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Chapter 1 : How India sees the growing ties between Russia and China - Russia Beyond

The Carnegie Endowment explains the strategic balance (especially nuclear) among the three powers, with an asymmetrical relationship between China and the US, a symmetrical one between Russia and the United States, and latent one between China and Russia.

At the beginning of August, Professor Kachanovsky from Khabarovsk city the center of the "Russian Far Eastern federal region" established by Putin, on the Amur River, very close to the Chinese border published, in the leftist Sovetskaya Rossiya, the article "Corruption in the Blood" analyzing the pandemic corruption in all of Russia and, particularly, in its eastern regions. The following statement is of special interest comments in parentheses: During the last several years this disaster has become really terrible, because the criminals engaged in large-scale timber poaching are setting fire to the forests to hide clues to their crimes. The poached timber goes, as "round timber" i. On June 20, , President Putin, in a TV interview, proposed the "liberation of the timber trade as a measure against arson. Even the strong rains of the last several days could not finish them. Remarkably, local authorities and Moscow are not taking any measures against these timber fires. Eventually, there are serious grounds to conclude that a significant part of the forest fires that this summer scorched a huge territory of Russia between the Yenisei River which in practice divides Western and Eastern Siberia and the Pacific Ocean have been caused by local criminals closely related to Chinese timber-purchasing companies. Probably "Chinese agents" work now even in the remote Magadan region, on the shore of the Pacific Ocean about 1, km from the Chinese border, and transport the local timber to China by sea. According to Chinese statistics, in the first half of China cut, in its own forests, about 8. Generally, timber cutting in this country decreased about half since , when China adopted strict forest protection measures. During the same period, China, according to official statistics, imported about 13 million cubic meters of timber and about 3 million tons of wood pulp. The rapidly developing Chinese economy needs huge amounts of raw materials of all kinds, and timber remains in the upper part of the list. This pipeline should, by , connect the easternmost terminal of the Russian oil pipeline network with the northernmost terminal of the Chinese network and transport a huge amount of crude from Yukos oil works in Western Siberia to CNPC petrochemical enterprises in Northeast China. By , the annual flow of crude should increase to 30 million tons. However, in August , it became known that the Russian side is not eager to fulfill the agreement. Another project " construction of the pipeline from Angarsk city to Nakhodka port near Vladivostok, without crossing Chinese territory " appeared to be more lucrative for Moscow. This project prescribes export to Japan of up to 50 million tons of crude annually. Moreover, the Russian side stated that the realization of two projects " "Chinese" and "Japanese" ones " simultaneously is impossible. These crude supplies could increase, due to construction of special pumping-reloading capacities in Manzhouli-Zabaikalsk zone, from around 4 million tons in to around 15 million tons in Russian authoritative information agencies, such as Gazeta. Moscow generally gives a low priority to cooperation with America in energy and gives the top priority to cooperation with China in this area. On July 31, , the Harbin city center of bordering Russia Heilongjiang province government Web site published following message: Several industrial projects, aimed at complex use of this gas, have already been initiated. The total investment is equal to 1. Particularly, Harbin will produce several hundred thousand tons of oil products and petrochemical products on the base of natural gas. The corresponding Chinese-Russian agreement is not signed yet, but those in Harbin know for sure that the natural gas of Eastern Siberia and RFE from deposits in Irkutsk region, Yaktia republic, on the sea shelf of Magadan region, etc. Any objections and obstacles of Moscow, let alone local authorities, would be overcome. After all, the "inflating Dragon" is more oil- and gas-thirsty than ever before. And its own hydrocarbon resources are scarce. In , the Chinese presence in the eastern regions of Russia " economic, geopolitical and demographic " dramatically expanded. This was caused, first, by the rapidly growing needs of China for raw materials of all kinds and, second, by the weakness and poverty of these Russian regions. These regions have

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no opportunity to oppose a Chinese invasion: Moscow gives them no support and, moreover, "sucks off all their juices. The model of economic exchange between China, on one hand, and Eastern Siberia and RFE, on the other hand, which existed for about 10 years" i. China is interested now, primarily, in raw materials from Russia and intends to get it in arbitrary quantities and for cheap. The Chinese side is using, for this "great goal, all conventional and non-conventional tools available. It is easy to predict that in the situation would develop in the same direction and at the same or even greater speed. Moscow is still preserving formal control over these regions, but this control transforms into a "jacket" and the "content" becomes increasingly Chinese. Maybe this is an exaggeration? Almost every week, we get new message from RFE, confirming an easy fact: Moscow has lost control over this zone and it is on its own. But perhaps these are all internal Russian problems and America has no interest here? Well, geopolitical competition of the 21st century between America and China is just beginning. In , Chinese economic potential" measured properly and in current U. What will happen Finally, the author has begun distributing the book "Chinese-Russian Alliance," written jointly with his friend Dr. Thomas Torda, with the support of NewsMax. The table of contents is given below. Purchasing information is at the Web site [http: Importance of the "Shanghai Five" Chapter 3: Click Here to comment on this article](http://Importance of the) Close.

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Chapter 2 : Chinese Invasion of Russia, Part 2 | racedaydvl.com

China's relationship with Russia is the best it's ever been, a high-level Chinese official boasted this week as Beijing prepared to launch a trade war with the U.S.. Visiting Moscow on.

As a result of its discontent with China, North Korea has pivoted strongly toward Russia as an alternative partner. In February , the North Korean government named Russia as its leading international ally. By imposing economic sanctions on North Korea, China is pressuring Pyongyang to ask Russia for increased financial assistance. These efforts failed as economic turmoil in Russia prevented Boris Yeltsin from providing large-scale economic aid to North Korea. As the prospect of a complete Chinese oil embargo against North Korea looms heavily on the horizon, Beijing is operating under the assumption that North Korea will accept Chinese hegemony before drastic punitive measures take effect. That aid is given with the main goal of developing the economic development and welfare of recipient countries. At least a quarter of that money represents a direct grant, not a loan that needs to be repaid. And the rest of that money? Beijing and Moscow have shown no capacity to cooperate on grand strategy or establish new international norms. This is no authoritarian alliance but a partnership of strategic convenience – pragmatic, calculating and constrained. He argues that this dynamism and the consequences that ensue from it are placing the relationship under ever-increasing stress. Thus he sees it as a tactical rather than principled relationship or partnership, and dismisses, as do most writers, the idea of an actual alliance appearing anytime soon. For more than four decades, Chinese leaders lulled presidents, cabinet secretaries, and other government analysts and policymakers into falsely assessing China as a benign power deserving of U. The secret strategy, based on ancient Chinese statecraft, produced a large-scale transfer of cash, technology, and expertise that bolstered military and Communist Party "superhawks" in China who are now taking steps to catch up to and ultimately surpass the United States, Pillsbury concludes in a book published this week Communist super-hawks in the military and senior Party leadership post-Tiananmen Square protest of managed to defeat and ultimately arrest senior Party officials who supported the pro-democracy reform. Chinese hardliners promoted the book of Col. Other writings by hawks reveal a future China-dominated world will that values "order over freedom, ethics over law and elite governance over democracy and human rights. Intelligence assessments in the late s failed to recognize the pro-democracy sentiment inside the ruling Politburo was strong until it was crushed after the crackdown on dissent. By inciting ethnic conflict and discord in western countries, Russia can project power and promote its strategic agenda. Blank concluded that with increased western influence in his backyard, Putin would have to give up his imperialist dreams. In order to align more closely with NATO, Bulgaria needs to modernize and de-Russify its military, replacing engine refurbishment efforts with Russia with analogous efforts in Poland, replacing Russian jets with other foreign jets, and the modernization of the Bulgarian flotilla. For these endeavors to be successful, Ms. The roundtable then shifted focus to Black Sea security being one of the top priorities for Bulgaria. It was suggested that Bulgaria remained committed to NATO obligations; however, they emphasized the need to avoid abrupt change and act with caution, as the stakes were slightly higher for Bulgaria due to the , Russians in the region, Bulgarian investment, capital, and tourism are contingent on these Russians. Now Beijing wants to catch up. The mainland has recorded breakneck economic growth in the past two decades, buoyed by huge fixed-asset investment and exports of low-value-added goods such as toys and furniture. Previously, the benefits flowed to the organisations. The new profit-sharing arrangement, announced by the Ministry of Science and Technology, is part of a wider push to shake up research on the mainland and turn it into a pillar of the economy.

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Chapter 3 : Moscow, Beijing and Washington: A Complicated Triangle

First, with the strategic balance between Moscow and Beijing growing more lopsided, in Beijing's favor, the former can ill-afford to be seen as supporting an effort to constrict the latter's revival. Second, even if Moscow wished to participate in such an undertaking, the sharp divergence between Trump and Congress on managing U.S.-Russia.

Predictability versus chaos China and Russia have often been bundled together as representing the single most serious challenge to the West. Without doubt these two states share a number of views on world politics and also have a host of similar interests. But it is where they differ that is more telling about their relationship with the West and the international order in general. An interesting pattern has been unfolding for the past couple of months. Russia has been betting on growing chaos in the West. Russian support for populist forces in Europe can be traced back to the establishment of the Institute for Democracy and Cooperation in Paris in China, in turn, has been much more cautious. It chose predictability, favouring the United Kingdom remaining in the European Union and tilting towards Hillary Clinton as a slightly better option, even though there were voices in the Chinese debate favouring Trump. If both China and Russia are dissatisfied with the West, why these stark differences? The case of the Hinkley Point nuclear power plant is a case in point. Brexit and the resulting change of the British government almost deprived China of its first nuclear power investment in the developed world. Nonetheless, it was highly plausible that China could have suffered losses here. A trade war could undermine Chinese exports, especially given that the US is the largest external market for China and the biggest source of its trade surplus. South Korean elites are already pondering the acquisition of nuclear weapons in the face of a growing North Korean threat. In the case of Russia, the risks related to the election of Donald Trump are much vaguer and the possible gains are rather far-reaching. China, in turn, expressed anxiety about the rise of populist forces as early as the elections to the European Parliament. It is ready to embrace the anti-globalist movement, stir up discontent and fear against the supranational bureaucrats, global oligarchs, and trans-national companies. Russia expects to thrive on the potential chaos beyond its borders. It also makes it easier for Putin to divide the Western community by cherry-picking potential partners. The Chinese Communist Party, as much as it is able to despise Western democracy, needs the capitalist system to remain in power. China relies on open trade and stable markets, as well as on the growing, or at least not decreasing, wealth of Western consumers. It needs constant Western demand for its goods and capital. The challenge to the West and its liberal values is real and comes from both Russia and China. It would be a mistake, though, to disregard the differences between the autocrats in Moscow and those in Beijing and to assume that their interests are the same. Posted by MK at.

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Chapter 4 : Between Moscow and Beijing

After Russia's rift with the West over Ukraine, isolation pushed Moscow even closer to Beijing. But their relationship is marked by historic insecurity and mistrust that only deepens as the imbalance of power between Beijing and Moscow grows.

Often the tone of interactions has determined the global situation. Ideological differences, regional conflicts and territorial disputes spanning for decades allowed Washington to occupy the apex of this complicated triangular relationship. To date, there is no unique reason that can explain the collapse of the Soviet Union. But certainly the unenviable position of Moscow, subjected to the combined external pressures of Beijing and Washington, did little to help. Since , Russia and the PRC have embarked on a long path of reconciliation and reconstruction of bilateral relations based on trust and common interests. During the first post-Soviet decade, the triangular relationship between the powers saw strong cooperation and few episodes of conflict. It was during this period that the Chinese began to power up their economic engine, reaching what it is now. At the same time, Russia and the United States were experiencing their most agreeable period in history, thanks to Gorbachev and Yeltsin selling out Russia, bowing to western wishes to exploit the Russian Federation. It was during this embryonic phase that the trilateral relationship between the three powers began to crack. The level of poverty, decline, misery and humiliation suffered in the former Soviet Union, especially in Russia, compelled the Kremlin to appoint a young Vladimir Putin as Prime Minister, and then President, of the Russian Federation. The apex of the triangle Events on September 11, were the main driver for the adoption of a US global interventionist policy. Under the pretext of the infamous war on terror, every corner of the globe became open to attack, any perceived threat assuming a strategic priority to be addressed. As can be imagined, with such stated objectives, the next 15 years led to a progressive loss of stability and sense of security for both China and Russia. Simultaneously in Southeast Asia, diplomatic action, increasingly expressed in military terms, led Beijing to demonstrate a more determined posture on matters concerning the definition and defense of its maritime boundaries. In spite of the rising tensions, it was only in the recent months that the situation took a dramatic turn. The events in Ukraine radically damaged relations between Moscow and Washington, and the affair concerning Crimea permanently changed the delicate balance in the triangular relationship between China, Russia and the United States. Specifically, it is important to observe the development of events from the coup in Ukraine, namely, international sanctions imposed by the European Union and the United States on Russia forced Moscow to make a long-awaited strategic turn to the east. Immediately, vital trade agreements that had been lingering for 20 years awaiting approval were agreed to in a matter of weeks, thanks to the sudden motivation of Moscow and Beijing. Even military technology exchanges have overcome the historical mistrust between Moscow and Beijing, delivering a huge blow to American hegemonic aspirations. The privileged position held for decades by the United States has gradually evaporated, vanishing completely. The insistence with which Washington has tried in every way “ initially with the Asian crisis of , then with strong pressure on regional allies Japan and India in particular to contain the economic growth of China ” has ended up putting Washington in a disadvantageous position. Historical mistrust is a thing of the past, with the absence of ideological difference no longer providing a hindrance to mutual cooperation that pervades all areas. The weaknesses of the two nations was transformed into a strength through mutual all-around support. A good example can be seen in the need for Russia to attract fresh capital, following the application of illegal international sanctions, and the equally important need for China to have rich agricultural lands to cultivate. Recent studies show that Siberia has probably the most fertile lands in the world. Both Moscow and Beijing needed to correct respective strategic deficits: The combination of these needs fostered a fruitful collaboration that allowed them to quickly solve their issues: Chinese companies received long Siberian land concessions in exchange for huge capital. Although differing in purpose, membership and methods of action, it is the principle that unites all these organizations led by Moscow and

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Beijing. Stability, economic prosperity, cooperation and security are the four pillars on which these new global alliances are being built. The Carnegie Endowment explains the strategic balance especially nuclear among the three powers, with an asymmetrical relationship between China and the US, a symmetrical one between Russia and the United States, and latent one between China and Russia. The tragedy for the United States seems interminable. Although the global economic system is dominated by the dollar, benefiting only Washington, recent pushes towards the internationalization of the yuan the IMF Basket and ASEAN , and trade exchanges between China and Russia that increasingly tend not to be conducted in dollars, explain the future trend of global currencies. The supremacy of the dollar depends mainly on its use in the oil trade, forcing countries to accumulate American money as a reserve currency in order to operate in the international markets. With the United States leading and imposing its international economic architecture, it is easy to understand the reasons behind the visits of Putin and Xi to Iran, and the even more significant visit of the Chinese leader to Saudi Arabia in recent months. The maneuvers towards de-dollarization are already being conducted. This for Washington is an existential threat that can hardly be ignored. Equally improbable is the possibility of America halting this drift. The American policy over the past fifteen years has forged unexpected agreements between the Russian Federation and the Republic of China that will end up in benefiting global stability. The hysteria that has plunged the American oligarchy has produced devastating results in America. We could even almost overdo it and go further by stating that a Clinton presidency would transform the understanding between Moscow and Beijing, raising it to hitherto unseen levels, permanently isolating Washington.

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Chapter 5 : Moscow and Beijing's Multipolar World Order - LewRockwell

Forced by the US' relentless efforts to squeeze China and Russia's strategic room, Beijing and Moscow have to deal with the US back-to-back." The article makes makes for good press, playing into.

Ever since the demise of the Soviet Union in December , the relationship between Moscow and Beijing has been eagerly watched by political, economic, military and strategic analysts and think tanks worldwide. But the main point is how Moscow looks at this relationship with China marred by centuries of mistrust and conflicts, including the Damansky Island armed clashes. Incidentally, the Damansky Island, which witnessed fierce fighting in , has been now ceded to China under the border pact. Russia, China and India must play a leading role in greater Eurasia Diplomacy is an art of the possible and the prime task of any government is to ensure peace along national borders - a prerequisite for economic development. From this point the two bordering nuclear giants with a troubled history have managed to achieve this. An era of Sino-Russian partnership Addressing the annual joint session of the Russian parliament in December , President Vladimir Putin described Sino-Russian relations in the following words: The formation of Shanghai Five in and its eventual transformation into Shanghai Cooperation Organisation SCO five years later in could become a reality just because Moscow and Beijing succeeded in resolving their outstanding historical differences. Tussle for domination of Central Asia Unfortunately, the Indian discourse on Russia-China relationship is based on the Western narrative and misses nuances of the Russian discourse on relationship with its neighbour. Russia, which ruled Central Asia for years is naturally feeling challenged by the Chinese economic expansion in the former Soviet republics. Though in the Russian military there is a taboo on publicly commenting about the heavily armed Asian nuclear giant, media reports from time to time reflect such apprehensions and concerns. Contrary to certain assertions, in its arms trade with Beijing, Moscow not only keeps its own strategic security interests, but also of its closest strategic partners, Russian defence experts claim. Moscow had refused to sell its MiG Foxhound interceptor and state-of-the art Iskander missiles to China as it could jeopardise the security of India and Vietnam. Earlier, President Vladimir Putin had set up a task force headed by his liberal ex-finance minister Alexey Kudrin to draft an economic recovery plan by the end of this year. And if the Donald Trump administration plays the Chinese card against Moscow, then both Russia and India will be challenged politically. After constructing at least eight reactors Russia could set up a nuclear fuel fabrication facility in India for domestic consumption and export. Diplomacy is an art of the possible, and there are a few vital issues in which the interests of India, Russia and China coincide. All the three countries with various contradictions and apprehensions have an equal stake in the stability and economic development of secular regimes in former Soviet republics of Central Asia and a peaceful Afghanistan not posing terrorist and narcotics threats to its neighbours. Jaishankar for the first Strategic Dialogue should also be seen as encouraging signal in the right direction. Vinay Shukla is an Indian journalist, who has covered Russia for over four decades. Views expressed in this column are personal. Views expressed in the column are personal.

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Chapter 6 : Russia and China Are Closer Than Ever Before, Beijing Says as It Launches Trade War With T

Indeed, it could be argued that strategic cooperation between Beijing and Moscow has reached a new level as both capitals face deteriorating relations with Washington over a range of issues. Cooperation with Russia could further strengthen the increasingly muscular PLA, and this concerns America deeply.

Donate Once in a while, think tanks such as the Brookings Institute are able to deal with highly strategic and current issues. Often, the conferences held by such organizations are based on false pretences and copious banality, the sole intention being to undermine and downplay the efforts of strategic opponents of the US. The main assumption Bobo Lo starts with to define relations between Moscow and Beijing is that the two countries base their collaboration on convenience and a convergence of interests rather than on an alliance. He goes on to say that the major frictions in the relationship concern the fate that Putin and Xi hold for Europe, in particular for the European Union, in addition to differences of opinions surrounding the Chinese role in the Pacific. In the first case, Lo states that Russia wants to end the European project while China hopes for a strong and prosperous Europe. With regard to the situation in the Pacific, according to this report, Moscow wants a balance of power between powers without hegemonic domination being transferred from Washington to Beijing. China and Russia have different tasks in ushering in their world order, namely, by preserving global stability through military and economic means. Their overall relationship of mutual cooperation goes beyond the region of Eurasia and focuses on the whole process of a sustainable globalization as well as on how to create an environment where everyone can prosper in a viable and sustainable way. Moscow, contrary to western media propaganda, has returned to play a role not only on a regional scale but as a global power. In this process of economic growth, Beijing has over the years gone from being a simple paradise for low-cost outsourcing for private companies to being a global leader in investment and long-term projects. The dividends of years of wealth accumulation at the expense of Western nations has allowed Beijing to be more than just a strategic partner for other nations. China drives the process of globalization, as recently pointed out by Xi Jinping in Davos in a historic speech. Inevitably, Beijing will become the Asian hegemon, something US policymakers have always guaranteed will not be tolerated. The danger Washington sees is that of China emerging as a regional superpower that will call the shots in the Pacific, the most important region of the planet. Russia is able to oppose certain objectives of the United States see Ukraine or Syria by military means. In this context, the strategic division of labor between Russia and China comes into play to ensure the stability of the Eurasian region as a whole; in Asia, in the Middle East and in Europe. To succeed in this task, Moscow has mainly assumed the military burden, shared with other friendly nations belonging to the affected areas. The influence of Islamist extremists in the Caucasian regions in Russia or in the autonomous region of Xinjiang in China are something that both Putin and Xi are aware can be exploited by opposing Western countries. In North Africa, Egypt has signed several contracts for the purchase of military vehicles from Moscow, as well as having bought the two Mistral ships from France, thereby relying on military supplies from Moscow. It is therefore not surprising that Moscow and Egypt cooperated with the situation in Libya and in North Africa in general. The entry into the Shanghai Cooperation Organization SCO of New Delhi and Islamabad Tehran will be next , with the blessing of Beijing as the protagonist of the SCO meeting, is a keystone achievement and the right prism through which to observe the evolution of the region. Moscow is essentially acting as a mediator between the parties and is also able to engage with India in spite of the dominating presence of China. The ultimate goal of Moscow and Beijing is to eradicate the terrorist phenomenon in the Asian region with a view to what is happening in North Africa and the Middle East with Iran and Egypt. Clearly in the military field it is Moscow that is leading, with arms sold to current and future partners and security cooperation such as with ex-Soviet Central-Asian republics or in the Donbass and targeted interventions if needed, as in Syria. Beijing, on the other hand, acts in a different way, focusing on the economic arena, in particular with the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank AIIB at its center. Initiatives such

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as the One Belt One Road OBOR and the Maritime Silk Road have the same strategic aim of the Russian military initiative, namely, ensuring the independence of the region from a geo-economic perspective, reaching win-win arrangements for all partners involved. Naturally, the win-win agreement does not mean that China wins and then wins again; rather, a series of bilateral concessions can come to satisfy all actors involved. An important example in this regard that explains the Sino-Russian partnership concerns the integration of the Eurasian Union with the Chinese Silk Road. The Russian concerns over the predominant status of the Chinese colossus in Central Asia have been assuaged by a number of solutions, such as the support of the OBOR infrastructure program to that of the Eurasian Union. All participants in these initiatives have a unique opportunity to expand their economic condition through this whole range of connections. Beijing guarantees the money for troubled countries, and Moscow the security. The SCO will play a major role in reducing and preventing terrorist influence in the region, a prerequisite for the success of any projects. Also, the AIIB, and to some extent the BRICS Development Bank, will also have to step in and offer alternative economic guarantees to countries potentially involved in these projects, in order to free them from the existing international financial institutions. One Belt One Road, and all the related projects, represent a unique occasion whereby all relevant players share common goals and benefits from such transformative geo-economic relationships. The US cannot oppose China on the economic front and Russia on the military front. It all comes down to how much China and Russia can continue to provide and guarantee economic and security umbrellas for the rest of the world. Federico Pieraccini is an Independent freelance writer specialized in international affairs, conflicts, politics and strategies.

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Chapter 7 : balance What are China's and Russia's aims?

Argument Moscow and Beijing Have Tehran's Back Trump's Iran policies have left the country with no choice but to turn to Russia and China.

Toggle display of website navigation Argument: July 25, , But Trump will fail. After the Islamic Revolution toppled the U. Joined by its allies, America sought to contain the new regime. In the decades following the revolution, Tehran strengthened its political, economic, and military ties with Beijing and Moscow. It was one of the only arms suppliers willing to provide Tehran with weapons and military equipment. Russia for its part, began working with Tehran at the end of the nineties to develop port and rail infrastructure in Iran. Crucially, with virtually all other suppliers gone from the Iranian nuclear sector, Moscow slowly built up its presence there, developing a quasi-monopoly in the area by the turn of the century. As a result, Russia and China were reluctant participants in international efforts to sanction and isolate Iran following the unveiling of covert aspects of its nuclear program in the s. Iran also hoped to build intricate political ties that neither Beijing nor Moscow would be willing to jeopardize should the West want to isolate the Islamic Republic again. But dealing with the two giants was not easy for Tehran, which grew tired of Russian and Chinese unreliability and substandard products. As the Iranians saw it, Russian and Chinese officials and businesses were purposely stalling on a number of key projectsâ€”including the completion of the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant by Moscow, which took 19 years to be built and come online, and the Tehran Metro by Beijing, with the first line completed five years after the agreement was signed between China and Iran and work continuing today to extend the lines. By , fed up with the Russians and the Chinese and eager to open up its economy and resume relations with the West, Iran returned to the negotiating table. And it increasingly supports Iranian regional activities in the Middle East and South Asia, most notably by fighting alongside Iran and the Bashar al-Assad regime to push back the opposition in Syria and by allegedly supporting Taliban groups in Afghanistan to defeat the Islamic State offshoot there. Both countries have a longstanding presence in the Iranian market and understand how to navigate it. Both are searching for ways to insulate their state and local banks from the U. As the United States encourages Iranian oil consumers to reduce their imports from Iran to zero by November, China has begun processing futures trading and oil imports in yuan to wean itself off the U. Likewise, Russia announced in April that it would try to use other national currencies to pay for oil imports. Such measures would limit the U. Additionally, both Russia and China have multiple deals currently in process in different sectors of the Iranian economy. Both countries are assessing whether they can fully take over European deals that are collapsing in the aftermath of U. And while Iranians continue to harbor suspicion of Russia and China, today they have no choice but to turn to them once again. Russia and China effectively shelter Iran from complete isolation and provide it with political support, defense assistance, and economic relief, undermining Western efforts to pressure Tehran. Isolation only works when it is reinforced by key players within the international community. Today, Iran has other partners it can turn to that will mitigate the fallout from the collapse of the nuclear deal. And given their own strategic interests in Iran, neither Russia nor China will buy into a U.

Chapter 8 : Moscow and Beijing Have Tehranâ€™s Back â€œ Foreign Policy

The deepening of military ties between these two former rivals is real, and a stronger strategic partnership between Beijing and Moscow could, given time, upend a half century of U.S. military planning and strategy.