

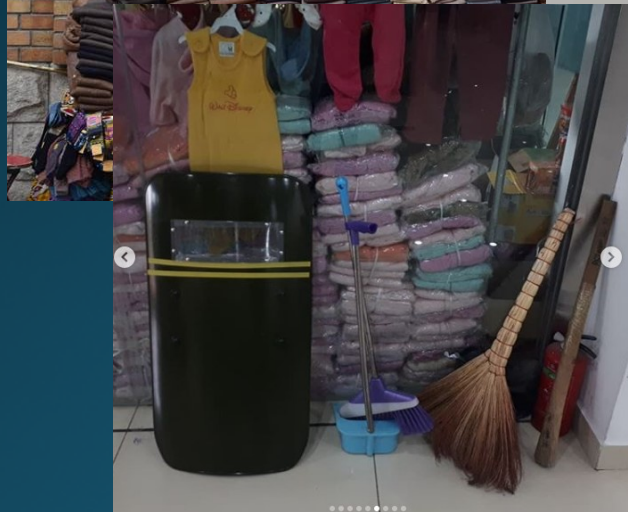
Perceptions amongst Different Strata of Kazakhstan in Relation to the New Silk Road



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禁止吸烟
нельзя курить
شہ کی شہ کیپہ گزی ز دہر
اما کا چہ کمہا کی



“Central Asian populace does not look on Beijing’s inroads into the region as favourably as do official discourses from Central Asian governments.”

Laruelle and Peyrouse 2012

“Discourse analysis of different languages of newspapers in Kazakhstan reveals that Kazakhstanis’ views towards China and the Chinese are divided.”

Burkhanov and Chen 2015

“...an empirical gap in the understanding of Central Asian perspectives on the rise of China.”

Yu-Wen Chen 2015

*"To analyze Kazakh perceptions of China, one must separate several social groups and strata: the **political establishment**, **experts**, and the **general public**. Each of them has a different perception of China and the Chinese presence, as well as a different understanding of the problems of China, its traditions, and the Chinese way of life. These differences can be explained by the amount of information each group has at its disposal and the level of communication each of them have with Chinese people."*

Konstantin Syroezhkin 2009

“...we see that this was a very timely, very far-sighted idea that works for the benefit of our nations.”

“Today we can say that it was a great idea.”

“This stimulated us to adopt our program “Nurly Zhol”, because the way to Europe runs across Kazakhstan, Russia, and further.”

Nursultan Nazarbayev 2018

“In other words, despite the current fear of “Chinese expansion,” Central Asian expert communities view China not only as a counterbalance to Western influence, but as a worthy alternative to Russia, not only in trade but perhaps in sensitive areas of national security.”

Sebastien Peyrouse 2015

*"We can't give land to the Chinese.
If they come then they won't leave!"*

*"After 25 years, they will stay for 65. After 65 their descendants
will take Kazakhstan's citizenship, and our descendants will be their
slaves."*

*"If we tomorrow give, or distribute, 1 million hectares of land,
it would mean 15 people working per hectare. That means 15 million
people would be brought from China. If one of those 15
people were to give birth each year, that would be the end.
In 50 years there would be 50 million Chinese [in Kazakhstan]"*

Kazakh Protesters, 2016

What are the perceptions of different strata of Kazakhstan in relation to the New Silk Road?

Is there a difference (if so in what way and with what potential influence) between Russian and Kazakh language in reporting on the New Silk Road?

What is the optimal way to gain data gauging perceptions in Central Asia?

If expert and public opinion in Kazakhstan is critical of Chinese policies in Xinjiang towards the ethnic Kazakh diaspora (as argued by Clarke and Peyrouse, amongst others) does the current security situation in Xinjiang endanger the feasibility of the OBOR?

If Kazakhstan, as proposed by Marlene Laruelle, is becoming more Kazakh and less Kazakhstani, does this affect China/Kazakhstan norms and relations?

And what does it mean for the New Silk Road?