

Abstract

The change that occurred in the international system after the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 changed the uniqueness of the United States of America to the United States of America. ...) medium-long term, and China is among the countries seeking global jobs and economic prestige in the international system, It is one of the most important Asian countries, which possesses the elements of material and immaterial power that qualifies it to take such a position, and it has a permanent seat in the UN Security Council, and it is the largest country in the world in terms of population, the second world economy after the United States of America, and the third country In terms of area after Russia and Canada, it is the first in monetary reserves, and the third militarily after the United States of America and the Russian Federation, so it is one of the international powers nominated to play an active role in the international system in the twenty-first century, as it can contribute to shaping the shape of the next international system .

China is going through an important transitional stage in its contemporary history, after the launch of the Belt and Road Initiative, in which it is witnessing the effects of performance and achievement on the political, economic, military, and even technological levels, as well as in infrastructure, and this in itself prompted many experts of strategy and international relations to bet on the future of its position in the structure of the system. The international system as a major power will have a direct and effective physical presence in the international system, through its contribution to reshaping the balance of the economic system based on new criteria and a different strategy, different from those that the United States seeks to establish a reality.

As the Middle East region was an important strategic center in the realization of global powers, especially the United States of America and China, the strategies of these powers reveal a clear multiplicity of visions and motives driving them, as well as the diversity of goals and interests that each country seeks to achieve⁵ and the variation of the means and methods they use to implement them. These strategies, and after the end of the Cold War, the status of the Middle East increased in the perceptions of international and global powers of its geostrategic importance due to its geographical location linking the continents of the world.

The study problem stems from the following main question (What is the position of the Middle East region in the Chinese strategy after the launch of the Belt and Road Initiative in 2013?) From the main question, we have a set of questions:

1. What are the transformations of Chinese strategic thought?
2. What is the strategic importance of the Middle East region in China's strategic perception?
3. What is the Belt and Road Initiative and what are its strategic implications?
4. What are the positions of regional and international powers on the Belt and Road Initiative?
5. What are the variables affecting the Belt and Road Initiative in the Middle East?
6. What are the future prospects for the position of the Middle East in the Belt and Road Initiative?

To brief and answer the problems of the study, the hypothesis of the study proceeds from the following (the Middle East region occupies a distinguished position in the Chinese strategy, and this importance was demonstrated through the nature and pattern of Chinese relations with the countries of the Middle East, which have a place in the tracks of the Belt and Road Initiative).

The mainstay of this study was the deductive approach with the use of scientific research approaches/methods related to the subject of the study. The researcher used the historical approach to review the historical developments of the Chinese strategy leading to the Belt and Road Initiative, and the analytical approach to analyze the reality of regional and international variables affecting the Middle East, as well as The Belt and Road Initiative, and the forward-looking approach to research scenes of decline, continuation or increase of the future role of the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative in the Middle East.

The study was divided into four chapters in addition to an introduction and a conclusion. The first chapter deals with the trends of Chinese strategy and its intellectual transformations, in three sections. The first topic focused on: the historical background of Chinese strategic thought, while the second topic deals with Chinese strategic decision-making institutions. In Chinese strategy (stages, goals, tools).

As for the second chapter, it showed the importance of the Middle East region in the Chinese strategic perception, and it was divided into three sections. The first section deals with the historical development of the Chinese strategic perception towards the Middle East region, while the second topic focused on the Chinese strategic perception of the geostrategic importance of the Middle East, and the third topic He reviewed the Chinese strategic awareness of the geoeconomic (energy) importance of the Middle East.

While the third chapter focused on the strategic implications of the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative, in three sections, the first topic dealt with the Belt and Road Initiative (corridors, paths, goals, and motives), while the second topic focused on the foundations of the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative, while the third topic dealt with Positions of regional and international organizations and powers on China's Belt and Road Initiative.

The study series ends in the fourth chapter, which came under the title: The variables affecting the Belt and Road Initiative, the positions of the Middle Eastern countries and the future prospects, and divided into three sections. The Middle Eastern countries are part of the Belt and Road Initiative, and the third section looks at the future scenes of the status of the Middle East.