

Title: The Impact of China's Belt and Road Initiative on the Security of Selected Central and Eastern European Countries

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Abstract:

The doctoral dissertation entitled "The Impact of China's Belt and Road Initiative on the Security of Selected Central and Eastern European Countries" addresses the issue of the implementation of the Chinese initiative in the Central and Eastern European region from the perspective of its impact on various aspects of security of the countries selected for analysis. The paper considers three key elements of scientific analysis: descriptive, exploratory and prescriptive. The author has attempted to address a research problem that lies within the fields of interest of political science, security studies, international relations and economics. The Belt and Road Initiative combines economic, political and strategic elements, and its study from the perspective of security components allowed for a multidimensional and comprehensive analysis.

The paper points out that Chinese actions in the international arena follow the principles of realism, manifesting themselves in the pursuit of maximising power and influence through strategic alliances and economic investment. The specifics of the Central and Eastern European region are discussed, considering the changes taking place in individual countries after the fall of communism. The actions of the People's Republic of China are also analysed, with a particular focus on transformation and the motives behind the Belt and Road Initiative.

A historical overview of the Silk Road as a prototype of the Belt and Road Initiative and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of the initiative is also presented. Six case studies of Central and Eastern European countries participating in the BRI were analysed in detail: Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Serbia, Croatia and Belarus. It was found that the reactions of these countries varied according to their individual economic and political interests. It was also noted that the perception of risk associated with Chinese actions was not uniform, due to different approaches to security architecture. As a result, the paper makes recommendations for further cooperation within the BRI to strengthen security in the region.

An important value of the proposed topic is its topicality and great importance for the security of the analysed countries, including Poland. The innovation of the research

in this project lies in its interdisciplinary character and the use of an appropriate geopolitical key. The author has recognised that the security paradigm is changing because of the widespread expansion of technology. The Chinese initiative may affect every security sector of the CEE countries. Each of the countries analysed must therefore be prepared institutionally and in terms of personnel for cooperation with China. A necessary step is to close the gaps in knowledge and perception of China. The results of the project can thus not only contribute to science but can also be used in the policy-making process.

