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Witness Name: Abdulhakim Idris		
Witness category:	fact <input type="checkbox"/>	expert <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Date of testimony: 10 September 2021		
Link to recording*: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aHC2tXt8jEY&t=6s		
Time stamp (start/end): 06:25:40 – 07:18:00		
Report included:	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Statement included:	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Transcript included:	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Presentation included:	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>

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Buying Silence!

The use of investments by China to entice the Islamic world to stay silent over the Uyghur Genocide.

Abdulkhakim Idris

General Inspector of World Uyghur Congress
Executive Director of Center for Uyghur Studies

August 2021

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1-INTRODUCTION

Since the beginning of its occupation by the Chinese Communist Party in 1949, Uyghur, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, and other Turkic people in East Turkistan, have been subjected to genocidal policies. Uyghur genocide led to the deportation of more than 3 million East Turkistanis to concentration camps. To completely Sinicize East Turkistan, the PRC is perpetrating many crimes against humanity, such as coerced sterilization of women, forced abortions, torture of concentration camp detainees, persecution, and mass rape of detained women, brainwashing and forced assimilation, forced marriage to Han Chinese, and the labor enslavement of the Uyghur people.

On July 8, 2019, 22 countries issued a letter protesting PRC crimes against Uyghurs during the 41st session of the United Nations Human Rights Council. 4 days later, on July 12, 37 countries issued a letter flattering China for its “successes on human rights.” Supporters of China eventually rose to 50 (1). Almost all co-signers of the first letter were non-Muslim Western countries whereas those of the second letter involved prominent Muslim countries like Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

The objective of this testimony is to lay down reasons of their silence on the Uyghur genocide. It will also elaborate on how effective Beijing is, over the relations between China and those countries. Despite sharing the same religion and similar cultures, leaders of Muslim countries ignore the eradication of the Uyghur community due to economic interests. Any sensitivity to defend universal human rights and international law was shouldered aside by the growing dependency on bilateral trade and the race to get a cut from the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Western corporate giants are exploiting the enslaved Uyghur workforce by placing orders to Chinese plants in East Turkistan. They resemble the companies that helped Nazis in the Second World War. Similarly, international conglomerates that sponsor Winter Olympics connive at China’s crime of genocide and in a way abet it.

2. CHINESE METHODS TO COVER UP UYGHUR GENOCIDE

Before delving into China’s web of economic relations either bilaterally or through BRI and its implications on the Uyghur Genocide, one should look into arguments and methods performed by the CCP. These are effectively used along with the economic baits.

The CCP claim that East Turkistan is Chinese territory since its complete invasion in 1949 and is part of Chinese history, despite the people of East Turkistan having nothing in common with China in terms of Culture, speech, or physical appearance. “East Turkistan is China’s internal matter and not a concern of other countries” has been a fundamental argument by the PRC since the beginning of the occupation.

An exemplary case is Saudi Arabia. When Mohammed bin Salman, Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, and main supplier of oil to China, was accused of involvement in the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, he bought Chinese support on the issue in exchange for endorsing Chinese policies and choosing to view East Turkistan’s human tragedies as China’s internal affair. From

Libya to Syria, China became a main player in conflicts, in exchange for other players to stay away from the Uyghur issue.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Iran, United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Bahrain in April within the last year and at each destination, he raised the same point to his counterparts: Beijing expected these countries to respect its interests and the principle of so-called non-interference. Thanking Arab states for their support to Chinese policies in East Turkistan, China's top diplomat abruptly commented that "The situation of a country's human rights shall be judged by its people rather than other countries based on their own preferences". He also claimed that "the views of human rights held by some Western countries are not representative of the international perspective" (2).

The Chinese Government also makes use of a second argument regarding the Uyghur genocide; that is; "fight against three evils: terrorism, religious extremism and separatism". It is noteworthy to say that the bulk of contemporary Islamic states and Central Asian republics do not have even gribbles of democracy, and their laws do not prioritize universal values like human rights or freedom of speech. Thus, Beijing's notion of fighting against the three evils (terrorism, religious extremism, and separatism, as per the CCP) was welcomed as a sanctuary by these authoritarian regimes. Cracking down on every bit of adverse opinion and movements of human rights at home, authoritarian rulers would naturally choose to consider that Xi Jinping had reasonable grounds to oppress and persecute the people of East Turkistan. In particular, shaken by the Arab spring movements that started in 2011 in Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, and the Gulf, Emirates took advantage of Beijing's self-professed 'fight against separatism'. This is also valid for central Asian republics. In 2001, at the foundation stage of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), four Central Asian states (except Turkmenistan), signed 'Shanghai Convention on Fight against Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism'; a further tool for China to suppress East Turkistan under the pretext of preventing the rise of so-called Islamic radicalism and ethnic separatism (3). Founded under the leadership of Russia and China, SCO turned into a platform where Beijing could extend its security policies throughout Central Asian countries. Via this organization, member states exchange their blacklists with each other, and the Minsk Convention enabled states in the region to have legal grounds in handing over exiles back (4).

The communist regime uses diplomatic channels at interstate level while also spending billions of dollars to run a global propaganda campaign. According to "Mind your tongue", a report issued in 2019, the Communist Party of China spends an annual of 10 billion dollars for international propaganda activity. The objective is to foster a positive image of China and to shape other governments' programs in a way that favors Beijing's trade targets in the short and long run (5). Moreover, a sprawling network of social media accounts helps sway international public opinion towards pro-China sentiments. BBC reported that 350 fake accounts propagate in favor of the Chinese Communist Party (6).

A full analysis of the Chinese Communist Party's oppressive policies in East Turkistan should entail the use of the Chinese Islamic Association, another soft power instrument in the toolbox of Beijing used against Muslim countries. Since Xi Jinping's rise to power, the Chinese Islamic Association has been used to sinicize Islam and cultivate relationships and promote propaganda in Islamic countries. This Chinese Islamic Association has a three-pronged approach.

First is to present itself like the defender of Sinicized Islam and to warn of the threat of foreign penetration. Second is hajj (pilgrimage) diplomacy. Third is to arrange exchanges with Muslim leaders and Islamic organizations. Xinjiang Islamic Association, an offshoot of the Chinese Islamic Association in East Turkistan, is steered in this context. Since the launch of BRI in 2013, this Association has been increasingly more active in a bid to forge relations with Central Asian and Muslim countries (7).

In order to sinicize Islam, the Chinese Islamic Association has led the demolition of the domes and minarets on the few mosques and masjids left standing, removing the elements of Islamic architecture. This trend was further maintained by hanging CCP flags on each mosque. Other steps involved propaganda of China's self-styled policies on religion, preparation of introductory texts about core Communist values, praising traditional Chinese culture, bans on the use of Arabic alphabet, and restrictions on religious traditions. The accompanying propaganda rhetoric aimed to discredit complaints in Islamic countries of oppression against Muslim Uyghurs in East Turkistan. With an effort to strip Uyghurs off their Muslim identity, the CCP aims to annihilate any empathy the rest of the Muslim world may have towards them. Chinese Islamic Association serves to legitimize in the eyes of Muslim audience all sorts of repressive policies against Muslim Uyghurs. For example, the Association tried to portray a different picture by claiming that the Chinese government's closure of mosques is compatible with Islamic faith. This statement was made after the events in Urumqi in 2009 (8).

International press coverage witnessed that the Chinese Government increased its pace to Sinicize Islam by means of this and similar organizations. The Chinese Islamic Association was among the first to issue a counter statement targeting the adoption of the Uyghur Human Rights Bill in the U.S. House, while also claiming that Beijing always defended religious freedoms. Additionally, delegations acting on a religious purpose from a country or an institution act under the oversight of this Association. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) paid a visit to the region after the events in 2009 in Urumqi. All meetings were organized by Beijing, reflecting its own taste. A similar setup appeared following Kunming events in 2014. Same year the Association guided the visit of Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman. In 2019, Egyptian Al Ahram newspaper praised a joint exchange program initiated by Chinese Islamic Association and Al Azhar University. The Association reportedly lauded Al Azhar's so-called work in combating religious extremism (9).

Confucius Institutes and initiatives to teach Chinese in various educational institutions are part of 'soft power' instruments of increasing importance used by the Chinese Communist Party in Middle Eastern countries. Founded in 2004, Confucius Institutes are active in 106 countries with 440 centres. The first Confucius Institute in the Gulf was opened in 2011 in Dubai and later in Abu Dhabi and Bahrain as well. Every year, tens of students learn Mandarin in these centers. The objective is to introduce communist Chinese society to Muslim Arab people (10).

The Chinese Communist Party also actively uses its diplomatic missions in other countries to influence the Islamic world. These missions are not only diplomatic purposes, but also the long arms of a propaganda mechanism. For example, in a program broadcast on Youtube, in which Rushan Abbas, Director of the Campaign for Uyghurs, attended with the officials of the US Embassy in Algeria, the comments section was filled with Chinese propaganda by Beijing's

embassy officials. Another striking example is Beijing's Malaysian Embassy holding a conference on "China Cooperation with the Islamic World." At the same time, the Chinese Communist Party, which committed genocide against Muslims in East Turkistan organizes these types of conferences as if nothing had happened. However, the point to be considered is the participation of the leading Islamic organizations of Pakistan, Australia, and Malaysia and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. (11). In return for Beijing's investments in the aforementioned countries, these countries' sell their silence on the Uyghur genocide. The Chinese Communist Party also uses this investment leverage to get the interlocutor countries to sign an extradition treaty. For example, Idris Hasan, one of the Uyghur activists arrested in Morocco last month, held in Moroccan custody to send back to China, after Morocco signed investment and extradition agreements with China back in 2016.

The vaccine is one of the tools that the Chinese Communist regime is using as leverage to keep other countries silent about the Uyghur Genocide. Covid-19 has brought the world to the brink of a new disaster. The Beijing government is using masks and vaccines developed internally for the disease for its own economic and political purposes. To date, it has shipped its vaccine to 69 economically vulnerable countries free of charge and sold to 28 countries. These vaccines increased the diplomatic influence of the Chinese communist regime in some regions, especially in the BRI countries, such as Algeria. The Beijing government initially stated that it would send vaccines to many countries free of charge. However, China did not fulfill this promise in the process. For this reason, countries such as Brazil and Turkey have been instructed to purchase the Chinese vaccine (12). The Beijing government also considered its diplomatic relations with those countries during the shipment of vaccines. For example, in Turkey, one of the countries with the largest Uyghur population, the delay in vaccines from China was attributed to East Turkistan. The Turkish Minister of Health Fahrettin Koca went on to say, "The vaccine was coming from China, where is it? I cannot say that they were successful, but they certainly did damage" (13).

The People's Republic of China, which is one of the countries that attaches the most importance to artificial intelligence technologies, uses technology for surveillance, in order to keep the people of East Turkistan under pressure. Today, there is not a single area in East Turkistan that is not monitored with advanced technologies. These systems not only monitor but also surround the lives of Uyghurs with integrated systems developed by Beijing. This siege was not only limited to East Turkistan but also extended to other countries. The Digital Silk Road project developed under the BRI aims to export the technological systems under Beijing's supervision to the world. It is stated that the CCP has exported its AI-based surveillance systems to about 20 countries, the majority of which are authoritarian states. These authoritarian governments use their surveillance systems to silence their opponents and allow the Uyghurs in those countries to be followed. The details of the agreements made under the BRI in recent years are not well known. However, when we look at the agreements reflected by the public, most of them also include issues related to cooperation in the fields of telecommunication and communication. Giving the job of establishing telecommunication systems to China means that the entire communication network is connected to Beijing. Huawei, one of the most important companies in China, has signed agreements worth billions of dollars worldwide. From 1997 to 2019, 99 projects worth 14.8 billion dollars came to the table in 46 countries (14). Technological developments pioneered by Huawei in Western countries, especially in America, are followed with concern. The Beijing government's desire to connect the entire digital world to itself can be seen with Huawei's aggressive steps in 5G

technology and its close relationship with the BRI. Central Asian and Muslim countries that have signed on to this also put their online security in Beijing's hands, placing Uyghur refugees under threat once more.

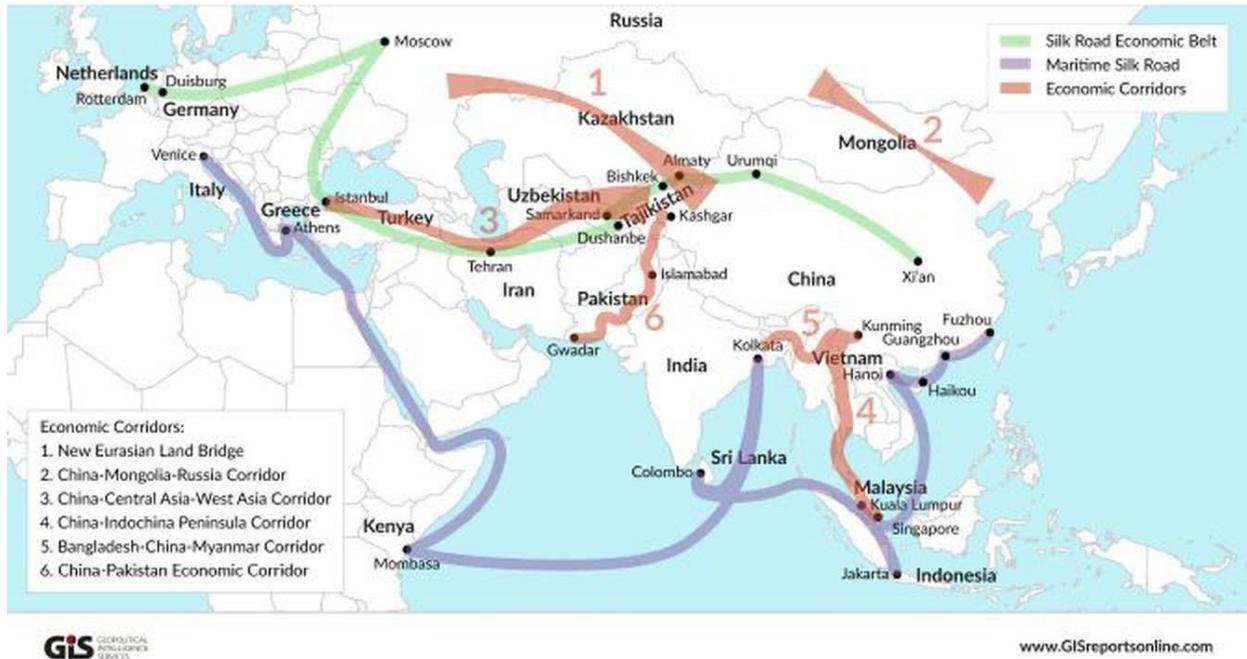
3- CHINA'S ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION AND the BRI

PRC's economic history indicates that since the era of Deng Xiaoping, China was a closed, isolated economy. When Deng took power, his radical decision to open up China resulted in the making of the world's second largest economy today. In the process, China's progress was backed by prominent American foreign policy actor Henry Kissinger's and German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's vision of transforming China through economy as well as US President Bill Clinton's green light to China's membership in the World Trade Organization. At the turn of the millennium, China turned into the factory of the world and began to serve as a production hub for hundreds of brands from all western countries. Boosted by low-cost access to labor and raw materials, the Chinese economy, after a while, went beyond solely manufacturing for Western brands but began to produce its own brands and develop technologies in all fields. Today China is the second country to dispatch a spacecraft to Mars. Communists in its governing philosophy but more capitalist than the West in its economic system, China aspires to keep its pace of growth without downshifting and to become the world's biggest economy. China now holds second place after the USA with a GDP over 14 trillion dollars and has outpaced countries like Japan and Germany (15). To overtake the US and be first, China must keep growing double digits every year. Yet, the economic indicators show that China has lost this pace. To regain this performance, Xi Jinping needs newer breakthroughs to dominate the world economy in line with China's axis.

Xi Jinping is the son of Xi Zhongxun, the supervisor of the vast area including East Turkistan, and responsible for the deaths of 90,000 so-called "bandits" through defeat, surrender, or killing, and the man who ordered the execution of the famous Kazakh leader Osman Batur. The younger Xi was selected as the Secretary General of the Chinese Communist Party in 2012 and thus became China's Head of State (16). President Xi understood that economics are the key to establishing new alliances and wanted to make China the leader of the world. In an effort to launch an alternative economic coalition to the West, he announced his new initiative inspired by the historical Silk Road in 2013. The first step was declared in Kazakhstan under the banner of the Silk Road Economic Belt. The second step was taken in Indonesia that same year, referred to as the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. These two initiatives eventually combined to form Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) (17). To date, 139 countries have taken part in BRI. As of this writing, the latest participant is the Democratic Republic of Congo (18).

The BRI was laid out in the framework of constructing economic corridors stretching from China to Asia-Pacific and from Central Asia to Europe and the Middle East. BRI's six main economic corridors are as follows: the New Eurasian Land Bridge, China-Mongolia-Russia, China-Central Asia-West Asia, China-Indochina Peninsula, China-Pakistan, and Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar. In the context of these economic corridors, building massive investments such as highways, railways, ports, and free economic zones are projected. As of 2018, the amount of investment within the scope of BRI has exceeded 90 billion dollars (19).

China's Belt and Road Initiative



A closer look to these economic corridors that serve the capitalist goals of communist China would demonstrate why East Turkistan is important. The connection point of all routes to other countries, except the Pacific region, goes through East Turkistan. Therefore after 2014, the Chinese communist regime under Xi Jinping believed that this land must be Sinicized, and the Uyghurs be eradicated. Longtime residents of the land such as the Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, and other Turkic communities are not Chinese neither in terms of their origins nor their language, religion, and culture. For this very reason, it is within Beijing's colonial targets to wipe or totally annihilate the identities of the people of East Turkistan by committing genocide, if deemed necessary.

4- THE BUYING SILENCE OF MUSLIM COUNTRIES

Launched by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013, BRI is the most important tool for the Beijing regime to create a new regional, and global hegemony on economic grounds that would be an alternative to the West. BRI will pave the way for China to dominate the world economy and create an opportunity for Beijing to boost its slowing economy. The Chinese communist regime, as part of its new era colonialism policies, is increasing its economic power in all regions from the Pacific to Central Asia, from the Middle East to Europe. The value of China's foreign investment and construction since 2005 exceeds \$2 trillion. China is investing billions of dollars to Muslim countries. In the Middle East, total investment is almost \$208 billion, \$41.61 billions of which is direct investment and \$165.41 billion is construction projects. In India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Pakistan, the latter having the greatest share, the level of investment reached to \$198.42 billion; \$80.70 billion in direct investment and \$117.72 billion in construction. China invested a sum of \$74.73 billion in Turkey and Central Asian countries, \$28.55 billions of which is direct investment and \$46.18 billion is construction (20).

A- Middle East and Asia region

BRI is a system of exploitation for a neocolonial China, stretching to Europe from Central Asia overland, and from the Asia-Pacific region on maritime routes. Despite having projects in the context of BRI, the Gulf countries and Iran are special for China. The PRC did not restrict itself on exploiting other countries for its energy needs and economic growth. Gulf countries and particularly Iran have a critical place in this quest.

The China Iran deal

China's primary interest in Iran is oil. China has to diversify energy sources to sustain its economic order and thus is in a constant search of promoting relations in the scope of BRI and on a broader perspective. One reason besides oil is that Iran is located at a significant crossroads of BRI. It extends over a vast area from the Gulf region which is an important transit route for world trade, to Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, and Turkey. Iran is a transit route for China to connect African countries. The relationship is also compelled by a desperate Tehran's quest to secure China's support vis-à-vis the embargo spearheaded by the USA (21). In such a background, agreements covering 25-year duration were inked between China and Iran. A historical agreement which was made public in July 2020 was said to stitch up a cooperation of \$400 billion. First proposed by Xi in his 2016 visit to Iran, the agreement was later endorsed by President Hassan Rouhani's cabinet but failed to pass in Iranian parliament. When Trump renounced the nuclear agreement that was crafted under President Obama's administration stipulating the lifting of sanctions in exchange for restricting Iran's nuclear activities, Iranians sped up negotiations with China and finalized the investment agreement. The draft of the agreement foresees that China will invest in Iran in areas of banking, telecommunications, ports, and railroads in exchange for cheap Iranian oil for 25 years.

BRI is a crucial step in Xi's Chinese dream and considered within BRI this agreement will help extend Beijing's economic and political power from Asia to Europe. With the launch of construction of speed train railways and metros, it is highly likely that banners in Chinese will appear more frequently in Iranian streets. China will also construct a free economic zone in Maku, in northwestern Iran. These special free economic zones, as seen in examples of other countries, will provide China with a capability where it will have its own order from banks and insurance to security and employees. This economic zone by the Iranian Gulf will likely turn into a strategic Chinese base in the Middle East. The area is also crucial in terms of oil transportation and furnishes China with great strategic power (22). Besides its economic implications, the agreement effectively silenced Iran about Uyghur genocide. The publication of caricatures about Prophet Mohammed fueled waves of reaction led by Iran. Embassies were shut down; Danish products were boycotted. Paradoxically Iran, who had issued an execution order for Salman Rushdi, author of *The Satanic Verses*, turns a blind eye to China's all offences against Islam, including the ban on education of the Quran. Iran forbids women to wander in the streets without a headscarf yet did not say a single word to Beijing regime that bans veiling in East Turkistan and punishes Uyghurs who do it. Obviously, Iran overlooks the Uyghur genocide.

The China Saudi Arabia Corporations

Saudi Arabia, as the host of the holiest sites of Muslims, Mecca and Medina, and a venue where millions of Muslims travel to every year to perform hajj, is not different. The galloping volume of recent high-level visits between China and Saudi Arabia along with other Gulf States

indicates that those governments regard China as the most important partner in their pursuit of economic growth. Corollary to this, in a visit to China in 2016 Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman declared that one of the main fulcrums of his country's 2030 Vision was China. This was followed by another visit by King Salman the following year that culminated in the signing of deals worth \$65 billion (23). The Saudi Crown Prince paid another visit in 2019 and the two sides agreed to build a \$10 billion refinery in the Chinese coastal city of Panjin to be financed by Saudis. Total value of the agreements signed in this visit reached \$28 billion. Saudi Arabia is China's primary supplier of oil. China imports 16.8% of its crude oil from Saudi Arabia (24). As payment for this huge volume of economic interests, the Kingdom of Saud became an accomplice for China's crime of Uyghur genocide. Right after the agreements were signed, the Crown Prince reiterated his respect and support for China's right to security and counterterrorism. Xi Jinping in return talked of Saudi Arabia as a good friend and partner and said that they wanted to strengthen cooperation to prevent so-called extremism (25). As a reflection of the consensus on counterterrorism, Saudi Arabia detained Uyghurs who went to holy sites for umrah to deport them back to China. To date, there is no clear information about the situation of these people (26).

Chinese prisons in the Gulf States

Following the footprints of Saudi Arabia, other Gulf monarchies are also sparing no effort to preserve trade relations with the Beijing regime. The United Arab Emirates is second to Saudi Arabia to attract Chinese construction investments. Chinese and related companies overtook construction projects worth \$28 billion in the UAE. Direct investment has amounted to \$7.8 billion (27). China is the second biggest trade partner of UAE, which made Muslim children sing the Chinese revolution march as flattery to Xi on the anniversary of PRC's foundation and broadcasted it. Kuwaiti rulers stated that they will execute the 2035 Vision of Development together with China. China has also been the biggest investor at Duqm free trade zone in Oman. This presents China with a unique opportunity of a strategic position at the juncture of the Arab Peninsula, South Asia, and East Africa (28). Globally marketed as an equal economic development model but in reality, nothing more than a colonial tool, BRI has a tempting feature which made Muslim leaders lined up at the door of communist regime to get a share. For this reason, these countries do not follow Western states in pressuring China in the international public opinion. Accompliceship is the strongest of partnerships. Leaders of the aforementioned countries who do not want to hear about human rights violations at home stick to Beijing's discourse of 'these are related to that country's internal affairs that we cannot interfere' (29). Hence, in 2020, the Ambassador of UAE in Beijing visited East Turkistan. Ambassador Ali Al Dhaneri lauded Chinese practices there and in a later interview to Chinese state media, he expressed his admiration for what the Chinese government had done there. While the Gulf countries praise China on the one hand, they continue to violate human rights alongside Beijing on the other. The emirates have not only ignored the Beijing government's construction of concentration camps for Muslim Uighurs in East Turkistan, but also built secret prisons for Beijing within their own borders. This inhuman crime was recently exposed by a Chinese woman who stayed there. The woman, 26-year-old Wu Huan, said she was abducted from a hotel in Dubai and detained by Chinese officials at a villa converted into a jail, where she saw or heard two other prisoners, both Uyghurs. (30)

Pakistan's fate in Chinese hand

The China-Pakistan economic corridor (CPEC) adjoins Gulf states to BRI. The ambitious project was originally estimated to bring in \$46 billions of investment into Pakistan. It is now

estimated to have increased to about \$65 billion. Gwadar is an inchoate “strategic strongpoint” in Pakistan that may one day serve as a major platform for China’s economic, diplomatic, and military interactions across the northern Indian Ocean region, and its connection to occupied East Turkistan territory. The project starts from East Turkistan and is connected to the Iranian Gulf through Gwadar Port. The Chinese government leased the operations and control of the Port for 40 years. CPEC is estimated to attract \$150 billion direct investment into Pakistan (31).

Pakistan is one the countries that receives a bigger share of Chinese regime’s investments; direct investment alone is worth \$16.54 billion. Prior to his election as Pakistan’s Premier, one of Imran Khan’s platforms was in opposition against the Nawaz Sharif government regarding CPEC, and once in office he promised to review the conditions of CPEC. When Khan took over, his Minister of Economy Abdul Rezzak Dawood blamed his predecessors in the Sharif government on the current spiral of debt in the country and said that Pakistan did not negotiate well with China regarding CPEC. Dawood failed to resist counter reactions later on and stepped back, saying he was misunderstood. Opposition attacked Dawood as being irresponsible given the dependency of Pakistan’s economy to China. Afzal reported a further development that Pakistan’s Chief of Staff General Qamar Jawed Bajwa was summoned to Beijing upon a ‘special invitation by the Chinese President’ for damage assessment. Xi’s statement at the invitation was far more remarkable. Xi said that; “BRI, with CPEC as its flagship project, is destined to succeed and the Pakistan Army shall ensure security at all costs.” Later on, an independent department for BRI was formed and a retired general was appointed to run it. Thus, China’s pet project CPEC was spared from exposure to any political intervention.

Pakistan is a neighbor to East Turkistan, the key point of BRI, so China is doing everything it can to ensure the development of transit trade routes through the region, and the opportunity supplies China with a new opening to the sea. Having a firm grip over Pakistan’s economy, the Chinese regime compelled Prime Minister Imran Khan to say that “the future of our country depends on China”. Pakistan has become so dependent on China that its rulers behave as if they are unaware of Muslim genocide right next door. In February 2020, in response to a question, Prime Minister Khan at the World Economic Forum in Davos said that he did not know much about the oppression meted out to Muslim Uyghurs (33). In line with this thinking, the ambassador of Pakistan assigned to Beijing, Mounul Haque, spoke to Chinese state television CGTN that he did not see any signs of oppression or persecution against Uyghurs in East Turkistan. He alleged that on the contrary Uyghurs had religious freedom and were benefiting from economic progress (34). Pakistani authorities deported a number of East Turkistanis in accordance with Chinese demands. A late report showed that 21 persons were detained and deported in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and there were about 90 people more in similar situations, but their records could not be accessed (35).

The Chinese Taliban cooperation

In recent weeks, Afghanistan has come under the control of the Taliban following the withdrawal of the USA and NATO. A new era has begun in one of the most war-torn countries in Asia. Every situation in Afghanistan, one of the border neighbors of East Turkistan, has caused a policy change in China's attitude towards the Uighurs. For example, after the invasion of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union in 1979, the Chinese Communist regime, which wanted to

maintain its rule in East Turkistan, suddenly began to return some religious freedoms that it had previously banned to the Uyghurs. In the 1990s, following the declaration of independence of the Central Asian Countries, China reinstated more oppressive methods. As the Taliban strengthened in Afghanistan, The PRC feared that the Uyghurs would attempt to declare independence again.

However, the Taliban has not dealt with any sort of issue from China. On the contrary, the founder, Mullah Omar, was visited by China's Ambassador to Pakistan Lu Shulin during a 1998 visit to Kandahar, and said, "Afghanistan has never had a desire or intention to interfere in China's internal affairs." In 2000, the Taliban sent 13 Uyghurs who had previously entered Afghanistan seeking asylum to China. (36) After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Afghanistan became the center of the international agenda. In this period, China, which embraced the war against terrorism argument initiated by the USA, declared Uyghurs had been educated in madrasahs in Pakistan and Afghanistan as terrorists.

The Chinese government has never completely severed its relations with the Taliban, knowing that the United States would withdraw from the region one day. Due to its geo-strategic location, Afghanistan is an important transition point for the Beijing government's BRI project. The existence of precious metals in Afghanistan, which is estimated to be worth between 1 and 3 trillion dollars, is another reason for China's good relations with the Taliban. Experts have warned that China will exploit these assets belonging to Afghanistan. (37) As a result of this situation, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who hosted the Taliban Delegations two weeks before the withdrawal of America and NATO, praised them, saying that they play an important role in the future of Afghanistan. China's Foreign Spokesperson also said that the Taliban expect a peaceful transition to bring all groups together in Afghanistan. In return, the Taliban's chief negotiator, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, emphasized that no power would be allowed to take actions that would harm Afghanistan and China, indicating support of China's genocidal policies. (38)

Egypt under Xi Jinping's influence

Another prominent Muslim country, Egypt is no less dependent on China than Pakistan. Egypt is also located in a significant geography for Beijing; the Suez Canal is the most critical passage for trade routes stretching from Asia to Europe. China directly invested \$5.57 billion in Egypt and \$19.13 billion through construction projects, which sums up to \$24.70 billion (39). Parts of these investments were initialized before BRI was declared and geared up with BRI. The majority of them are devoted to the Suez Canal region. In 2008, the Suez Canal Economic Zone, SCZone, was launched. Aiming at production and export to Europe, the Middle East, and Africa with Egypt as a base, the PRC has been one of the biggest investors in SCZone. SCZone is in Sokhna region, 120 km away from Cairo (40). In another project, the Egyptian government designated Hutchison Ports for building a new container port in Abu Qir region. Hutchison Ports is one of the largest port operations companies and active in 27 countries including Egypt (41). Along with ports and private free special economic zones, the project of a new capital city, an ambitious goal of the Egyptian government, was supported by Chinese companies. The new capital City will cost over \$45 when finished and will house 6.5 million people (42). The Beijing government sees Egypt as a stepping stone to Africa and Europe, but their cooperation is increasing the debt burden of Egypt. Although a case like Sri Lanka is expected, the share of Egypt's external debt on GDP is high. Debt to GDP ratio was 30% in 2014 but in 2017 skyrocketed to 102%. In 2018 it fell slightly to 93%. This is remarkably higher than the World Bank's standard of 77%

which it considers a point of economic collapse (43). Egypt's debt to sino-colonial China is \$4.3 billion, the bulk of which belongs to the country budget, banking sector, and business world (44).

Despite its oppressive style in its own territory, the Chinese communist regime sells itself to the Middle Eastern countries as 'full of peace and happiness', a claim also fed by nationalist Chinese sentiments. (45). Egypt's dependence on China is reflected in their stance on the genocide in East Turkistan. Cairo was one of the signatories of the letter supporting China over its claimed successes in human rights in 2019, signed during the UNHRC Session. Similarly, Al Azhar, the oldest university in the Islamic world, was among those that adopted Beijing's so-called fight against extremism argument. In 2019, the Al Ahram newspaper praised a joint exchange program initiated by the Chinese Islamic Association and Al Azhar University. The Association reportedly lauded Al Azhar's so-called work in combating religious extremism (46). Egypt sees its economic development in Beijing's hands therefore shapes its policies accordingly. In early 2017, Egypt Minister of Interior Magdy Abd Al Ghaffar and Chinese Public Security Deputy Minister Chen Zhimin met to discuss "extremist organizations." Shortly before this meeting, tens of Uyghur students were picked up on the streets of Egypt and sent to China. Same year, Egypt signed an agreement of \$1.2 billion with two Chinese state firms to build a light rail system around Cairo (47). According to Human Rights Watch, more than 62 Uyghurs were detained and deported to China in 2017 in Egypt (48).

B- Central Asia and Turkey

Another important opening for BRI in the western route is the Central Asian Republics and Turkey. East Turkistan covers all of China's land borders with Central Asian countries; the borderlines with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are respectively 1700 km, 1000 km, and 450 km. This makes East Turkistan the centre of China's gateway to Central Asia (49). Particular Kazakhstan, with its vast geography extending from East Turkistan to the Caspian Sea has the ability to connect China to Europe. China attaches further importance to Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan due to bilateral trade and energy resources. Five Central Asian countries are far from democracy, enabling them to have good relations with Beijing. They are also exposed to China's so-called fight against terrorism policies under the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Turkey, having a unique geopolitical location, is bridging Asia and Europe, and is one of the countries homes to the highest number of Uyghurs in the world. The PRC invested a total of \$74.73 billion to Turkey, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan; out of which \$28.5 billion is direct investment, and \$46.1 billion is spent on construction projects (50).

For China, Central Asian countries in the western axis are as important as Middle Eastern and Muslim countries. Aligned over China's land connection to Europe, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Kyrgyzstan are forming up BRI's conjunction points which make them instrumental for regional power balance. To this end, the Beijing regime doubled its projects in Central Asian countries. China-Central Asia-Western Asia Economic Corridor and the New Eurasia Economy Bridge connecting China to Central Asia and then to Europe over 30 countries have lately become critical. In this framework, Foreign Ministers of Central Asian countries have met in C-C5 format on May 12, 2021 (51). Central Asian countries can be categorized into two with respect to their standing vis-à-vis China. Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan are in the first category. They support all of Beijing's policies. Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan form the second

category. They also back China, but they need to deal with oppositions in their country protesting China for committing genocide against Muslim Turkic communities in East Turkistan. As a result, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan were among the signatories of the pro-China letter signed on the margins of the session of UN Human Rights Council (52).

Turkmenistan's primary export item is natural gas. Turkmenistan exports roughly 80% of its natural gas to China with a very low price calculated on account of the cost of pipelines financed by China. This renders Turkmenistan vulnerable to accept whatever China says. Today China is the biggest and almost the sole trade partner of Turkmenistan. Turkmen authorities' restrictions on freedoms and violations of human rights serve as a further denominator shared by Beijing and Ashgabat (53). Chinese direct investment in Turkmenistan is \$600 million and projects undertaken amount to \$6.8 billion (54). Corollary to this economic dependence, Turkmenistan signs into everything in favor of China, as shown in the UN Human Rights Council meeting.

Chinese demands of extradition of Uyghurs

Direct investment in Tajikistan remained restricted to a modest level of \$300 million whereas \$2.02 billion was spared for infrastructure and other projects (55). With no natural resources unlike Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan, Tajikistan is the poorest nation in Central Asia having an external debt of \$2.9 billion. Almost half of it, \$1.2 billion is payable to China. Compared to other regional countries, relations between China and Tajikistan are earmarked by a strong military relationship. China's highest number of overseas military presence is in the Gorno-Badakhshan region on the Tajikistan-Afghanistan border. This borderline is reconstructed by Beijing's support. Despite some Tajiks held in concentration camps in East Turkistan, President Emomali Rahmon keeps supporting Xi's policies (56). Consequently, in Tajikistan as well, Chinese demands of extradition of Uyghurs have become an item on the bilateral agenda.

Uzbekistan, which is the closest to Uyghur culture and language, seeks to further promote economic relations with China. Beijing's direct investment in Uzbekistan is about \$1 billion. Projects worth \$6.6 billion have been undertaken so far (57). To attract more investment, the Uzbek government facilitates visas to Chinese citizens and invites them to infrastructure projects. To appease Beijing, Uzbek authorities deported Gene Budin, a defender of human rights to concentration camps in East Turkistan. Likewise, they did not allow a small meeting to commemorate the Second East Turkistan Republic in order to send sympathetic signals to Beijing (58).

Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan's Dilemma

Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan did not sign the letter supporting China, but this does not mean that they are against Xi Jinping. They were compelled to act this way to keep the protests checked in their countries. Kazakhstan has a vast 2.7 million kilometers square territory and the longest line on the west-east axis in Central Asia. It is right in the center of the Silk Road Economic Corridor that Xi Jinping aspires to build. That's why Xi announced BRI in an event he attended in Nur-Sultan. Another important quality of Kazakhstan is its richness based on oil and natural gas reserves and its fairly advanced economy. Kazakhstan is right next to East Turkistan and in such a location that China would yearn to have it. Kazakhstan has half of all Chinese investment in Central Asia. Direct investment amounts up to \$19.54 billion and the value of projects undertaken is \$15 billion (59). Most of the projects are devoted to energy, infrastructure, and transportation.

China's economic impact is so dominant that it is widely believed among those who seek a business career that they should be able to speak Chinese.

After the introduction of BRI in 2013, the significance of Kazakhstan in the eyes of the sino-colonial Beijing regime increased further. The Chinese communist regime regards Kazakhstan as the biggest partner of the new Silk Road and as a result the relationship was transformed into a comprehensive strategic cooperation. In 2019, a series of agreements were signed during Kazakhstan President Kasym Jomart Tokayev's visit to China, focusing on cooperation on energy, technology and 5G infrastructure. A \$5 billion investment to roads and railways until 2022 was also established as part of BRI. Kazakhstan integrated its own grand infrastructure projects under the 2050 National Development Strategy with China's BRI. Beijing will be active in Kazakhstan by using its soft power instrument of 'human to human' governance. These were discussed in the 2019 visit. (60)

Kazakhstan at the same time is the country that is involved most in the East Turkistan issue. It is estimated that around 1.5 million Kazakhs live in East Turkistan. Kazakhs of East Turkistan are also subject to China's genocide policies. After Kazakhstan gained full independence and China's shutdown of Turkistan to the outer world, many Kazakh families were separated. Relatives of some of the residents in the region remained at the other side of the border. Those remaining in Kazakhstan are pressuring Kazakhstan government because it is estimated that around 250,000 Kazakhs have become victims of Chinese genocide. Kazakhs expect their government to take due steps regarding the situation of their cognates in East Turkistan. Despite this, it is an obvious reality that Kazakhstan's economy is dependent on China. To keep a balance between these edges, Kazakh authorities apply a 'carrot-stick' method. To illustrate, Kazakh officials are compelled to allow Sayragul Sayutbay, a survivor of a detention camp, to enter the country while taking into custody the directors of the association Atajurt Eriktileri (61).

Direct Chinese investment to Kyrgyzstan is \$860 million and \$4.73 billion in projects (62). Another striking point is that the Chinese regime, which recently deployed its private security companies in Central Asia, is willing to extend this practice in Kyrgyzstan on the pretext of promoting the security of BRI and other projects. It is expected that Chinese private security companies will lobby in the Kyrgyz Parliament to pass legal regulations that would allow them to work armed (63). On the other side, all infrastructure projects in the country are carried out by the Chinese, including the power plant that broke down in the winter of 2018 and threatened many Kyrgyz to freeze. Beijing's persecution of ethnic Kyrgyz in East Turkistan, coupled with the employment of Chinese workers by the Chinese mining companies in the country have contributed to a rising Sinophobic sentiment. However, Kyrgyz government maintained its neutrality about not interfering in China's domestic affairs. Like Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan did not sign into the letter supporting China at the UN Human Rights Council to mitigate public pressure (64).

Chinese firms had a footprint in many of the projects in Turkey

Turkey, straddling Asia and Europe in a strategic crossroads, has grown an increasing economic dependency on China while also having a huge Uyghur Diaspora predominantly residing in Istanbul. The Turkish government turned its face to the Russia and China axes both economically and politically, caused by weakening relations with the US and the Western

countries. It is lucrative for China to get Turkey onside. Its impact on Islamic societies and relations with Turkic republics along with its position as the door to Europe, Turkey has always been a country Beijing would like to be allied with. Turkey, aware of the value of its location, also wants to benefit economically from this relationship. In recent years, China has stepped up its investment in Turkey. With \$5.8 billion direct investment and \$10.51 billion projects undertaken, Chinese investment in Turkey exceeded \$16.3 billion (65). Majority of these investments are infrastructure projects. Chinese firms had a footprint in many of the projects Turkey globally publicized. For instance, Yavuz Sultan Selim Bridge, connecting Asian and European sides of Istanbul, was built with the financing of Chinese firms, and was sold to China when the contractor failed to pay back. In 2018, to stabilize a shaky Turkish financial market, China deposited \$3.8 billion that thwarted a possible crisis.

Unable to maneuver economically, the Turkish government fails to display a stable standing on the Uyghurs. The Erdogan administration accused China of genocide in 2009 which he later on changed to a limper stance. The main reason for this is the failed coup attempt in 2016, after which the Erdogan government turned its face to China and Russia. President Erdogan visited China in 2017 for the BRI periodic meeting and signed a range of agreements. One agreement involves regulations about ‘extradition of criminals. The signing of this agreement caused a great pushback in the Turkish public. The Turkish parliament should endorse the agreement to come into force. Due to harsh criticism, the government eludes pushing the issue forward. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated in 2019 that Uyghurs were under pressure in East Turkistan. The statement was perceived as a step to escape public ire and in following days, Beijing’s impact on Turkish politics became more palpable. Beijing sent vaccines and medical materials to Turkey in exchange for stemming acts of Uyghur activists (66). Though the extradition agreement did not come into ratification. In one 2019 case, for example, Turkish authorities deported an Uyghur woman and her two children to Tajikistan, where they were “then promptly transferred to Chinese custody.” (67)

5- HIDDEN BENEFITS OF UYGHURS’ ENSLAVING

The Chinese Communist Party applies economic pressure to countries to keep them silent on Uyghur genocide and lures the Western companies into cheap labor. Reports and news broadcasts have demonstrated that people held in detention camps were also forced to work as slave labor. A detailed report entitled “Uyghurs for sale” by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute-ASPI issued in February 2020, exposed how global slavery was revived in the 21st century. The report stated that between 2017 and 2019, 80,000 Muslim Uyghurs were dispatched to work in factories outside East Turkistan. Yet, information from the region reflects a much higher figure. ASPI also found out that Uyghur laborers, once they are done in factories in daytime, should attend ideological training courses at nights prepared in accordance to communist doctrines. This enslavement program, which is run as a social engineering work of communist Chinese regime, also plays into the hands of international supply chains. The victims of forced labor produce for the 82 globally renowned brands (68). 20% of cotton used in the global textiles industry, 45% of polysilicon that is used in solar panels, products from agriculture to toys in 17 different sectors are produced by enslaved Uyghur labor (69). The USA prohibited slave labor imports and took legal action for companies exploiting the labor of people from East Turkistan.

However, big brands keep staying idle to China's crimes against humanity in East Turkistan. In a detailed report, *The Wire* asked 48 leading companies their thoughts about the humanitarian crisis in East Turkistan. Only six companies, Apple, Caterpillar, IBM, Intel, Dell, and Pfizer answered the questions and replied that they do not supply products from the region. An anonymous official from Dell alone expressed regrets about the situation in the region. Disney was one of the companies that did not answer *The Wire*. Their film *Mulan* was shot in East Turkistan. When this was revealed, there had been a harsh pushback to Disney. Company executives, similar to their inaction about Hong Kong events, did not want to take a position that could harm the company (70). The *Daily Caller* also investigated the silence of big companies in East Turkistan. According to the study, despite American government qualifying the events in East Turkistan as genocide, Cummins, Walmart, Nike, NBA, Goldman Sachs and Disney continued to do business with China. The owner of the Dallas Mavericks in the NBA Mark Cuban made surprising statements. He said, "They are customers. They are customers of ours. And guess what? I'm okay with doing business with China." In 2018, 800 million Chinese watched NBA games and this equaled \$5 billion revenue (71).

The unwillingness of global corporations that sponsor 2022 Winter Olympics to be held in China is another sign indicating Beijing's international economic influence. At a hearing in the US Senate, Senator Jeff Merkley asked representatives of Airbnb, Coca-Cola, Visa, Intel and P&G whether they, as sponsors, could put any pressure on the International Olympics Committee to change the place of the organization. The only yes was given by the Intel representative. Other attendees avoided giving an answer. Company executives hid behind the discourse that they were supporting athletes and expressed that they were eager to do business with China (72).

6- EVALUATION

After the Shoah during the Second World War, Western societies promised "never again" would they allow genocide on such a scale. Today, the acts by Chinese communist regime in East Turkistan are on par with Nazi actions. The Chinese Communist Party forced the international community, especially the Central Asian countries, and Islamic geography, to follow its own agenda by implementing the policies listed below.

- The Beijing government has increasingly made its counterparts' economies dependent on China with its investments and borrowings in other countries in recent years. Today, only in Africa, the amount of loans given by China for projects has exceeded 150 billion dollars. The amount of direct investment and investment in projects worldwide is 2 trillion dollars. For this reason, neither a Central Asian country nor an Islamic country nor a European country could take a full stand against China's policy on the Uyghurs.
- Beijing defends the 'I do not interfere in your internal affairs, and you should not interfere in my internal affairs' argument for international diplomacy. Although China took steps for his own interests from behind the scenes on the field. The authoritarian rulers of the Islamic geography and other regions, which lack democracy, use China as a shield so that the human rights violations they commit in their own countries do not come to the fore. In this context, another lever used by the Beijing government is the veto right in the UN Security

Council. With the power of this veto right, China has published a counter letter to the criticism of the Western countries with the participation of more than 50 states.

- The Beijing regime, which has transformed the East Turkistan into a giant laboratory test fields of artificial intelligence technologies, is spying on the Uyghur, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, and other Turkish peoples in central Asia and elsewhere to their DNA. It exports both these technologies and the telecommunication systems established by the trojan horse Huawei to other countries. These steps, which have become an indispensable part of economic investments, are China's technological invasion step. At the same time, with these technologies, the Beijing government can follow the Uyghurs worldwide and continues to pressure them.
- Beijing used the destruction brought on by Covid-19 for its own colonial purposes. While advertising free vaccines to the world, it has tried to stop the shipment and punish those who act differently about the Uyghurs, as in the case of Turkey.
- Using another trojan horse, the Chinese Islamic Association to legitimize its genocidal Policies against Muslim People of East Turkistan, the Beijing government aims to make the Islamic world deny the Uyghur Genocide. It takes steps such as trips to pre-arranged places, conferences on Islam in Muslim countries, joint projects with non-governmental organizations. Thus, it is aimed that the Muslim world, which has over 1.8 billion people, remains silent about the extermination of millions of Uyghurs today.

If the international community today surrenders to China's economic and diplomatic tricks and continues to ignore the Uyghur Genocide, it will allow the tragedies of the Shoah to happen again.

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1 **10 September 2021 (06:25:40 – 07:18:00)**

2 **Abdulahkim Idris**

3
4 AI – My research has been mostly on how China has been buying silence of Muslim
5 nations that we would expect to ally with Uyghur Muslims. These being primarily
6 Muslim majority countries, usually we would expect to hear a pronounced outcry
7 against the Uyghur genocide, but we didn't hear it. Still, in East Turkistan, copies of
8 Quran burned, mosques turned into bars, the kids educated in atheist schools. Still,
9 we didn't hear any word from any Muslim leader, any Muslim institution or we didn't
10 see any demonstration in any Islamic country.

11 China to use information in Islamic countries. They use several arguments, first is
12 "internal affairs discourse"; they are saying since the occupation of East Turkistan in
13 1949, it is internal matters; nobody should interfere in our issues. Secondly is, they
14 use language of "extremism", "religious extremism". Actually, in Chinese eyes, the
15 three evils are religious extremism, separatism and terrorism. This three aspects is
16 designed to put entire population in a box and this works in Muslim minority countries
17 because they are against religious extremism, separatism and they have terrorism
18 problems. Third is using propaganda. China uses Chinese-Islamic association to tell
19 all the Muslim countries leaders and institutions, telling them, "we are fine, we just
20 have problem with extremist people". They held press conferences, seminars abroad
21 in Muslim countries and they use Hajj pilgrims like diplomacy. They invite many
22 governmental and civil society Muslim leaders to East Turkistan, a pre-arranged mask
23 to show them "this is fine".

24 If you look, I studied Islamic news outlets and we don't find any reports about the
25 tragedy in East Turkistan. For example, in Egypt there is an *Akhbar el-Yom*
26 newspaper, this is the second newspaper after *Al-Ahram* and this newspaper there is
27 a page but by the Chinese embassy with news from China like every day sold for the
28 Egyptian people. So, this governmental media outlet which cannot report about the
29 Uyghur issue properly and nothing happening there.

30 The CCP uses vaccines and diplomacy to get these countries under Chinese
31 influence. In Turkey there was more an outcry about Uyghur genocide amongst the
32 opposition parties so China delayed the distribution of the vaccine to Turkey. Same in
33 Lebanon, Lebanon is very sectarian countries, there is a Hezbollah working like a
34 branch of CCP but Sunni media outlets, they were talking about Uyghur issue and the
35 government couldn't support China openly. Chinese government delayed vaccine
36 distribution there, too. In many countries around the world to bring under control.

37 As you heard before, many colleagues testified before me. China is treating East
38 Turkistan and Uyghur people like a colonial treat. I was born there; I went to school
39 there and I am almost thirty years closely analysing, studying their decisions, their
40 implementation, their education system. They built Bingtuan in our country, the XPCC,
41 semi-military company, like and East Asian company that were built by the British in
42 India and they are controlling almost 90% of East Turkistan economy, roads, waters,
43 energy, any sources. They can put more than three million Uyghurs in concentration
44 camps. This BRI (Belt and Road Initiative) is one version of the Bingtuan Islamic
45 countries. They have very nice name: *Wen Wen, Connecting People to People, Serve*
46 *the Mankind*, that is the slogan of the CCP but the reality is very tragical. This silk

47 road... the BRI had three contents: silk road economic built, the twenty-first century
48 silk road and, digital silk road.

49 I was asked by counsel to concentrate on Central Asian, so I will talk about this issue.
50 First, I will talk about Iran. As you know, Islamic Republic of Iran, their constitution one
51 second third to be about Muslim worldwide. To protect them, to serve to forgot. But if
52 you look what the Iranian regime did with China, you can see it. Especially the Iranian
53 supreme leader Ali Khamenei. He was president of Iran, was once president. He
54 visited Kashgar, he went to *Etkai* mosque. He prayed there. He said, I was that time
55 in Egypt. And he said “when I was studied at *Phoem*, I read a lot of poems about
56 Kashgar, I wished I visited, my dream came true...” Why do I tell you this? Because
57 Iranian supreme leader knows what is happening right now in East Turkistan, knows
58 what China is doing on war on Islam and faith... it is not war between Muslim and
59 Christians, it is not war between Muslim and Jews. It is war on entire religion.
60 Christianity, Buddhism, especially Islam. Even Iranian didn't hear it and today closed
61 a 400 billion-agreement with China for the next 25 years. China is building roads,
62 infrastructure, China is installing their HUAWEI system, 5G networks and many more.
63 What does the HUAWEI system mean for China? It means they can now monitor every
64 word, every aspect installed these HUAWEI systems.

65 In Saudi Arabia, Muhammed Bin-Salman (MBS) made perfectly clear; he sees China
66 as a key column for his 2030 vision. He wants to modernise Saudi Arabia and China
67 investing right now more than 93 billion USD including a drone factory near Riyadh.
68 After MBS visited China he gave a statement on Chinese TV, which says China has a
69 right to security, to counter terrorism efforts against so called religious extremism and

70 China showed this in every corner of East Turkistan, telling the Uyghur people even
71 Saudi Arabia supported what we are doing here.

72 Next are the Gulf countries, there is a quote on economic, for instance, UAE decided
73 to work with China very closely, there is a Confucius Institute, agreed to educate their
74 children in Chinese Mandarin and singing anniversary of CCP's hundred years there.
75 In Dubai there was a secret internment prison for Uyghurs. To keep them in Dubai.
76 This is all deported or they didn't exceed their passports or residency in Dubai. If you
77 look in Central Asia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, UAE there were many Uyghur
78 businesspeople. They were doing business with the local people. They have partners
79 in China, Chinese companies. After Xi Jinping began this genocide against Uyghurs,
80 they lost their entire businesses.

81 I talked about Egypt. Egypt has a very good relationship with China. They are building
82 around the Suez Canal a free economic zone. Rich president is sitting in their palace,
83 has a good relationship, even the Muslim Brotherhood president, Mohamed Mursi,
84 when he was president, he went first to China. After him came El-Sisi, doing business
85 with China. Egypt deported 2017 many students. They were studying at Al-Azhar
86 University, the oldest Islamic institution in the world and they deported Uyghur
87 students back to China.

88 As you see, investment, that is a nice word, but it is not investment of Chinese version.
89 It is corruption, disinformation. This is security, diplomatic pressure. They have right
90 now military presence in Tajikistan, they have many military personnel under name
91 security companies in Kazakhstan and Kirgizstan. What is happening in Kirgizstan, as
92 we know many changing governments but no change for China, they are in control
93 right now.

94 I should talk a little bit about Afghanistan, Taliban and Islamic organisation. China has
95 very close relationship with Pakistan military and security apparat. Pakistani military
96 can choose their government, how they chose, we know it. The Taliban, had since its
97 foundation very good relationship with China. Even 1998, China's ambassador to
98 Pakistan met with Taliban mullah in Kandahar. In 2000, before 2001 in 2001, in 2000
99 they deported 13 Uyghurs from Afghanistan to China. Recently the Taliban announced
100 Mohammad Hassan Akhund will be prime minister of Taliban government. He was at
101 the time when the Taliban deported Uyghurs and everyone knows today that the
102 Taliban are seeking a close relationship with China doing the same.

103 There are two organisations, one was designed to repress Uyghurs abroad. The
104 Shanghai Cooperation Organisations. Since its establishment, the resolution if you
105 look the resolution analysed, it is just meant against Uyghurs. The Uyghurs have a
106 border with Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan but there is no one who
107 can flee those countries. If they flee those countries even in Pakistan, they will give
108 them back so Uyghur refugee what we have today in Turkey, they went through China
109 even Southeast Asia, Cambodia those countries... What does that mean? It means
110 that those Central Asian countries are already under Chinese control. Even
111 Huseyincan Celil, a Canadian citizen in Uzbekistan was deported back to China,
112 sentenced to life in prison. The other organisation is the Organisation of Islamic
113 cooperation (OIC). They 2019, early 2019 there were delegation. They went to East
114 Turkistan, Kashgar, Urumchi... in this delegation there were some diplomats from
115 Central Asian, especially from Kazakhstan. They came back and they did a resolution
116 to condemn this situation in East Turkistan in Dubai Summit. The China interprets
117 through Saudi Arabia and Pakistan changed those resolution to support China's
118 genocidal policy in East Turkistan, that's what is happening.

119 *PANEL – Before you will be answering questions, Mr Idris, we fully understand your*
120 *commitment to the cause and the passion with which you speak but you must*
121 *understand that we are completely dispassionate, and you will be asked questions of*
122 *fact and it will help us if you will be as matter of fact as possible.*

123 *Could I begin with a question about yourself? You grew up in Xinjiang and you left a*
124 *few decades ago. Why did you leave and when was that?*

125 AI – My testimony is all policies, politics because I am victim of Chinese policies in
126 East Turkistan. I left East Turkistan in 1986 after my parents put me in underground
127 medresse, I studied five years in Hotan. At that time Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan
128 so China give freedom to build our mosque and learn a little bit about our religion. I
129 went underground medresse. My teacher was imprisoned for over 20 years. He taught
130 us - teachers and I learned by him. My parents, actually that was my wish, when you
131 study at medresse in a box you know. First come to mind is Al-Azhar University, Cairo.
132 It is every Muslim's desire to go there, to learn the Islamic beliefs. So, my parents
133 managed to send me abroad to study there. I studied four years in Egypt. After that, I
134 got out, it was a one-way ticket because we couldn't go back to East Turkistan, we
135 immigrated to Europe. We came to Germany at the end of the 1990ies.

136 *PANEL – You couldn't go back because you feared for your safety? Fear of being*
137 *detained?*

138 AI – 1989 from Egypt we went to Hajj in Saudi Arabia. There were many people from
139 East Turkistan but with them was a scholar. We know him in our city in Hotan. He was
140 very close to our teacher. We sat in Arafat with more than 70 students from Pakistan,
141 Egypt and he told us “we made a big mistake,” “we send you abroad to study,” “if you
142 come back, you have two ways: you will teach true religion in our country, you will be

143 put in jail or you will be dead – our people never benefit from you or you will cooperate
144 with Chinese government and in that case, our people will never benefit from your
145 studies and maybe you will go to hell.” It was like a stone in our hearts and we figure
146 out almost one year at that time, we decided we have to go to West, to Europe, to
147 Australia, to America to bring our case in the world. That was my journey.

148 *PANEL – To return to your testimony, you say in 2019, at the UN Human Rights*
149 *Counsel, 27 countries issued a letter flattering China for its successes on human rights*
150 *and then it increased to 50. Can you elaborate first of all on these 37 countries that*
151 *supported their human rights record and their increase to 50?*

152 AI – Yes, in 2019, it was almost two years, more than millions of people were in jail. In
153 2019, it was two years I didn't speak my parents, thousands of Uyghur people lost
154 contact with their known ones. At that time 22 countries wrote a letter to condemn
155 China's policy in East Turkistan and there were almost 30 some countries supporting
156 China's policies, increased almost 50 to 57. I think one withdraw its signature, Qatar.
157 The 50 countries if you look, there is a list in my report. Most of them are Muslim
158 countries, majority Muslim countries. The 22 countries that supported Uyghurs are
159 America, UK and Western countries and recently joined by one Muslim country or call
160 Muslim country, Bosnia-Herzegovina. The rest of them are all non-Muslim countries
161 condemning Chinese policy in East Turkistan.

162 *PANEL – So are they all countries, the ones that support China, are they all countries*
163 *with BRI investments?*

164 AI – Of course the BRI investment, if you look what they go along with China is first of
165 all, they are all authoritarian regimes. Second, some of them are members of the BRI.

166 Third is China's disinformation and united front plus Chinese embassies working very
167 well. They get the support through this initiative.

168 *PANEL – You talk about these countries exchanging blacklists. Can you elaborate on*
169 *what you mean by blacklists?*

170 AI – Yes, the black list is designed to get each other the Shanghai Cooperation
171 Organisations members. There are eight countries right now in Central Asia. They
172 have many resolutions. There is Shanghai resolution against extremism, terrorism,
173 separatism, and they agreed to bring a black list in exchange for that. For example,
174 China in Kazakhstan, those persons are terrorists, they have economic criminal
175 record. We want them back or you arrest them for us. In practice, Kazakhstan or
176 Kyrgyzstan can say the same but mostly it was to bring the Uyghurs under control.
177 Especially if you look at Kazakhstan, there are many hundred thousand Uyghurs living
178 there for almost 100 years and Kyrgyzstan there were many Uyghur living there. After
179 the Soviet Union collapsed China jumped up establish this Shanghai Cooperation
180 Organisation and through this they announced BRI again.

181 *PANEL – These countries do most or all have extradition treaties with the PRC, and if*
182 *they do, when they are requested for certain people, do they deport them*
183 *unquestioningly?*

184 AI – What I saw and analysed in the report, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisations
185 member doesn't need extradition treaty because they already agreed on this
186 organisation to cooperate and arrest and deport each other. But China tried to get
187 extradition treaty with several BRI countries, for example, right now one person is
188 sitting in custody in Morocco recently. Morocco wants to deport him to China. His name

189 is Hassan Idris but the legal process is still going on in Morocco. Morocco had in 2016
190 an extradition treaty with China.

191 *PANEL – So for instance in the Moroccan case, in Morocco they are going through*
192 *legal procedures regarding the person in question? So that person may not be*
193 *extradited? Is that the case, is that what you are saying?*

194 AI – Extradition is possible in Morocco and not in Central Asian and Middle Eastern,
195 Arabic countries.

196 *PANEL – And the reason being?*

197 AI – Reason being, for example, the Emirates very cooperative with Chinese
198 government and the Central Asian countries are, of course, minding their hand in the
199 Shanghai cooperation treaties and even Egypt has deported a lot of Uyghurs. In Saudi
200 Arabia, there were many Uyghurs living in Medina and Mecca. They lost their
201 residency; the Chinese embassy doesn't give them an extension on their passports.
202 They tell them go to China, so many managed to go to Turkey or somewhere else.
203 This is their practice. With the Chinese surveillance technology capability, they already
204 have personal information about every Uyghur living abroad including Central Asian,
205 Saudi Arabia. In Saudi Arabia, for example, there are many Uyghurs living there and
206 they are Saudi citizens but it still says Chinese immigrant or *Bohari* or Uyghur. We
207 have right now some families contacting in Turkey, somewhere from Afghanistan
208 somewhere more than 26-80 families. They are living there almost 40 years but they
209 are afraid because China and Taliban have a very close relationship or Taliban harm
210 them or deport them to China. They want to leave Afghanistan. This is their fear.

211 *PANEL – In your report, you also talk about Western corporate giants. Are you saying*
212 *that the PRC are also buying their silence?*

213 AI – Yes, China has invested more than 40 years in two things. One is to corrupt
214 Western politicians, stealing their technology and installing their own people in these
215 big companies as CEOs or their wives or their employees are from China. If you have
216 today a Hilton hotel or a Hilton company, building a hotel in Hotan where I am from
217 where the mosque was destroyed and we ask them not to do it. They are doing it
218 because of fear of Chinese money. The same is in [inaudible], NBA, and I spend more
219 than 19 years in Germany. Tragically, Germany has this genocide history but still
220 Volkswagen, BMW, Mercedes Benz, Addidas, Boss who designed the clothes for the
221 Nazis. They are doing business in East Turkistan.

222 *PANEL – Are you saying that these corporates are denying that anything is happening*
223 *regarding alleged crimes against humanity or are they ignoring the information or*
224 *evidence out there?*

225 AI – I recently closely watched a hearing in Washington of the US Congress. They
226 invited several big companies CEOs and asked them those questions. They didn't
227 answer. They were so silent on China. But if there is any social issue in America or in
228 Western, they will target, they would sponsor it but if they come to China they are very
229 silent. I think they will lose their own money or the company money and the money
230 bringing them silent.

231 *PANEL – In your report you are mentioning the Winter Beijing Olympics next year. Are*
232 *you proposing a similar argument for them? That the PRC has bought their silence as*
233 *well on this issue regarding the Uyghur or what is your point?*

234 AI – I am so happy you are asking this question. 2008 there was the Beijing Olympic,
235 where China started to show its muscles around the world. From that time on, they
236 say “Ok, we developed this, we have enough money, we know how we can influence
237 the world and the Western countries.” From that time on, they see the Olympics as a
238 propaganda show to promote their image. Like the Nazis did with Berlin 1939
239 Olympics. The 2022 Winter Olympic under this circumstances, when we look China,
240 do what they are doing in East Turkistan, in Tibet, in Mongolia, even on Han Chinese
241 people in Hong Kong and again threatening the Taiwan. In this circumstance, to give
242 them Olympics, to propagate for their own image. It will be a disaster.

243 *PANEL – I remember the 2008 Olympics, that ethnic minorities did figure as part of*
244 *the show, the sporting spectacle – What is your view in terms of next year’s Olympics?*
245 *Will ethnic minorities, including the Uyghurs be invited to participate in any kind of*
246 *presentation or show or spectacle?*

247 AI – I live in the US and some time ago we went outside and we saw some Indian
248 people there in a museum and some tourist taking picture of them. I denied to take
249 picture with them because they reminded me of what is happening right now in East
250 Turkistan. They will use our clothes, our music, our best of food to show the world,
251 they are fine. At the same time, they are destroying this culture and letting people
252 disappear. They will show some Uyghurs dance, happy dancing like this. From the
253 past what they did, I can project it.

254 *PANEL – To move on to the comment you make about the Chinese Foreign minister,*
255 *Wang Yi. He made the following comment: “The situation of a country’s human rights*
256 *shall be judged by its people rather than other countries based on their own*
257 *preferences.” Now China PRC is also signatories to international conventions which*

258 *are basically saying things like crimes against humanity, genocide has to be an*
259 *international decision. Can you elaborate on what appears to me like a contradiction?*

260 AI – I am very surprised that UN didn't say anything about this argument. It is that
261 China is signatory on many UN agreement. If China's Foreign minister Wang Yi says
262 this quote - it shows they already see the universal freedom and universal freedom of
263 speech and values is collapsed, they are saying. They are saying that the next step of
264 the world order will be totalitarianism. Where he says this in Central Asia with the
265 meeting with the Iranian, Saudi Arabian countries. We cannot go to the Chinese
266 internet web freely. Chinese people are not free to join world internet system. They
267 have their own firewall internet system. They propose this to authoritarian countries
268 like Iran and Central Asian countries, especially Tajikistan, to build them this firewall
269 system. I imagine some future, some Iranian dissident will not be able to talk their
270 loved one in Iran. This is coming and for your question you know, this is the reality. It
271 shows Chinese policies, if you look back...China did everything what they planned and
272 what they said. But in the liberal worlds or free worlds never took them serious. Just
273 imagine if you do business with them, if **mediculars** grow up, they will become like
274 us. But from that time on when the Deng Xiaoping begin to cheat Western countries
275 in the 1970ies, they had five-year plan, six-year plan, seven-year plan – they did it.
276 When the Chinese Foreign minister says, universal value is collapsing; they mean it
277 and my analysis.

278 *PANEL – I have two more questions. One is on the Chinese Islamic Organisation, you*
279 *wrote that in order to sinicize Islam, the Chinese Islamic Organisation has led the*
280 *demolition of the domes and minarets of the few mosques left standing. What kind of*
281 *Islam are they promoting and in this kind of Islam is Ramadan allowed, for instance?*

282 *Is the headscarf allowed? Everything else we are hearing is that in Xinjiang these are*
283 *not allowed. Is it just in Xinjiang?*

284 AI – You know when I began here I said “As-salamu alaykum”. I am allowed to say
285 this here. You are not allowed as a Muslim to say “As-salamu alaykum” in my country.
286 If you say “As-salamu alaykum”, you are a religious extremist. You have some mental
287 illness. What the Chinese Islamic Association is doing is they cover up. They go to the
288 friendly governments to China, particularly to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, they are
289 talking to them “you are free, we enjoy our religion, everything is fine, there are no
290 mosques there but there are some separatists, some terrorists, things like this.” That’s
291 doing in Islamic countries but two weeks ago, I live in Virginia, there is ADAMS Center;
292 a big Islamic society in Virginia. They have 10-20 *mastoran*. We have a close
293 relationship with them, the head of this organisation gets a visit from Beijing, a Hui
294 Muslim, a so called Hui scholar Muslim came and told them that Uyghurs are a
295 problem. Uyghur Muslims are separatist. We Hui Muslims are not. Right now China
296 government are not repressing them but they threatening them very good. If you
297 cooperate with the Uyghur Muslims, may China repress us too. This shows China
298 united front religious department sending their employee, a so called Islamic scholar
299 to a disinformed Islamic country or institution and they are going to Islamic societies
300 in Western countries, too. The head of the ADAMS centre was a little bit taken, you
301 know what he said? “If I support Uyghurs, maybe China is already doing this and they
302 begin the repression of other Hui Muslims”. How the Chinese, CCP’s mentality distant
303 from and how they bring other people under control. This shows their thinking.

304 *PANEL – To return to the BRI – we are in Europe and I know that you were asked look*
305 *at the Middle East and Central Asia but there are countries particularly Greece, Italy,*

306 *Hungary and this country as several others. Are you suggesting that PRC are buying*
307 *the silence of such countries in Europe?*

308 AI – We are here, UK was part of the EU but not anymore. If you look in EU, one of
309 the G-7 countries is Italy. Italy bankrupted by the CCP. If you look there are many
310 Chinese companies. They are producing their goods in China, bringing to Italy those
311 special economic... get the stamp “made in Italy”. Through this they destroy Italian
312 mid-size economy. They were very good in home-goods, furniture and glass. They are
313 all gone. They built highways in Montenegro, in the middle of Europe. Right now,
314 Montenegro cannot pay the cost. Maybe China will take over or Brussels will pay for
315 it. If you look at Indonesia, China is already interfering with their government. Similar
316 in Malaysia. The former Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohamad from Malaysia. He went to
317 Beijing because the former government of his cabinet already had a treaty with China
318 about the BRI - “Silk Road Project”. Mahathir told the Chinese “look, this is not good
319 for us”. The project given in China. The project will take the Chinese company. The
320 Chinese company will build the project. Chinese employer working there and their
321 money will paid by the Chinese company what we get. Just that to pay it. And he came
322 back, and as you know in Malaysia there are many Chinese origin Malaysians. They
323 had small parties, checked their support from Mahathir... loses cabinet. China says I
324 am not interfering with your government already says already doing this in Malaysia.
325 When we look at Sri Lanka. The ports were beautifully built. Sri Lanka couldn't pay it.
326 China took it for the next 100 years. Then if you look in the government report in
327 Pakistan. At least for 40 years for China and China can employ their military there
328 because China has this law, every big China company must cooperate with people
329 liberation armies, it means any investment deal or any deal with China is deal with
330 people liberation armies.

331 *PANEL – The Uyghur people are in the way of the Belt and Road initiative, aren't they?*

332 AI – Yes.

333 *PANEL – Let's use the word persecution just for the purposes of this question. Are*
334 *they being persecuted because they are in the way of the Belt and Road Initiative or*
335 *are they being persecuted because they are the Uyghur people?*

336 AI – They are persecuting...I think in my analysis because the Uyghur people knows
337 from their heritage experience how to warn other countries coming danger from China.
338 To conquer Central Asian, they have to destroy Uyghur people because we Uyghur
339 people are in the silk road, had many religions...

340 *PANEL – Precisely. Are you saying that they are being persecuted, using the word*
341 *just for these purposes. Are you saying they are being persecuted simply because*
342 *they are a block in the road? Is that why they are being persecuted?*

343 AI – They are persecuted because they are owner of this land and a block condemned
344 to go West.

345 *PANEL – We are trying to get to the same topic. Imagine an area of China away from*
346 *all the Tajikistans and Kazakhstans and no minerals and there is the Uyghur people.*
347 *Would China bother to persecute them then?*

348 AI – I believe yes because in almost 136 years of colonisation by China, Uyghurs lived
349 many genocides, many tragic days and you know China knows what they did to
350 Uyghurs people. They are afraid of the Uyghurs people as a people.

351 *PANEL – One question of detail, you spoke of successful efforts by the PRC to*
352 *extradite people back into China. What will happen to them if they were returned to*
353 *China? Do you know?*

354 AI – For example, Huseyincan Celil was deported from China to Uzbekistan. He is
355 sentenced for life in prison. He is a Canadian citizen sitting right now in jail and others,
356 for example, some of the students they deported to China. They are sentenced or in
357 concentration camps.

358 *PANEL – Is any of them, to your knowledge, living free in China having been*
359 *extradited?*

360 AI – No. Nobody.

Buying Silence

The use of investment by China to entice the Islamic world in remaining silent over the Uyghur Genocide

Abdulahakim Idris

General Inspector of World Uyghur Congress

Executive Director of Center for Uyghur Studies

The Genocide coverup

“Internal Matter” Discourse

The CCP responds to criticism of East Turkistan affairs by arguing that these affairs are an “Internal Matter”.

“Fighting Extremism”

By labelling efforts to curtail liberties as “Fighting Extremism” the CCP justifies human rights atrocities.

Billions in Propaganda

Propaganda is used to obscure the reality in East Turkistan, domestically and abroad.

The Genocide coverup

Using Islamic Institutions

The CCP uses Islamic institutions to legitimize its policies on religion in East Turkistan.

Abuse of Vaccine Distribution

The distribution of the Covid19 vaccine was weaponized to encourage positive reactions to policy in East Turkistan.

Surveillance Mechanisms

Invasive surveillance technology developed and tested on Uyghurs has been exported to many other nations, stifling media discourse.

The Belt and Road Initiative

Neo-Colonialism Through Trade

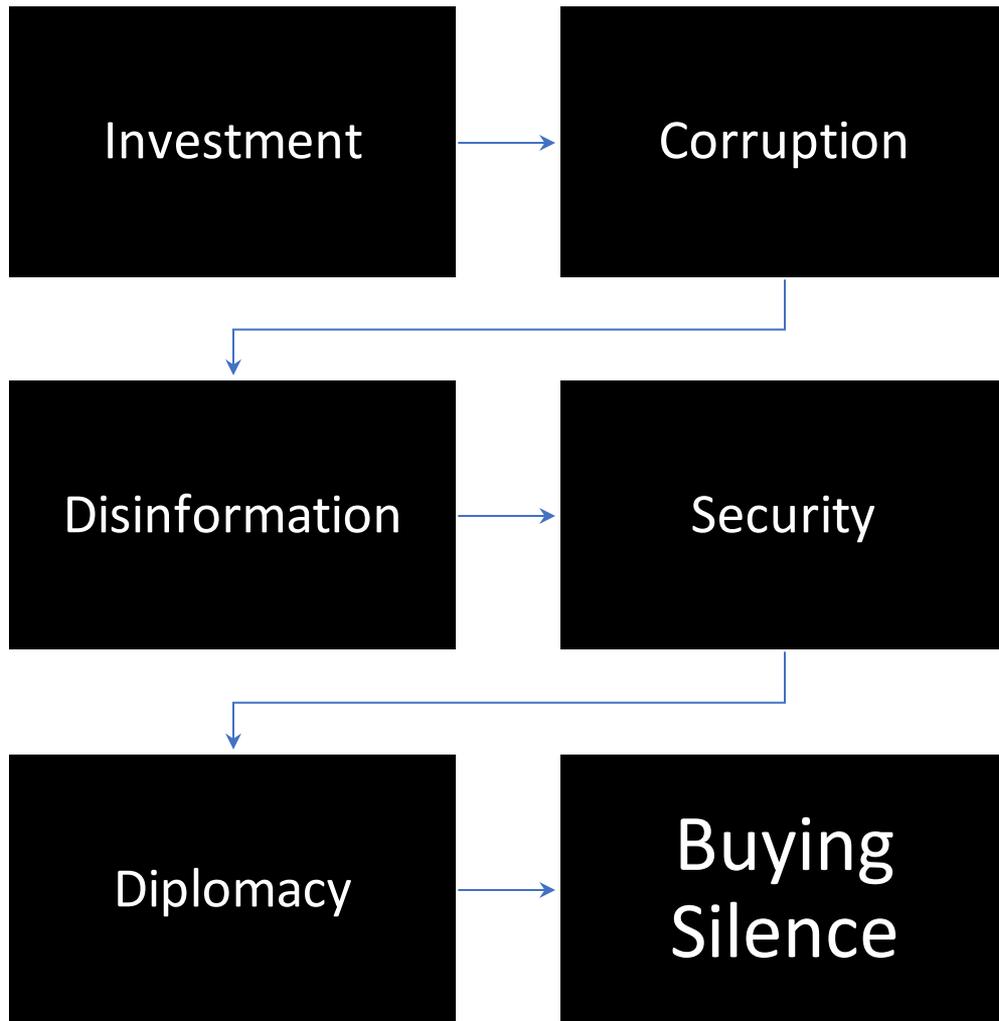
- East Turkistan is a focal point of the BRI
- The Corridor is critical to the Eurasia Land-Bridge
- Uyghurs are excluded from economic involvement
- The BRI is described as a tool to silence critics and placate governments

Silencing Muslim Nations

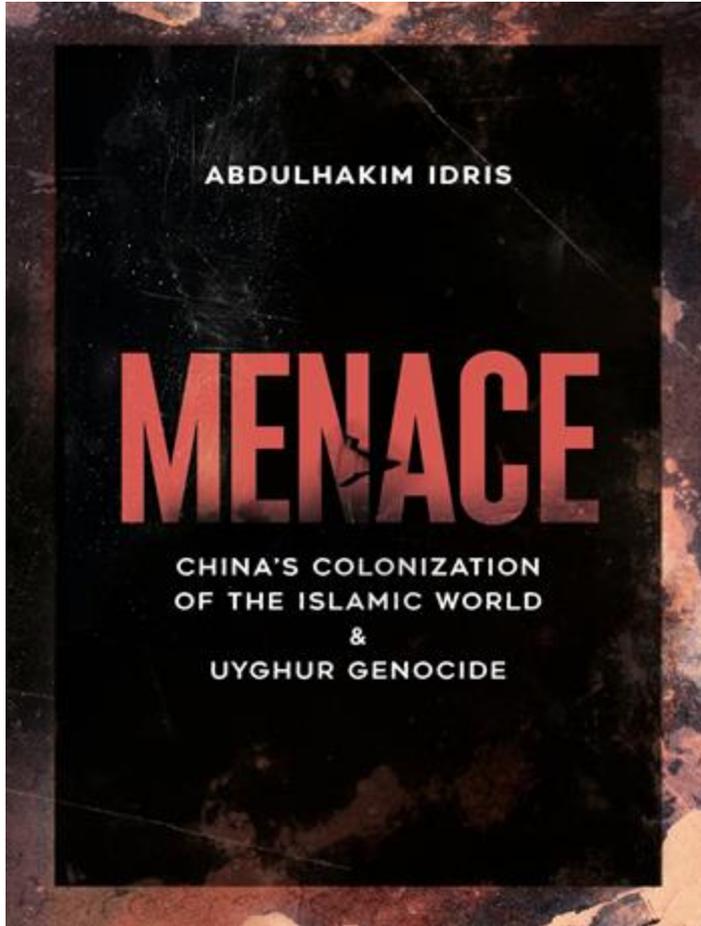
- Iran
 - 25 year agreement, worth \$400 billion
- Saudi Arabia
 - Oil exports
 - Chinese UAV factory
 - Coercive viewpoint change in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)
- UAE
 - Vying to play bigger role in BRI
 - Secret Chinese Internment prison
- Pakistan
 - \$150 billion in BRI investment
 - CPEC becoming like XPCC (Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps)
- Afghanistan
 - China-Taliban cooperation
 - Lithium mine access
- Egypt
 - Free economic zones
 - Al-Azhar University's silence
 - Building New Capital

Silencing Central Asian Nations

- Regional Proximity of these countries makes them more vulnerable to Chinese influence
- Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan critical to energy resources
- Chinese military presence in Tajikistan
- Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan desire economic investment
- SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization)
- Extradition threats



A New Colonial Order and Uyghur Genocide



Uyghurs feel that silenced
countries have become
complicit in the Uyghur
Genocide