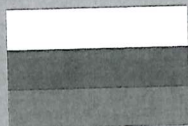


AMANDINE CAYOL, ZHULDYZ SAIRAMBAEVA,  
PIERRE CHABAL (eds.)

# THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGE FOR THE LEGAL AND POLITICAL SYSTEMS OF EURASIA

THE IMPACT OF  
THE NEW SILK ROAD

*Chabal*



  
PETER LANG

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# The challenge of change

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*Amandine CAYOL, Zhi*

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*Sagyngaliy AIDARBAYEV*

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*Bing CHEN*

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## Kazakhstan-China strategic partnership under the 'Belt and Road Initiative'<sup>1</sup>

Kuralay BAIZAKOVA, Fatima KUKEYEVA, Zhulduz  
BAIZAKOVA  
*al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty, Kazakhstan*

On 16 September 2013 at Nazarbayev University in Astana Xi Jinping presented a comprehensive and ambitious 'Belt and Road Initiative' (BRI), which would extend across the entire Eurasian continent. The BRI went on to receive full support in Central Asian countries, in particular in Kazakhstan, where the search for economically effective corridors, market expansion, establishment of equal access to common infrastructure, and attracting investments in its economy are absolutely vital. Kazakhstan plays an important role in world economic processes thanks to its significant reserves of natural resources and its location at the intersection of major transcontinental trade and transportation routes.

Kazakhstan, with its enormous territory, small population and lack of sea access has always been located on the periphery of the global trade of goods. Participation in the BRI will enable the country to move away from its dependence on the export of hydrocarbons and to develop other sectors of its economy. Without the necessary transport infrastructure, Kazakhstan's vast open spaces would be a barrier, but with that infrastructure they would be an advantage. Consequently, Kazakhstan's interest in the success of this initiative is evident for a partnership with China (I) with benefits (II) out-weighting risks (III).

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<sup>1</sup> This article was prepared as part of a scientific project of the Kazakhstan Ministry of Education titled "The new trends of global and regional integration: the integration policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan as an essential part of the state's foreign policy", 2019.

## Cultures juridiques et politiques Vol.15

After reflecting *On the European and Asian origins of legal and political systems: views from Korea, Kazakhstan and France* (2018), the authors address in this book three intertwined issues. First, how systems that were established long ago are challenged by the necessity to adapt to change both in time, rapidly after the end of the cold war, and in space, across the continent of Eurasia and no longer 'simply' in their sub-region. Second, how these systems evolve both in a *sui generis* manner and adopt, each for itself, reforms at the national and sub-regional levels; and also in a reciprocal manner, learn and borrow from each other towards a 'regional legal order' in the making. Third, how extra-judicial evolutions, such as the logistical and commercial dynamics of the *Belt and Road Initiative(s)* appear more and more as the source or the cause of that very change affecting all Eurasian actors and interests. Examined elsewhere from a broad social sciences perspective, in the publication *Cross-border exchanges: Eurasian perspectives on logistics and diplomacy* (2019), these issues are here systematically analysed by a mix of conceptual and doctrinal perspectives and of textual, jurisprudential and positivist perspectives. Naturally, the challenge within the challenge is to ascertain whether a pan-regional or global legal 'model' would be capable of impacting change in general and legal change in particular as part of the 'post-cold-war 2.', where the political-military legacy is overcome by and yields to business concerns reaching beyond cautious legal constructions.

### **Amandine Cayol,**

Dr PhD (Private Law) is associate professor at University of Caen, member of Demolombe Institute and co-director of Master's degree in Insurance Law. Her fields of expertise are Tort Law, Contract Law, Property Law and mainly now the legal status of the human body and she authored *Le contrat d'ouvrage* (2013).

### **Zhuldyz Sairambaeva,**

Dr PhD (Law) is associate professor and Director of the International Law department, *al-Farabi* Kazakh National University, Almaty. Her field of expertise is International economic law. She co-authored in 2016 *The Shanghai organization of cooperation and security issues in Central Asia*.

### **Pierre Chabal,**

Dr PhD (Pol. Sc.) and Sc Dr Habil (Pol. Sc. and Int. Rel.), supervises international research in the LexFEIM centre (Le Havre university). Invited professor at the national universities of Kazakhstan (*al-Farabi*, Almaty), Mongolia (NUM) and Uzbekistan (UWED), he published *La coopération de Shanghai : conceptualiser la nouvelle Asie* (2019).

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Peter Lang  
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