Rising Chinese Power and its Implications

What is the issue?

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China’s rising geo-political influence and its potential for both overt & covert operations is largely been underestimated currently.

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What are some aspects of the growing Chinese power?

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- The eagerness of China to safeguard globalisation and its ambitious designs for connectivity and economic integration has just started get noticed.
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- A policy paper that expressed the future possibility of Beijing influencing policies & election in US was discussed in the US Congress recently.
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- Another recent article stressed the growing influence of the Hong Kong based “China-U.S. Exchange Foundation” which conducts exchange programmes.
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- By partnering with many American think tanks, it organises joint conferences for Chinese & American journalists, scholars and political & military leaders.
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- Adding to these is the willingness of American tech companies to abide by China’s stringent rules to get business there.
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- It is also noteworthy that more than 100 American Universities/colleges host Confucius Institutes, an initiative started by Beijing in 2004.
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What are the implications?

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- National Endowment for Democracy (NED) has termed these Chinese efforts

‘sharp power’ as opposed to ‘soft power’ that is advanced by the west through its cultural dominance.
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- It further stated that American institutions are being seduced into these designs due to the financial might of China.
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- As China continues to set standards based on its restrictive understanding of democratic values, these efforts are a direct threat to American liberalism.
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- But neither the lawmakers nor the witnesses could frame the illegality or even impropriety of these sophisticated Chinese advances.
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How is it different from the geo-political approach of the US?

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- By such expensive outreaches, China is promoting a model of global cooperation in which national sovereignty is inviolable.
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- This is radically different from the traditional US approach of promoting free people to people contact without much government intervention.
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- But even within the US Senate, some don’t think the Chinese exchange programmes are any different from America’s own.
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- Notably, the Trump administration’s ‘America First’ approach sees resonance with the Chinese on upholding the primacy of national sovereignty.
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- But contrasting China, Mr. Trump doesn’t seem interested in expanding American global influence and considers such efforts a waste of money.
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Source: The Hindu

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