

丝绸之路的实现与复杂性

MATERIALIZATION & COMPLEXITY of SILK ROAD

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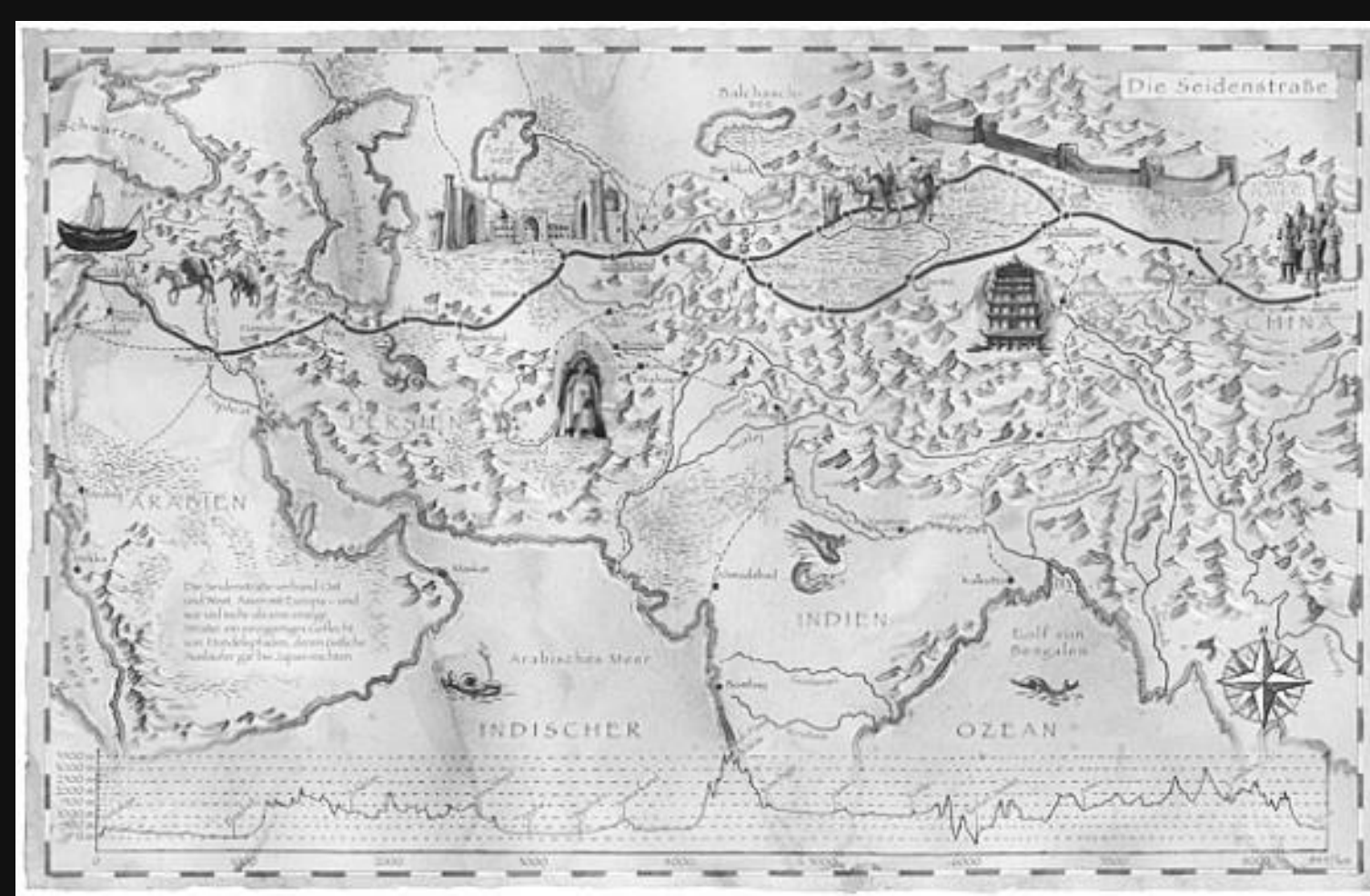


Abstract

This research study examines the materialization and complexity of the Silk Road by comparing of the ancient Silk Road and China's Belt and Road Initiative within the scope of silk trade. The purpose of this study is to examine how today's Belt and Road is different than the ancient Silk Road. The research pursues a multi-method project through archival source, complexity data, and interviews with scholars. The findings demonstrates that although there are inspirations, the current Silk Road is more related to China's national development. As a result, the Belt and Road initiative pursues a development path as government purpose for Chinese domestic economy related to complex structure rather than a linear emergent phenomena as the ancient Silk Road.

Silk Road 丝绸之路

A "silk" trade created more than discoveries, it formed the beginning of civilizations to understand each other through raw materials, trade, relations among caravans. It formed steppe route, oasis route and sea route including horse trading, Buddhist road, Lamaism road, Mesopotamia road, Amber road as linear phenomena. The historical existence was drawn by first scholar Ferdinand Freiherr von Richthofen with his



discoveries of raw material called melaphryr. Thanks to his discoveries regarding to "silk trade" it named "**Die Seidenstrasse**". The term Silk Road conceptualized to explain the interrelationship of science of geography and policy after the industrial revolution. Silk road was the exchange route of civilizations not only cultural but also trade of spice/herbals, teas, plants, dyes, silk, coal, luxury, horses, seramics/porcelain, literature, science, well-being, journeys, goods for human. The production of silk dated to 3rd century of China since Han dynasty where was an important income of Chinese agriculture. Raw silk trade developed between China and India. The Silk trade route was meaningful because it started from Chang'an (Xi'an) in China the region where coal mining was developed to Roman Europe where "Serica" was the name of silk fabric and the silk road traders called as "Seres". The route was not only the civilizational exchange but also exchange of trade among three routes; The Steppe; Asia to Europe, The Oasis Route from China to Syria, Sea Route from South China Sea reaching to Indian ocean&Arabian sea from The Red Sea to Mediterranean Sea a multi linear path of civilizations.

Materialization of 丝绸之路



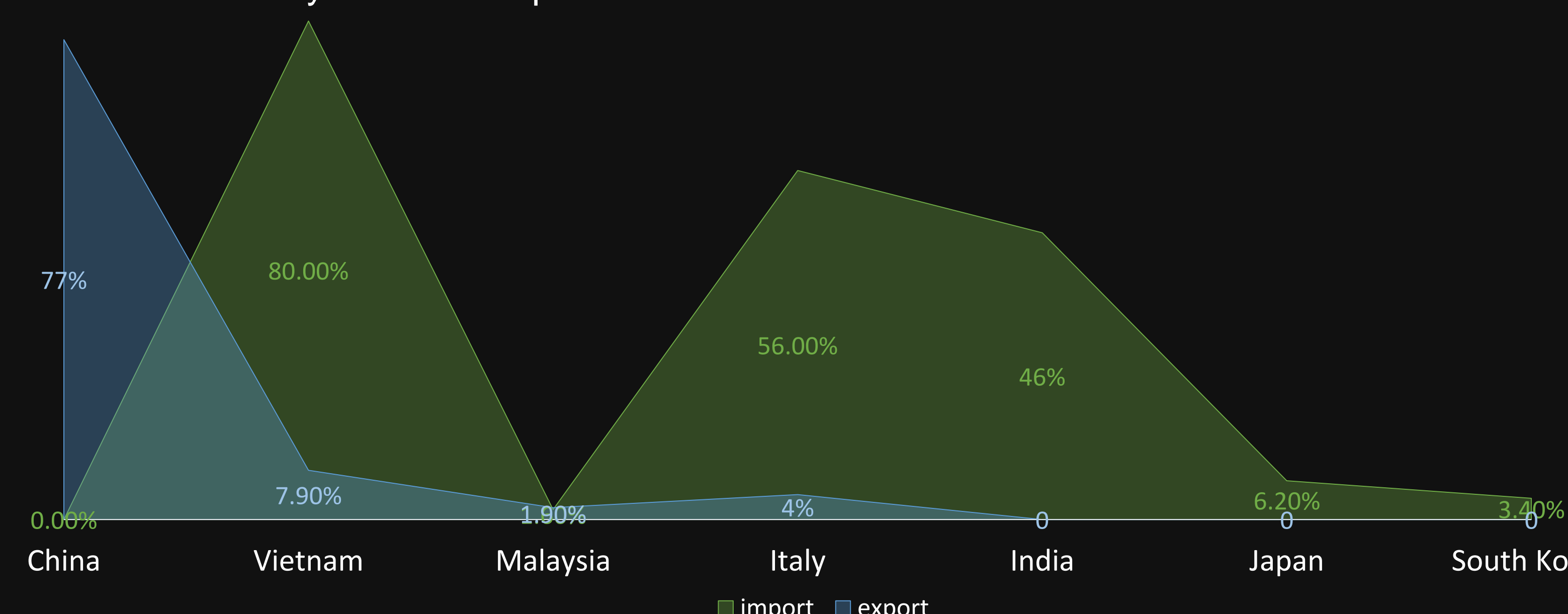
is known as **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)** currently. Asia continent has still been a diversified geography with multi-dimensional issues such as religions, ideologies, cultures, trade, history, migrations. In the new century, as an inspiration of ancient trade and characters of The Ancient Silk Road the president Xi Jinping announced One Belt One Road as a two strategy; one through land region called Silk Road Economic Belt (SREB) in 2013 and the other through sea called Maritime Silk Road (MSR) in 2014. Later this is called Belt and Road Initiative as a cooperation platform rather than investment strategy. This political vision is being materialized with infrastructure investments such as roads, bridges, railways to expand trade and financial relations in a short span of time of shipping and create people to people connections. This new formation comes with mega projects to build multilayered geographical connectivity with diversified investments heavily in the infrastructure sectors.

Complexity of 丝绸之路

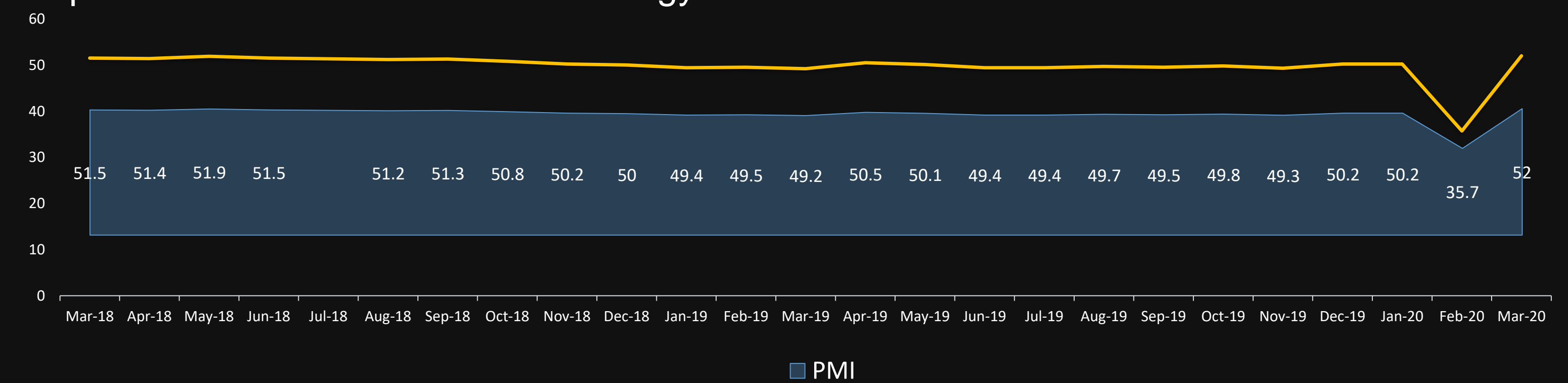


In the history and today, various usage of raw silk is still a consumption and a trade material in Asian and European countries. So there is still connections of Silk trade meaningful if we would like to observe the spirit of Silk Road. Silk is the most traded product at 1036th rank. The exporters of Silk are China with \$333 million, Vietnam \$34 million, and Italy, Brazil, Romania. The importers of Silk are India with \$198 million, Romania with \$61.2 million, Italy with \$37.5 million, Vietnam and Japan.

China is the largest exporter and has comparative advantage with 540 products in the world trade. China's export-import trade \$2.41 trillion and \$1.54 trillion with a positive balance \$873 bn. The export composition of products is machineries \$806 million, electronics \$747 million, textiles \$415 million, and metals \$175 million going for countries in Asia 44% Hong Kong, South Korea, Japan, USA 25%, European Union 22% Germany, UK, Italy. 90% of China's international trade is generated with developed countries. It does not explain historical Silk Road connections, but it demonstrated at present how international trade is strongly interdependent, while China gains its trade volume and reserve currency from developed countries.



540 product range of China has comparative advantage having a share of global exports affecting its income level positively. China's diversified trade or network of products builds country's export structure. Computers export valued \$173 billion, broadcasting tools valued \$160 billion, telephones valued \$109 billion and semi devices of electronics valued \$64.6 billion. Trade developments are related to income level as a sign of socio-economic welfare and Net export is one of the most important component impacting domestic GDP. Export trade with networked products meaning co-exported country has lower poverty than countries exporting simple products. China's diversified trade based on export business affected its economic growth with increasing income per capita from \$190 in 1980 to \$1000 in 2000 and \$8000-\$10000 in 2018. According to manufacturing PMI data, China's is at 52 rate which means at overall China has not a good production facilities that need to be improved with the transfer of technology for innovation and know-how.



China Gini Index. GDP per capita has been increasing from \$190 in the new century \$1000 to \$18000 since trade liberalization. Regarding to poor production facilities, product diversity, Income Inequality has been continuing as it is represented



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Silk Road as landscape, motivations and trade routes are quite different comparatively at present. Silk Road is a fact that a complex adaptive network system designed by a single government, a national purpose driven by China unlike the ancient Silk Road was an emergent phenomena. China's trans-national vision will concrete multiple routes to connect with contributing nations in other saying key cities for demand. Trade routes will create value, but also it will bring varies gains to each participant. Silk Road as a win-win progress will provide development and economic growth, and that will find an international impact as a result. Chinese leaders attitude for the initiative is very important how they can achieve it. Although China can find contributing nations as a hope, It is harder to make decisions during the uncertainty rather than to manage the risks due to lacking of data. This is why leadership and wisdom gains importance with this grand initiative.

Conclusion

The common ideas is that the Belt and Road Initiative is different than the ancient one as a result of single government initiative and capitalization of trade structure planned by Chinese government not an emergent phenomena. China's core and peripheral diplomacy in terms of power and control is concreted by infrastructure and capital to expand trade routes with BRI. The ancient Silk Road was formed with discoveries and trade routes an emergent and linear phenomena from east to west. Although The Belt and Road initiative was inspired by the traces and spirit of ancestry, It is visioned by China to open up its economy with outward investments to complete its 2050 country modernization vision. The BRI is beyond the inspiration related to China's domestic economy. A long-term social-transformation of China with an extension of BRI among different geographies demonstrates that China will be rebalancing its national income distribution with an overall change of production which effect domestic policy as well as international policy as the complexity data indicated. Creating a new product range to recover its income distribution will benefit for China's domestic social welfare. Overcoming income inequalities depends on not only products but also technology based structural transformation creating networked products.

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