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China Center

## NEWSLETTER N°28

Articles, news and events on China.

The China Center is an interdepartmental and multidisciplinary Research Centre of the University of Macerata, founded in 2012 within the initiatives of the Department of Law.



## Scientific Articles

### **Global China in the American heartland: Chinese investment, populist coalitions, and the new red scare**

Written by Jesse Rodenbiker, published online on 11/04/2024

*The article explores the impact of Chinese land investment on US politics, focusing on the case of Fufeng USA's land purchase in Grand Forks, North Dakota. It highlights how fears of economic statecraft and espionage fueled by anti-China sentiments have reshaped local, inter-regional, and national politics. By examining the circulation of anti-China discourses and the formation of interregional coalitions, the article sheds light on the geopolitical imaginaries surrounding Chinese investment. It argues that these discourses serve to discipline transnational capital and shape perceptions of threat, despite Chinese investment playing a relatively small role in US agriculture. Overall, the analysis extends conceptual frameworks of global China*

to Global North contexts, emphasizing the complexities of geopolitical dynamics in the American heartland.

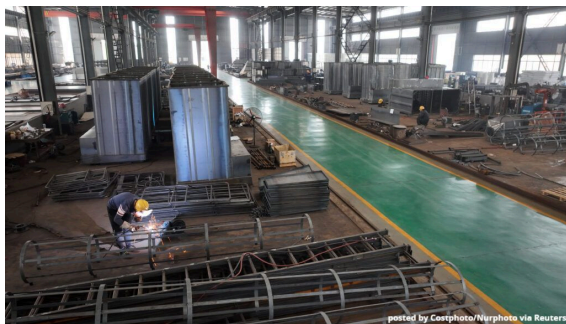
## **How different can smart cities be? A typology of smart cities in China**

Written by Jialong Zhu, Alberto Gianoli, Negar Noori, Martin de Jong, Jurian Edelenbos, published online on 02/04/2024

*China has become a global leader in smart city development, with a diverse range of smart cities emerging across the country. To better understand this phenomenon, the authors conducted a comprehensive study employing a mixed methods approach. By analyzing 49 Chinese smart cities, they identified five distinct types: knowledge-technocratic, holistic, green, equipment-technocratic, and emerging smart cities. Each type exhibits unique characteristics and priorities in terms of input, throughput, and output. The findings underscore the importance of considering local urban contexts and challenges in the development of smart cities. This research has implications for policymakers and researchers seeking to advance smart city initiatives in China and beyond.*

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## **News from China**



### **China grapples with the institutional future of the Belt and Road Initiative**

Written by Yong Deng, posted by EAST ASIA FORUM on 26/04/2024

China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has expanded to encompass more than 150 countries since its launch in 2013. However, its progress has encountered obstacles due to the absence of a formal institutional framework. President Xi Jinping of China has expressed a commitment to institutionalize the BRI, but this endeavor presents significant challenges given the decentralized, non-transparent, and improvised nature of BRI governance. It is unlikely that China's efforts will result in the establishment of a comprehensive multilateral institution capable of fundamentally transforming the international system. Instead, the BRI is expected to develop into a network of bilateral and limited multilateral agreements addressing

specific issues.

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## China's Alternative Order And What America Should Learn From It

Written by Elizabeth Economy, posted by Foreign Affairs on  
23/04/2024

Chinese President Xi Jinping is determined to reshape the world order by challenging Washington's dominance, promoting Chinese values, and asserting China's centrality. Despite setbacks and criticisms, Xi's vision for a new global order, underpinned by Chinese initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative, remains formidable. While Beijing's assertive diplomacy has alienated some, it has also garnered support from many countries dissatisfied with the current order. The United States must adapt to this competition by articulating its own vision for global leadership, investing in technology and diplomacy, and seeking to stabilize its relationship with China while focusing on long-term strategic goals.

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## TikTok ban: What happens next after US Senate passed the bill?

Written by Chris Sanders, posted by Reuters on 24/04/2024

The U.S. Senate has passed legislation requiring ByteDance, the Chinese owner of TikTok, to divest its U.S. assets within nine months or face a nationwide ban, to be signed into law by President Biden. Following the bill's enactment,

TikTok is expected to initiate legal action, seeking a preliminary injunction against the law's enforcement while challenging its constitutionality. Legal proceedings may extend beyond the year-end, similar to previous efforts to block app bans. Any legal challenges will be heard exclusively by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. If TikTok obtains a preliminary injunction, the sale process halts temporarily, affording more operational time in the U.S. However, the TikTok app is not anticipated to undergo any changes for its U.S. users until the divestment period's conclusion. Furthermore, the Chinese government may require approval for certain technologies exported by TikTok, such as its recommendation algorithm.

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**The calendar of activities for the Centre in 2024 has been released. Click [here](#)**

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