

relationship in the BRI global cooperation framework. So, this is the first point I wanted to share.

Win-Win

The second point I want to share are the reasons for the rapprochement between China and Russia. I think the primary reason is the continuous efforts of the leaders of China and Russia. The two leaders continuously push progress in friendly relations between the two countries. In the past nine years, the leaders of China and Russia, President Putin and President Xi Jinping, have met four to five times each year, and really are good friends. China and Russia are highly consistent in foreign policy, global governance, strategy, they are back-to-back and shoulder-to-shoulder as strategic partners.

According to Chinese netizens, the two countries trust each other, completely handing over their unprotected backs to each other. When they wield a gun against a foreign enemy, neither will worry about an enemy attack from behind.

The two countries are not traditional allies; but they are better than allies. We hope that the relationship of mutual trust will last forever.

The leaders of China and Russia strive to make the two countries realize friendship, and are never at war or conflict, which will be great progress in the history of human civilization and a gain between the two great powers.

To achieve this goal, we must first make the infrastructure—trade, transportation, investment, personnel, and information—of the two countries more interconnected, so that the two countries can help each other and make common progress, like a family.

From this perspective, the cooperation of the two countries still has a long way to go, but we are confident. That’s the second point I wanted to share.

Third point: What the statement of the leaders of Russia and China—the Joint Statement of Russia and China on a New Era and Global Sustainable Development—testifies to.

First, expanding the common values of China and Russia on strategic topics, such as democracy, development, security, world order and the pandemic. These common values are of great significance to peace, civilization, and progress.

It transcends the law of the rise and fall of great powers over the past 500 years. China and Russia have strongly criticized the actions of a small number of international forces that presume unilateralism, interfering in the internal affairs of other countries, damaging the legitimate rights and interests of other countries, and creating contradictions, differences, and confrontations. My friends, you know which country is being criticized.

Of course, the only sentence in the statement that uses strong condemnation refers to the trilateral security partnership established by the United States, Britain, and Australia, the so-called AUKUS. A Chinese netizen, jokingly called AUKUS “Australia cries to death.” Very interesting.

A very famous journalist in China named Hu Xijin—I don’t know whether you know him—used a very interesting and funny metaphor that I want to share with you: “The cooperation between two lions is more effective than one lion attracting several dogs!” [laughs]

So, those are my three views. Thank you again for the invitation.

Alejandro Yaya

Argentina Joins the Belt and Road Initiative

The following is the edited transcript of the presentation by Alejandro Yaya to Panel 2, of the Schiller Institute conference, “100 Seconds to Midnight on the Doomsday Clock: We Need a New Security Architecture!” on February 19, 2022. Mr. Yaya serves as Vice President of Argentina’s Civil Institute of Space Technology, an NGO, and heads up the Technology and Innovation Relations Unit of the National Defense



Alejandro Yaya
Schiller Institute

University. He has worked extensively in training youth in advanced science and technology.

Good afternoon. I’d like to thank the Schiller Institute for the invitation to speak to you today. It should be noted that the presentation that I am going to make does not represent the Argentine state, but it is a true report on the agreements and activities that began with the recent visit

of our president, Alberto Fernández, both to the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China.

I will report on concrete facts about Argentina's bilateral relationship and its joining the New Silk Road, and I will explain what kind of investments will occur in the field of infrastructure in general terms, and strategic infrastructure. I will also comment on what issues Argentina should take into account in order to promote and take advantage of this new beginning of a bilateral relationship which, just to be clear, already had the beginnings of opportunities, but which were not acted on as rapidly as they should have been.

Rail Networks and Electrical Power

On the issue of rail infrastructure, one of the strong points of these agreements that are being carried out has to do with the rehabilitation of the Argentine rail system, in particular the one known as Belgrano Cargas. Likewise, for the rail network of the San Martín line, and that of the Roca line. This includes a modernization plan for the rail networks. The funds to be used will purchase rolling stock from Chinese companies, and to improve the network. This will extend to works that will benefit cargo activities in 13 provinces of the Argentine republic...

Just to give you an idea, the branch lines to be improved that I mentioned, will be restored and we will reestablish trade and cargo transport routes, but in a different way. They will run both north-south, and also east-west.

We're talking about sums reaching \$5 billion.

There is part of one project that should have gotten off the ground in early 2020, which is known as the Pacific Branch. That branch is defined by the idea of the Belt and Road, and was adapted to Argentine needs by the Chinese side. Just to give you an idea, we are talking about a project, including the first section and related works, with financing of some 800 million dollars.

Another important aspect of President Fernández's visit to the Russian Federation is related to this matter of railroads. In this context, it is likely that our relations will also be strengthened by Russian production of railroad locomotives and cars.

Likewise, there are agreements related to hydroelectric plants in Santa Cruz. I'm referring to the Nestor Carlos Kirchner hydroelectric complex. It is being negotiated by the government of the Province of Santa Cruz. China has already sent some \$1.35 billion out of a total of approximately \$4.714 billion projected to complete the project. It's important that when the project is completed and it enters operation, that that is

when the credit repayment arrangement begins. In this case, our President will have to reach an agreement to extend and improve the payment terms.

There are also projects under consideration for other hydroelectric plants, in the provinces of Tucumán and Catamarca.

Another part of the deals, and I believe this will be of great interest to the Schiller Institute, is the nuclear chapter. I'm happy to report that work will begin on the Atucha nuclear plant, on the third Atucha nuclear plant. What is being purchased is a Hualong plant, based on enriched uranium and light water technology. This is different than the nuclear plants we now have in Argentina, which are based on the Canadian CANDU system of heavy water and natural uranium. Nonetheless, although there has been some controversy about this, it is the case that Argentina will be trained in this new kind of technology, which is important, because it is something we lack. China is using this Hualong technology to strengthen its nuclear plants, because there are only two of this kind in the world and this would be the third plant of this kind.

What I would like to be clear about is that Argentina should not give up its natural uranium line, or the CANDU system, but develop this new one as well. We are already working on the fifth nuclear plant—I'd like to correct myself on this: the Chinese plant will be the fourth plant and there will another CANDU one which will be the fifth. There are other projects related to nuclear energy.

Space & Telecommunications

Another important issue is that Argentina has a historic opportunity. In all of these projects that I've mentioned, the Peoples Republic of China is open to transfer of technology and exchange of knowledge. What Argentina obviously should do is to pressure and ask for it in concrete and specific areas.

On the issue of space and telecommunications, these are also important—very important—chapters of the agreements which we have reached. We should mention the agreements that are being reached with Huawei for the construction of 5-G technology infrastructure. It's also important here that professional groupings and entities be involved in establishing the standards and measures to be adopted in our country.

I should mention that, in our search of 5-G technologies, there haven't been any counter-offers from other countries, such as the EU and the United States. The same holds for almost all the fields that I have mentioned. As regards industrial production for the 5-G net-

work, the Xiaomi company will build a plant to produce computers and related technology in the province of Tierra del Fuego.

That too is an historic opportunity to improve our supply capabilities in the goods producing and technology sectors.

What's pending, what's important: What, in my view, has to be promoted and developed?

Into the Future

When you read the joint statement issued by the Argentine embassy and the People's Republic of China, you see that the agreements and the relationship are comprehensive. That means, they range from science to technology, but also cover the details of trade and cultural exchanges.

And if there is one comment that I have to make—because from my work and professional standpoint, we are fighting for this—the cultural aspect must include exchanges at all technical levels of applied scientific knowledge. That is, agreements between Argentine universities and research centers with their equivalents in the People's Republic of China.

I will give you a concrete example, which I would emphasize, and which should not only be a matter of interest for Argentina, but I believe also for the concert

of nations of the world. I will speak about the area that I come from—civil engineering—and refer to China. If you look at the last ten years, in terms of infrastructure projects involving civil engineering: the longest tunnel, the biggest bridge, the greatest hydroelectric plant, the most rapidly built building, etc.—it's clear that they are being developed and executed by the engineering schools of the People's Republic of China. The Chinese are no longer copying the technologies of others, as was said of them in the past, but they are generating their own technologies, producing their own patents, their own innovations. And all of this in the field of culture, and specifically technological culture.

What this expresses, and I think this is very important: That Argentina should not remain asleep in this regard, and take advantage of the potential of learning.

It's also important to state—for example, when I mentioned the nuclear matter—that Argentina has knowledge and has capabilities. So, our contribution—remember that Argentina has also sold and marketed in the nuclear field through INVAP, which is another very important institution in our country related to science and technology, and we are able to build scientific reactors in China. In other words, our relations are currently win-win.

I hope that this presentation has been useful, and I thank you for your attention.

Graham Fuller

The Validity of the Concept of Spheres of Influence

The following is the edited transcript of the presentation by Graham Fuller to Panel 2 of the Schiller Institute conference, "100 Seconds to Midnight on the Doomsday Clock: We Need a New Security Architecture!" on February 19, 2022. Mr. Fuller was a vice chairman of the National Intelligence Council at the CIA and a CIA operations officer for 25 years; he is the author of numerous books.



Schiller Institute

Graham Fuller

Thank you for the opportunity to join this conference and discussion of a new international order. Of course, questions of international orders have been discussed for decades if not centuries to try to tamp down war among various states and powers. And there has

been, in some sense, some progress in that after World War I, we had the League of Nations, and then indeed following World War II, we've had the United Nations, which was a very significant improvement over the rather shakier architecture of the League of Nations.

The issue that I'd like particularly to talk about here today, comes up in connection with the problem of spheres of influence of great powers. I don't know when the term was first used by Washington in reference to Russian policy towards Ukraine, but in any case, I think it's been commonly addressed that Russia considers Ukraine part of its traditional sphere of influence. Now, Secretary of State Anthony Blinken was very quick to say that this is nonsense, that there's no such thing as spheres of influence anymore, that's