

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2978

To require a report regarding the scope of efforts by the People’s Republic of China and Chinese Communist Party to utilize the Belt and Road Initiative to undermine the United States-led international world order and a detailed strategy regarding how the United States Government intends to counter such Initiative, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 4, 2021

Mr. FITZGERALD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To require a report regarding the scope of efforts by the People’s Republic of China and Chinese Communist Party to utilize the Belt and Road Initiative to undermine the United States-led international world order and a detailed strategy regarding how the United States Government intends to counter such Initiative, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Build Responsible In-
3 frastructure Development for the Global Economy Act” or
4 the “BRIDGE Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 Congress makes the following findings:

7 (1) The Chinese government’s Belt and Road
8 Initiative (BRI), enshrined in the CCP’s constitu-
9 tion, is a comprehensive, long-term economic devel-
10 opment strategy founded by General Secretary and
11 President Xi Jinping to link regions worldwide
12 through multi-billion infrastructure projects. The
13 CCP utilizes the BRI’s informal framework as a ve-
14 hicle to establish a Sinocentric world order based on
15 its authoritarian model of governance.

16 (2) The BRI poses immediate and long-term
17 risks to the national security, economic security, and
18 international influence of the United States and our
19 partners by giving the PRC the ability to project
20 power more widely in geostrategic regions such as
21 the Indo-Pacific. The BRI, covering countries rep-
22 resenting over half of the world’s population and
23 over one-third of global economic output, seeks to
24 pull nations into Beijing’s geopolitical orbit.

25 (3) Despite the BRI’s well-documented scope
26 and consequences, the United States government has

1 never formalized an official view or strategy to
2 counter its efforts. This puts our national security
3 objectives at a severe disadvantage as Beijing seeks
4 to leverage its regional inroads worldwide through
5 the BRI and other PRC-alternative institutions to
6 achieve global preeminence.

7 (4) The United States should not underestimate
8 the significance of the BRI and establish a coherent,
9 government-wide strategy that effectively seeks to
10 counter Beijing's economic and political scope and
11 influence through the BRI.

12 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

13 It is the policy of the United States to counter efforts
14 by the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Chinese
15 Communist Party (CCP) to create an integrated economic
16 and political order under its leadership, which continues
17 to threaten the national security, foreign policy, and econ-
18 omy of the United States

19 (a) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 180
20 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
21 retary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Com-
22 merce, and the heads of other relevant Federal depart-
23 ments and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate con-
24 gressional committees a report that includes the following:

1 (1) Information relating to the scope of efforts
2 by the People’s Republic of China (PRC) and Chi-
3 nese Communist Party (CCP) to utilize the Belt and
4 Road Initiative (BRI) to undermine the United
5 States-led international world order.

6 (2) Information relating to the means and ob-
7 jectives of the PRC and the CCP in using the BRI
8 as a vehicle to create a parallel order of alternative
9 PRC-centric organizations.

10 (3) An assessment of current United States
11 Government tools and strategies to counter the BRI.

12 (4) A detailed strategy regarding how the De-
13 partment of State, the United States Agency for
14 International Development (USAID), and the De-
15 partment of Commerce intend to coordinate its re-
16 sources to counter the BRI. Such strategy shall in-
17 clude the following elements:

18 (A) A description of interagency efforts to
19 counter the BRI, together with recommenda-
20 tions on how to bolster the United States Gov-
21 ernment’s economic competition against China.

22 (B) An assessment of past efforts by the
23 United States Government to mitigate the ef-
24 fects of BRI, as well as the gaps in current

1 United States Government policy and imple-
2 mentation.

3 (C) A timeline that holds the United
4 States Government accountable in planning and
5 executing such strategy.

6 (D) A strategic roadmap that details how
7 the United States Government will link such
8 strategy to broader national security priorities
9 and objectives, including the National Security
10 Strategy and the National Defense Strategy.

11 (E) A description that elaborates how the
12 United States Government will align strategic
13 planning and coordination with key allies and
14 partners to effectively respond to the BRI, par-
15 ticularly in the Indo-Pacific.

16 (b) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than one
17 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
18 retary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Com-
19 merce, and the heads of other relevant Federal depart-
20 ments and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate con-
21 gressional committees a plan for implementing the strat-
22 egy described in subsection (a)(4), including the following:

23 (1) A description of clearly defined program
24 metrics, goals, targets, and planned outcomes for
25 such strategy.

1 (2) A plan to monitor and evaluate such strat-
2 egy, and progress made toward achieving such goals,
3 targets, and planned outcomes.

4 (3) A plan to ensure such strategy is promoting
5 United States foreign policy goals in the Indo-Pa-
6 cific by offering a positive vision for shared economic
7 and infrastructure growth in a free and open inter-
8 national order.

9 (c) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a)
10 shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include
11 a classified annex if necessary. The unclassified portion
12 of such report shall be made available on a publicly avail-
13 able internet website of the Federal Government.

14 (d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES
15 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate con-
16 gressional committees” means—

17 (1) the Committee on Armed Services, the
18 Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee
19 on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives
20 and

21 (2) the Committee on Armed Services, the
22 Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee
23 on Finance of the Senate.

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