

To cite this article: Dr. Shak Bernard Hanish (2024). BEYOND BORDERS: A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF THE ARAB CHINESE RELATIONS, International Journal of Education and Social Science Research (IJESSR) 7 (4): 185-199 Article No. 963, Sub Id 1499

BEYOND BORDERS: A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF THE ARAB CHINESE RELATIONS

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.37500/IJESSR.2024.7412>

ABSTRACT

The Arab Chinese relationship has undergone significant transformations over the years, evolving from historical ties to a multidimensional partnership. This paper explores the prospects and potential of the Arab Chinese relationship, examining its historical background, economic cooperation, diplomatic engagement, and geopolitical implications. By analyzing the key factors shaping this relationship, including trade, investment, cultural exchanges, and regional dynamics, this paper aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the future path of Arab Chinese relations. The paper also examines the evolving Sino-Arab relationship. Highlighting historical ties, economic collaborations, and geopolitical implications, the study emphasizes key agreements and initiatives, showcasing the multifaceted nature of the evolving partnership. From diplomatic support to deepening economic ties, the article concludes that the Sino-Arab relationship signifies a promising future with lasting implications for both nations and the broader geopolitical landscape.

KEYWORDS: China, The Arab World, International Relations, History, Arab Chinese relationship.

1. INTRODUCTION

International relations are undergoing drastic changes and continuous relationships that reflect changes in world dynamics. In this context, the relationship between Arab countries and China has been one of the promising relations in the last decade and is becoming increasingly important in the global political and economic landscape. With China's growing global political influence as one of the strongest economic nations and the Arab world's strategic location and natural resources, many factors are contributing to this deepening relationship as China's political and economic power increases. What encourages Arab Chinese relations is China's foreign policy. China is against interference in the internal affairs of other nations, and practices it, whereas the West carries out such interference. China's position is governed by several dimensions, one of which is the traditional position that China takes within the framework of the so-called Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. That has been adopted since the establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949. At its heart of it is the non-interference in the internal affairs of other nations (Arab Chinese Relations, 2013).

The Arabs are strengthening their relationships with the People's Republic of China. Historically, the old Silk Road is an example of strong trade relations that linked Arabs and China for decades. This article looks at how the relationship between China and Arab countries has developed over time. It explores the historical, economic, political, and cultural connections that have brought these regions closer. The goal is to understand how this strategic relationship has evolved and to highlight what might happen in the future.

II. Historical Background

The historical relationship between Arab countries and China dates back centuries, with Arab traders and scholars having traveled to China as early as the Tang Dynasty. This history reflects the rich cultural and trade exchange between these deep-rooted cultures. Since ancient times, trade roads crossed between China and the Arab region, which contributed to enhancing links between them. At the time, the Silk Road was connecting China to the Arab world. The trade exchange included many valuable commodities, such as silk, spices, glass, fabrics, jewels, and precious metals. These trade relations contributed to cultural and knowledge exchanges between the two parties (Ladjal and Brahim, 2019).

Cultural relations between Arabs and China were also influenced by religious communication, as Islam spread in China during the Middle Ages and enriched cultural exchange between the two sides. Islamic communities were established in different regions of China, which led to the strengthening of cultural exchange and coexistence between the two cultures (Li, 2022).

With the entry of the twenty-first century, China's economic renaissance, and technological progress, Arab countries' interest in strengthening relations with China has increased. China's economy is solid, and it accounts for about 30% of global GDP. Thus, China has become an essential partner for many Arab countries in the fields of economy and trade. Chinese goods are popular not only in the Arab world but in the entire world. Arab countries seek to benefit greatly from the investment opportunities available in China, including enhancing cooperation in areas such as infrastructure, energy, and technology (Li, 2022).

Since the 1950s, China has established its official and diplomatic relations with Egypt as the first Arab country to have an official relationship with China. Then, until the year 1990, China established its diplomatic and official relations with almost all Arab countries. During this period of almost half a century, most Chinese-Arab relations were great relations (Arab Chinese relations, 2013)

In recent decades, China has been increasing its engagement with the Arab world through investment in energy, infrastructure, and technology. The Belt and Road Initiative, a massive infrastructure development plan launched by China in 2013, has further cemented the relationship by investing in Arab countries like Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates.

It is important to mention that the development of Arab Chinese relations was not limited to the economic field only, but also included cooperation in the fields of science, culture, and education. Many cultural events and academic exchanges are organized between the two nations to enhance understanding and exchange of experiences between the two people. The history of Arab Chinese relations bears witnesses to long-term cultural and commercial exchange between the two sides. As China achieves its status as a global power, these relations are likely to continue to develop and deepen, opening promising horizons for future cooperation between Arab countries and China in various fields (Chen, Yang, Wang, and Su 2023).

III. Economic Relationship

Since the 1950s, China has put forward the five principles of peaceful coexistence, namely peaceful coexistence, mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference in internal affairs, mutual non-aggression, and equality and mutual benefit. China has adopted these principles in its international relations. These principles, which are consistent with the Charter of the United Nations, provide a stable basis for building a new pattern of relations between countries that guarantee international peace and security (Fahmy, 2020).

These principles continue to maintain their vitality despite the passage of more than six decades since their introduction. These principles find expression in China's current foreign policy through China's initiatives and its call for international cooperation and peaceful coexistence between countries with different political, economic, and social systems based on common interests stemming from the challenges facing the common destiny of humanity, such as maintaining world peace, preserving the environment, and confronting various dangers such as combating the Corona epidemic. Therefore, the circle of countries wishing to develop their bilateral relations with China is expanding (Fahmy, 2020).

Much of the infrastructure investment for the Belt and Road Initiative, or New Silk Road, will be financed in currencies other than the U.S. dollar, which will significantly reduce dealing in dollars (1). The use of the Chinese Yuan or the new digital RMB will become attractive to many countries in trading with China (Reuters, 2023).

The Arab Chinese relationship has evolved from historical ties to a multidimensional partnership. It has developed significantly over the past two decades, witnessing strategic transformations and increasing cooperation between the two sides. Over the decades, global developments have been reflected in the expansion of cooperation between the Arab world and China across various fields, and this includes trade, investment, and infrastructure development.

Economic cooperation between Arab countries and China has witnessed significant growth, with expanding and diversified bilateral trade, and energy partnerships that played a crucial role, as China relies on Arab nations for its energy imports. In the field of trade and economics, China has become a major partner of Arab countries, with the latter being an important exporter of oil, gas, and other



resources. On the other hand, China provides large markets for Arab products, which enhances trade exchange between them. Moreover, Chinese investments in Arab countries and infrastructure development projects have strengthened economic ties (Koenig, 2021).

The economic ties between Arab countries and China are rapidly expanding, with China being one of the largest trading partners for many Arab countries. In 2020, China-Arab trade volume reached a record high, with Arab countries exporting oil, natural gas, and other commodities to China, while importing Chinese goods and services (The New Arab, 2021). Additionally, China has invested heavily in Arab countries, particularly in the energy sector. China is the largest commercial partner of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries in terms of exports and imports. In 2022, the trade of Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Qatar with China amounted to about 232.4 billion dollars (2). The China-UAE Industrial Capacity Cooperation Demonstration Zone, for example, is a joint venture between China and the UAE that seeks to develop industry, technology, and innovation in the region (Naaosh, 2023).

There is no doubt that China has interests in the Arab region, and the Arab world is an open market for all Chinese goods. China's oil imports from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are estimated at 20% of its consumption, and approximately an estimated one million barrels per day were exported from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia alone. China is investing in Arab and African countries. China gave interest-free loans and grants. After that, relations developed from grants and aid to partnerships (Arab Chinese relations, 2013).

The trade of the Gulf states with China increased 36% in 2022, to about 315.8 billion dollars according to some other sources, putting Beijing the largest commercial partner for the Gulf countries in 2022. The trade between the two sides (China and the Gulf states) was distributed 209 billion dollars in Gulf exports to China, in exchange for imports of 106.8 billion dollars, so the Gulf states recorded a surplus in their relationship with China of about 102.2 billion dollars during 2022, due to oil exports that make up the largest part of the Gulf exports of China (Interesse, 2022).

The trade relations between the two sides doubled about 18 times in 20 years (from 2003 to 2022). Saudi Arabia's trade relations with China topped 116 billion dollars (37% of trade between the two sides, an increase of 33% from 2021 amounting to 87.3 billion dollars. Saudi Arabia exports China commodities worth 79.2 billion dollars, and it imports goods of 36.0 billion dollars. It thus represents the first Arab rank. China is also ranked first in Saudi foreign trade, whether it comes to exports or imports. Followed by India, then Japan, and the United States. There is no doubt that oil acquires the largest part of Saudi exports, but its industrial exports, which amounted to 11 billion dollars, or 14% of its total sales in China may not be marginalized (Naaosh, 2023).

The UAE ranked second with 31% of the trade of Gulf countries with Beijing, with a trade of 99.3 billion dollars, compared to 72.4 billion dollars in 2021, an increase of 37%. The UAE is considered at the forefront of countries that transport Chinese goods to Africa. More than six thousand Chinese

companies are working in the Emirates. The UAE also has many investments in China in the fields of energy, transportation, and banks. As for the Sultanate of Oman, it came in the third ranking, with a trade of 40.4 billion dollars (13% of the trade of the Gulf states and China), an increase of 26% over 2021 amounting to 32.2 billion dollars. Kuwait was ranked fourth with 10% of trade between the two sides, at about 31.5 billion dollars, an increase of 42% compared to 22.1 billion dollars in 2021. In the fifth ranking, Qatar ranked 26.5 billion dollars (8% of the trade between the Gulf and China countries), an increase of 55% over 2021 of \$ 17.2 billion. Qatar's exports to China are 13.4 billion dollars or 30.9% of its total exports. As for its imports from China, it is \$ 4.6 billion, or 16.4% of its total imports. Thus, China holds the first rank in Qatari exports and imports (Naaosh, 2023). Bahrain ranked sixth with a share of 1% of trade between the two sides, at about 2.02 billion dollars, compared to \$ 1.8 billion in 2021, an increase of 14% (The Economic, 2023). Chinese exports to the Gulf rose due in part to the low-cost Chinese prices compared to European, American, and Japanese prices for similar goods.

This height has political factors as well. In the military field, the Gulf states, led by Saudi Arabia, faced obstacles to obtaining American technology to manufacture some types of weapons such as ballistic missiles. Beijing presented to Riyadh such technology, especially since China does not consider its external trade deal with human rights, a recognized concept in the United States. In exchange for these military privileges, China's investments and exports increased (Naaosh, 2023).

As the total import rate for China is ten million barrels per day (B/D), the contribution of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries becomes 42% of Chinese oil imports. When adding 1.2 million from Iranian oil and 1.1 million from Iraqi oil, the total oil from the Gulf region for China becomes 6.5 million B/D. That is, this region provides China with a third of its oil needs. Note that Iranian oil sales take place under other names for the state of origin to avoid US sanctions (Zhou, 2023), (Naaosh, 2023).

There is no doubt that the importance of Chinese Gulf trade exchanges is not welcomed by the American administration. The U.S. will not be happy if the Chinese Yuan is used for international exchange. China is not subject to U.S. sanctions and consequently, Washington is not supposed to look at the Chinese Gulf foreign trade. Some experts think that if trade with China was unwanted, Washington would look at its foreign trade. The United States imports goods from China worth \$ 540 billion and exports \$165 billion, whereas the Chinese Gulf trade is one-third of the Chinese U.S. trade (The Office of the United States Trade Representative, 2022), (Naaosh, 2023).

Accepting the Petroyuan necessarily means supporting the Chinese economy and reducing the dollar's dominance in international exchanges. Washington loses one of its most important economic tools to pressure governments and companies around the world. The petro-yuan will be based on China being the largest importer of oil in the world and Saudi Arabia being its largest export. Washington believes that the petro-yuan led to a decline in its political, military, and economic role in the Gulf region in

exchange for strengthening the Chinese role. This will undermine confidence in the dollar in the global market, while the yuan will grow stronger. As a result, according to Washington, the Petro-yuan is an attack on American interests. This development will result in Saudi Arabia agreeing to sell a portion of its oil exports to China in yuan. Most likely, other Arab countries will follow Saudi Arabia's example (Said, 2022).

The visit made by the Egyptian President to China was significant because it was the first visit made by the Egyptian President after the revolution outside the Arab and African region. The tradition was to go to the West and Washington in particular, but heading to China is seen as a new vision to expand the horizon of the political outlook. This means that Egypt is taking into account the changes that have resulted in the international arena and the emergence of major powers such as China. China is present in Egypt and more in Sudan. The mutual trade had reached \$6 billion for Egypt. Saudi Arabia has developed its relationship remarkably in the last decade with China. The West is not happy about that and there is an attempt to distance China from the region through Western influence (Arab Chinese relations, 2013).

One of the main aspects of development in Arab Chinese relations is the Belt and Road Initiative. This initiative is a comprehensive concept aimed at expanding economic and infrastructural connections between China and various Arab countries. The initiative includes the development of huge infrastructure projects such as roads, railways, and ports, and this presents huge opportunities for cooperation in developing trade and improving communications between the two sides (The European Institute of the Mediterranean, 2020).

Areas of cooperation between Arab countries and China extend to a variety of sectors, as the two sides seek to enhance cooperation through the exchange of resources, expertise, and infrastructure development. Among these collaborative areas are trade and investment. Arab countries are an important source of natural resources such as oil and gas, and China provides large markets for Arab goods. In addition, China offers great investment opportunities in the field of infrastructure development, such as commercial infrastructure, ports, railways, and roads. Also, China has advanced technologies in areas such as communications, artificial intelligence, and space technology, and cooperation in these areas can be strengthened to achieve common progress. Moreover, Arab countries face challenges in the field of food security, and China can provide its experiences and technologies in growing food efficiently and effectively (Mazel, 2022).

The mentioned areas of cooperation reflect the positive trend towards building a sustainable partnership between Arab countries and China. This cooperation can bring mutual benefits and contribute to achieving sustainable development and enhancing regional and global stability.

IV. Political and Diplomatic Relationships

Geopolitically, China's strategic interests in the Arab region, including economic and security considerations, have influenced the Arab Chinese relationship. The Belt and Road Initiative, China's flagship infrastructure project, has had a profound impact on Arab countries, offering both opportunities and challenges. The Arab Chinese relationship has also had implications for regional power dynamics and alliances.

Political ties between Arab countries and China have been strengthened in recent years, with both regions collaborating on a variety of regional and global issues. In 2018, China hosted the first-ever China-Arab States Expo, which brought together leaders and officials from both regions to discuss issues of mutual interest (3). China has also been a strong supporter of Arab countries in their efforts to resolve regional conflicts, such as the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and has played an active role in the Syrian peace talks (China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, 2019).

Diplomatic engagement has flourished through high-level exchanges, mutual visits increasing, multilateral cooperation, and China's involvement in conflict resolution. The two parties have collaborated within international organizations, such as the United Nations and BRICS, while China has played a role in mediating regional conflicts, contributing to conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts (Koenig, 2021).

The Chinese Arab relations, and the Chinese Gulf in particular, have become solid from several economic and political aspects. This was evident in the statement of the Riyadh conference held in December 2022 between the countries of the Cooperation Council and China, to develop cooperation in the fields of trade, investment, energy, finance, and technology, as well as completing the negotiations of the free trade zone between the two parties, and with a political dimension that is consistent with the interests of the GCC states and related to Palestine, Iran and Yemen (Naaosh, 2023). The talk was also on the use of the yuan instead of the dollar in oil sales.

The 2022 Arab Chinese Summit was held between the leaders of the League of Arab States and the President of the People's Republic of China on Friday, December 9, 2022, in the capital of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, during the official visit of the President of the People's Republic of China, Xi Jinping, to Saudi Arabia. It was held to enhance cooperation between Beijing and Arab countries. It formed a starting point for the relationship between the region and China for the strategic partnership with China to open broader areas of economic cooperation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, 2022)

Saudi Arabia has strategic partnerships with the United States, India, China and Germany. But this is cooperation with the second-largest economy in the world, which does not mean dealing with the largest economy in the world (Duncan, 2023). The Kingdom's economy is growing rapidly and needs all partners, and Saudi Arabia is open to cooperation with everyone, as it does not believe in

polarization or choosing between one partner and another, according to a statement by its Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The final statement issued by the Arab Chinese Summit stressed the progress of cooperation between the Arabs and Beijing to broader horizons, with an emphasis on preserving the international order based on international law and multilateral action. Also, it stresses the strategic partnership between Arab countries and China based on comprehensive cooperation and development, emphasizing respect for the sovereignty of states, refraining from using force or threatening to use it, and respecting the principle of good neighborliness. The statement emphasized the centrality of the Palestinian issue in the Middle East and finding a just and lasting solution to it based on the two-state solution. It supported efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction, strengthened efforts to combat terrorism, and condemned terrorism in all its forms, manifestations, and motives (Secretariat General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, 2023).

Saudi Arabia appreciates China's position in support of the two-state solution by the Arab Initiative. For his part, Chinese President Xi Jinping considered the summit "a pivotal event in the history of Chinese-Arab relations." He stressed that what unites them is concern for peace and harmony, the pursuit of truth, and the call for dialogue among civilizations. He urged the international community to respect the peoples of the Middle East and support Palestine's full membership in the United Nations while supporting the two-state solution and the establishment of a Palestinian state on the 1967 borders with Jerusalem as its capital (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, 2023).

The Chinese President participated in 3 summits: a Saudi Chinese summit headed by King Salman bin Abdulaziz and the Chinese President, with the participation of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, a Gulf-Chinese summit with the participation of the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, and an Arab Chinese summit with the participation of the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries. And the Arab countries. It was also announced that the agreement to resume Saudi Iranian relations after 7 years of estrangement, with Chinese mediation, was considered the first achievement of Chinese President Xi Jinping after taking the oath for a third term. The announcement of the Saudi Iranian reconciliation indicates the increasing importance of the Middle East region in Chinese calculations (Pro, 2023).

V. Cultural and Educational Relations

Development in relations is not limited only to the economic sphere but also includes cooperation in the cultural and educational fields. Arab countries and China exchange expertise and experiences in areas such as education, culture, and scientific research, which contributes to enhancing mutual understanding and exchanging understanding between different cultures.

Cultural exchanges and people-to-people ties have thrived through educational partnerships, scholarships, academic collaborations, and increased tourism and cultural cooperation. The promotion



of Chinese language learning and the growing presence of Chinese media in the Arab world have further enhanced cultural ties. At the cultural and educational levels, Arab-Chinese relations also seek to enhance cultural and educational exchange between peoples. Countries exchange students and researchers and work to promote mutual understanding of cultures through cultural and academic events.

Opportunities to exchange students and researchers are considered one of the most important means of enhancing cultural and educational cooperation. Through the exchange of students and researchers between universities and educational institutions in the two countries, Arab and Chinese youth can experience different cultures and benefit from diverse academic curricula. This exchange contributes to increasing understanding of the cultural and social issues of the two countries. According to a recent report by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China has been actively engaged in collaboration with Arab nations in the modern era. Since 2013, China has trained 25,000 talented individuals from Arab countries and granted approximately 11,000 government scholarships. Simultaneously, 15 Arab countries have established Chinese departments in some of their universities, and 13 Arab countries have initiated 20 Confucius Institutes, as highlighted in the report (Xinhua News Agency, 2022).

In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, China and Arab nations have supported each other through various measures, including mutual aid with antiviral materials, exchanging expertise online, and collaborating in clinical trials and vaccine production. Joint research and studies between Arab countries and China contribute to the exchange of knowledge and the development of knowledge in a variety of fields. This cooperation can result in new developments that enhance scientific and technical progress in both countries.

Furthermore, numerous international students from Arab countries have chosen China for their education, and many have opted to stay in the country after completing their studies to pursue their professional careers (Xinhua News Agency, 2022).

Arab countries and China organize various cultural, artistic, and academic events to enhance understanding and communication between people. For example, it organizes art exhibitions, cultural performances, and workshops that allow people to learn about the heritage and culture of the other side. Experience and research are also exchanged in various fields such as science, technology, and humanities (Wei, 2013).

Language plays an important role in enhancing communication and understanding between people. Arab countries and China are encouraged to learn each other's languages to facilitate cultural and business communication. This mutual learning of languages contributes to bridging cultural distances and personal cooperation (Huaxia, 2023).

There is an increasing Chinese interest in the Arab World. An example of China's interest in the region is its creation of a China-Arabic TV channel and the establishment of several Chinese websites in Arabic. Arab students are going to China and Chinese students are going to the Arab region. Also, other cultural teams, whether acrobatics, folk arts, or even language learning are occurring. Some medical Chinese experts are present in some Arab countries, and China is attractive to Arabs for tourism (Arab Chinese relations, 2013).

These multiple areas of cultural and educational cooperation demonstrate the commitment of Arab countries and China to enhancing understanding and closer relations between their peoples. This cooperation enhances cultural diversity and contributes to building bridges of cooperation and mutual respect between the Arab world and China.

VI. Challenges and Opportunities

Despite the opportunities presented by the growing relationship between Arab countries and China, there are also challenges that must be addressed. Human rights concerns have been raised over China's treatment of Uyghur Muslims, which could impact its relationship with Arab countries that have significant Muslim populations. Additionally, there is competition between China and other global powers, such as the United States, for influence in the Arab world.

Despite other challenges, such as cultural differences, communication barriers, geopolitical conflicts, regional instability, and the balance between economy and security, ensuring that both parties benefit from cooperation in a balanced manner, the Arab Chinese relationship presents significant opportunities for joint efforts in economic diversification and sustainable development. The potential for further growth and cooperation between these two regions remains high, with many opportunities for collaboration in areas such as renewable energy, technology, and tourism.

Arab Chinese relations represent a prominent model of international cooperation in the contemporary world. By promoting trade, investment, and exchanging experiences, this relationship can contribute to achieving sustainable development and common prosperity for both sides and enhancing regional and global stability. Future developments require continuous and diversified cooperation between the two sides to make the most of the available opportunities and confront common challenges.

Arab countries and China could benefit from strengthening regional cooperation in international forums such as the China-Arab Cooperation Forum and the Belt and Road Initiative to achieve broader and sustainable development. Through political and diplomatic cooperation, the Arab Chinese relationship can contribute to enhancing stability in various regions, including the Middle East and North Africa. Cooperation in the areas of security and counterterrorism can enhance regional and global security.

The Arab Chinese relationship can be a model for international cooperation and support joint efforts to address issues such as climate change, human development, and combating epidemic diseases. The view of Arab Chinese relations as a model for achieving international cooperation in the contemporary world opens a window for us to the importance of understanding and cooperation between different countries and cultures. Promoting trade, investment, exchange of experiences and political cooperation can achieve positive impacts at the regional and international levels. Under China's philosophy, the one-sided world will turn into a multipolar world.

Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the Arab Chinese relationship, it is clear that the relationship has undergone significant transformations over the years, evolving from historical ties to a multidimensional partnership. The relationship has been shaped by various factors, including trade, investment, cultural exchanges, and regional dynamics. The Arab Chinese relationship has the potential to become one of the most important relationships in the global political and economic landscape. With China's growing global political influence as one of the strongest economic nations and the Arab world's strategic location and natural resources, many factors are contributing to this deepening relationship as China's political and economic power increases.

In conclusion, the Arab Chinese relationship is a promising one that has the potential to shape the future of international relations. The relationship is based on mutual respect, non-interference in the internal affairs of other nations, and a commitment to peaceful coexistence. As the relationship continues to evolve, both sides need to work together to address the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. By doing so, the Arab Chinese relationship can become a model for other countries seeking to build strong and mutually beneficial partnerships in the 21st century.

End Notes

1. According to International Monetary Fund reports, the yuan in 2023 represents only 2% of international payments, compared to 41% for the dollar. The yuan ranks fourth in the world after the dollar, euro, and pound sterling. We note that this rank is not commensurate with China's trade position, as its imports amount to 11% of global imports, and its exports amount to 15% of global exports (Naaosh, 2023).
2. What is related to the oil trade, the exports of the Cooperation Council countries for China reached 4.2 million B/J as follows: Qatar, the UAE, and Oman 0.7 million B/J each. Note that three-quarters of Omani oil production is heading to China. Kuwait also recorded 0.3 million b/j, while Saudi Arabia exports about 1.8 million b/j. It is thus the largest oil financier for China, followed by Russia (Naaosh, 2023).
3. According to the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), the Fourth China-Arab States Expo was held in Yinchuan, Ningxia from September 5-8, 2019. The theme of the event was "New Opportunity, New Future" and it focused on economic and trade cooperation, advanced technologies, digital economy, and capacity cooperation. The event concluded with many projects

signed, and a total of 362 projects between China and the Arab States were signed, with investment and trade expected to reach ¥185.42 billion.

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