
THE SECURITY COMPONENT OF THE BRI IN CENTRAL ASIA, PART ONE: CHINESE AND REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON SECURITY IN CENTRAL ASIA

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Sergey Sukhankin

Introduction

On June 15, Peoples Republic of China (PRC) Vice Foreign Minister Le Yucheng (???) held consultations via video with Turkmenistans Deputy Foreign Minister Vepa Hajiyev. During the meeting, two main topics were discussed: the first was reaffirming the strategic nature of bilateral ties between the two countries, and the second consisted of Hajiyev expressing Turkmenistans commitment to further promote the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) (Belt and Road News, June 15). Earlier in March, PRC State Councilor and former Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi (???) stated during a trip through Central Asia that China and regional countries had reaffirmed their determination to deepen cooperation through the BRI. He specifically highlighted the determination of Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan to push forward cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative and further increase economic connectivity (Belt and Road News, March 6).

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