

## China outlines Silk Road plan for global trade

16th May, 2017



China's President Xi Jinping has outlined an ambitious project to regenerate global growth. His government has pledged a massive \$124 billion to bolster global trade along the old Silk Road route. Xi spoke about the initiative on Sunday at a summit attended by

leaders from 29 countries, as well as the heads of the United Nations, International Monetary Fund and World Bank. The President stated that the new initiative aimed to expand trading links between Asia, Africa, Europe and beyond. He said the project would invest billions of dollars in infrastructure to help facilitate the free flow of goods. He told attendees at the summit that: "Trade is the important engine of economic development."

President Xi said increased global trade would make the world more peaceful. He said: "We should build an open platform of cooperation, and uphold and grow an open world economy....We will not re-tread the old path of games between foes. Instead we will create a new model of cooperation and mutual benefit." Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was impressed with President Xi's "vision and ingenuity". He said: "Such a broad sweep and scale of interlocking economic partnerships and investments is unprecedented in history. We stand at the cusp of a geo-economic revolution." Britain's finance minister told the summit his country was a "natural partner" of the project.

Sources: [reuters.com](http://reuters.com) / [bbc.com](http://bbc.com) / [xinhuanet.com](http://xinhuanet.com)

## Writing

China will bring more peace to the world than any other country. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

ambitious / project / global growth / summit / leaders / initiative / infrastructure / global trade / peaceful / platform / world economy / cooperation / mutual benefit

## True / False

- China has pledged \$124 million to bolster global growth. T / F
- China's president spoke to the leaders of 29 countries. T / F
- Europe will not be included in the Silk Road plan. T / F
- China's president said China would develop new engines. T / F
- President Xi said increased global trade would help bring peace. T / F
- Pakistan's president didn't have good things to say about the plan. T / F
- Pakistan's president said there could be a geo-economic revolution. T / F
- Britain said it was a natural partner of the Silk Road plan. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. <b>outlined</b>      | a. enable              |
| 2. <b>pledged</b>       | b. common              |
| 3. <b>initiative</b>    | c. develop             |
| 4. <b>expand</b>        | d. out of the ordinary |
| 5. <b>facilitate</b>    | e. sketched out        |
| 6. <b>cooperation</b>   | f. enemies             |
| 7. <b>foes</b>          | g. plan                |
| 8. <b>mutual</b>        | h. radical change      |
| 9. <b>unprecedented</b> | i. promised            |
| 10. <b>revolution</b>   | j. joint action        |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- Why would increased global trade make the world more peaceful?
- What difficulties are there when countries try to cooperate with trade?
- What are your countries traditional foes?
- What is a geo-economic revolution?
- What could go wrong with this project?
- How successful do you think this project will be?
- What questions would you like to ask China's President Xi Jinping?

## Phrase Match

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. President Xi Jinping has outlined an | a. peaceful                     |
| 2. His government has pledged a massive | b. economic development         |
| 3. at a summit                          | c. attended by leaders          |
| 4. facilitate the free flow             | d. history                      |
| 5. Trade is the important engine of     | e. \$124 billion                |
| 6. make the world more                  | f. of a geo-economic revolution |
| 7. mutual                               | g. ambitious project            |
| 8. vision and                           | h. benefit                      |
| 9. unprecedented in                     | i. of goods                     |
| 10. We stand at the cusp                | j. ingenuity                    |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about China's President Xi Jinping?
- What do you think of this project?
- What can countries do to increase global growth?
- What do you know about the Silk Road?
- How is economic growth in your country?
- Who are your country's most important trading partners?
- What infrastructure does your country need?
- What do you think of free trade?

## Spelling

- His government has pledged a sasievm \$124 billion
- bserolt global trade
- a timums attended by leaders
- the new vietnatiii aimed to expand trading
- help etiaafcitl the free flow of goods
- engine of economic novempedlte
- an open platform of oaoopnitcer
- lutmua benefit
- Nawaz Sharif was esdsrmeip
- vision and giunenty
- ednuedcpetrn in history
- at the cusp of a geo-economic oovltirnue

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. i	3. g	4. c	5. a
6. j	7. f	8. b	9. d	10. h

## Role Play

### Role A – Investment

You think investment is the best way to promote global growth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): free trade, good infrastructure or low interest rates.

### Role B – Free Trade

You think free trade is the best way to promote global growth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): investment, good infrastructure or low interest rates.

### Role C – Good Infrastructure

You think good infrastructure is the best way to promote global growth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): free trade, investment or low interest rates.

### Role D – Low Interest Rates

You think low interest rates is the best way to promote global growth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): free trade, good infrastructure or investment.

## Speaking – Growth

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things to increase growth at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| • low business taxes    | • investment     |
| • good infrastructure   | • jobs           |
| • well-educated workers | • low oil prices |
| • low interest rates    | • free trade     |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.