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CHINA WILL TREAD CAREFULLY IN NAVIGATING THE TALIBAN'S RETURN

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Vincent Ni

The USs hasty departure from Afghanistan has provided much material for Chinas propaganda agencies to discredit Washingtons foreign policy. But Beijing is also treading a careful line in navigating an increasingly uncertain security situation in one of its most volatile neighbours.

On Monday, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson, Hua Chunying, said that while Beijing will continue developing good-neighbourly, friendly and cooperative relations with Afghanistan, it also urges the Taliban to ensure that all kinds of terrorism and crimes can be curbed so that the Afghan people can stay away from war and rebuild their homeland.

China sees the issue of Afghanistan as a quagmire, where great powers often find themselves entrapped historically from Britain to the Soviet Union, and now the US. Chinese state media calls Afghanistan a graveyard of empires. In other words, Beijing does not want to be mired in the Great Game in the centre of the Eurasian continent.

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