations has stalled](#)

[Japan vows to promote strategic, mutually beneficial ties with China](#)



North Korea

Key Facts:

- **Population:** 26,298,666, **55th Globally** in population
- **Government:** Authoritarian
- **International Memberships:** Non-Aligned Movement
- **Power Status:** Regional Military Power
- **Military Agreements:** None, Recent close alignment with Russia.

DPRK-China Relations:

- **Border with China:** 880 mi
- **Key Exports:** Minerals (\$65 million, 47%), Ferroalloys (\$25.3 million, 20%)
- **Bi-lateral Agreements:** Sino-North Korean Mutual Aide and Cooperation Friendship Treaty

Outlook: North Korea will likely continue to primarily bolsters its influence in regional matters by leveraging opportunistic relationships with China and Russia. Internal stability of the regime continues to dominate national direction.

North Korea's relationship with its neighbors is more complex than often described. Korea's historical subjugation to greater powers in China and Japan have turned North Korea inward. The party's Juche philosophy adds a level of volatility and independent decision making. While still enjoying political ties with China and Russia, increasingly North Korea's volatility and deepened relationship with Russia has caused greater strain on the Chinese-North Korean relations. The border is an escape valve for fleeing North Koreans but is heavily guarded on both sides. It is likely future cooperation will be in-part because of pressures from the United States or other Asian countries.

Further reading:

[Juche and North Korea's Global](#)

[Chinese-North Korean Relations: Drawing the Right Historical Lessons](#)

[The China-North Korea Relationship | CFR](#)



South Korea

Key Facts:

- **Population:** 52,081,799, **29th Globally** in population
- **Government:** Presidential Republic
- **International Memberships:** ASEAN, East Asia Summit, G20, APEC
- **Power Status:** Regional Political, Economic, and Military Power, Emerging Global Economic Power
- **Military Agreements:** Mutual Defense Treaty (United States), NATO global partner, OSCE

South Korea-China Relations:

- **Border with China:** Sea border
- **Key Exports:** Machines (\$85bn, ~40%), Chemical Products (\$20.2 bn ~12%)
- **Bi-lateral Agreements:** \$150 Billion in trade

Outlook: South Korea will continue to grow into its place as a global influence in technology, manufacturing, and engineering. Continued expansion of the nation's Navy and improving relationship with Japan suggest greater regional power projection.

South Korean foreign policy is shaped by a desire to be independent from its two neighbors, Japan and China. Close ties to the United States, tension with North Korea, and continual democratic reforms in the country have ensured South Korea's strong alignment with American foreign policy objectives. President Yoon's warning to China over cross-strait tensions with Taiwan did not go over well in the PRC. Areas of largest concern are how historic tensions with Japan can affect decision making with regard to China. Both democratic countries have expressed a desire to become closer partners as China's economic and military might rises.

Further reading:

[Politics and Protest in South Korea Timeline](#)

[Reality Check: South Korea and China Face More Complex Economic Dynamics](#)

[S. Korea, China hold 2+2 diplomatic security talks amid Putin's visit to N. Korea](#)



Taiwan

Key Facts:

- **Population:** 23,595,274, **56th Globally** in population
- **Government:** Semi-Presidential Republic
- **International Memberships:** N/A
- **Power Status:** Regional Economic, and Military Power, Emerging Global Economic Power
- **Military Agreements:** Implicit from America

Taiwan-China Relations:

- **Border with China:** Sea border
- **Key Exports:** Machines (\$85.2bn, ~60%)
- **Bi-lateral Agreements:** Cross-Straits Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement

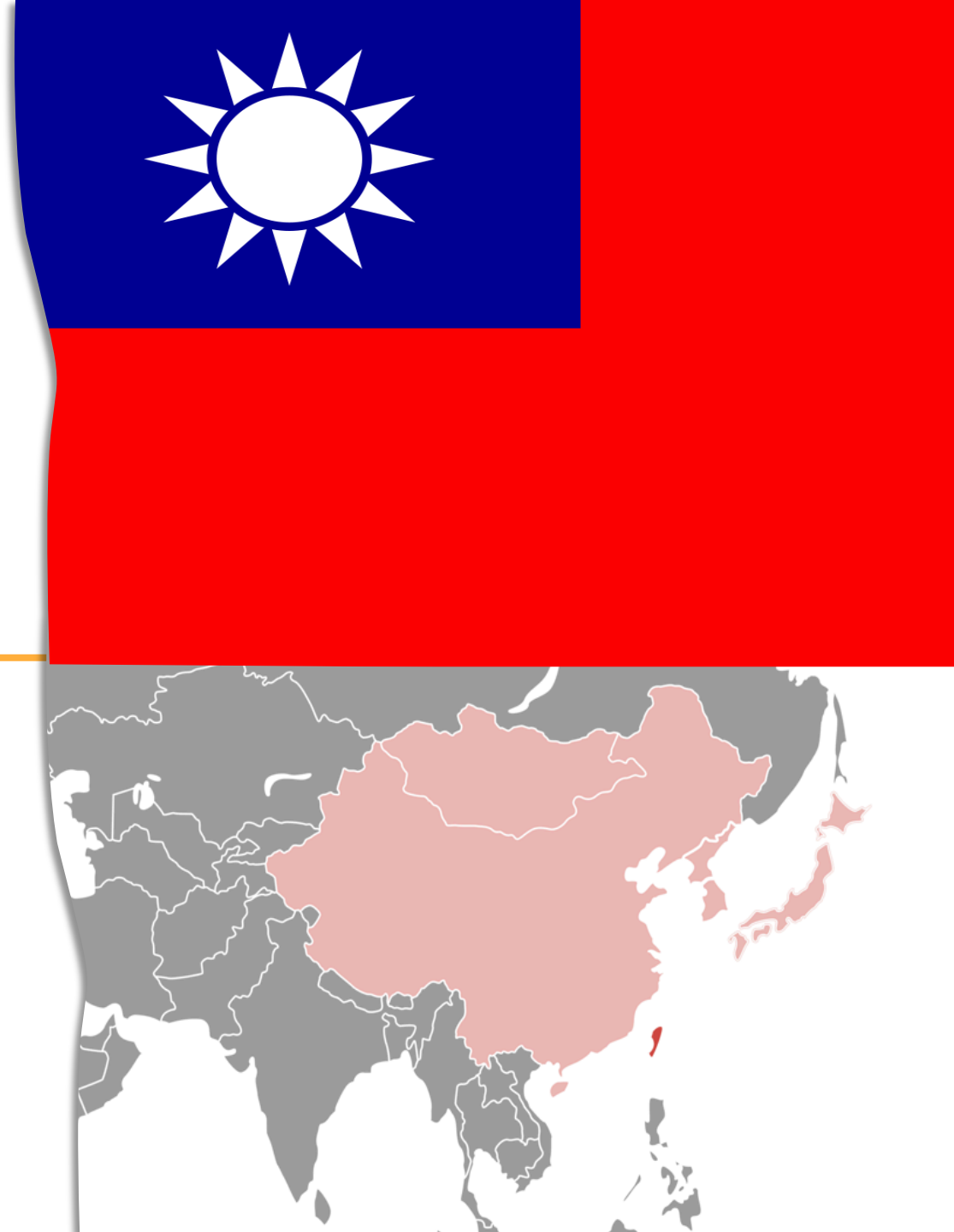
Outlook: Global economic influence to be challenged by increased concern over supply chain security. Military deterrence policies at forefront due to Xi saber rattling and increased global uncertainty from Putin's Ukraine War and closer ties between Putin and Xi.

China-Taiwan relationships have run the gamut since China's civil war in 1949. Under Nixon, the US shifted policy to recognizing the PRC as the "One China," in effect ending official relations with Taiwan. Taiwan's success as a democracy (after decades of autocratic rule) and an economic powerhouse has embarrassed the PRC and Xi. A peaceful reunification seemed possible until Xi's crackdown of Hong Kong. Analysts are divided whether a Chinese military invasion is imminent or a useful distraction. To China's nervous neighbors, an invasion would convince them that Xi's promise that there is nothing to worry about China's power would ring hollow.

Further reading:

[Kuomintang Through the Ages](#)

[People's Relations: Moving Between Taiwan and China](#)





Southeast Asia

Laos

Key Facts:

- **Population:** 7,953,556, **102nd Globally in population**
- **Government:** Communist State
- **International Memberships:** ASEAN
- **Power Status:** Emerging economy, small military
- **Military Agreements:** Close ties with Vietnam. Purchasers of Russian and Chinese equipment.

Laos-China Relations:

- **Border with China:** ~263.8mi
- **Key Exports to China:** Paper Goods (\$765 million, ~27%), Rubber (\$602 million, 20%)

Outlook: Laos is a developing nation with close ties to its neighbor. Its foreign policy is closely connected with China, but increasingly looking toward independent economic opportunities.

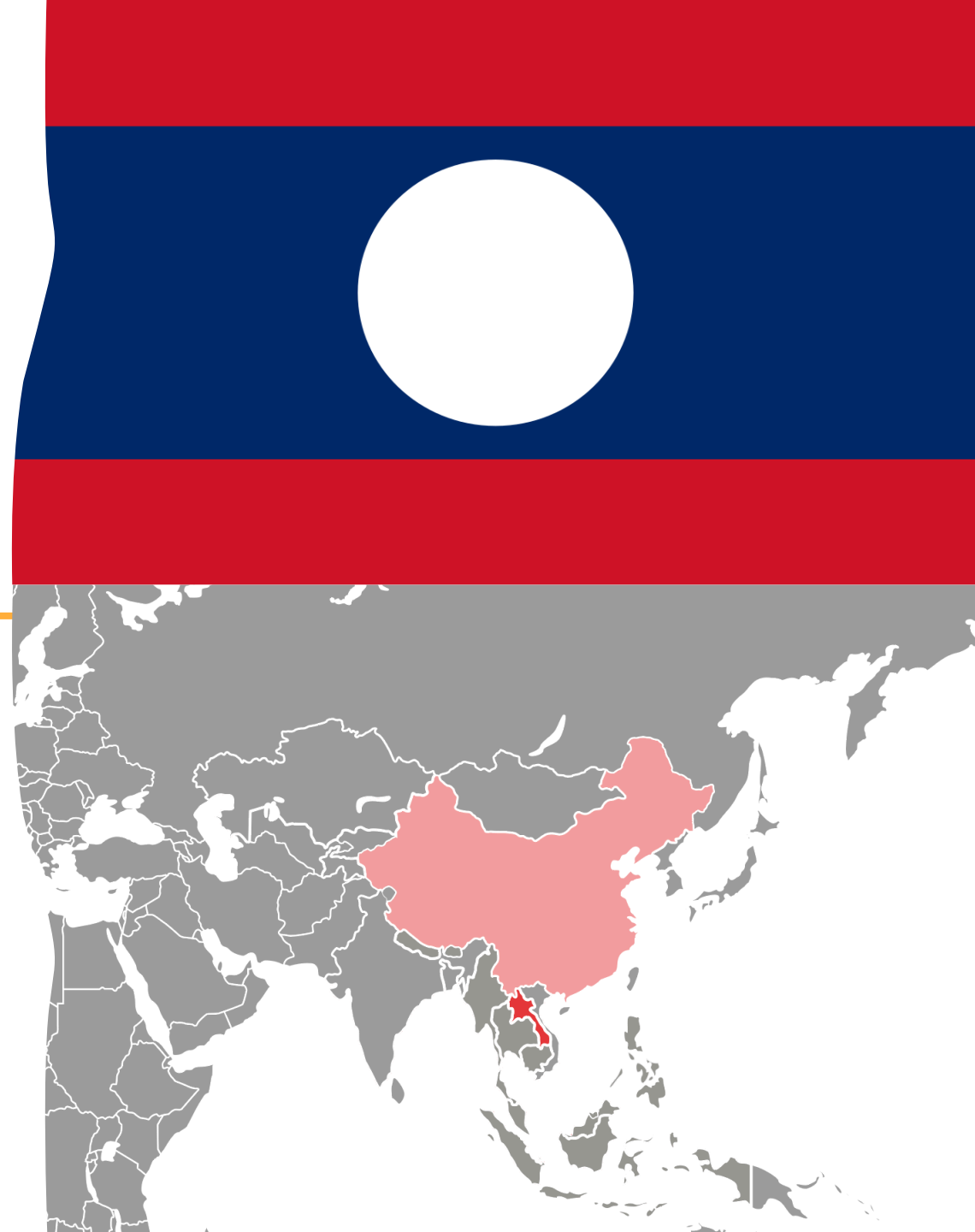
Laos has maintained relations with China since the assumption of the communist government. Laos is economically dependent on China, with large amounts of FDI developing the infrastructure and industry of the nation. Increasingly the Laos population is desiring greater contact with other parts of the world such as the EU, Australia, and the United States. This same population also casts a wary eye toward China, which they view as too influential and heavy-handed. Laos resides in a complicated neighborhood and playing each country, including China, off of each other is a survival skill.

Further reading:

[The myth of the 'vassal state': China's influence in Laos is waning](#)

[2023/55 "Changing Perceptions in Laos Toward China" by Joanne Lin](#)

[Laos' ASEAN chairmanship faces Chinese reality check](#)



Vietnam

Key Facts:

- **Population:** 104799174, **16th Globally in population**
- **Government:** Socialist Republic
- **International Memberships:** ASEAN, Non-Aligned Movement, Comprehensive Strategic Partner with the US.
- **Power Status:** Manufacturing Competitor, Capable military; modernizing.
- **Military Agreements:** No official agreements, purchaser of Russian military equipment.

Vietnam-China Relations:

- **Border with China:** ~806mi
- **Key Conflict:** Sino-Vietnamese Conflicts (1979-1990)
- **Key Exports to China:** Electronics (57.5% or \$33.7bn), Rubber (4.2% or \$2.5bn)

Outlook: A manufacturing hub, which simultaneously seeks to reduce conflict with China while developing relations with the rest of the world.

A Sino-Vietnam war in 1979 over Vietnam's overthrow of the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge in Cambodia resulted in more than a combined 100,000 dead or wounded in just one month. Since then relations with China have continually improved, particularly since the 1990 normalization. While tensions still flare regarding border disputes and the South China Sea, Vietnam does not appear eager to aggrieve China. Vietnam will likely continue to engage with Beijing to alleviate anxieties over its growing economic connection with the United States. Vietnam continues to develop its military capabilities and forces to contribute to a deterrence policy aimed at reducing the risk of another conflict with China.

Further reading:

[Vietnam's political turmoil reveals a turn towards China – and away from the West](#)

[Vietnam and China Announce Major Upgrade in Relations During Xi Visit](#)



Indonesia

Key Facts:

- **Population:** 281,562,465 **4th Globally in population**
- **Government:** Presidential Republic
- **International Memberships:** ASEAN, Non-Aligned Movement, East Asian Summit, and Organization of Islamic Cooperation, G20, APEC
- **Power Status:** Regional Power, Rich in Resources and Minerals, Modern Military
- **Military Agreements:** No official agreements, purchaser of US/NATO and Russian military equipment.

Indonesian-China Relations:

- **Border with China:** N/A.
- **Key Conflict:** No conflicts.
- **Key Exports to China:** Earth Metals & Minerals (\$25bn) and Oil & Fuels (\$21.91bn)

Outlook: A rising regional and global player seeking to leverage its natural resources to develop and advance the country's prosperity and stability.

Indonesia has generally enjoyed warm relations with China and relations are becoming even closer as Xi takes advantage of US policy in the Middle East to cozy up to the largest Muslim population in the world. Its current President is friendly toward Xi and has visited China. Indonesia was one of the first nations to sign onto the Belt and Road Initiative. China has increasingly pushed investment into developing Indonesia critical mineral industry. As one of the largest producers in oil and natural gas globally, China has maintained close relationships with Indonesia. However, Indonesia's debt to China may exceed \$25 billion.

Further reading:

[Will a Prabowo Presidency Alter the Course of China-Indonesia Relations?](#)

[The future of Indonesia-China relations after Jokowi](#)

[Why Indonesia Is China's New Best Friend in Southeast Asia](#)



Myanmar

Key Facts:

- **Population:** 57,527,139 **26th Globally in population**
- **Government:** Military Junta
- **International Memberships:** ASEAN, Non-Aligned Movement, East Asian Summit
- **Power Status:** Large mostly outdated military, economically stagnant since coup.
- **Military Agreements:** Close military connections with China.

Myanmar-China Relations:

- **Border with China:** 1370 miles
- **Key Conflict:** Cross-Border raids from China recently.
- **Key Exports to China:** Precious Stones(\$4.05bn, 42%) and Oil & Fuels (\$1.59bn, ~15%)

Outlook: Developing nation halted by the ongoing civil-war against the military junta. Uncertain how the Junta will continue to navigate its complex relationship with China in the midst of civil conflict.

Myanmar has an increasingly complicated relationship with China. Myanmar has hosted several scam centers often targeting Chinese citizens, straining relations with China. It is likely that the Junta will face greater Chinese influences as the civil war threatens border stability with China. China will continue to monitor the situation and exert influence with both rebels and the government to shape favorable policies for economic corridors with Myanmar. China has recently performed live munition military exercises on the Myanmar border .

Further reading:

[How a Fractured Myanmar is Navigating U.S.-China Rivalry](#)

[Update on China-Myanmar Relations](#)

[Scam Centres and Ceasefires: China-Myanmar Ties Since the Coup](#)



Philippines

Key Facts:

- **Population:** 118,277,063 **12th Globally in population**
- **Government:** Presidential Republic
- **International Memberships:** ASEAN, Non-Aligned Movement, East Asian Summit
- **Power Status:** Developing nation, geo-strategic ally
- **Military Agreements:** Close military ties with the United States, South Korea, and NATO.

Philippines-China Relations:

- **Border with China:** Maritime Border
- **Key Conflict:** Territory Disputes.
- **Key Exports to China:** Machines (\$9.51bn) and Oil & Fuels (\$2.42bn)

Outlook: Developing island nation seeking to maintain its territorial integrity, domestic security, and economic growth.

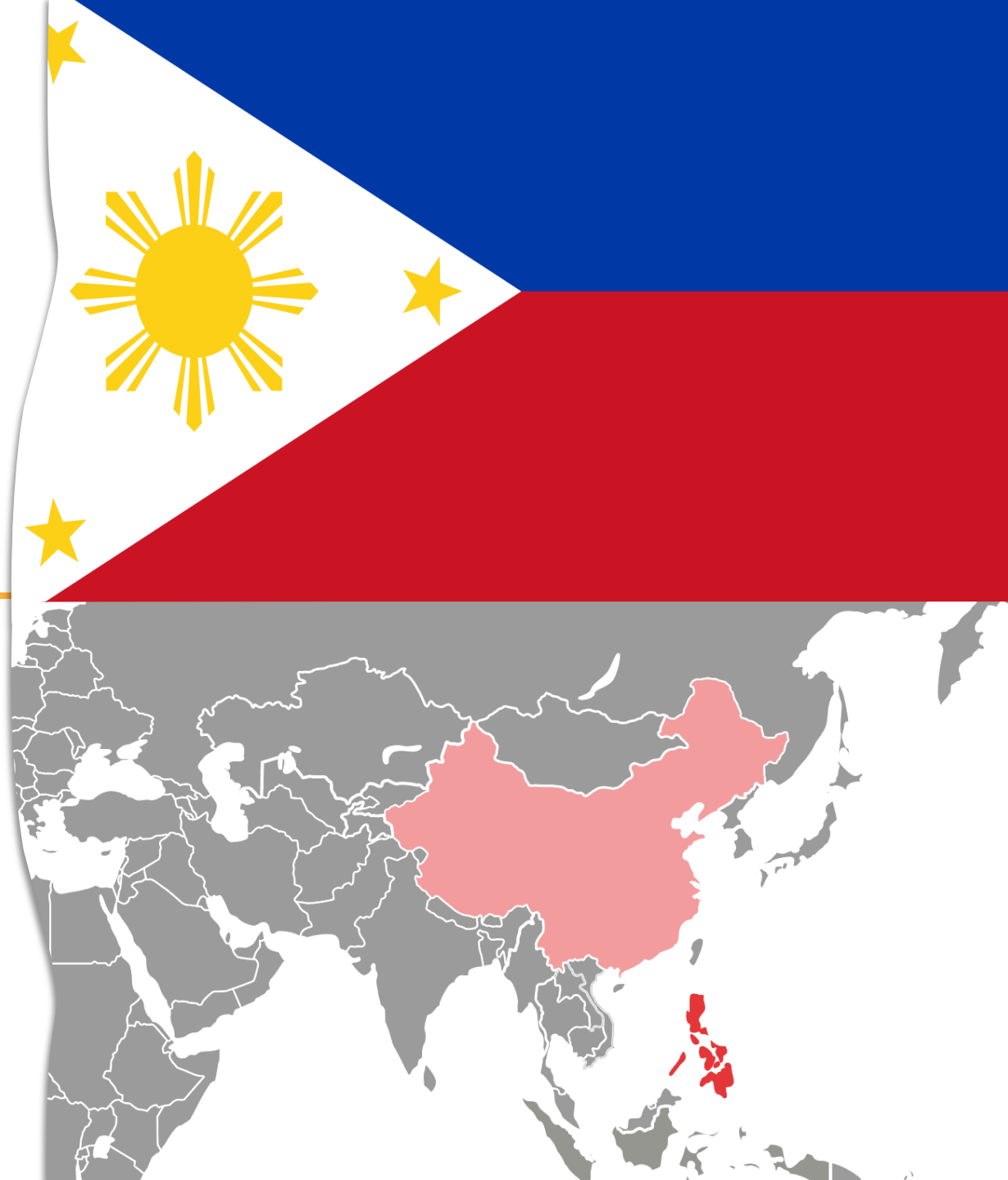
The Philippines is a long-standing ally of the United States and continues to enjoy close military and diplomatic relations. China is the Philippines' largest trading partner and relations between the two countries have generally been cordial. But territorial tensions around the South China Sea have flared up. The Philippines doesn't want war with China, but it does not want to cede its territorial claims. China's actions around disputed shoals have edged to the line of hostility. Philippines will continue to develop alliances with other neighboring advanced economies. Economic cooperation with China is being increasingly challenged due to strained relations in the South China Sea. Philippine-China territory disputes have become a frequent topic of conversation between the US and China.

Further reading:

[China says relations with Philippines at 'crossroads' amid maritime incidents](#)

[Philippine-China row deepens in South China Sea: 5 things to know](#)

[Amid China Tensions, the Philippines Relies on Alliances and Rule of Law](#)





South Asia

Afghanistan

Key Facts:

- **Population:** 34,262,840 **41st Globally in population**
- **Government:** Theocratic
- **International Memberships:**
- **Power Status:** Weak regional nation.
- **Military Agreements:**

Afghanistan-China Relations:

- **Border with China:** 57 miles
- **Key Conflict:** No conflicts.
- **Key Exports to China:** Textiles(\$141 million) and Machines (\$131 million)

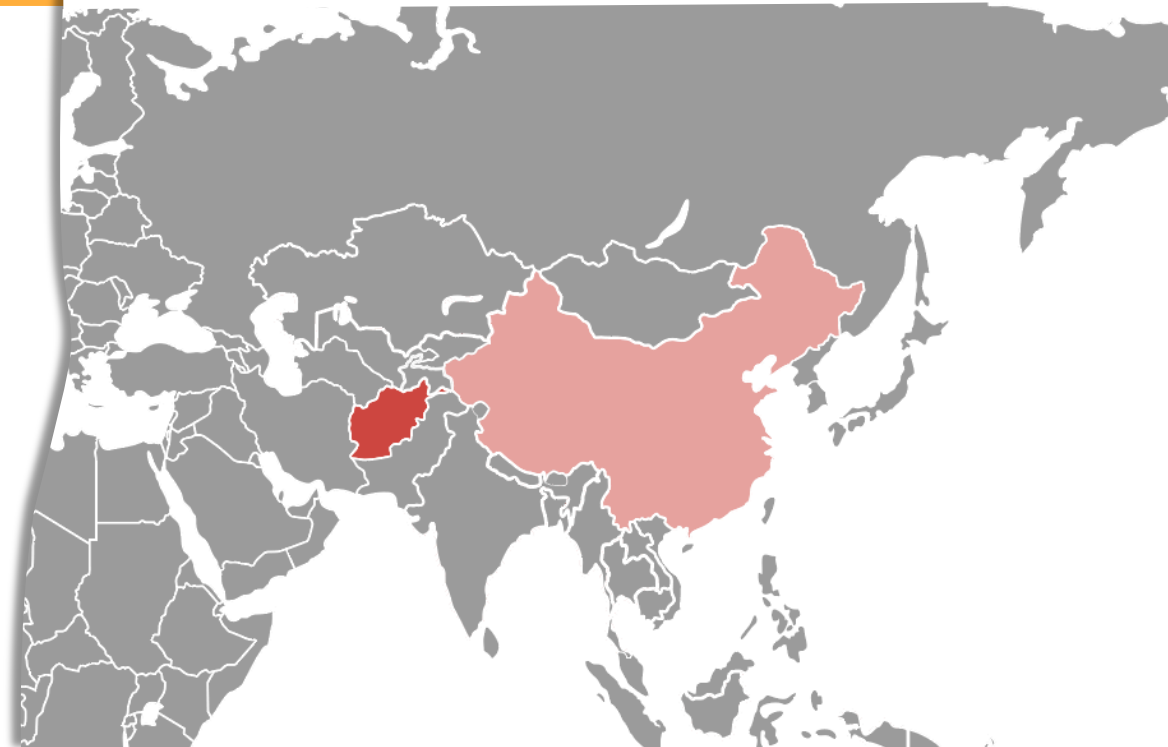
Outlook: Globally isolated nation with very little international recognition. Afghanistan will likely try to stabilize its international reputation and seek return of Chinese infrastructure investment.

Afghanistan once enjoyed warm relations with China, but after several decades of war, the Chinese government's relationship has often been muted. Since the Taliban took recontrol of the nation, China has mostly maintained little diplomatic relations. That could be changing, however. They recently officially recognized the Taliban ambassador to China. China is gearing up to construct a huge dam project on the Kunar River (angering Pakistan downstream). It's likely Afghanistan will seek opportunities to gain economic investment from China due to its isolation from western nations.

Further reading:

[Afghan-Sino Relations: A Different Mindset. A Different Outcome?](#)

[Why has China recognised Taliban's envoy to Beijing?](#)



Bhutan

Key Facts:

- **Population:** 884,546 **159th Globally in population**
- **Government:** Constitutional Monarchy
- **International Memberships:**
- **Power Status:** Small Stable emergent economy.
- **Military Agreements:** Indo-Bhutanese Treaty of Friendship

Bhutan-China Relations:

- **Border with China:** 296 miles
- **Key Conflict:** Nepal.
- **Key Exports to China:** Ferroalloys (\$2.62 Millions, 98.9%)

Outlook: The small stable Bhutan has often relied on India for defense and support. Bhutan's evolving government will likely seek to balance its relationships with eminent regional and global powers of India and China.

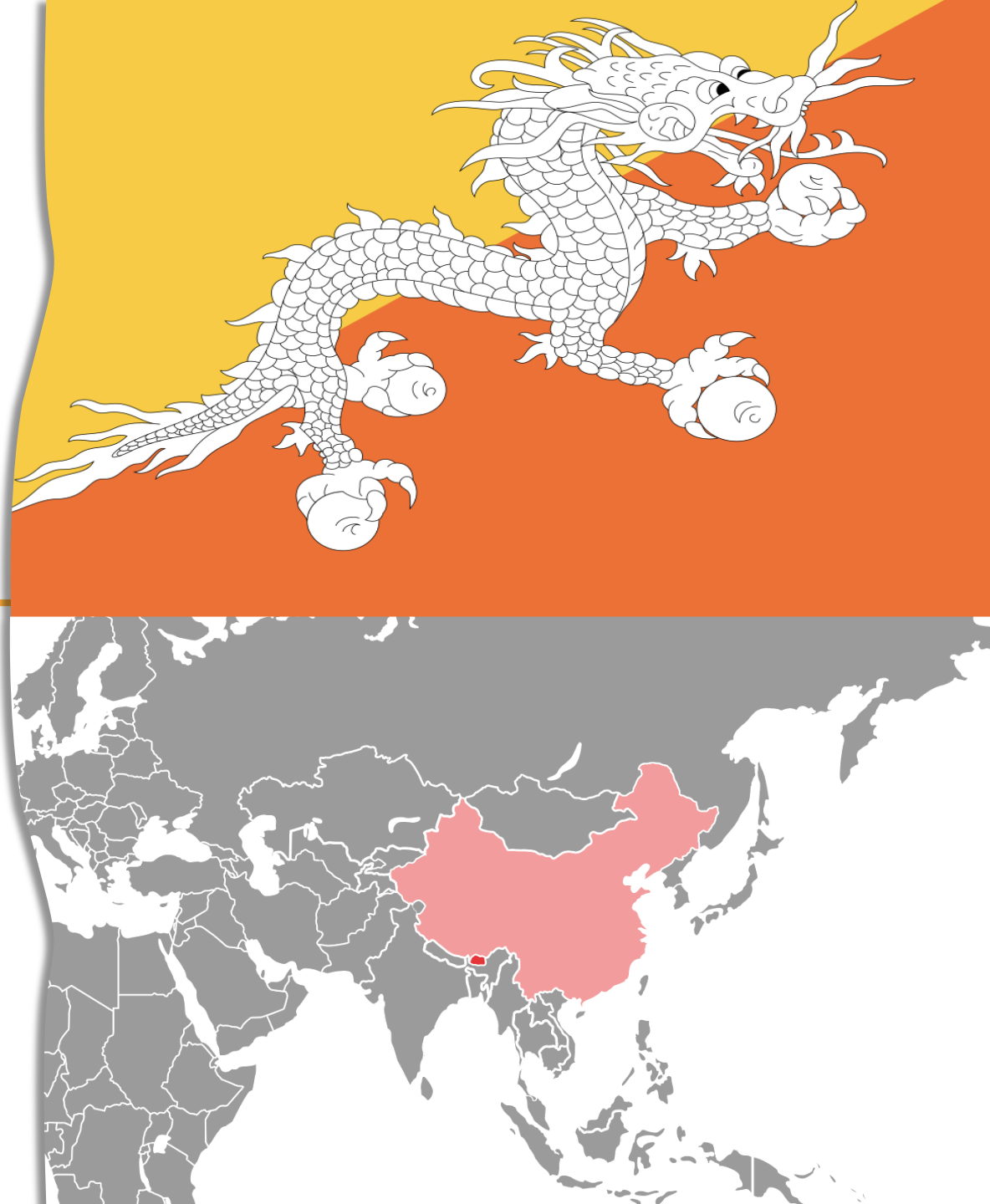
Bhutan's close relationship with Tibet has ensured difficult or cold relations with China. Officially the nation does not maintain relations with China. Bhutan has most closely connected with India as its closest ally. As China's influence in south Asia has grown, Bhutan is increasingly looking to maintain a balanced and independent relationship between India and China.

Further reading:

[On Thin Ice: Bhutan's Diplomatic Challenge Amid the India-China Border Dispute](#)

[The Himalayan Triangle: Bhutan's Courtship With India and China](#)

[China and Bhutan aim to resolve a long-running border dispute](#)



India

Key Facts:

- **Population:** 1,409,128,296 **1st Globally in population**
- **Government:** Federal Parliamentary Republic
- **International Memberships:** BRICS, G20, ASEAN
- **Power Status:** Emerging Global Power
- **Military Agreements:** Shanghai Cooperation Organization,

India-China Relations:

- **Border with China:** 2,167 miles
- **Key Conflict:** Border regions.
- **Key Exports to China:** Mineral Products(\$4.08bn) and Chemical Products (\$2.39bn)

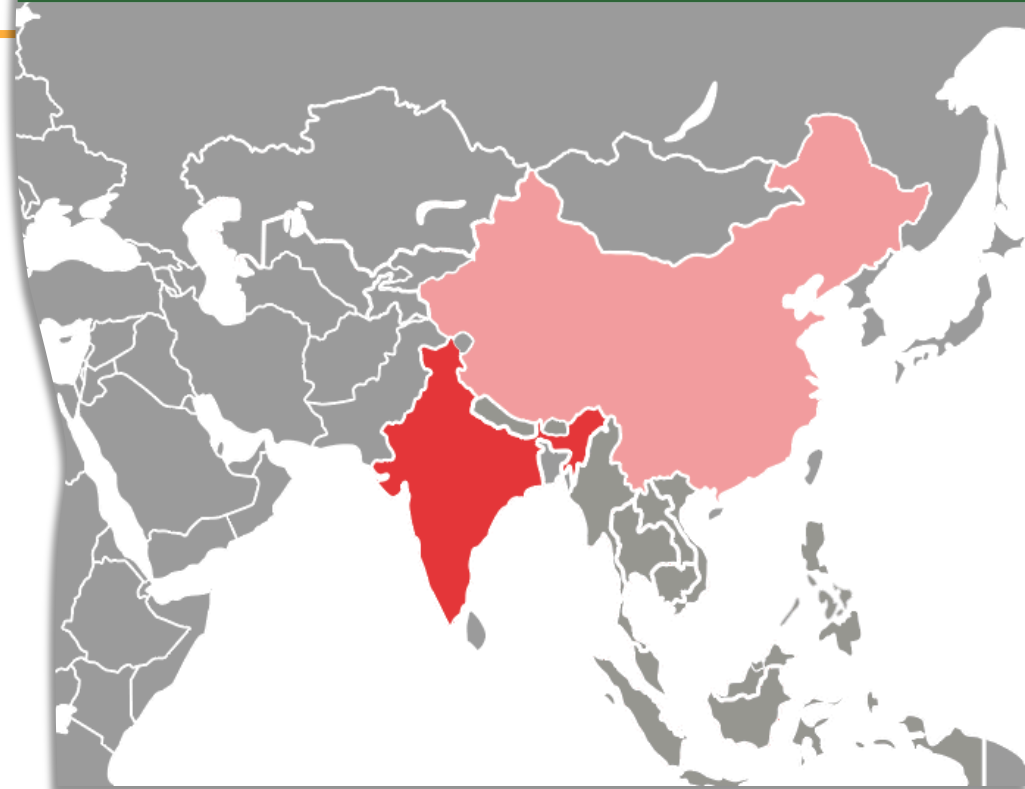
Outlook: An emergent global power, India is building its ideological influence within south Asia and globally. Historically non-aligned, India is exerting its independence in foreign policy and navigating a tense global geopolitical scene.

In 1962, China and India fought a brief border war in the Himalayan region of Aksai Chin. They have been tussling along a 2,000 mile “Line of Actual Control” on and off ever since. India’s historical non-alignment has often left China less concerned with its South Asian neighbor. In recent years, China has sought to contain and exert influence on foreign policy in South Asia. This is pushing India toward a more active deterrent strategy against China. India has increased its relationship with the United States and Russia. As border clashes mount and Chinese influences grows, India’s non-aligned status will be tested as it seeks to curb Chinese pressure.

Further reading:

[Three Things to Know About China-India Tensions](#)

[A big-picture look at the India-China relationship](#)



Nepal

Key Facts:

- **Population:** 31,122,387 **50th Globally in population**
- **Government:** Federal Parliamentary Republic
- **International Memberships:** ASEAN, Non-Aligned Movement,
- **Power Status:** Politically and economically fragile state
- **Military Agreements:**

Nepal-China Relations:

- **Border with China:** 863 miles
- **Key Conflict:** No conflicts.
- **Key Exports to China:** Textiles (\$6.23 million) and Metals (\$1.25 million)

Outlook: A stabilizing country seeking opportunities to build its infrastructure and economy. Nepal under its current conditions will likely continue to strengthen ties with China for access to capital and support.

Nepal has historically been closely tied with India. After the recent civil war and growth in left-wing parties, Nepal's ties with China have rapidly grown. Likely seen as a possible regional buffer for the Chinese, the government has received political support and investment. India has pressured Nepal to reject Chinese influences with some success. Looking forward, Nepal will likely strengthen ties to the country which can assist in economic development and stabilization.

Further reading:

[China Courts Nepal's New Left Alliance Government](#)

[India's Fog of Misunderstanding Surrounding Nepal-China Relations](#)



Pakistan

Key Facts:

- **Population:** 252,363,571 **5th Globally in population**
- **Government:** Federal Parliamentary Republic
- **International Memberships:** Non-Aligned Movement, Organization of Islamic Cooperation
- **Power Status:** Nuclear weapons state with lower-income developing economy
- **Military Agreements:** No official agreements,

Pakistan-China Relations:

- **Border with China:** 596 miles
- **Key Conflict:** Jammu and Kashmir
- **Key Exports to China:** Earth Metals & Minerals (\$932 million) and Textiles (\$590 million)

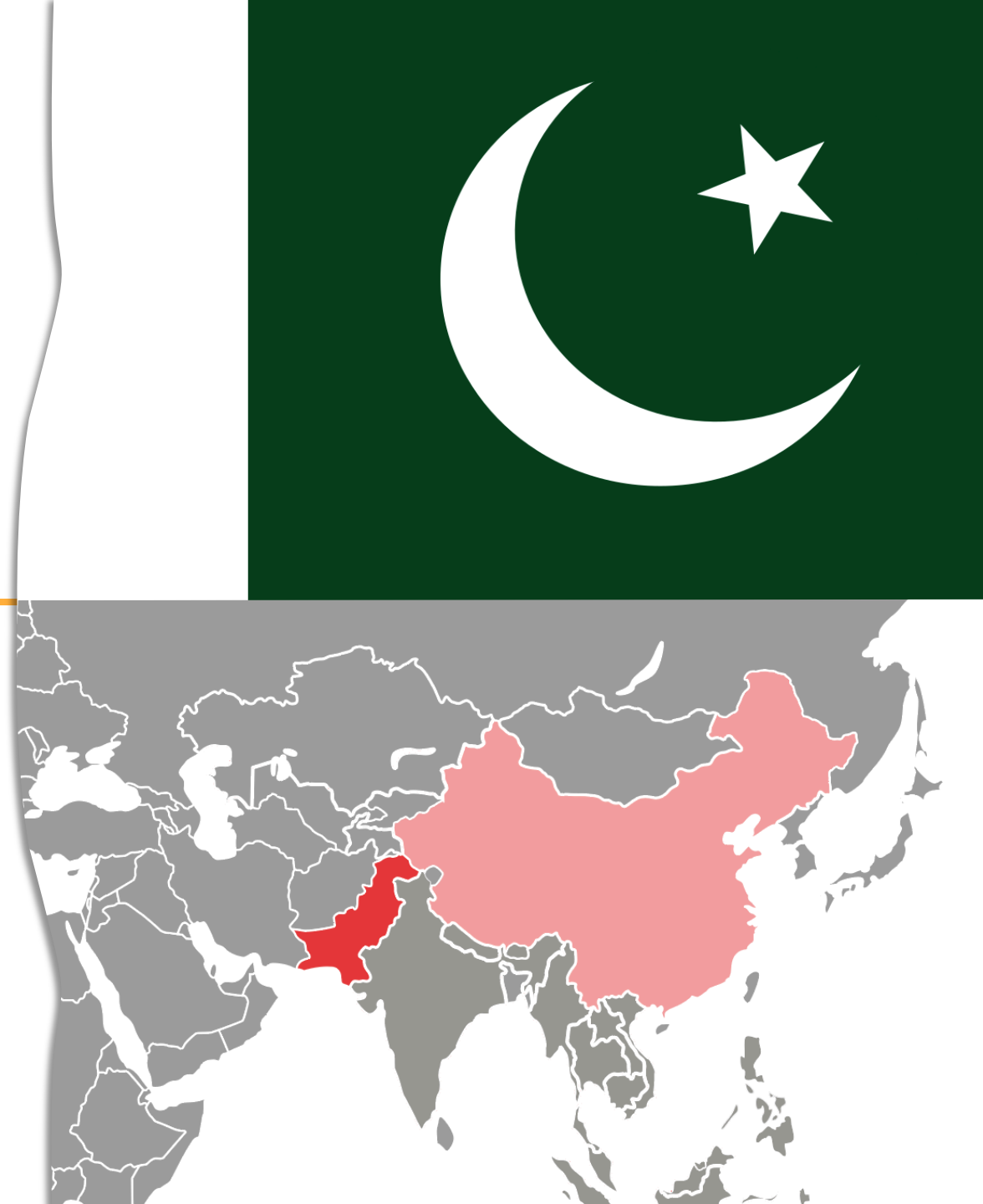
Outlook: Pakistan's rocky relationship with India continues to be a key point with building a relationship with China. Chinese concerns about US influence in South Asia could lead the two nations to deepen military and economic ties.

The tense India-Pakistan relationship has often been of little worry to China. With India becoming the most populous nation on earth and rapidly emerging as a global power, both nations will seek to contain India. China's massive investments in Pakistan have strengthened the relationship between the two countries. It is likely that as India is bolstered by the West, Pakistan will seek China to temper the power-imbalance.

Further reading:

[A Threshold Alliance: The China-Pakistan Military Relationship](#)

[Is China Souring on Pakistan?](#)





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