

Examples of Sino-MENA Back Issues

Title	Key questions addressed
<p>MENA and China: Joined at the hip</p> <p>Date: 12 December, 2013</p> <p>Tags: Oil, trade potential, FDI impact</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> China is importing a greater share of its oil from MENA, while MENA is exporting a greater share of its oil to China, a pattern that is a resumption of a centuries-old interdependence: the Silk Route, as it is being re-established rather than invented.
<p>Sino-Saudi relations: Not just a marriage of convenience</p> <p>Date: 17 January, 2014</p> <p>Tags: Sino-Saudi, Energy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saudi Arabia supplies 20% of China's oil today. China, in turn, is Saudi Arabia's largest oil customer. This interdependence is set to grow as the US becomes more energy self-sufficient and imports less oil from the Middle East. Petrochemicals, Saudi Arabia's second largest export, account for 5% of Chinese imports, underscoring potential for growing trade. But China's protectionism over its own domestic industry could dampen prospects. Chinese FDI in Saudi Arabia, mostly in construction, only accounts for 3% of China's total investment in MENA. Sizeable infrastructure projects will be too good to miss for Chinese firms increasingly looking to do business in the region.
<p>Arab FDI "pivots" to China</p> <p>Date: 9 October, 2014</p> <p>Tags: FDI, Energy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What was the nature of Arab investment into the Chinese economy from 2003 and how was it impacted during the 2008 global financial crisis? How did the 2011 upheavals in Middle East and North Africa affect FDI flows from Arab countries to China? Which countries were more resilient than others? What makes China an attractive destination for GCC investment?
<p>Sino-MENA: The New Silk Road?</p> <p>Date: 24 September, 2014</p> <p>Tags: Energy, infrastructure, China-GCC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the nature of China's infrastructure investment in MENA? How has the relationship between China and the GCC evolved over the years and where is it headed? What is the extent of China's energy dependence on the MENA region?
<p>Sino-MENA: A new era in energy relations?</p> <p>Date: 2 January, 2015</p> <p>Tags: Oil, China's energy strategies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent does China depend on MENA oil to address its energy needs? What kind of energy security strategies is China pursuing to reduce its dependence on MENA? How is China's energy relationship with the MENA region developing?
<p>Sino-MENA: Looking beyond the barrels</p> <p>Date: 12 February, 2015</p> <p>Tags: Non-oil strategies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What kind of institutional frameworks has China created to promote Sino-MENA trade? What are some of the strategies shaping China's economic engagement with the MENA region under the Xi Jinping administration? What long-term trends do we expect to see in Sino-MENA economic ties?

<p><u>Sino-MENA: Blossoming partnerships</u></p> <p>Date: 9 April, 2015</p> <p>Tags: Diplomacy, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Algeria, Egypt, Kuwait & Morocco</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China's Comprehensive, Friendly and Strategic partnerships with MENA countries: How do we interpret these various titles? • How do China's relationships with oil and non-oil producing Arab countries differ? • Which MENA countries is China looking to upgrade ties with? What impact will this have on China's role in MENA?
<p><u>Sino-Iranian Relations:</u></p> <p><u>Lower barriers in a post-deal era</u></p> <p>Date: 23 July, 2015</p> <p>Tags: Trade, Nuclear deal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the nuclear deal, how will Sino-Iranian economic relations evolve? • To what extent does a return of international businesses to Iran undermine the presence of Chinese companies there? • Will China's deepening political ties and greater political activism in MENA translate into increased military activism in the region?
<p><u>Sino-MENA:</u></p> <p><u>A very different future beckons</u></p> <p>Date: 13 August, 2015</p> <p>Tags: Islamic Banking, Trade, Hi Tech</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has trade between MENA and China evolved over the years and what countries dominate trade ties? • Is energy the sole winner of trade between China and MENA or can trade relations extend beyond oil and gas? • How is China leveraging the GCC's expertise to develop its Islamic finance industry?
<p><u>Sino-UAE: From strength to strength</u></p> <p>Date: 3 September, 2015</p> <p>Tags: Partnerships, Properties</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has Sino-UAE trade evolved over the years and how significant is this partnership? • What impact will the devaluation of the yuan have on bilateral trade? • What role does the Chinese community play in Dubai's property market and how will this be impacted by the yuan's devaluation?
<p><u>China's New Silk Road: The Suez hub</u></p> <p>Date: 12 November, 2015</p> <p>Tags: Trade, FDI, Diplomacy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has Sino-Egypt trade evolved over the years and how significant is this partnership? • What role will the China-Egypt Suez Economic and Trade Zone expansion play in China's New Silk Road? • To what extent will China's growing economic stake in Egypt affect US-Egyptian relations?
<p><u>China's accelerating North Africa footprint</u></p> <p>Date: 10 March, 2016</p> <p>Tags: Trade, Egypt, Sudan, Tunisia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has Sino-Egyptian trade evolved over the years and how significant is this partnership? • FDI from China to Sudan as a proportion of total Chinese FDI to North Africa dropped from 88% in 2004 to 17% in 2014. What are the opportunities for scaling up? • How is China leveraging its relationship with Tunisia to strengthen EU economic ties?
<p><u>Sino-UAE Trade: Major strides beyond oil</u></p> <p>Date: 19 May, 2016</p> <p>Tags: Non-oil, Energy, FDI, Tourism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has Sino-UAE trade evolved over the last decade and how significant is this partnership? • What is the investment flow from China to the UAE and how significant is this compared to China's total FDI to the Arab World? • Has the economic slowdown in China impacted tourist inflows to the UAE?

<p><u>China's petro & MENA's yuan</u></p> <p>Date: 18 August, 2016</p> <p>Tags: Oil, diversification, currency</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China has been diversifying the geographical sources of its imported crude. Is this a cause for concern for OPEC? • China now pays in RMB for some of the Russian crude. Will MENA crude be next? • China is expected to launch its own crude futures benchmark later this year in its bid to rival Brent and WTI. Will it succeed?
<p><u>Sino-Oman: Banking on AIIB</u></p> <p>Date: 2 February, 2017</p> <p>Tags: Oil, Investment, Banking, Infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China is Oman's top crude oil export destination, accounting for 77% of Omani oil exports in 2015. Which Chinese regional governments are eyeing more trade and investment opportunities with Oman? • What role can Chinese firms play in the Sultanate of Oman Logistics Strategy 2040, which aims to increase the contribution of logistics industry to Oman's GDP to 12% in 2040? • The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) approved two projects in Oman in December 2016, the bank's first projects in the MENA region. How will Oman benefit from being a founding member of AIIB and on the map of China's One Belt One Road (BRI) strategy?
<p><u>CPEC: Corridor of opportunities</u></p> <p>Date: 17 March, 2017</p> <p>Tags: BRI, Oil</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is an essential component of China's One Belt, One Road (BRI) initiative for the integration and connectivity of Eurasia and China. What are the major areas of interest? • How does CPEC differ from other BRI projects in offering strategic advantages to China with regards to accessing MENA oil? • Which of the other MENA countries, namely Iran and Egypt, would gain from participating in CPEC? What are the security challenges that could hamper CPEC's realisation?
<p><u>Sino-Levant: Tourism, the icing on the cake</u></p> <p>Date: 5 May, 2017</p> <p>Tags: BRI, Tourism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China overtook Saudi Arabia to become Jordan's top import origin country in 2016. What factors accounted for this, and will China bypass Saudi Arabia to become Jordan's top overall trade partner? • How has the growth in the number of Chinese tourists to Lebanon fared since the 2005 tourism deal? • How significant is China's role in Palestine and Syria, particularly with regards to humanitarian and military support?
<p><u>Sino-Saudi Relations: Refineries take it to the next level</u></p> <p>Date: 24 August, 2017</p> <p>Tags: BRI, Energy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sino-Saudi relationship occupies many different areas of cooperation. What are the major significant aspects? • Bilateral trade increased by 50% from 2009 to USD 64.3B in 2011, achieving the USD 60B trade volume target of 2015, four years earlier. What are the opportunities for scaling up, in light of China's One Belt One Road (BRI) initiative and Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030?
<p><u>Survey Spotlight: Chinese companies optimistic amidst new risks</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arabia Monitor conducted a survey on Chinese companies in the UAE and Saudi Arabia (KSA). • What are the sectoral distribution and sizes of Chinese enterprises?

<p>Date: 9 November, 2017</p> <p>Tags: BRI, Investment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is their level of optimism about the business environment in the GCC? • Do they have investment and expansion plans in MENA? If yes, what are the destinations they plan to invest in MENA? • What are their concerns when doing business in both countries?
<p><u>Sino-UAE: F&B, Clean Energy, Tourism & Finance</u></p> <p>Date: 18 January, 2018</p> <p>Tags: BRI, F&B, Clean Energy, Tourism, Finance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UAE is China's most important non-oil trade partner among GCC countries, handling 60% of Chinese exports to other GCC countries, Iran, Africa and Europe. What are the major non-oil aspects? • A new joint venture Coffee Centre between China and the UAE presents an untapped potential for Chinese coffee beans in the local market and a new trade route to the global market via Dubai. What are the opportunities for UAE-China F&B industrial cooperation? • The UAE aims to increase the share of clean energy from near zero three years ago to 50% by 2050. What kind of role is China expected to play in supporting their future energy mix strategy?
<p><u>Sino-Iran: From infrastructure to project finance</u></p> <p>Date: 5 April 2018</p> <p>Tags: Trade, Finance, Infrastructure, Banking</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2018, the two sides plan to increase trade to USD 50B. At an average annual growth rate of 9.9%, we estimate growth around USD 41B for this year. • We expect to see two areas gaining further momentum in bilateral cooperation this year: project finance and infrastructure development. • The reactivation of suspended accounts of Iranian citizens by Chinese banks is a step forward in resolving banking hurdles but Iran still needs the blessing of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).
<p><u>China-Kuwait: Adding threads to the Silk Road</u></p> <p>Date: 2 August 2018</p> <p>Tags: Trade, Infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kuwait-China trade stood at USD 12B in 2017, up 80% from 2008. China is Kuwait's largest source of imports and the latter is China's fourth largest Arab world crude oil supplier. • One of the world's longest causeways is being built to Kuwait's north with the aim of reviving the ancient Silk Road trade route. • China will play a key role in making Silk City a model of cooperation among states along the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road.
<p><u>Sino-UAE: Deepening ties from E-Commerce to food</u></p> <p>Date: 9 August 2018</p> <p>Tags: Trade, E-Commerce, Agriculture</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UAE is China's most important non-oil trade partner among GCC countries, handling 60% of Chinese exports to other GCC countries, Iran, Africa and Europe • Deals signed with Chinese e-commerce giants and transportation companies over cross-border logistics are expected to play an important role in furthering growth of the e-commerce industry in the UAE. • The two sides are taking a multi-step approach to developing salt-resistant rice planting, with the ambitious goal of turning at least 10% of the UAE's territory into green land.
<p><u>Arab business looks to the East</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCC companies and sovereign wealth funds are looking towards the East to invest.

<p>Date: 18 October 2018</p> <p>Tags: Investment, BRI, Financing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China's Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) has brought new marketing opportunities for Arab businesses. • While Chinese banks continue to grow in the GCC, Non-GCC Arab banks are taking the initiative to branch out in China, to benefit from growing trade links and BRI financing.
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Below is a selection of our Monthly Sino-MENA coverage that sheds light on:

- Sino-Moroccan relations with a focus on how **Morocco** is positioning itself to attract more Chinese tourists (Dec 2016);
- The Levant with a focus on how China is positioning itself in **Lebanon** and **Jordan** (April 2017);
- The new era between China and **Bahrain**, led by Bahrain's Economic Development Board and the City of Shenzhen (June 2017);
- Significant developments in four areas of Sino-**Saudi** economic cooperation in 2018: Aramco IPO; nuclear reactor projects; increasing investments by Aramco and SABIC in China; and capitalising on the opening of the kingdom in infrastructure and entertainment sectors by Chinese companies (Dec 2017);
- Sino-UAE: In 2017, the **UAE** was the only global top 10 country from MENA receiving China's outbound investment, particularly shored up by CNPC's and CEFEC's USD 2.8B acquisition of 12% ADNOC onshore shares (Jan 2018);
- Sino-UAE: The **UAE** is embracing Chinese payment solutions by beginning to accept Alipay, one of China's top mobile payment platforms similar to PayPal, with more than half a billion users (Feb 2018);
- Sino-UAE: Foreign direct investment from Chinese companies in Abu Dhabi's industrial free zone reached USD 1B in less than a year and is expected to rise when the **UAE's** new investment law takes effect (April 2018);
- Sino-Morocco: We expect to see further investments from China's southwestern Sichuan province into **Morocco's** Tangier following Sichuan-based Haite Group's USD 1B investment in Mohammed VI Tangier Tech City (May 2018);
- Aid: President Xi Jinping outlined for the first time China's approach to collaborating with Arab states and pledged USD 20B in loans and over USD 100M in financial aid (July 2018);
- A key deal to watch out for during President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi's visit to China in September is the renewal of the currency swap agreement worth USD 2.6B with **Egypt** (August 2018);
- Chinese companies forged closer ties with **Saudi Arabia** during the "Davos in the Desert" Future Investment Initiative in Riyadh with deals signed worth USD 4B.

