

Version 1.2 | 04.02.19 - NOTE: This is a corrected version. The initially posted version had some of another project's text accidentally included.

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Hertie School of Governance, Masters of Public Policy Program

Spring 2019 | Course: GRAD-P1042: Problems of European Energy: Technology, Markets & Policy;

Instructor: Dr. Thomas W. O'Donnell, twod@umich.edu

Client's Assignment to Student Research/Consulting Group

China's Belt and Road project in Central Asia & Caspian Region & Energy Impacts

I. Client Partner:

Eclareon, consultancy specialized in renewable energy, climate policies, green financing (Policy Consulting, Business Promotion, Business Consulting), Berlin ([link](#))

a. Client Representative:

Mr. Robert Brückmann ([link](#))

II. Client's Abstract

a. Topic's Significance

The Chinese Belt and Road initiative is designed to have a deep impact on the entire Caspian and Central Asian region, linking China to the economies of the local states via huge infrastructure projects, including energy infrastructure.

First, the team will examine the general origins and overall goals of the Belt and Road project as such (its history, when it was proposed and the discussion began, including its main aspects in each major state of the region. One might consider here various themes, such as how does China label itself? The Silk Road is an ancient idea; and there is the intent to open markets, etc.; however, what is actually being done? Do the stated reasons hold up to reality?

From this informed background, the team will then zoom in to examine various indicators and aspects of the implementation to-date. This might range across autobahns/highways, harbors, ports, etc. as well as energy projects (pipelines, electricity grids and generation capacity, etc.). In so far as it is not implemented on time or in its expected form, what are the reasons given by actors (has there been re-thinking locally, local failures, pushback; this is interesting to understand).

Then, thirdly, we will zoom in to see to what extent is this project involved with energy, and in what way (to securely deliver to China and/or for local consumption; to what extent does the green sector play a role – is it specifically mentioned/stressed, are there green goals, etc.) One notes all the coal fired power plants the Chinese are selling to other countries. In the main documents is their significant

discussion about climate change, sustainable energy, greening, etc. Then, a more a quantitative look to see if there is actually anything there.

b. Particular Questions &/or Goals

The goal – mapping the differences among Asian region, linking China to the economies of the local states via huge infrastructure projects, including energy infrastructure.

IV. Client’s vision of interaction, advice & supervision

Material will be posted weekly by students at online research notebook by the student team

a. Anticipated oversight/viewing of “Project Research Notebook”; frequency & forms of other interactions?

See Syllabus. Details TBD

b. Contact protocols, methods, frequency, etc.

TBD

V. Deliverables & Deadlines

b. Written Report

See presentations ... below.

c. Presentation &/or Executive Consultation

It is often helpful to send the client a copy of the report prior to the presentation, to look at. Often, clients can’t actually read the report (which is detailed). So, students should think about structuring their arguments (i.e., the report) in a way that they can go on a PowerPoint presentation. Perhaps, one PowerPoint for the client to read, and another one to present.

This would be interesting to figure out.

IV. Background Materials &/or References from Client

On occasion, contributed.

c. Models from Previous Work (if applicable)

Preparing and presenting results of work to clients requires care. There are two recommendations to help students prepare and present their results:

1. The podcasts: “Manager Tools and Career Tools”
2. The book “Made to Stick” by Chip and Dan Heath