



WATCH & LEARN: GLOBAL BUSINESS INFRASTRUCTURE ECONOMICS: CHINA CHINA'S EUROPEAN EXPANSION (4:28 min) VIDEO Script & Vocabulary (page 1 of 2/v28035)

INTERMEDIATE (B1 - B2) AND ABOVE

- ◊ Read the script and note new vocabulary
- ◊ Write three sentences using new vocabulary
- ◊ Prepare for the discussion questions

Starting Off

Billions of dollars of Chinese money are boosting some European economies - but some of the deals being struck have a catch. Critics say they are "debt traps", where China gets to choose what happens if loans aren't repaid.

- 1 Read the **Video Script** below. The words in **bold** are defined in the **Vocabulary** section. Look up any new words in a dictionary.
- 2 Go to the **Your Turn** section at the end of this document. Practice using new words and expressions from the video script to prepare for your next class.
- 3 Look at the **Discussion Questions** and prepare your responses for the next class.

Discussion Questions:

- ◊ Are you familiar with some of China's infrastructure investment in Europe and elsewhere around the globe?
- ◊ What are some of the concerns that governments might have about collaborating on major development projects with China?
- ◊ Is the United States a better option concerning funding and building infrastructure around the world?

Video Script:

BBC TV Journalist: The war in Ukraine is forcing countries across Europe to reconsider doing business with Russia. Now it comes at a time when Moscow's most powerful ally, China, continues to expand its



economic interests across European countries. But there are **allegations** of worker exploitation, environmental damage and so-called **debt traps** where Beijing has stepped in to lend billions of dollars. China denies the accusations and insists it's a reliable partner and that (it) offers investment where others are **unwilling**. Our Europe correspondent, Nick Beak, has visited key Chinese projects across the Balkans and southern Europe and has this special report.

Nick Beak, BBC Europe Correspondent: It's an **unmistakably** Chinese scene from the workers to the offices. Beijing is pouring money into this copper mine hoping it's a golden **gateway** to further economic expansion. But this is not China, it's Serbia, on the edge of the EU where the red of the Communist Party is leaving its **mark**.

Dung Nguyen, Vietnamese worker: The Chinese company treats us **terribly**.

Beak: We **tracked down** this Vietnamese man who said he paid \$1,600 to come here for a construction job.

Nguyen: They forced us to work more, but they did not provide enough supplies. There are 20 or 30 workers living together in each container. They **treat us like slaves**.

Beak: After half a year the father of three tried to leave, but was **stranded**. Shortly after we met he did manage to return home only after taking a \$2,000 **loan**. This is the Ling-Long tire factory where he worked. Employment contracts we've seen appear to be copied and pasted from the Middle East. If you're caught stealing, your hand is **chopped off**. If you were to murder someone, you're beheaded. The company didn't respond to the various allegations made against them.

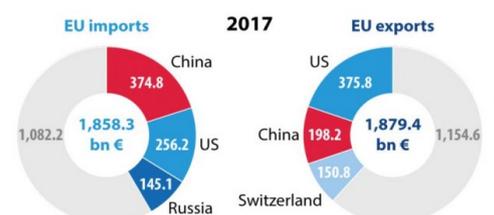
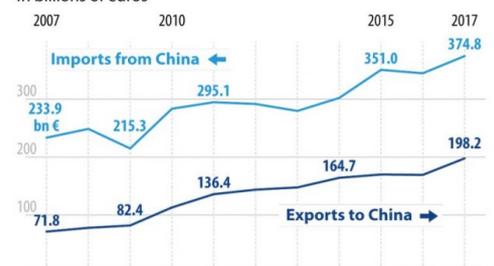
Vocabulary:

- **allegation** - an assertion that someone has done something wrong
- **debt traps** - when one owes a huge amount of money to various institutions or people, which feels never ending
- **unwilling** - not ready to do something
- **unmistakably** - in a way that cannot be mistaken for anything else
- **gateway** - an opportunity or place regarded as giving access to another
- **mark** - visible impression or stain
- **terribly** - very badly or unpleasantly
- **tracked down** - find someone or something after a thorough search
- **treat** - deal with in a certain way
- **slave** - a person who is forced to work for and obey another and is considered to be their property
- **stranded** - left without the means to move from somewhere

Vocabulary continued on next page...

EU trade with China

In billions of euros



dpa-28749

Source: European Commission

Video Script continued on next page...



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Video Script continued...

Danilo Curcic, A11 Initiative for Economic and Social Rights: This is the most visible case of labor exploitation we (have) had in the country so far.

Beak: Human rights groups say it's a **warning** as Chinese business expands further into Europe.

Curcic: If you're actually having Chinese companies coming to other countries and not having (don't have) institutions who are strong enough to prevent human rights violations or labor **standards** violations or any other violations, you will have probably the **race to the bottom** with the other companies.

Beak: From Serbia to neighboring Croatia, this former Yugoslav country is now part of the European Union and the EU is paying for its biggest infrastructure project - the Pelješac Bridge, but it's Beijing built down to the last **bolt**. The **tender** from the Chinese, state-owned company was 20% cheaper than its nearest competitor. European rivals **called foul**, but couldn't stop the deal. Croatia and all other European countries face a delicate balancing act in dealing with Beijing. Concerns remain over alleged debt traps, cyber security not to mention human rights, but there's a general **reluctance** to side exclusively with the United States and to reject all future Chinese investment and big infrastructure projects.

Professor Branimir Vidmarovic, University of Pula, Croatia: So in Croatia we don't have fears about Chinese influence.

Beak: This academic argues if European governments are smart and selective, they can benefit from partnership with Beijing.

Vidmarovic: So if we exclude critical technologies, if we cooperate on physical things like, you know, **railways**, infrastructure projects, I don't think that there is much problem in satisfying both the EU, NATO, U.S. and China.

Beak: We asked five Chinese ambassadors in Europe for an interview about Beijing's vision for the Continent, but none was available. But European countries are **reassessing** doing business with Beijing, which has failed to condemn ally Russia's attack on Ukraine. It could mean Europe watching more big Chinese investment opportunities **pass by**. Nick Beak, BBC News, Croatia.

Vocabulary continued...

- **warning** - event that serves as a cautionary example
- **standard** - a required or agreed level of quality or attainment
- **race to the bottom** - heightened competition between nations, states, or companies, where product quality or rational economic decisions are sacrificed in order to gain a competitive advantage or reduction in product manufacturing costs
- **bolt** - a metal rod or pin for fastening objects together that usually has a head at one end and a screw thread at the other and is secured by a nut
- **tender** - an offer of a bid for a contract
- **call foul** - protest that something was done unfairly or illegally
- **reluctant** - feeling or showing aversion, hesitation, or unwillingness
- **railway** - tracks for trains operating with light equipment or within a small area
- **reassess** - determine the importance, size, or value of again
- **pass by** - to happen without being noticed or acted upon by (someone)

Your Turn! Using new vocabulary is the best way to learn and remember it.

1 Choose three words or expressions from the video that are new to you and write a sentence using each one in the box below.

2 Try to use them in a context that is familiar to you to help you retain them.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

