

# CHINA

## Party Portrait

China has witnessed a remarkably rapid ascent from developing economy to global superpower. China's interest in the Middle East is primarily linked to, but not limited to, oil. The Middle East is China's main source of oil, and will become an increasingly essential source of oil for China in the future. China also regards the Middle East as an important market for the materials required for its own large-scale infrastructure projects. China sees itself as a neutral broker, maintaining relations with every government in the region. Beijing is deeply skeptical of military interventions, and believes American actions in the region have had a deleterious impact on regional security. China prefers to work with the current governments and to maintain the status quo. It has interests in tackling terrorism's root causes, which it regards as inherently economic in nature. Since Xi Jinping assumed office, he has consolidated power and taken a more aggressive stance internationally. While he has made some minor adjustments in China's Middle East policy, there have yet to be any significant changes.

### Key Interests

- Secure supply of oil from the region
- Secure export markets for Chinese goods
- Secure concessions for Middle Eastern natural resources that are essential to China's massive infrastructure and trade route projects

### Sources of Leverage

**Economic** - China is the largest or second largest trading partner of every country in the region. It also is a major arms supplier, including to Algeria, Egypt, Turkey and the UAE.

**Military** - China boasts the second most well-funded military in the world, and has been working on ways to project its power including the construction of a new naval base in Djibouti

**Political** - China has a positive reputation in most Middle Eastern countries and generally enjoys positive relations in the region

## Regional Strategy

China's strategy is tridimensional in nature, seeking to balance the complex web of relationships in the region without having to choose sides. China's policy, known as the "1+2+3 approach", prioritizes massive regional investment, such as the "one-belt one road," and "the new silk road," as the key to regional stability. It opposes unilateral military intervention, and believes the UN should be the ultimate arbiter of any serious conflict

### Powerful Individuals

Chairman Xi Jinping, Premier Li Keqiang, Party Secretary of Xinjiang Chen Quanguo, Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Special Envoy on the Syrian issue Xie Xiaoyan

### Potential Negotiation Moves

**Economic Development** - Fund economic developments projects in exchange for political cooperation

**Provide military assistance** - Increase training and materiel support to regional allies, including Egypt and the UAE

**Commit military forces** - Including to UN peace operations where it is an increasingly dominant actor

**Broker Agreement** - Use its role as a neutral mediator to broker agreement between conflicting parties

### Internal Conflicts

Xinjiang, Tibet, Taiwan

### Memberships

UN (Security Council)

### Allies

N/A

### Partners

DJIBOUTI, IRAN

### Rivals

RUSSIA, UNITED STATES

### Adversaries

N/A

### Active Armed Opponents

N/A

### Proxy

N/A

### External Sponsor

N/A

### Aid Recipient

GERMANY, FRANCE, JAPAN, EUROPEAN UNION

### Aid Donor

DJIBOUTI, EGYPT Government, ERITREA, IRAN, IRAQ Government, JORDAN, MOROCCO Government, SOMALIA Government, SOUTH SUDAN, SUDAN, TUNISIA, TURKEY