

# The interest of the EU in the BRI

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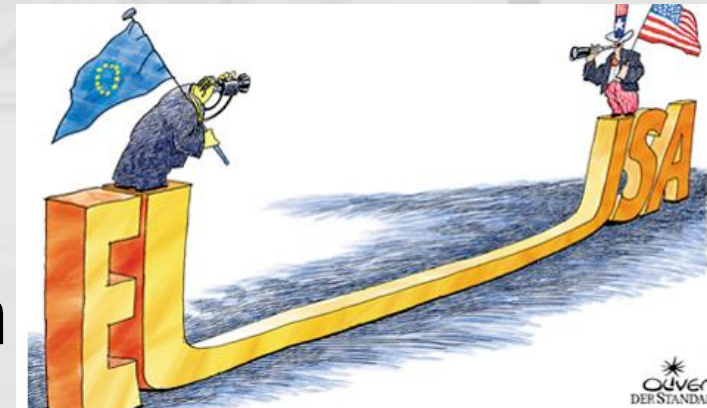




# Pillars of the current World Order and the EU



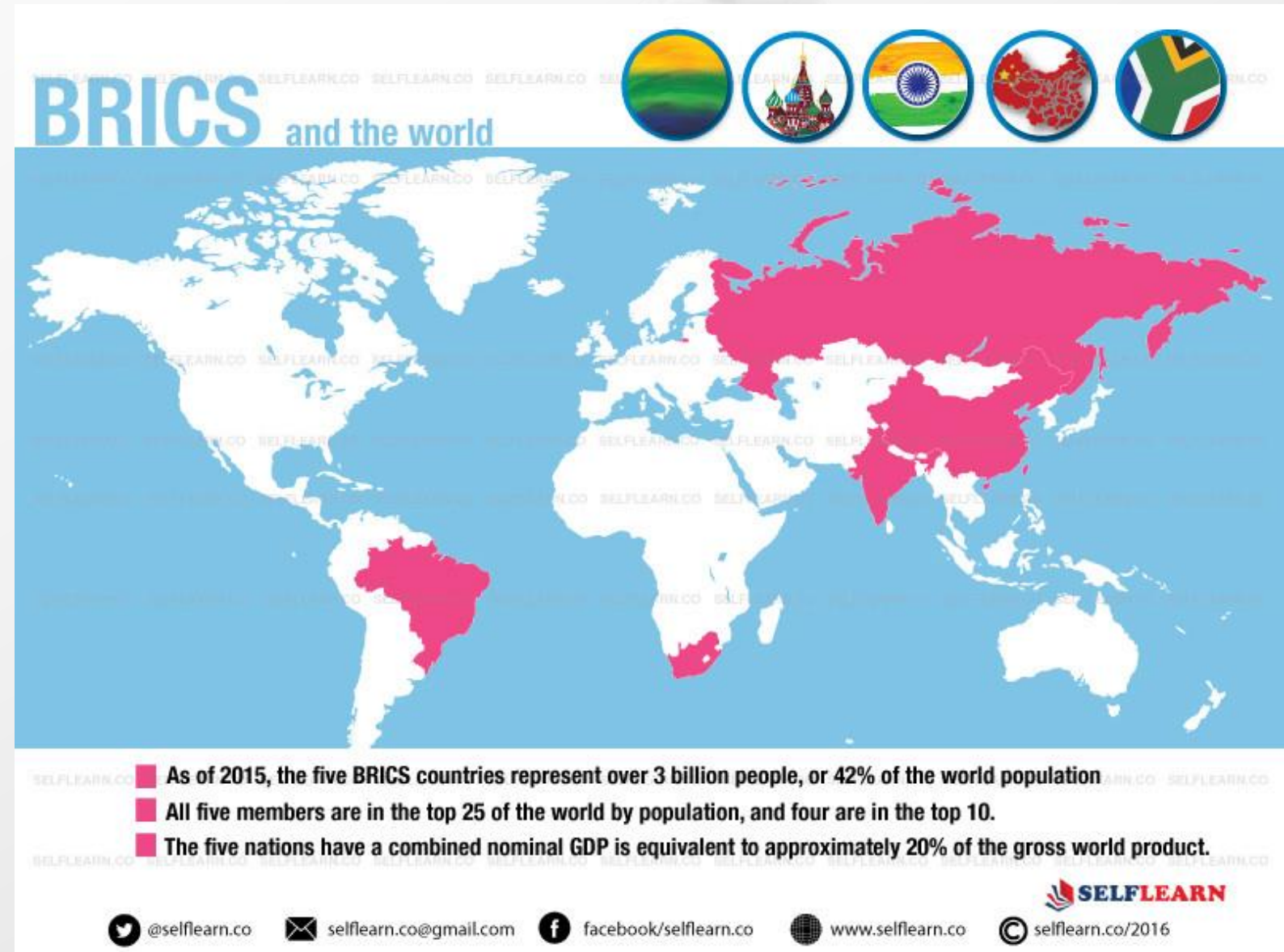
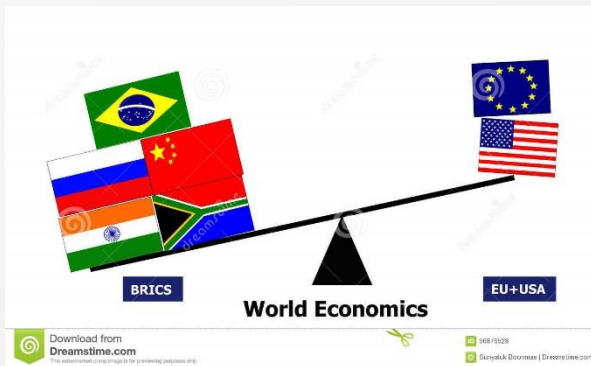
- US leadership in economy: BUT public good provider role globally
- The U.S. military alignment system (NATO)
- The international institutions (UN, Bretton Woods, etc.)
- The American value system/Western values





# Multipolar International Order?

- BRICS?
- EU?





# New International Order?

## The Belt and Road Initiative



Astana: September, 2013

The “five connectivities”:

- Policy coordination
- Facilities connectivity (infrastructure)
- Unimpeded trade
- Financial integration
- People-to-people bond



# Skepticism & fears within the EU



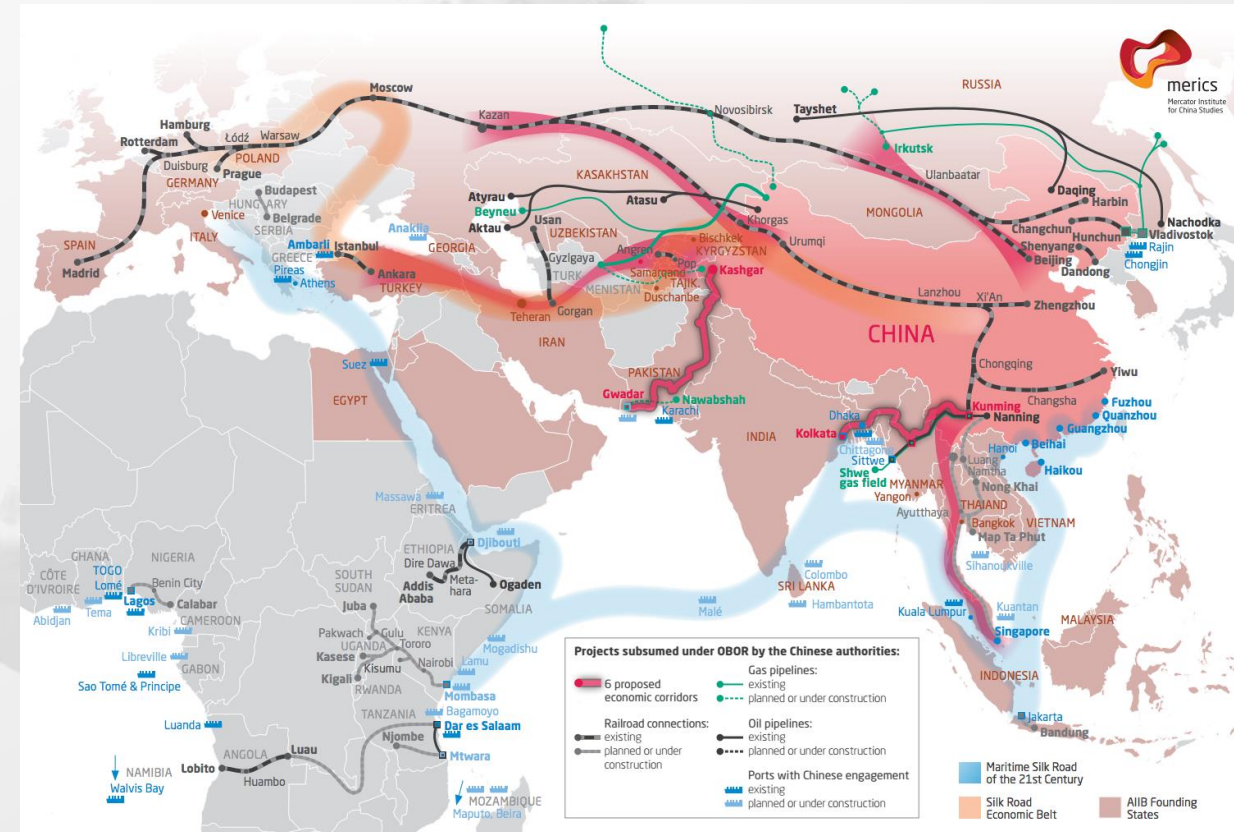
- China has geopolitical ambitions and its goal is to undermine the global US leadership & the EU
- Would the EU's support of the BRI affect NATO?
- BRI projects are in conflict with EU legislation and pose challenges to European principles and values within the EU and in its neighborhood
- BRI: growing competition with China in the global & European markets
- The new institutions connected to the BRI have been developed without the active participation of the EU



# The Interest of the EU in BRI (1.)

## Economic

- Reconnects Asia with the EU: new market for European companies
- EU's global trade could increase (reduction in transport costs)
- Investment possibilities
- Has several overlaps with the EU's 'Juncker Plan': infrastructure bottlenecks e.g. CEE





## The Interest of the EU in BRI (2)



### Political

- More independent foreign politics: less Atlantic, but more Eurasian orientation: Trump-effect
- Rule-setter actor in the BRI
- Promotion of its norms in the new institutions





## Conclusion



- There is skepticism but interests too. The options:
  - Isolation & ignorance
  - Active participation
- Is there a real choice?
- Active participation would affect European identity...
- Post-Brexit EU



Thank you for your attention!

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