

### Review Form 3

Journal Name:	<a href="#">Asian Journal of Education and Social Studies</a>
Manuscript Number:	Ms_AJESS_129863
Title of the Manuscript:	China's Belt and Road Initiative: A Strategic Tool for Soft Power Projection
Type of the Article	Review Article

#### **General guidelines for the Peer Review process:**

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound. To know the complete guidelines for the Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

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**PART 1: Comments**

	Reviewer's comment	Author's Feedback <i>(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
<p><b>Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</b></p>	<p>This manuscript is significant for the scientific community as it provides a nuanced analysis of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), highlighting its dual role as an economic tool and a soft power strategy. By exploring the BRI's alignment with Africa's development goals and its integration with global economic and governance frameworks, the study contributes to understanding international cooperation in a multipolar world. Furthermore, it sheds light on the geopolitical and sustainability challenges associated with such large-scale initiatives, offering valuable insights for policymakers, scholars, and practitioners in the fields of international relations, development studies, and global governance.</p>	
<p><b>Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</b></p>	<p>The given title, <b>“China’s Belt and Road Initiative: A Strategic Tool for Soft Power Projection”</b>, captures a key aspect of the article—China’s use of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as a soft power strategy. However, the article also emphasizes broader themes, such as its role in global economic integration, alignment with Africa’s development goals, governance implications, and geopolitical complexities.</p> <p>If you want a title that better reflects the comprehensive scope of the article, consider the following alternatives:</p> <p><b>“The Belt and Road Initiative: China’s Vision for Global Connectivity and Soft Power Influence”</b></p>	
<p><b>Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.</b></p>	<p>The abstract is comprehensive and provides a detailed overview of the article's scope, including the Belt and Road Initiative's (BRI) origins, objectives, strategic importance, and implications for global connectivity, governance, and economic development. However, a few refinements could improve its clarity and focus:</p> <p><b>Suggestions for Improvement:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Clarify the Scope of Analysis:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While the abstract mentions qualitative methods, it does not specify what data or case studies are used. Briefly indicating the nature of the analysis (e.g., key case studies or regions of focus) would enhance transparency.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. <b>Highlight Original Contribution:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The abstract does not explicitly mention the unique contribution of the paper to existing literature. Including a brief statement on how this study advances knowledge or provides new theoretical insights would strengthen its impact.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. <b>Broaden Audience Appeal:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The abstract is heavily academic, which may limit its accessibility to non-specialist audiences. Simplifying complex terms (e.g., “geopolitical maneuvering”) and emphasizing broader practical implications could make it more engaging.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	
<p><b>Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.</b></p>	<p>The manuscript appears to be scientifically sound as it outlines a well-researched and balanced approach to analyzing the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).</p>	
<p><b>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.</b></p>	<p>References are sufficient and recent, perfect.</p>	

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<p><b>Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</b></p>	<p>The language of the article is generally suitable for scholarly communication, demonstrating a formal tone, appropriate vocabulary, and a structured presentation of ideas. However, some areas could benefit from minor refinements to improve readability, clarity, and precision, which are critical for high-quality academic writing.</p>	
<p><b>Optional/General</b> comments</p>	<p>1. <b>Interdisciplinary Approach:</b> The study seems to bridge multiple disciplines, including economics, international relations, and development studies. Emphasizing this interdisciplinary approach in the introduction or conclusion could enhance its appeal.</p> <p>2. <b>Policy Implications:</b> Highlighting the practical implications of the findings for policymakers, particularly those in regions impacted by the BRI, could add value to the manuscript. This would also make the study more actionable and impactful.</p> <p>3. <b>Engagement with Existing Literature:</b> The article does not explicitly mention how the study situates itself within existing academic discourse on the BRI. Clarifying this in the manuscript would strengthen its contribution to the field.</p> <p>4. <b>Future Research Directions:</b> Including a section on potential areas for further research, such as the BRI's long-term sustainability or its impact on smaller economies, would make the study more forward-looking and open avenues for subsequent investigations.</p> <p>These comments aim to support the refinement of the manuscript and enhance its quality and impact.</p>	

**PART 2:**

	<p><b>Reviewer's comment</b></p>	<p><b>Author's comment</b> (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</p>
<p><b>Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?</b></p>	<p><i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i></p>	

**Reviewer Details:**

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