

Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

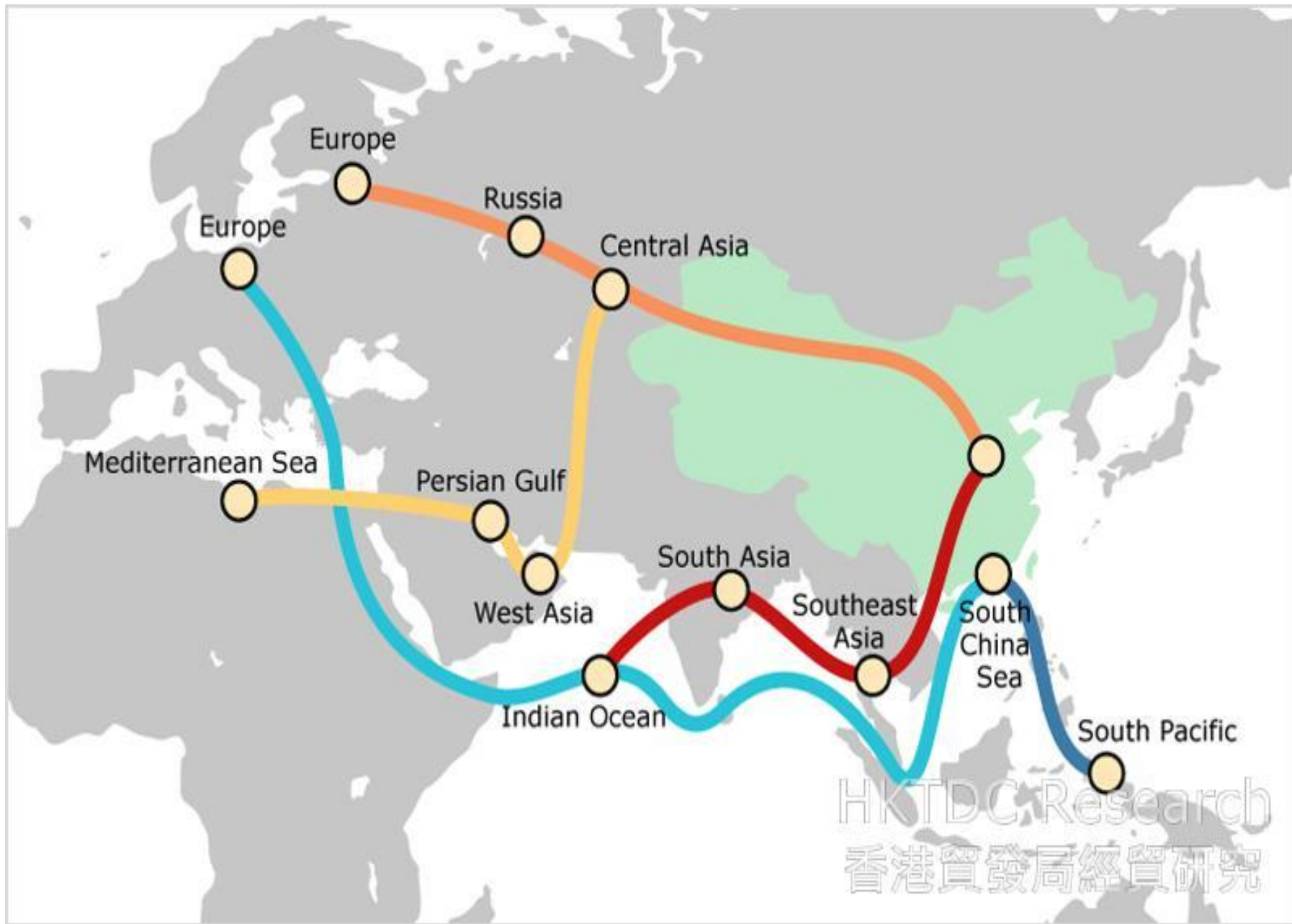
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Overview



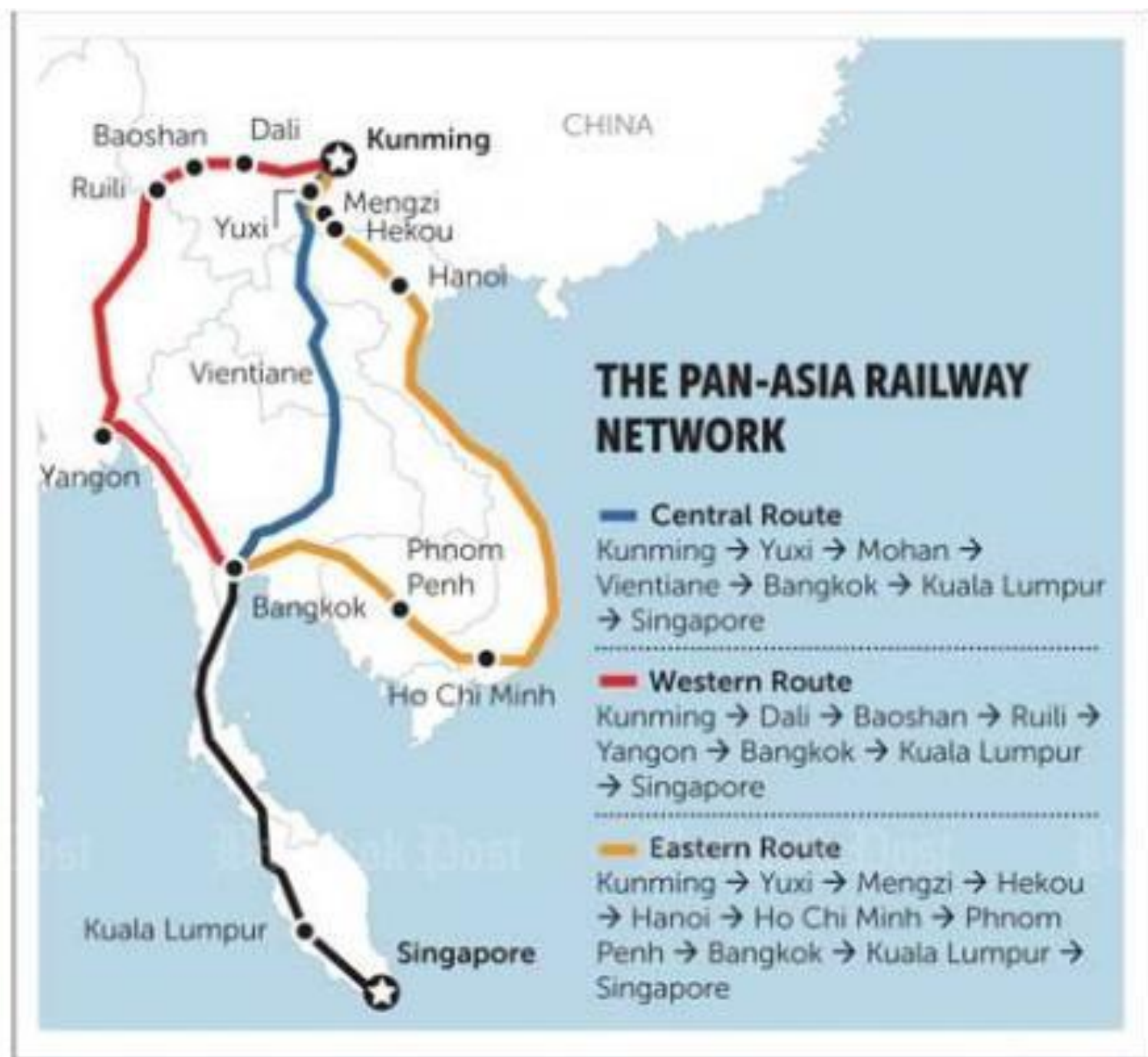
- route 1: China-Central Asia-Russia-Europe
- route 2: China-Middle East-Persian Gulf-
Mediterranean Sea
- route 3: China-Southeast Asia-South Asia
- Maritime Silk Road: China-South China Sea-
Indian Ocean-Europe

- 70 countries
- 70 % of world population
- 1-4 trillion US dollars
- China will be the center of world economy
- BRI : most expensive investment in human history

Rationale

- energy security
- the rise of China
- US containment

ASEAN and BRI



- Kunming-Singapore
- Nanning-Singapore
- Kunming and Nanning: gateways to ASEAN
- Kunming-Singapore Rail Link
 - route 1: Kunming-Vietnam-Cambodia-Thailand-Singapore
 - route 2: Kunming-Myanmar-Thailand-Singapore
 - route 3: Kunming-Laos-Thailand-Singapore

Thailand and BRI

- China: no. 1 trading partner
- China: no. 2 investor
 - 2006: 1 %
 - 2016: 15 %
- China: no. 1 tourists (10 millions)

-Thailand's infrastructure strategy

- geographical location:

center of Southeast Asia

- Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity

- East-West Economic Corridor

- Southern Economic Corridor

- North-South Economic Corridor



- Thailand

- hub of ASEAN infrastructure

- hub of ASEAN connectivity

- hub of ASEAN-China connectivity

- bridge between BRI and ASEAN connectivity

- BRI project in Thailand
 - Bangkok-Nongkhai high speed train
 - negotiation
 - phase 1: Bangkok-Korat

Problems

Overview

- trust
- negative image
- South China Sea dispute
- economic over-dependence
- Chinese demands
- debt trap diplomacy

implications beyond trade

- geo-politics
- security
- non-traditional security issues
- labor
- migration

- public health
- human trafficking
- drug trafficking
- terrorism
- social welfare
- environment

Sri Lanka

- big amount of loans from China
- Hambantota seaport
- debt: 80% of GDP

(one of the highest among developing countries)

- China's lease of Hambantota for 99 years
- Hambantota:

strategic location for China to dominate Indian Ocean

Pakistan

- China-Pakistan Economic Corridor
 - 60 billion US dollars
 - Gwadar seaport
- (link Western China to Indian Ocean)

Bangladesh

- BRI projects
- Chinese bank
- Chinese investment
- Chinese construction companies
- 20 billions debt to China

Malaysia

- East Coast Rail Line
 - 20 billions investment
 - Chinese investment
 - Chinese construction companies
 - Chinese engineers
 - Dr. Mahathir has suspended the project

Laos

- Kunming-Vientiane high speed train
- 6 billions investment (70% of Laos' GDP)

Thailand

- high interest rate loans
- land development rights along the railway
- license exemption for Chinese engineers
- Chinese investment
- Chinese construction workers
- long negotiation process
- BRI summit in Beijing in May 2017

Recommendations

- Recommendations for ASEAN-China cooperation
 - balance between benefits and over-dependence
 - mutual-benefits (win-win)
 - compromise
 - less pressure and demand

- striking a balance:
 - engaging
 - avoiding economic domination
- debt trap diplomacy
- managing implications beyond trade