
Has the Belt and Road Initiative Reshaped Eurasian International Relations? Evidence from the UN Vote Data

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ABSTRACT

The proposal of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has provoked various geopolitical imaginations. While some interpret BRI as a peaceful mode of global governance which may ensure global sustainable development and prosperity, others believe that BRI represents China's ambition in transforming the U.S.-led world order and enhances Eurasian integration. However, few studies have systematically examined the impacts of BRI on the world geopolitical codes in general and the Eurasian international relations in particular based on objective data and quantitative methods. Based on the UN vote data, this paper analyzes the transformation of political relations among countries along the Belt and Road (B&R) using social network analysis and difference in difference (DID) methods. The effects of BRI on Eurasian international relations are identified by comparing the similarities in voting in United Nations General Assembly by the countries along the B&R. The findings in this paper may not only advance the studies of geopolitical implications of the BRI but also avoid dangers in international relations caused by suspects and quarrels.

KEYWORDS

Belt and Road Initiative, International relation, Eurasia, UN vote, Social network analysis

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