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Topic 2

Growing China - Russian Partnership

Introduction:

Since the end of Sino-Soviet in the late 1980s, China and Russia have strengthened their diplomatic ties, driven by shared ambition to challenge the U.S.-led international order and reshape global power dynamics. This evolving partnership between the two countries expands across military, economic and diplomatic ties. As both nations celebrate their 75 years of partnership in 2025, their collaboration have deepened significantly. This strategic alliance between China and Russia has highlighted during President's Visit to China

where they both criticised the US foreign policies and post Cold-war era mindset.

This evolving partnership is a result of increasingly complex global landscape and marked by high great-power competition. This alliance not only challenges US led world order but also accelerates the shift towards a **multipolar world**, reshaping the dynamics international power politics and redefining the balance between East and West.

Structural Elements of Partnership

- **Economic Synergy :**

China and Russia complement each other economically. China's manufacturing powers align with Russia's abundance natural resources. After US sanctions on Russia amid its

invasion of Ukraine, Russia was isolated. China proved to be a ^{great} grade economic partner, strengthening their diplomatic relations.

In 2013, their two-way trade was \$90 billion and raised to more than \$190 billion in 2022. Bilateral trade between the two nations reached a high record of \$240 billion in 2023, with significant Chinese shipments to Russia, including dual-use goods and military components. On the economic front, China's dependence on Russian hydrocarbons is substantial, particularly as it seeks to ensure energy security and mitigate geopolitical risks. Russia has become China's largest supplier of crude oil and natural gas.

Conversely, China has emerged as

a primary supplier of technology to Russia.

● Military Alliance:

Russia's relationship with China plays a significant role in reshaping regional security in Indo-Pacific region by strengthening China's military capabilities. These deals to This cooperation has lead to the arms transfers, with Russia selling over \$38.5 billion worth equipments to China. These deals have equipped China with advanced systems like S-400 defence system and Su-35 fighter jets increasing China's air, naval and anti-ship capabilities.

Beyond arms transfer, their joint military exercises in has sent a clear message to US and its alliances.

● Alignment in Governance and external opposition:

Both the nations operate under authoritarian governments where power is in the hands of long-standing leaders. Their political systems thrive ~~on~~ on suppressing opposition and controlling dissent, making them ideologically aligned with each other. Moreover, they share a strong opposition to US global leadership viewing Washington as a common adversary.

● Complementary geopolitical objectives:

China and Russia have distinct but complementary geopolitical objectives. China's focus lies in Asia-

Pacific region, where its growing rivalry with US centers on issues such as Taiwan. ~~Xiao~~ On the other hand, Russia views Europe as its Strategic battleground. In both regions, US is seen as the principle opponent - driving both nations closer.

Multipolar World

Shared frustrations on US-dominance:

China and Russia share deep-seated frustrations on US-led global order, viewing it as marginalizing their interests and threatening ambitions. Both countries feel that their national security and geopolitical goals are undermined by a system that was built to favour Western powers especially United States.

For China, US presence in Asia-Pacific region, particularly its alliance with Japan, South Korea and Australia, is seen as a part of US broader strategy to contain its rise. Beijing territorial claims in South China Sea was opposed US military operations which China views as interference in its sphere of influence. Similarly, Russia has long opposed NATO's expansion into Eastern Europe seeing it as a direct threat to its security and influence over former Soviet states.

China and Russia argue that the current global governance system, created after World-War II ~~was~~ entrenches Western dominance. They believe that institutions like World Bank, IMF and UN are heavily

shaped by western interests, leaving emerging states like China and reassertive nation like Russia with a meaningful voice in shaping global rules.

The two countries also reject the US intervention in nations' internal affairs. At the core of their grievances lies shared desire to challenge US hegemony and move toward a multipolar world where no single nation dominates global affairs. Their partnership driven by mutual distrust in US reflects global goal of reshaping the international order to limit US dominance.

International Platforms:

China and Russia both are the

parts of international forums like **SCO** and **BRICS**. They view these platforms to strengthen their bilateral ties, promote peace and stability in region and south-south cooperation to challenge the influence of West and US over global affairs and moving the world towards multipolarity from unipolarity.

“Beijing and Moscow should work together to unite countries of global south and promote development of international order.”

This statement was given by Chinese President during his conversation with Russian foreign minister on occasion of foreign ministers

meeting in SCO summit held in July, 2025.

Conclusion:

China and Russia are cooperating on different forums, increasing their economic, military cooperation and building strong bilateral ties. They are promoting regional trade and currency to counter dominance on dollars, building their own south asia funding investment banks to contain the influence of IMF and World Bank. They view US dominance in every global affair as a threat to their independent decision making and national interests. Their bilateral collaboration would result in decreased US influence, shifting world to multipolarity.