The Geopolitics of the Belt and Road Initiative Training Course

Professional Development Training Course Outline

Category	Political Science and International Relations	**Duration**	5 Days
Base Fee	$1,500 USD	**Delivery Mode**	Online / On-site Hybrid

Course Introduction

The **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**, China's monumental **global infrastructure development strategy**, is reshaping the **geopolitical and geoeconomic landscape** of the 21st century. Launched in 2013, this initiative, also known as the New Silk Road, involves massive investments in infrastructure, trade, and connectivity across more than 150 countries. The BRI's vast scope, from overland economic corridors to a maritime silk road, makes it a centerpiece of global power dynamics, raising critical questions about **economic sovereignty**, **debt diplomacy**, and **international relations**. Understanding the motivations, implications, and future trajectory of the BRI is no longer optional for those operating in the global arena. This course provides a comprehensive analytical framework to dissect the strategic underpinnings of this initiative, empowering professionals to navigate the complex challenges and opportunities it presents.

The Geopolitics of the Belt and Road Initiative Training Course goes beyond surface-level analysis to explore the **strategic dimensions** of the BRI, including its role in advancing China's **"major-country diplomacy"** and its impact on **global supply chains** and **regional stability**. We will examine how the BRI serves China's domestic goals, such as rebalancing regional economies and addressing industrial overcapacity, while simultaneously projecting its influence abroad. Through a blend of theoretical frameworks and **real-world case studies**, participants will gain the analytical skills to assess the risks and rewards associated with the BRI for governments, corporations, and international organizations. The course is designed to provide actionable insights, enabling strategic decision-making in a world increasingly defined by **multipolarity** and **great power competition**.

Programme Curriculum

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Introduction

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Course Duration

5 days

Course Objectives

1. Analyze the geopolitical and geoeconomic logic driving China's Belt and Road Initiative.
2. Evaluate the BRI's impact on global supply chains, trade flows, and logistics infrastructure.
3. Assess the risks of debt-trap diplomacy and their implications for host nations.
4. Examine the role of the BRI in the context of U.S.-China strategic competition and the broader Indo-Pacific security landscape.
5. Understand the financial architecture of the BRI, including the roles of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the Silk Road Fund.
6. Identify key geostrategic chokepoints and maritime routes central to the BRI.
7. Deconstruct the Digital Silk Road and its implications for technology, data governance, and cyber security.
8. Explore the BRI's effects on regional stability, governance, and environmental sustainability.
9. Forecast the long-term geopolitical trends shaped by BRI investments and partnerships.
10. Develop an analytical framework for assessing BRI projects in specific countries and regions.
11. Evaluate the BRI's influence on global governance and the shaping of a new world order.
12. Compare the BRI with rival initiatives, such as the U.S.'s Build Back Better World (B3W) and the EU's Global Gateway.
13. Formulate a strategic response to BRI-related opportunities and challenges for organizations.

Organizational Benefits

- Equip leadership with the ability to **anticipate and mitigate geopolitical risks** associated with BRI projects and regional instability.

- Provide executives with a robust framework to make informed decisions on investments, market entry, and supply chain management in BRI-participating countries.
- Gain a deep understanding of the competitive landscape, identifying how the BRI can create both opportunities and threats for your organization.
- Develop the capacity to conduct thorough **political and sovereign risk assessments** related to BRI infrastructure and financial deals.
- Empower diplomatic and public sector teams with the knowledge to formulate effective policies and engage in nuanced negotiations with BRI stakeholders.
- Demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of global dynamics, which can enhance confidence among investors and board members.

Target Audience

1. Government officials and policymakers in foreign affairs, trade, and defense ministries.
2. Diplomats and embassy staff responsible for relations with China and BRI host nations.
3. Corporate executives, particularly those in infrastructure, energy, logistics, and technology sectors.
4. Investors, financial analysts, and risk managers seeking to understand sovereign and political risks.
5. Academics and researchers in international relations, economics, and security studies.
6. Journalists and public policy analysts covering global affairs and China.
7. Non-governmental organization (NGO) leaders and development workers operating in BRI countries.
8. Military and intelligence professionals focused on great power dynamics and strategic threats.

Course Outline

Module 1: The Historical and Conceptual Foundations of Geopolitics and the BRI

- Introduction to classical and modern geopolitical theory.
- Understanding China's strategic thinking: from the tributary system to the "China Dream."
- The origins of the BRI: **strategic and economic drivers**.
- The "Five Connectivities" as the official framework.
- **Case Study**: The historical context of the Maritime Silk Road and its modern reincarnation.

Module 2: The Eurasian Land Corridors

- The six main **land-based economic corridors**.
- Connectivity projects: high-speed rail, highways, and pipelines.
- Impact on Central Asia, Russia, and Europe.
- Security challenges: terrorism, separatism, and political instability.
- **Case Study**: The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and its strategic significance for both countries.

Module 3: The 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road

- **Strategic ports and naval bases** from the South China Sea to the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean.
- The "String of Pearls" theory and concerns about encirclement.
- Impact on maritime security and freedom of navigation.
- The role of ports as hubs for trade and influence.
- **Case Study**: The Hambantota Port in Sri Lanka and its role in the **debt-trap diplomacy** narrative.

Module 4: The Financial and Economic Dynamics

- The BRI's financing mechanisms: AIIB, Silk Road Fund, and Chinese state-owned banks.
- Analysis of loan structures, interest rates, and debt burdens.
- Implications for **economic sovereignty** and fiscal stability of host countries.
- The role of the Chinese yuan in global financial integration.
- **Case Study**: The financing of the Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway in Kenya and its economic impact.

Module 5: The Digital and Arctic Silk Roads

- The **Digital Silk Road**: undersea cables, 5G networks, and surveillance technology.
- Geopolitical implications of technological dominance and data control.
- The "Polar Silk Road" and its role in Arctic strategy and resource extraction.
- The nexus between technology, statecraft, and global power.
- **Case Study**: The expansion of Huawei's digital infrastructure in Africa and its security implications.

Module 6: The Geopolitical Response and Great Power Competition

- The U.S. and its response: B3W and other counter-initiatives.
- The European Union's perspective and its **Global Gateway strategy**.
- India's concerns and strategic opposition, particularly regarding CPEC.
- The role of other regional powers like Japan and Australia.
- **Case Study**: The AUKUS security pact and its connection to BRI-related naval expansion.

Module 7: Local Impacts, Governance, and Sustainability

- Social and environmental impacts of BRI projects.
- Labor practices, governance standards, and local opposition.
- The "Green Belt and Road" initiative: rhetoric vs. reality.
- The influence of Chinese companies and state actors on local politics.
- **Case Study**: The environmental and social controversies surrounding the Myitsone Dam project in Myanmar.

Module 8: The Future of the BRI and Strategic Forecasting

- Current trends and future trajectory of the BRI.
- The impact of global economic downturns and geopolitical crises.
- **Scenario planning** for the future of the initiative.
- Formulating a strategic response for your organization or country.
- **Case Study**: Forecasting the future of the BRI in Southeast Asia amidst U.S.-China tensions.

Training Methodology

- **Interactive Lectures**: Led by experts in geopolitics and international affairs.
- **Real-World Case Studies**: In-depth analysis of specific BRI projects to apply theoretical concepts.
- **Strategic Simulations**: Participants engage in a simulated geopolitical negotiation or scenario planning exercise.
- **Group Discussions**: Facilitated peer-to-peer learning and sharing of professional experiences.
- **Guest Speaker Sessions**: Insights from diplomats, industry leaders, and academic experts.
- **Analytical Frameworks**: Tools and methodologies for conducting geopolitical and risk analysis.

Register as a group from 3 participants for a Discount

Send us an email: info@fineskilltrainingcenter.org or call *+254769199797*

Certification

Upon successful completion of this training, participants will be issued with a globally- recognized certificate.

Tailor-Made Course

We also offer tailor-made courses based on your needs.

Key Notes

a. The participant must be conversant with English.

b. Upon completion of training the participant will be issued with an Authorized Training Certificate

c. Course duration is flexible and the contents can be modified to fit any number of days.

d. The course fee includes facilitation training materials, 2 coffee breaks, buffet lunch and A Certificate upon successful completion of Training.

e. One-year post-training support Consultation and Coaching provided after the course.

f. Payment should be done at least a week before commence of the training, to Fineskill Training Center account, as indicated in the invoice so as to enable us prepare better for you.

Upcoming Scheduled Sessions

Start Date	End Date	Location	Price
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Online	$1,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$1,500
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$3,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$3,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$4,500
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000

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