

Arctic Routing: The Third Silk Road for China?

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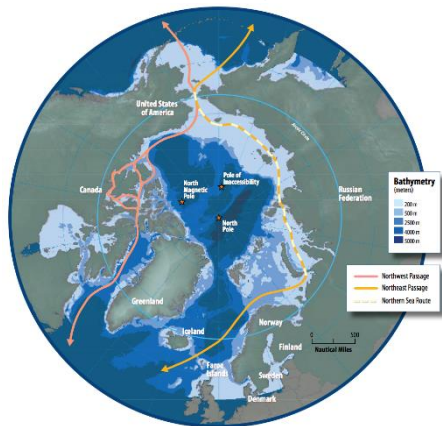
INTRODUCTION

Arctic shipping routes are the maritime paths used by vessels to navigate through parts or the entirety of the Arctic. There are three main routes that connect the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans: the Northeast Passage, the Northwest Passage, and the Transpolar Sea Route.

In recent years, up to 40% of the central Arctic Ocean has been ice-free in summer.

China is a near-Arctic nation, has a long history of participation in the Arctic affairs. What happens in the Arctic

Northeast Passage and Northwest Passage



increasingly has great impacts on China, and vice versa. China signed the Svalbard Treaty in 1925, and opened the Yellow River research station there in Ny-Aleund in 2004. In August 2012, Chinese scientists aboard the icebreaker Xuelong (*Snow*



Chinese Icebreaker *Xue Long* (Snow Dragon) for Scientific expeditions

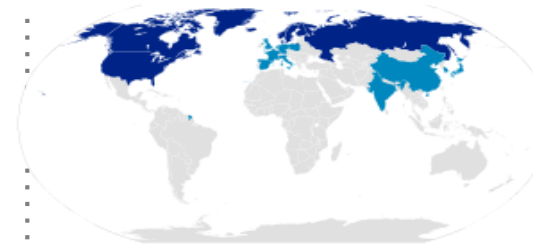


Dragon) completed the country's first trans-Arctic voyage from Shanghai to Iceland. The Goals of China's Scientists expeditions to the Arctic include environmental concerns, aurora observations, and marine biological research. Social scientist have also contributed to Arctic research through various conferences and collaborations, such as the Sino-Russia Arctic Forum, China-Nordic Arctic Cooperation Symposium, and Sino-U.S Arctic Social Science Forum.



Those all paved the way for China's acceptance in the Arctic Council as an observer in 2013, which it had sought since 2008.

AIMS



Arctic-states and Non-arctic nations

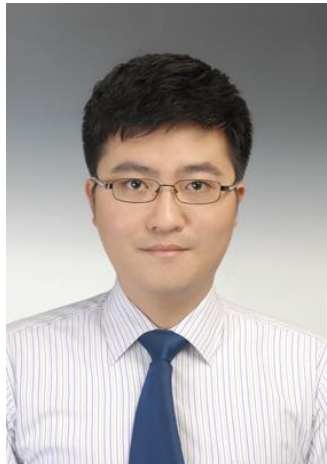
- To investigate the feasibility of the exploration of arctic routing for commercial purpose in China
- To analyse how China leverage her economic, political, and diplomatic might in order to secure for itself a say in Arctic affairs.
- To explore how China will manage the energy security through shifting the traditional seaborne transportation routes from Suez-Malacca to arctic routing as an energy import-dependent economy.

The Logo of Arctic Council



Shifeng Yu

Dr. Shifeng Yu is a lecturer and research fellow of Science Institution, East China University of Political Science and Law (ECUPL) with many years teaching experience.



He worked also as a training instructor in New Oriental Education Group for several years. He is also a qualified lawyer (P.R.China) and has practiced in Clifford Chance LLP Shanghai branch from 2005 to 2007. Shifeng Yu got his PhD and LLM from East China University of Political Science and Law. His research interests are international law, marine economics and policy. He focuses on the coordination between law and policy and tries to deal with how to effectively settle the disputes in shipping or ocean fields. His recent research programs includes Policy-making in land and maritime initiatives; the Arctic Route Exploration in the views of international law; Comparative research on shipping industry between China and UK. and so on forth.

