


Chapter 1

China's Global South Policy Through the SCO

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ABSTRACT

In the post-Cold War era, China, as a new global power, is expanding its influence around the globe and regions through different strategies and means, including regional and global organizations. Accordingly, since the establishment of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in 2001, China, as one of the major founders of it, has tried to use the SCO as a platform for influence beyond its borders. This chapter aims to explore the influence and diplomacy that China is developing through the SCO in the Global South

INTRODUCTION

In the post-Cold War era, the world is facing a new emerging global order with the rise of multiple actors in the international arena. As a rising global power, China has significant leverage in international relations. In particular, during the last two decades, China has rapidly transformed its economy into a global leader in advanced technologies.

As a rising power and as one of the two principal founding members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), China has tried to use this regional organization, which has the potential to become an important politico-economic and security organization of the significant states located in the vast Eurasian landmass, for its global south strategy. For Beijing, the SCO represents a new and unique cooperation model, reflecting its vision of a multipolar world order.

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China's approach to the Global South, especially through the lens of the SCO, is central to its foreign policy as it seeks to expand its influence in Asia, Central Asia, and beyond. The SCO is one of the key regional platforms through which China interacts with developing countries in the Global South, focusing on cooperation in areas such as security, trade, and cultural exchange.

China will likely continue to deepen its involvement in the SCO as part of its broader strategy for promoting a multipolar world. As part of its Global South policy, China aims to position the SCO as a counterbalance to Western influence, offering economic growth opportunities to developing countries while avoiding the “conditionalities” typically associated with the IMF or World Bank. The expansion of the SCO, with developing countries expressing interest in joining, could further bolster China's position as a major power in the Global South. By pushing for greater inclusivity and developing stronger regional partnerships, China can maintain its influence while ensuring that the SCO remains a key instrument in its broader foreign policy.

This chapter aims to answer this question: How has the Chinese government manipulated the SCO for its foreign policy and global and regional influence? To answer this question, the main discussion is about the SCO's capabilities and politico-economic potential. China has used this organization as a platform to expand its influence beyond its borders to the Global South.

China's Multilateralism Policy

Multilateralism is the embodiment of the democratization of international relations after the Second World War, the basis for the operation and development of multilateral mechanisms, an inevitable requirement for promoting global governance, and an effective way to maintain world peace and promote common development (Moreland, 2019). The basic principle of multilateralism is that all countries should handle international affairs through consultation and by the rules agreed upon by all, taking into account the legitimate interests and legitimate concerns of all countries. Accordingly, multilateral diplomacy refers to the interaction of several international relations actors in permanent or special global or regional international organizations, conferences and forums, which often appear in the diplomatic game of great powers in modern international relations, but the real attention is after the Second World War, marked by the establishment of the United Nations in 1945 and with the great expansion in the number of states (Srivastava, 2014). In today's world, great powers

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