



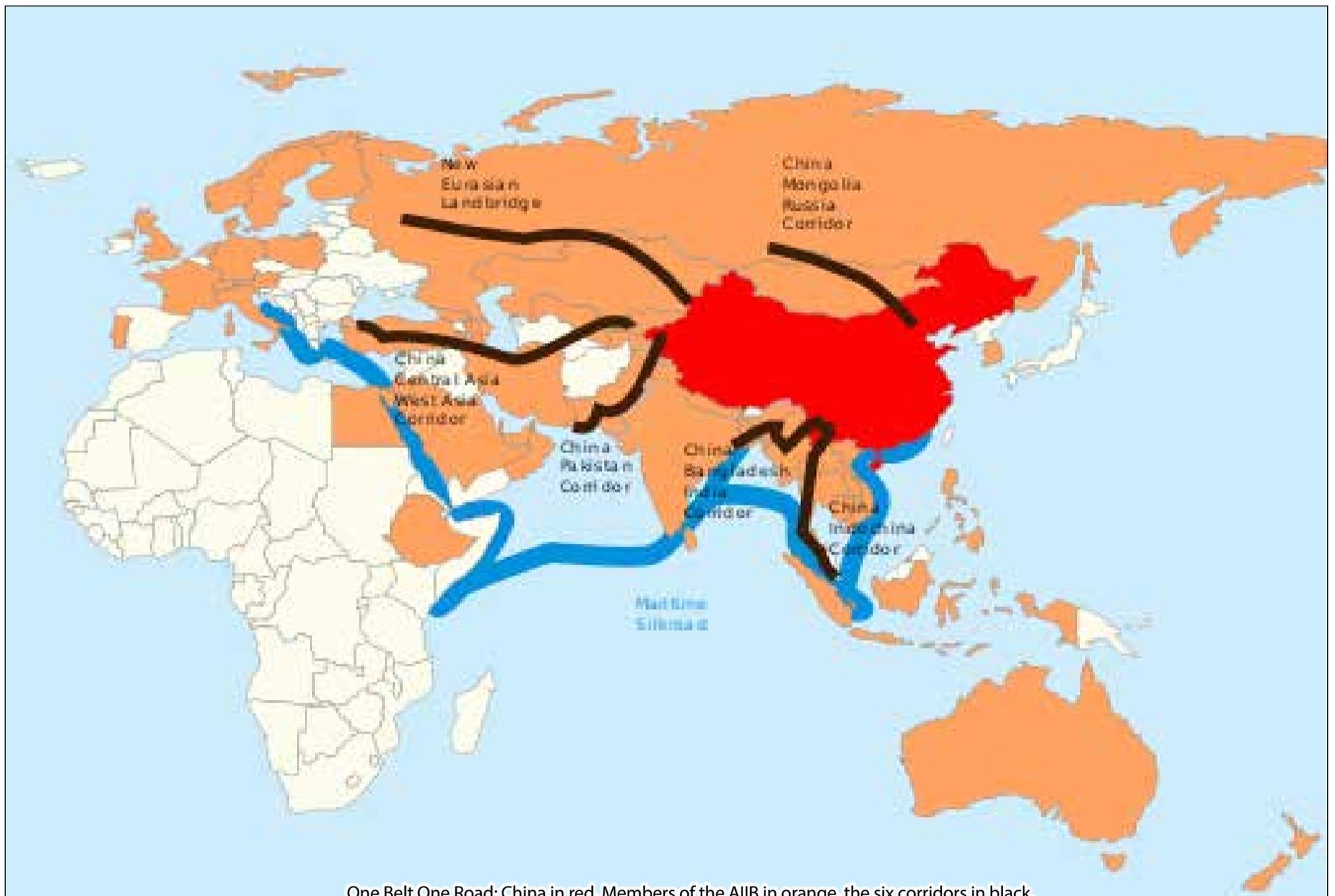
Taking Note of the Chinese Trade Route Initiative in Bulgaria and Europe

OE Watch Commentary: According to Dr. Mariana Malinova Tian, a Sinologist at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the Chinese “One Belt, One Road” initiative is a new phase in economic globalization with potential benefits as well as risks. Dr. Tian highlighted the scope of the Chinese effort as well as characterizing risk in the Bulgarian daily *Trud* by saying that “China is trying to penetrate any crack that appears in Europe. That is why we in Europe must be united. I would like us to have the most successful policy and to counter these two giants, the US and China. They [China] advance confidently in all Eastern Europe: in Hungary, Poland, in the Balkans: in Serbia, Montenegro, even Bosnia and Herzegovina.” She further noted that “Bulgaria ranks last-but-one in their economic contacts...China is a super power and if it decides something, nobody can stop it...The Chinese are in Serbia and Macedonia because they are not EU Member States whereas EU laws apply in Bulgaria. And they find it far more lucrative - financially and especially politically - to go to those countries.” Meanwhile, the Bulgarian Economy Ministry announced that the Chinese-CEE (Central and East European) Investment Fund would invest \$1 billion in the region on top of \$435 million previously invested, as reported by the Bulgarian *BTA Daily News*. Often the focus of the Chinese One Belt, One Road initiative is seen as it develops in Asia. These articles are a reminder of the efforts at the European terminus. **End OE Watch Commentary (Wilhelm)**

“China is a super power and if it decides something, nobody can stop it.”

Source: Mariela Valeva, “Доц. д-р Мариана Тиен, китаист в Института по исторически изследвания при БАН, пред ‘Труд’: Битаката в света не е за Китай, а за Европа (Assoc. Prof. Mariana Tien, PhD, Institute of Historical Studies at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, for ‘Trud’: The world is not for China but for Europe),” *Trud*, 13 August 2018. <https://trud.bg/доц-д-р-мариана-тиен-китаист-в-институт/>

Source: “Chinese Fund to Invest 1B USD in Central and Eastern Europe,” *BTA Daily News*, 16 August 2018, p 4.



One Belt One Road: China in red, Members of the AIIB in orange, the six corridors in black.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belt_and_Road_Initiative#/media/File:One-belt-one-road.svg, Wikipedia, CC BY-SA 4.0.