Beijing confronts an increasingly complex international risk map while enduring the most challenging period of its domestic economic transformation in decades. By Sebastian Heilmann and Mikiko Huotari

The scale and potential impact of China's foreign policy re-orientation became visible to most observers when China unveiled its new geo-economic masterplan in early 2016. The Silk Road Initiative (SRI), Beijing's pet project intended to redirect its economic and commercial power to Asia and Africa, seems part of a broader strategic initiative to extend China's influence regionally and globally. Beijing is transforming into a refurbished regional security actor. As a result of expanding economic, political and military power in Asia, the political system of the PRC has transformed into its new geo-economic masterplan.

At the same time, China's financial policy outlook is a regional and global business practice. With skilled diplomatic maneuvering, China's diplomats have won the support of 57 countries for the Silk Road Initiative, including the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Asian Development Bank, and Latin American leaders have sponsored forums with Southeast Asian and Eurasian leaders. The initiative stretching out to the Middle East, Africa and Europe. The initiative is a pet project intended to redirect China's growing economic, political and military power in Asia. It is also a regional and global business practice. With skilled diplomatic maneuvering, China's diplomats have won the support of 57 countries for the Silk Road Initiative, including the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Asian Development Bank, and Latin American leaders have sponsored forums with Southeast Asian and Eurasian leaders.

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In today's woebegone state of the world, de-escalatory policy and compartmentalized cooperation are the order of the day. By Mei Sommer

The bloody-dimmed tide is frozen and reversed; The ceremony of immolation is renewed.

The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.

These lines were written in the wake of World War I, yet there is no better description of today's Middle East than these. The “Second Coming” – From our view of resurrection, downs our global security structure, the most dangerous situation of all. “What a time of monstrous, extraordinary change,“ US President Barack Obama sighed in his last State of the Union address when he said, “What a time it was in many ways that it fell apart,“ said World Economic Forum founder Klaus Schwab last month in Davos. Global business leaders are seeing that nations are shifting away from growth to.

Wolfgang Ischinger, chairman of the Munich Security Conference
A North Korea with nuclear weapons capabilities is a global security threat

By Chung Min Lee

The North Korean nuclear crisis peaked several weeks in the 1990s. Over the last two decades, the nuclear-weapon state temporarily suspended nuclear and missile programs, and the multi-party talks (6+2) failed to achieve substantive results. This left a vacuum of confidence in the international community and for the future of the Korean Peninsula.

In 2016, the North Korean nuclear program was confirmed by two consecutive leaks of submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBM). The telltale signs of the failure of several North Korean military programs, including a submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) attack in 2016.

The absence of a reliable North Korean military infrastructure and the failure of the North Korean nuclear program have resulted in the collapse of the fragile peace regime on the Korean Peninsula. The current regime is under pressure to demonstrate its military capabilities and to maintain its legitimacy. The North Korean nuclear crisis is likely to continue to be a major source of tension in the region and globally.

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The hour of populism

Since the euro crisis, the continent has been quarreling with itself. People and demagogues are having a field day.

By Peter H. Koepp and Luz Berlengheimer

The latest round of Greek-German tension was triggered this week by a Greek TV personality. A professor—a member of his party—said to the Greek TV personality, “You have two Greek daughters, and I have one Syrian daughter. You have not only 200,000, but now even 200,000, migrants.”

It is the logical outcome of Syria’s long war and, more a matter of centuries that has produced the great population of the continent’s public life and theelation of refugees. The end of the continent’s great centrifugal is still a daunting task. And, as Peter H. Koepp and Luz Berlengheimer argue, it is time for the European Union to join forces to reduce the number of refugees and to address the root cause of the conflict. In the case of Syria, we have been talking about the need to stabilize the country for years, but so far we have been unable to do so. The situation in Syria is far from perfect. And it may yet turn out to be worse. Every shot that is fired must stop. Every single one.

We are moving toward something that is not as we wish it were, one that is not as the world is. Our message to Riyadh and the General Soros, who is nothing but a spoiler, not a shaper — unless we address its historic tasks: to offer shelter to the Kurdish Peshmerga, who are not defeated without military assistance. The situation in Ukraine is as harsh as possible. The Ukrainian government has decided to continue implementing accession agreements against profit shifting, and the European Convention on Human Rights. And in this context in Afghanistan, we have seen how our leaders have contributed to the conflict. The situation in Afghanistan is as harsh as possible. We are not accepting any changes, but we are not cutting and capping the aid that we give.

That means we can be proud of. And that is something we can be proud of.

The same is true of Europe. We have seen how our leaders have contributed to de-escalatory diplomacy, which is essential; this has not been the case in the Middle East or in Eastern Europe. We have seen how our leaders have contributed to the conflict. The situation in Afghanistan is as harsh as possible.

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On the sidelines no more

Two years into Germany’s “new” foreign policy

By Volker Perthes

Two years ago, at the 2014 Munich Security Conference, Germany’s President Joachim Gauck, Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier and Germany’s “new” foreign policy

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Russia is not yet prepared to get the settlement in the eastern crisis, at least not on terms that would be considered reasonable for Kiev. 

Letting go

Even if full implementation of Minsk II seems unlikely, the EU and US should continue pressing all parties to meet its provisions | By Steven Pifer

The struggle that began three and a half decades ago in many quarters of the West, especially in the US, in no way, did not do. Instead, President Barak Obama has continued with the same strategy that has been repeated for more than a decade. But will it ever end? The price of a barrel of crude oil has fallen dramatically during the past year. And, energy analysts think that the market could continue to fall even further.

In Saudi Arabia, except for one experiment

In some quarters of the West, the strategy that has been followed for more than a decade is starting to lose its appeal. The price of a barrel of crude oil has fallen dramatically during the past year. And, energy analysts think that the market could continue to fall even further.

In some quarters of the West, the strategy that has been followed for more than a decade is starting to lose its appeal. The price of a barrel of crude oil has fallen dramatically during the past year. And, energy analysts think that the market could continue to fall even further.
I t is early September 2017. The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) is attending a summit in Astana to further coordinate their efforts in the fight against IS. Syria’s unity, independence, territorial integrity and secular character are fundamental. The OSCE will be discussing ways to implement the Vienna Agreement on Syrian Peace and Reconciliation. The agreement, signed by Syria’s President Bashar al-Assad and the leaders of Russia and Turkey, aims to end the civil war in Syria and establish a transition process that will lead to the formation of a new Syrian government.

The situation in Syria is critical. The country is divided into several factions, including the Syrian government, opposition groups, the Islamic State (IS), and various other extremist groups. The conflict has caused immense suffering and loss of life, and has led to a large-scale displacement of civilians. The situation is further complicated by the presence of foreign fighters from different countries, who have fought on both sides of the conflict.

The OSCE’s role in Syria is to support the implementation of the Vienna Agreement and to facilitate a peaceful resolution to the conflict. The organisation will be working closely with the Syrian government and opposition groups to find a solution that is acceptable to all parties. The OSCE will also be providing humanitarian aid and support to those affected by the conflict.

The OSCE’s presence in Syria is considered essential for supporting the peace process and ensuring the implementation of the agreement. The organisation will be working to create a safe environment for negotiation and to facilitate dialogue between the various factions in Syria.

In addition to supporting the peace process, the OSCE will be working to address the humanitarian situation in Syria. The organisation will be providing assistance to those affected by the conflict, including displaced people, and will be working to ensure that humanitarian aid reaches those in need.

The OSCE’s role in Syria is crucial, and the organisation will be working to ensure that the Vienna Agreement is implemented and that a peaceful resolution to the conflict is reached. The situation in Syria is complex, but the OSCE’s presence is necessary for supporting the peace process and ensuring that the needs of the Syrian people are met.

**Kurds vs. Kurds**

**Rivalry between the Syrian arm of the PKK and the Kurdish autonomous government in Erbil is undermining the fight against IS | By Markus Bickel**

The new peace Syria process is in peril before it has even begun | By Andrea Bobhan

the US Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter recently announced plans to start the redeployment of US troops to Syria. The US military presence in Syria is expected to increase, in order to support the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) in their fight against IS. The SDF, composed of an alliance of Kurdish and Arab fighters, has made significant progress in recent months in retaking territory from IS.

However, the presence of US troops in Syria is likely to cause tensions with the Kurdish autonomous government in Erbil, which has a long-standing relationship with Iran. The Kurds in Syria and Iraq have different priorities, and the US is more focused on defeating IS, while the Kurds are more concerned with establishing a Kurdish state in the region.

The US and the Kurdish autonomous government in Erbil have been working together to combat IS, but the US is also supporting the Syrian Arab Army, which is fighting against the Kurds in some areas. This has caused tensions between the two sides, and the presence of US troops in Syria is likely to exacerbate these tensions.

The US is likely to provide support to the Kurds in Syria, but it is also clear that the US is focused on defeating IS, and is not necessarily interested in the establishment of a Kurdish state in the region. This is likely to cause tensions between the US and the Kurdish autonomous government in Erbil, and may ultimately undermine the fight against IS.
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Russia’s Syria gambit

Putin’s overarching goal in the Levant is not defeating terrorism, but elevating Russia’s place in the world order. This is not to say that Russia’s Syria policies are not ill-advised. On the contrary, Syria is a key piece in Putin’s wider strategy to create a “Russian sphere of influence.” Putin’s Syria policy is a masterful act of transnational statecraft, which has allowed Russia to gain influence in the Middle East and beyond, and to reassert itself as a major player on the global stage. However, the cost of this strategy is high, and the benefits are uncertain. Russia’s continued presence in Syria is not sustainable, and the risk of renewed conflict in the region is real. The challenge for Putin is to find a way to preserve Russia’s gains in Syria while avoiding a costly and risky military entanglement. This will require a careful balance of political, economic, and military tools, as well as a willingness to engage in dialogue with other powers. The future of Russia’s Syria policy will depend on a number of factors, including the outcome of the conflict, the response of other powers, and the domestic political landscape in Russia itself. Ultimately, Putin’s Syria gambit will be judged on its ability to advance Russia’s strategic interests, and on its impact on the wider Middle East and global politics.

Michael Koford from the Center for Security Policy in Moscow. "Gambit Security. Russia’s Syria gambit is a masterful act of transnational statecraft, which has allowed Russia to gain influence in the Middle East and beyond, and to reassert itself as a major player on the global stage. However, the cost of this strategy is high, and the benefits are uncertain. Russia’s continued presence in Syria is not sustainable, and the risk of renewed conflict in the region is real. The challenge for Putin is to find a way to preserve Russia’s gains in Syria while avoiding a costly and risky military entanglement. This will require a careful balance of political, economic, and military tools, as well as a willingness to engage in dialogue with other powers. The future of Russia’s Syria policy will depend on a number of factors, including the outcome of the conflict, the response of other powers, and the domestic political landscape in Russia itself. Ultimately, Putin’s Syria gambit will be judged on its ability to advance Russia’s strategic interests, and on its impact on the wider Middle East and global politics."
February 2016

Mission not achieved

The Taliban’s temporary conquest of Kunduz made plain the Afghan army’s continuing need for training and outside expertise | By Johannes Leithäuser

The security dimension of climate change already had a significant negative effect on global stability | By Dan Smith

The security dimension of climate change is already had a significant negative effect on global stability.  

When presented over the lack of legal space and redacted in the wrong way, the answer to the question of what will happen and how will it work is not clear. The process for implementing the Paris Agreement and for the includes not only the lack of legal space and redacted in the wrong way, but also the lack of legal space and redacted in the wrong way. Resilience is not only a matter of personal and social resilience, but also a matter of institutional resilience. The security dimension of climate change is already had a significant negative effect on global stability.

In 2015 the opening of the next Paris agreement, which is currently being negotiated, was postponed. As of 2015, there is still no agreement on the next steps for global action. In 2015, the opening of the next Paris agreement, which is currently being negotiated, was postponed. As of 2015, there is still no agreement on the next steps for global action.

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INVENTOR OF CRUISES SINCE 1891

When HAPAG director Albert Ballin put to sea in 1891 with the Augusta Victoria, he invented a completely new form of travel: the cruise. This pioneering spirit characterises us to this day. It’s how we were able to reinvent the cruise in 2013 – with the MS EUROPA 2 recognised as the best ship in its class. 125 years of cruises – become a part of the history: www.since-1891.com/times