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IRAN IN CHINA'S GRAND STRATEGY

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by Miles Maochun Yu

China does not have a fixed Iran doctrine. And Iran does not have a historic China doctrine, as it usually places its geostrategic emphasis on the Middle East, the United States, and Europe. But the two revolutionary regimes are coming together. Iran now serves as an important part of Chinas overall strategic approach to world affairs, an approach that is fundamentally determined by an orthodox Marxist-Leninist understanding of international power dynamics.

The Peoples Republic of China (PRC) under the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) envisions an epic struggle on a global scale between the international anti-communist forces, led by the United States, and the global socialist cause, led by the CCP since the demise of Communism in the former Eastern bloc under the Soviet Union. This basic understanding of the struggle has led to the development of a deeply-held strategic paranoia in Beijing. The Party has inculcated a peculiar set of doctrinal principles that place the CCP at the center of a well-coordinated international containment scheme designed to stifle the CCP from carrying out its historic socialist mission to its logical and ideological conclusion.

According to all core CCP leaders, from Mao Zedong, to Deng Xiaoping, to Jiang Zemin, to Hu Jintao, to Xi Jinping, the CCP must implement a series of measures at any cost to counter the anticommunist containment, and survive and eventually triumph as the leader of a new model of global governance. Two of these measures now involve Iran: the strategies of breakout and diversion.

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