

## The Chinese Belt and Road Initiative and Sri Lanka: Geopolitical Implications and Infrastructure Development

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China is considered an economic and military superpower in the world. Intending to improve its military potential further, it has launched the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) project as a leading foreign policy strategy. It covers several geographical regions of the world and has greatly affected shaping the geopolitics of those regions. Sri Lanka as a country in the Indian Ocean region has also become a focal point of this project. As the country's infrastructure development is significantly shaped by China's current geopolitical ambitions, this increasing trend should be systematically studied with special references to BRI projects in Sri Lanka while exploring geopolitical ramifications embedded in those projects. While taking the assessment of the geopolitical implications of the BRI projects in Sri Lanka as the main aim of this study, two specific objectives were included: to examine the broader relationship between infrastructure diplomacy and geopolitics and to analyze the BRI projects as geopolitical tools to assess the regional politics during 2005 to 2019. This was a qualitative study and the data was collected through interviews. Descriptive analysis method was used in elaborating the results.

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