

05.16-China and the Middle East

China and the Middle East Playing the **peacemaker**?

China hosts Israeli and Palestinian leaders and touts its **peacemaking credentials**
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Vocab

1. **peacemaker** n. 调停者; 调解人 You can describe an organization, a country or a person as a **peacemaker** when they try to persuade countries or people to stop fighting or quarrelling.

e.g. ...the Labour government's vision of acting as a **peacemaker** and mediator...工党政府充当调停者和斡旋者的想法

2. **peacemaking** n. 调停; 调解 **Peacemaking** efforts are attempts to persuade countries or groups to stop fighting with each other.

e.g. ...the failure of international **peacemaking** efforts...国际调停努力的失败

3. **credentials** n. 资格; 资历 Someone's **credentials** are their previous achievements, training, and general background, which indicate that they are qualified to do something.

e.g. ...her **credentials** as a Bach specialist...她作为巴赫研究专家的资历

THERE are about 20km (12 miles)—and lots of **checkpoints**—between the official residence in Jerusalem of Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, and the **headquarters** in Ramallah of Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian president. This week, as both leaders made **simultaneous** official visits to China, care was taken to keep a much greater distance between them. Their **itineraries** put them in different cities at all times.

Vocab

1. **checkpoint** n. 车辆) 检查站, 关卡 A **checkpoint** is a place where traffic is stopped so that it can be checked.

2. **headquarters** n. a place from which an organization or a military operation is controlled; the people who work there 总部; 总公司; 大本营; 司令部

e.g. The firm's headquarters is/ are in London. 公司总部设在伦敦。

3. **simultaneous** adj. happening or done at the same time as sth else 同时发生 (或进行) 的; 同步的

e.g. **simultaneous translation/ interpreting** 同声传译

4. **itinerary** n. 路线; 旅程 An **itinerary** is a plan of a journey, including the route and the places that you will visit.

e.g. The next place on our **itinerary** was Silistra. 我们行程的下一站是锡利斯特拉。

Ever since the 1970s, when Henry Kissinger used **shuttle diplomacy** to **marginalise** the Soviet Union in much of the Arab world, America has dominated the **geopolitics** of the Middle East. **Inevitably**, this week's visits prompted the idea that a rising China might be **dabbling** in the superpower sport of broking peace between the Jews and the Arabs.

Vocab

1. **shuttle diplomacy** n. 穿梭外交(指国家元首拒绝直接对话的国家之间解决争端的外交方式)

Shuttle diplomacy is the movement of **diplomats** between countries whose leaders refuse to talk directly to each other, in order to try to settle the argument between them.

e.g. UN mediators are conducting **shuttle diplomacy** between the two sides. 联合国调解员在双方之间进行穿梭外交。

2. **marginalize** v. 使边缘化; 使显得不重要; 排斥 To **marginalize** a group of people means to make them feel isolated and unimportant.

e.g. The effect of this has been to increasingly **marginalize** the local authority sector...这件事的影响是使地方当局越来越受到排斥。

3. **geopolitics** n. 地缘政治学 **Geopolitics** is concerned with politics and the way that geography affects politics or relations between countries.

e.g. ...the shifting **geopolitics** of the post-cold-war era have changed the thinking behind aid. 冷战之后地缘政治的变幻改变了人们对援助背后的思考。

4. **inevitably** adv. as is certain to happen 不可避免地; 必然地

e.g. Inevitably, the press exaggerated the story. 新闻界照例又夸大了这件事。

5. **dabble** v. 涉猎; 浅尝 If you **dabble in** something, you take part in it but not very seriously

e.g. She **dabbled with** drugs...她沾过毒品。

6. **diplomat** n. 外交官; 外交家 A **diplomat** is a senior official who discusses affairs with another country on behalf of his or her own country, usually working as a member of an embassy.

Chinese experts spoke **enthusiastically** of this possibility in the national media. Hua Chunying, a spokeswoman for China's foreign ministry, did her share to foster speculation about a potentially dramatic development, saying before the visits that "If the leaders of Palestine and Israel have the will to meet in China, China is willing to offer necessary assistance."

Vocab

1. **enthusiastically** adv. 热心地; 满腔热情地

2. **foster** v. to encourage sth to develop 促进; 助长; 培养; 鼓励

e.g. The club's aim is to foster better relations within the community. 俱乐部的宗旨是促进团体内部的关系。

Sentence

Hua Chunying, a spokeswoman for China's foreign ministry, did her share to foster speculation about a potentially dramatic development, saying before the visits that "If the leaders of Palestine and Israel have the will to meet in China, China is willing to offer necessary assistance."

主干: Hua Chunying did her share to foster speculation. 她做了什么

a spokeswoman for China's foreign ministry, 这里是主语的解释

saying before... 这里现在分词引导非限定性定语从句, that 后面就是说的内容

In the end there was no handshake, nor was one ever likely. China's rising political and economic might, and its growing **appetite** for energy, mean it has more at stake in the Middle East than it used to, but it still lacks the **clout** to knock heads together. Chinese aid to the Palestinian side is **dwarfed** by what America and others give. And despite growing **bilateral** trade and technology ties, China "is in no position to **coerce** Israel to do anything it doesn't want," says Robert Ross of Boston College.

Vocab

1. **appetite** n. 强烈欲望;渴望 Someone's **appetite for** something is their strong desire for it.
e.g. She gave him just enough information to whet his **appetite**. 她向他透露的信息刚好能吊起他的胃口。
2. **clout** n. power and influence 影响力;势力
e.g. **political/ financial clout** 政治/经济势力
3. **dwarf** v. 使显得矮小;使相形见绌 If one person or thing **is dwarfed** by another, the second is so much bigger than the first that it makes them look very small.
e.g. The US air travel market **dwarfs** that of Britain. 与美国航空旅行市场比起来, 英国的航空旅行市场相形见绌。
4. **bilateral** adj. 谈判、会议、协议等) 双边的 **Bilateral** negotiations, meetings, or agreements, involve only the two groups or countries that are directly concerned.
e.g. ...**bilateral** talks between Britain and America. 英国和美国之间的双边会谈
5. **coerce** v. to force sb to do sth by using threats 强迫;胁迫;迫使
e.g. They were coerced into negotiating a settlement. 他们被迫通过谈判解决。

Nor is it clear that China really has any desire to involve itself more deeply. It may seem **as if** China wants to play a bigger role, says Yin Gang of China's Academy of Social Sciences, but the truth is that it is outsiders who really want this. "We have enough problems in our own neighbourhood." Mr Yin predicts that China's newly installed government will **barely** change the country's **long-standing** policy of calling for peace, **criticising** the use of force and urging dialogue.

Vocab

1. **as if** 好像
2. **barely** adv. in a way that is just possible but only with difficulty 仅仅;刚刚;勉强可能
e.g. She was barely able to stand. 她勉强能站立。
3. **long-standing** adj. 长期存在的;由来已久的 A **long-standing** situation has existed for a long time.
e.g. They are on the brink of resolving their **long-standing** dispute over money. 他们很快就能解决长期以来的金钱纠纷。
4. **criticize** v. to say that you disapprove of sb/ sth; to say what you do not like or think is wrong about sb/ sth 批评;批判;挑剔;指责
e.g. The decision was criticized by environmental groups. 这个决定受到了环保团体的批评。

Meeting Mr Abbas in Beijing on May 6th, China's new president, Xi Jinping, did just that. State media gave heavy **coverage** to the "four-point **proposal**" put forward by Mr Xi, but in its details the statement offered little that had not been said before, either by China or by other more established **peace-brokers**. His statement called for a settlement based on 1967 borders, a **negotiating** framework of "land for peace", and an end to **settlement**-building and violence against **civilians**.

Vocab

1. **coverage** n. the reporting of news and sport in newspapers and on the radio and television 新闻报道
e.g. **media/ newspaper/ press coverage** 媒体/报纸/报刊的报道

2. **proposal** n. a formal suggestion or plan; the act of making a suggestion 提议；建议；动议

e.g. to **submit/ consider/ accept/ reject a proposal** 提交/审议/接受/拒绝一项建议

3. **broker** n. a person who buys and sells things for other people 经纪人；掮客

e.g. an insurance broker 保险经纪人

4. **negotiate** v. ~ (with sb) (for/ about sth) to try to reach an agreement by formal discussion 谈判；磋商；协商

e.g. The government will not negotiate with terrorists. 政府不会和恐怖分子谈判。

5. **settlement** n. an official agreement that ends an argument between two people or groups (解决纷争的) 协议

e.g. to **negotiate a peace settlement** 就和平协议进行谈判

6. **civilian** n. a person who is not a member of the armed forces or the police 平民；老百姓；庶民

Such input from China, even if mainly **symbolic**, is probably more pleasing to Mr Abbas than to Mr Netanyahu. In the past China has been a strong supporter of the Palestinian cause. That **stance** has **mellowed** as China has become more **pragmatic** and less devoted to the **brotherly solidarity** it once showed for struggles in the poor world against **colonialism** and **imperialism**. In 1992 it established diplomatic relations with Israel.

Vocab

1. **symbolic** adj. containing symbols, or being used as a symbol 使用象征的；作为象征的；象征性的

e.g. The dove is symbolic of peace. 鸽子是和平的象征。

2. **stance** n. the opinions that sb has about sth and expresses publicly (公开表明) 观点，态度，立场

e.g. What is the newspaper's stance on the war? 那家报纸对这场战争持什么立场？

3. **mellow** v. (使)变平和；(使)变得成熟 If someone **mellows** or if something **mellows** them, they become kinder or less extreme in their behaviour, especially as a result of growing older.

e.g. When the children married and had children of their own, he **mellowed** a little...等孩子们结了婚又有了自己的小孩以后，他变得平和了一些。

4. **pragmatic** adj. 讲求实效的；实用的；务实的 A **pragmatic** way of dealing with something is based on practical considerations, rather than theoretical ones. A **pragmatic** person deals with things in a practical way.

e.g. Robin took a **pragmatic** look at her situation. 罗宾实际地考虑了一下她的处境。

5. **brotherly** adj. 兄弟的；兄弟般的；友爱的 A man's **brotherly** feelings are feelings of love and loyalty which you expect a brother to show.

e.g. ...family loyalty and **brotherly** love... 家庭团结和手足亲情

6. **solidarity** n. (尤指政治或国际事务中的)团结一致，相互支持 If a group of people show **solidarity**, they show support for each other or for another group, especially in political or international affairs.

e.g. Supporters want to march tomorrow to show **solidarity** with their leaders. 为了显示和领袖的同心同德，支持者们希望明天举行游行。

7. **colonialism** n. the practice by which a powerful country controls another country or other countries 殖民主义

e.g. European colonialism 欧洲殖民主义

8. imperialism n. a system in which one country controls other countries, often after defeating them in a war 帝国统治；帝国主义

e.g. Roman imperialism 罗马帝国统治

There was one **nasty** diplomatic **row** in 2000 when America forced Israel to cancel the sale of an advanced radar system to China. Otherwise, ties have mostly been friendly and the value of bilateral trade has grown to nearly \$10 billion. But, says Chen Yiyi, a scholar, Israel has yet to earn China's sympathy. The number of **pro-Palestinian** articles in Chinese newspapers has increased dramatically in the past two decades. China is already pro-Palestine, wrote Mr Chen in Global Times, a **state-run** newspaper. "We can safely assume that the Chinese stance...in future will be as pro-Palestinian as today, if not more so."

Vocab

1. **nasty** adj. very bad or unpleasant 极差的；令人厌恶的；令人不悦的

e.g. a nasty accident 严重事故

2. **row** 严重分歧；纠纷 A **row** is a serious disagreement between people or organizations.

e.g. This is likely to provoke a further **row** about the bank's role in the affair...这有可能会加深关于银行在此事中的作用的分歧。

3. **sympathy** n. the act of showing support for or approval of an idea, a cause, an organization, etc. 赞同；支持

e.g. The seamen went on strike **in sympathy with** (= to show their support for) the dockers. 海员举行罢工，以表示对码头工人的支持。

4. **pro-** **prefix** (in adjectives 构成形容词) **in favour of; supporting** 拥护；支持；亲

e.g. pro-democracy 拥护民主

5. **state-run** adj. [经] 国营的；州立的

Sentence

But, says Chen Yiyi, a scholar, Israel has yet to earn China's sympathy.

主干：says Chen Yiyi 这里自然是用了倒装

a scholar 插入语，解释主语

Israel has yet to earn China's sympathy. 这里 has yet to 的 yet 在这里构成否定，所以这句话是否定的意味

Foreign diplomats say Mr Netanyahu was never likely to show more than polite interest in Chinese involvement in the Palestinian issue. The public focus of his visit was on trade deals. The private focus was expected to be on China's help in **restraining** Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Vocab

1. **restrain** v. ~ sb/ sth (from sth/from doing sth) to stop sb/ sth from doing sth, especially by using physical force (尤指用武力) 制止，阻止，管制

e.g. The prisoner had to be restrained by the police. 警方只好强行制住囚犯。

Sentence

Foreign diplomats say Mr Netanyahu was never likely to show more than polite interest in Chinese involvement in the Palestinian issue.

主干：Foreign diplomats say (that)...

从句主干: Mr Netanyahu was never likely to show

The **worsening** crisis in Syria also **overshadowed** Mr Netanyahu's visit. China was quick to urge **restraint** after Israeli air strikes but scholars say Syria is not a big Chinese concern and, because China can buy its oil elsewhere, could present an opportunity for China to advance other policy goals it sees as more important.

Vocab

1. **worsen** v. to become or make sth worse than it was before (使)变得更坏, 变得更糟, 恶化

e.g. Her health has worsened considerably since we last saw her. 自从我们上次见到她以来, 她的身体差多了。

2. **overshadow** v. to make an event less enjoyable than it should be 使扫兴; 使蒙上阴影

e.g. News of the accident overshadowed the day's events. 出事的消息给这一天的活动蒙上了阴影。

3. **restraint** n. a rule, a fact, an idea, etc. that limits or controls what people can do 约束力; 管制措施; 制约因素

e.g. The government has imposed export restraints on some products. 政府对一些产品实行了出口控制。

The Chinese priority in Syria, as in so much else, is how to work with the United States. Some Chinese academics see hopeful signs that John Kerry, America's new **secretary** of state, is less committed to the American "**pivot**" towards Asia than was his **predecessor**, Hillary Clinton. When China and Russia vetoed a UN Security Council peace plan for Syria in February 2012, Mrs Clinton called the move "**despicable**". Says Mr Ross: "It may be time for China to **figure out** how they can start helping the United States in Syria."

Vocab

1. **secretary** n. a person who works in an office, working for another person, dealing with letters and telephone calls, typing, keeping records, arranging meetings with people, etc. 秘书

e.g. a **legal/ medical secretary** 法律/医务秘书

2. **pivot** n. the central or most important person or thing 最重要的人(或事物); 中心; 核心

e.g. West Africa was the pivot of the cocoa trade. 西非是可可豆贸易的中心。

3. **predecessor** n. a person who did a job before sb else 前任

e.g. The new president reversed many of the policies of his predecessor. 新任总统彻底改变了其前任的许多政策。

4. **despicable** adj. very unpleasant or evil 令人厌恶的; 可鄙的; 卑鄙的

e.g. a **despicable act/ crime** 卑鄙的行为/罪行

5. **figure out** n. 解决; 算出; 想出; 理解; 断定

From the print edition: China

China and the Middle East Playing the peacemaker?

中国与中东：充当和事老？

China hosts Israeli and Palestinian leaders and touts its peacemaking credentials.

巴以领导人同时访华，中方意图施展调停之技。

THERE are about 20km (12 miles)—and lots of checkpoints—between the official residence in Jerusalem of Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, and the headquarters in Ramallah of Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian president. This week, as both leaders made simultaneous official visits to China, care was taken to keep a much greater distance between them. Their itineraries put them in different cities at all times.

以色列总理内塔尼亚胡的官邸位于耶路撒冷，与拉马拉的阿巴斯官邸相隔大约20公里（12英里），途中还设有大量检查站。而本周，两国领导人同时访华，却又刻意保持了更远的距离：无论何时，都不在同一个城市出现。

Ever since the 1970s, when Henry Kissinger used shuttle diplomacy to marginalise the Soviet Union in much of the Arab world, America has dominated the geopolitics of the Middle East. Inevitably, this week's visits prompted the idea that a rising China might be dabbling in the superpower sport of broking peace between the Jews and the Arabs.

上世纪70年代，亨利·基辛格（美国时任国务卿）采取“穿梭外交”，使苏联在阿拉伯世界中被边缘化。自那时起，美国就一直控制着中东的地缘政治。毫无疑问，本周的访华将传递这样的信号：快速发展中的中国可能希望调解犹太人和阿拉伯人之间的冲突，而这个领域原本只有超级强国才能涉足。

Chinese experts spoke enthusiastically of this possibility in the national media. Hua Chunying, a spokeswoman for China's foreign ministry, did her share to foster speculation about a potentially dramatic development, saying before the visits that "If the leaders of Palestine and Israel have the will to meet in China, China is willing to offer necessary assistance."

中国专家在央视电台热情地谈及这种可能性。而中国外交部发言人华春莹在之前的新闻发布会上表示：“如果巴以领导人有意愿在中国会面，中方愿意提供必要的协助。”这样的发言助长了这种潜在却又戏剧化的推断。

In the end there was no handshake, nor was one ever likely. China's rising political and economic might, and its growing appetite for energy, mean it has more at stake in the Middle East than it used to, but it still lacks the clout to knock heads together. Chinese aid to the Palestinian side is dwarfed by what America and others give. And despite growing bilateral trade and technology ties, China "is in no position to coerce Israel to do anything it doesn't want," says Robert Ross of Boston College.

最终两国还是一如既往，没能握手言和。中国的政治、经济实力在快速发展，带动能源需求的增长，这意味着中国比以往更加关注中东的利益，但是依然缺乏足够的影响力来制止两方争吵。与欧美等国的慷慨相比，中国对巴勒斯坦的援助显得相形见绌。尽管双边贸易和科技合作不断增多，波士顿大学的 Robert Ross 还是认为，中国“无法强迫以色列做他们不愿做的事情。”

Nor is it clear that China really has any desire to involve itself more deeply. It may seem as if China wants to play a bigger role, says Yin Gang of China's Academy of Social Sciences, but the truth is that it is outsiders who really want this. "We have enough

problems in our own neighbourhood." Mr Yin predicts that China's newly installed government will barely change the country's long-standing policy of calling for peace, criticising the use of force and urging dialogue.

现在仍然不能肯定中国是否真有意愿进一步涉足（巴以问题），中国社科院的殷罡表示，看起来中国好像只是希望发挥更大作用，而事实是只有局外人才想这么做。“我们和一些邻国之间已经有了太多的麻烦”，他预计中国新一届政府不太可能改变对中东政策的长期定位，即呼吁和平，反对使用武力，敦促对话解决问题。

Meeting Mr Abbas in Beijing on May 6th, China's new president, Xi Jinping, did just that. State media gave heavy coverage to the "four-point proposal" put forward by Mr Xi, but in its details the statement offered little that had not been said before, either by China or by other more established peace-brokers. His statement called for a settlement based on 1967 borders, a negotiating framework of "land for peace", and an end to settlement-building and violence against civilians.

5月6日，中国新任领导人习近平在北京会见了阿巴斯。官方媒体着重关注了习近平提出的“四点主张”，然而同中国或是其他参与斡旋国家之前提出的宣言一样，细节上并没有什么新内容。习近平呼吁在1967年实际控制线的基础上解决纷争，建立一个“土地换和平”的协商框架，停止扩建定居点和袭击平民。

Such input from China, even if mainly symbolic, is probably more pleasing to Mr Abbas than to Mr Netanyahu. In the past China has been a strong supporter of the Palestinian cause. That stance has mellowed as China has become more pragmatic and less devoted to the brotherly solidarity it once showed for struggles in the poor world against colonialism and imperialism. In 1992 it established diplomatic relations with Israel.

即使没有实际意义，中国的这种发声可能更取悦阿巴斯，而非内塔利亚胡。中国一直是巴勒斯坦建国提案的强有力支持者。然而随着中国（外交）倾向于实用主义，而不再为了兄弟情谊牺牲，以往支持第三世界国家对抗殖民主义和帝国主义的立场开始软化。在1992年，中国和以色列建立了外交关系。

There was one nasty diplomatic row in 2000 when America forced Israel to cancel the sale of an advanced radar system to China. Otherwise, ties have mostly been friendly and the value of bilateral trade has grown to nearly \$10 billion. But, says Chen Yiyi, a scholar, Israel has yet to earn China's sympathy. The number of pro-Palestinian articles in Chinese newspapers has increased dramatically in the past two decades. China is already pro-Palestine, wrote Mr Chen in Global Times, a state-run newspaper. "We can safely assume that the Chinese stance...in future will be as pro-Palestinian as today, if not more so."

2000年时，由于美国干涉，以色列取消了对中国出口先进雷达系统的军售合同，使得中曾有过一段不愉快的外交纠纷。而在其他方面，两国关系仍然友好，双边贸易额达到了100亿美元。但研究员陈奕奕认为，以色列还没能得到中国的支持。在过去的二十年里，《人民日报》上亲巴勒斯坦的文章数量一直在急剧增长。中国一直是支持巴勒斯坦的，陈奕奕在中国官方刊物《环球时报》上写道：“我们可以放心设想，未来中国的亲巴立场不会改变，只可能会加强。”

Foreign diplomats say Mr Netanyahu was never likely to show more than polite interest in Chinese involvement in the Palestinian issue. The public focus of his visit was on trade deals. The private focus was expected to be on China's help in restraining Iran's nuclear ambitions.

他国外交人士认为，内塔尼亚胡应该没兴趣让中国加入到巴以问题中。这次访问的公开目的还是在于贸易协定，私下的目的可能是希望中国能够协助抑制伊朗的核野心。

The worsening crisis in Syria also overshadowed Mr Netanyahu's visit. China was quick to urge restraint after Israeli air strikes but scholars say Syria is not a big Chinese concern and, because China can buy its oil elsewhere, could present an opportunity for China to advance other policy goals it sees as more important.

每况愈下的叙利亚国内危机同样笼罩着内塔尼亚胡的出访。在以色列空军空袭后，中国迅速敦促双方保持克制，但是研究人员认为，叙利亚并对中国来说不是个大问题，因为中国可以在其他地方买到石油，而且还可能换取一个机会达到其他更重要的政治目的。

The Chinese priority in Syria, as in so much else, is how to work with the United States. Some Chinese academics see hopeful signs that John Kerry, America's new secretary of state, is less committed to the American "pivot" towards Asia than was his predecessor, Hillary Clinton. When China and Russia vetoed a UN Security Council peace plan for Syria in February 2012, Mrs Clinton called the move "despicable". Says Mr Ross: "It may be time for China to figure out how they can start helping the United States in Syria."

叙利亚问题上中国应该优先考虑如何与美国合作了。比起美国前任国务卿希拉里·克林顿，新国务卿克里更少提及美国重返亚洲的“重心”，这让一些中国学者看到一丝合作曙光。在2012年2月的联合国安理会上，中国和俄罗斯否决了为叙利亚制定的和平方案。希拉里曾称这是一种卑鄙的行为。罗斯先生认为：“中国是时候开始思考，应该如何协助美国解决叙利亚问题了。”