

CHINESE STRATEGY IN THE ARCTIC REGION

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Abstract

The Arctic region has witnessed international competition due to the riches and sea lanes that abound in that region, and it is clear that China has a number of goals that it seeks to achieve in the Arctic. These goals are to deepen exploration and understanding of the Arctic, protect the pole environment and address climate change, use Arctic resources legally And to participate actively in cooperation, governance, and the promotion of peace and stability in the region, and its interests in the region are represented in the field of security, resources, science, and technology, while the motives for its participation in this competition were represented by its aspirations for the largest future region for the remaining oil on earth, and its great desire to exploit untapped natural resources such as copper, gold, and others, by The Northern Shipping Route In ,the military field, the Republic of China considers the North Pole a vital part of its nuclear security while the dimensions of Chinese policy in the North Pole are represented in the areas of transportation, resources, climate, scientific research, shipping, and fishing. Its strategy focused .on the region in the economic and scientific fields

Introduction

The importance of the Arctic region has steadily increased with the emergence of the impact of climate changes and the acceleration of ice melting and the exposure of large areas of it, which .made it a region of importance and strategy for which regional and international powers compete Oil and gas, and the second is the new sea routes between southeastern Siberia and eastern Asia and between Europe and the United States, which will contribute to reducing costs and cruise time and may represent a potential competitor to the Suez Canal.

.The phenomenon of international competition is one of the aspects of international dealings Rather, it is a dominant characteristic of most international dealings, especially in its economic aspect. Competition is a natural point in international relations due to the intersection of interests and oppositions in many areas. Despite the increasing interdependence between countries and its developments within international organizations, the conflict Interests necessitate the rule of competition in international relations.

China is one of the prominent powers in the international system, which qualifies it to play large and influential roles in regional and global affairs with high technology. Therefore, as a result of its major geographical, economic and political components, it can become the number ,one major power during the twenty-first century. Many international multilateral organizations especially in dealing with global security issues through their foreign policy.

Study problem: For the purpose of researching the study problem according to the research method, the study problem can be formulated in the following form: What is the geostrategic importance of the Arctic region? What is the nature of the Chinese strategy in this region?

Study Hypothesis: The nature of the study hypothesis is based on the vision that the Chinese strategy towards the Arctic region is only a result of the vital importance the Arctic region enjoys for China. This is what prompted China to use various means to achieve its goals and requirements in this vital region. seeking to maintain an important and distinguished position on the international arena.

Objective of the study: The study aims to clarify the geostrategic importance of the Arctic region by clarifying the most important natural and political geographical characteristics of the region in the area.

The first topic: the geostrategic importance of the Arctic region

To clarify the geostrategic importance of the Arctic region, it is necessary to clarify the nature of the geographical characteristics of the region, which we will address as follows:

First: the geographical characteristics of the Arctic region

The natural characteristics intertwine and interrelate with each other to give the human being limits to practice his economic activities in each region separately, and among these elements emerges one or more elements that give the region its basic characteristics, and despite that, these characteristics do not appear on their own, but must be A certain level of civilization allows people to make better use of these resources, such as the natural locations of countries or the collection of sources of power and energy, etc. from the conditions that appear or do not appear in connection with the level of civilization and tactics of peoples.

With regard to the study, we will discuss the most important natural characteristics of the Arctic region as follows

1. Geographical location and area: - It is considered the most important natural geographical factor that affects the strength and importance of the state, as the location gives the states a special personality and directs their policies in certain directions, and affects their strength and the manner in which their vital interests are and the role that they can exercise in the international community, and the location may be Geography is a curse on many countries and was the reason for their involvement in wars with other countries ⁽ⁱ⁾

For the purpose of studying the geographical location of the North Pole more accurately, it :was studied as follows

- a. Astronomical location: It means the location in relation to longitude and latitude, and perhaps the state's location in relation to latitude is more important than its location in relation to

longitude, because it affects the type and nature of the climate that prevails in the region or the state, as countries close to the equator are hotter than those which are located in the middle as temperatures determine the nature of agricultural activity⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ or upper latitudes

The Arctic Circle is located between latitudes (66-90) north in the arctic tundra. The short days in most days of the year and the harsh cold climate lead to a short growing season ranging from 50 to 60 days. By contrast, the growing season in forests Temperate is about six months, and in tropical forests it lasts all year. Moreover, strong winter winds challenge the stability of any plants that grow more than an inch or two above the surface of the ground, and under a thin layer of soil that thaws every summer is ground that remains frozen all year round called permafrost⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾

The Arctic is the cold and remote arid land north of 66 degrees north latitude, and is generally referred to as the Arctic Circle. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, defines the Arctic region as five countries with the Arctic coastal region, including Russia Canada, Denmark (Greenland), Norway and the United States (Alaska). , While Iceland , Sweden and Finland are polar countries , but they do not have borders in the polar coastal region^(iv).

The Convention on Property Rights in the Continental Shelf within the Law of the Sea of established borders for each country with the five countries extending to 200 nautical miles 1982 ,in the North Pole. This agreement entered into force in 1944 and was ratified by 150 countries including only two countries that have borders with the North Pole, Russia. Norway^(v)

This ocean consists of an irregularly shaped ice patch centered around the North Pole, and its area and amount of breadth varies from year to year and from season to season, due to the melting and freezing states that it is exposed to due to the change in temperature throughout the seasons of the year, and near the North Pole lies what is known as the North Magnetic Pole of the Earth The point of the compass needle is 73 degrees north and 100 degrees west longitude⁽⁶⁾.

The Arctic Council did not rely on demarcating the borders of the region only on geographical factors, but rather took into account political issues. The Council adopted a broader demarcation in order to take into account the internal management of the member states. From a geographical point of view, the Arctic region is seen as the area beyond the Arctic Circle, and thus the concept becomes wider and more stable, the region occupies, according to this definition, 6% of the land area, a third is occupied by land, and a third expresses the area of the continental shelf with a depth of 500 meters, and the rest is the open sea^(vi)

a. The location in relation to land and water: - The study of the location in relation to land and water is of great importance, as through it it becomes clear that the state does not have a sea view or that it is closed and does not have a sea view. It is large in addition to its exploitation of living and non-living wealth, as well as the possibility of benefiting from its sea coasts. As for the closed countries, they suffer from a low international standing and the size of their political

influence, in addition to being at the mercy of the surrounding countries, as well as suffering from a lack of capabilities and wealth ⁽⁷⁾.

The North Pole is not a land mass, but a central point in the Arctic Ocean due to the fact that the North Pole is the smallest ocean in the world, and it includes eight countries (Russia, Norway, Finland, Iceland, the United States of America (through Alaska), Canada, Denmark (through Greenland) and Sweden), and it is represented by a geographical area. It is divided into three sections, and these divisions are as follows:

- _ The High North Pole: - consists of the North Pole, Baffin Bay, Greenland, parts of the far north of Canada, Svalbard (Norway) and the Arctic Islands in Russia
- _ Arctic Low - the northern parts of Norway, Sweden and Finland, parts of Canada, Alaska, the Bering Sea, the Norwegian Sea, Hudson Bay, the Chukchi and the Sea of Okhotsk
- _ Sub-Arctic - consists of parts of Canada, Alaska, Russia, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Finland ^(vii)
- b. Strategic location: It means the location that gives the country that controls it a political military or economic advantage in the face of other countries
 - _ The state's possession of an important commodity such as oil has a strategic value at the level of the global market

The position of the state should have a role in the strategy of competition between the major powers in the world (political value).

The location gives the state military superiority, by building military bases in locations that ^(viii) threaten strategic objectives

According to the US Geological Survey, the continental shelves extending in the Arctic may constitute the largest future undiscovered area of oil remaining on Earth. For example, the use of the Northern Passage, which is expected to be open to commercial shipping during the summer and will provide a shorter route of 6,400 km to Europe ⁽⁹⁾

The Arctic region also contains four routes: the Northwest Passage (NWP), the Northern Sea Route (NSR), the Trans-Polar Sea Route (TSR) and the Arctic Bridge. Although ships pass through the four routes, it is likely to become the Northwest Passage. The northern sea route is more viable before the last two paths ^(ix)

According to Spikeman's theory, there is a great geopolitical importance to the land of the margins, which he called Rimland, since whoever owns the North Pole controls the fate of the world, and the Arctic region is characterized by a unique and somewhat unstable location as a buffer zone between the two powers, the United States of America and the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. On the outskirts of the Arctic region, the Barentich Sea has become, militarily ^x and politically, one of the most important marine areas in the world

As for the area of the North Pole, it amounts to (11,875,712 km²), which occupies (6%) of the Earth's surface, and this area is distributed among eight countries overlooking the North Pole Table (1)

The Arctic region contains a great wealth of oil, natural gas and mineral resources, as the region produces 13% of the world's oil and a quarter of the world's production of natural gas. Many studies indicate that a large part of the world's undiscovered oil needs are located in the Arctic region. More than 400 oil and gas fields have been discovered in the northern Arctic region.^(xi)

The US Geological Survey also estimated that the North Pole holds 13% of the world's undiscovered oil reserves and about 30% of the world's undiscovered natural gas reserves.^(xii)

Table 1. Area of countries bordering the Arctic km²

%	Space Km ²	country
40.16	4769508	Russia
33.02	3921739	Canada
14.51	173337	USA
7.26	861662	Denmark
1.47	174350	Norway
1.42	168910	Finland
1.29	153431	Sweid
0.87	102775	Island

Andrey V.Smirnov, the Arctic population: dynamics and centers of the settlement system, Arctic I sever (Arctic and northe), 2020, no 40, p.230-231.

The region is also famous for its richness in marine animal resources, especially fish, as the region constituted a percentage of marine fish catch %5^(xiii)

Second - the political situation of the Arctic region

The importance of the North Pole is increasing steadily with the emergence of the impact of climate changes and the acceleration of ice melting and the exposure of large areas of the Arctic, Ocean to the movement of navigation and exploration together. In reducing costs and cruise times

it may represent a potential competitor to the Suez Canal, and the second is the enormous wealth that is stored in the subsoil of the Arctic Ocean, especially oil and gas. It cannot be neglected

The Arctic regional system is characterized by a relatively large number of actors, including states, local governments, and autonomous communities, so there are some motives for competition over the region, including

- 1- The distinguished geographical location, although it is a complex, remote and difficult-to-reach area, but it is located in a geopolitical location between the continent of North America and Eurasia, and connects them in the event of a military confrontation. It also dominates the North Atlantic Ocean to be an important and pivotal point for NATO support and in the defense of Europe
- 2- The Arctic region contains huge energy resources, as it contains 13% of the undiscovered oil in the world, 30% of the undiscovered natural gas, and 20% of the undiscovered gas liquids in the world^{xiv}
- 3- Climate changes and the development of machinery and equipment have enhanced the^(xv) value of the geopolitical location of the region after it was previously impossible
- 4- The melting of the ice cap allows the commercial use of many routes that would greatly reduce shipping times from Asia to Europe. All these economic opportunities, although highly profitable due to the high costs associated with insurance, weather, distance, and lack of sufficient capacity, stimulate a kind of The race to dominate the Arctic by pressuring each player in the region to develop and build a strategy sooner than its opponent, to be ready when climate change turns potential profits into actual profits
- 5- The Arctic constitutes the northern wing of Russia, and the waters of the first zone of its defense system according to the "inherited stronghold" of the inherited Soviet military doctrine. The Arctic region is a sensitive area for Russia, where its submarines and ballistic missiles are based, which can provide it with protection from any external aggression^(xvi) through the pole
- 6- For the Scandinavian countries, the North Pole did not constitute an existing threat, but the increasing military presence in it and the intensification of competition forced it to^(xvii) strengthen its military capabilities

The Arctic Council was established in 1996 AD, and it is an international organization concerned with increasing cooperation between countries whose borders include lands in the Arctic, and includes in its membership the five countries (Russia, the United States of America, Norway, Denmark, Canada) in addition to other countries located near the pole The northern ones there are other countries that joined the Council as^{xviii} are (Iceland, Sweden, and Finland), and observers, namely (China, India, the United Kingdom, Germany, and France)

This high-level forum for cooperation in the Arctic was established by the eight sovereign states on the territory of that region: Canada, Denmark, Iceland, Finland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the United States of America. The first meeting at the ministerial level was held in Iqaluit

and the Arctic Council is an intergovernmental initiative for the Arctic region that includes all eight Arctic countries, and it has two main goals. Arctic in 1991 to address environmental issues affecting the entire region, and in particular to develop multilateral responses to pollution in the Arctic region, with regard to the second goal of the Arctic Council sustainable development, and the Arctic Council is an outgrowth of the strategy for environmental protection in the Arctic, this strategy Announced by the eight Arctic countries in 1991, and based on a proposal from the Finnish government to start the process of addressing environmental issues in the Arctic, the establishment of this organization was approved. The Arctic Council has five goals

1. .Protecting the Arctic ecosystem including humans
2. Provide protection, promotion and restoration of environmental quality and sustainable use of natural resources, including their use by indigenous and indigenous peoples
3. Recognize traditional and cultural needs, values and practices as they define themselves in relation to the protection of the Arctic environment and strive to accommodate them as much as possible
4. Regularly reviewing the state of the Arctic environment and identifying, reducing and eliminating pollution as the ultimate goal
5. .^(xix) Environmental issues

The Arctic Council relies on several mechanisms to achieve its objectives, the most important of which are

- 1- Providing means to enhance cooperation, coordination and interaction between Arctic countries, with the involvement of indigenous Arctic communities and other Arctic residents in common Arctic issues, especially issues of sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic
- 2- Oversee and coordinate programs established under the Pole Council in connection with the Arctic Monitoring and Evaluation Programme, conservation of Arctic flora and fauna protection of the marine environment, prevention, preparedness and emergency response
- 3- Approval of terms of reference, supervision and coordination of the sustainable development program
- 4- Dissemination of information, encouragement of education and promotion of interest in ^(xx) issues related to the Arctic

Although military security issues are not included in the agenda of the Arctic Council, its importance has increased due to the fruitful cooperation in recent years

In sum, the Arctic region is of geopolitical importance because of its geographical and political characteristics that were the cause of international and regional competition for control

The second topic: the principles of Chinese foreign policy

To clarify the nature of the Chinese strategy in the Arctic region, it is necessary to clarify the China is located in the - :nature of Chinese foreign policy, and this can be explained as follows

eastern hemisphere, the eastern part of Asia, and the western coast of the Pacific Ocean. The land area of the globe, and owns 3 million square kilometers of territorial waters under its sovereignty and owns 6,000 islands along its sea coasts that constitute 15% of the country's surface, and it is a rising economic power whose economy is estimated at 10 trillion dollars, and the total output for the year 2018 reached (8,285,900) trillion dollars and has a cash reserve of two trillion dollars^(xxi) and it also has great potential through projects and foreign investments

China's strategic action towards its regional or international surroundings is linked to what China possesses of elements of strength, which qualify it to play a role in international relations at the current and future stage. It possesses geostrategic geographical and economic characteristics and characteristics, which enable it to occupy a prominent and important position at the level of international powers, not just regional ones. From the economic point of view, the Chinese economy is the largest economy that has achieved growth for more than three decades, so the Chinese economy has been described as the fastest growing economy in the world. The study shows China's interactions in the regional system of South Asia as a vital region in the Chinese strategy. On the technological level, many studies point to the growth of Chinese capabilities through its commitment to a clear policy that encourages the development of technology

China also maintains the second largest reserves of foreign transactions in the world. In terms of trade, the dumping of global markets with Chinese goods (Made in China) constituted a source of concern for the major industrial countries because of their competitive prices. As for the human aspect, China has the largest population size in the world with a billion Four hundred million people, and from a military point of view, its army is the largest in the world, so it placed it in the third place in the world in the level of military spending after the United States of America and the Russian Federation, according to international reports. On the political level, China was able through a central government, to maintain its political stability and peacefully restore its sovereignty over Hong Kong and Macau. We will explain the fields and controls of China's foreign policy as follows

First: The principles and objectives of Chinese foreign policy

1- Principles of China's foreign policy: China has formed its foreign policy towards countries in accordance with the main principles, which are summarized as follows

- أ- Mutual respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states
- ب- Mutual lack of moderation in the policy of states
- ت- Adoption of the principle of peaceful coexistence
- ث- Mutual commitment to the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of states and the peaceful settlement of international disputes based on the principle of justice
- ج- Relationships should be based on cooperation with others in terms of equality and achieving mutual benefit

China considers these principles to be valid for international dealings, and has realized in those principles a percentage that guarantees them an effective contribution to resolving some

,international disputes, especially since the policies that those countries pursued had harmed them^{xxii} as was the case in Zimbabwe, Sudan, Iran, Burma, and Venezuela

2- :Objectives of Chinese foreign policy

The objectives of foreign policy differ from one country to another depending on the different objectives of each country and its natural, human and military assets, etc. China has a peaceful and independent foreign policy aimed at maintaining world peace and advancing common development, which seeks to achieve several fixed and main goals away from tactical shifts Which may be objected to that policy as a result of local and international changes, which are as follows -: (xxiii)

- a. Protecting the common interests of states, as they desire the participation of the international community to exert efforts for multipolarity in the world, push for the coexistence of multiple international powers, and maintain the stability of the .international community
- b. Establishing a new, just international political and economic system, as all countries must respect each other, and self-will should not be imposed on others, and the cultures .of other nations should not be excluded
- c. Improving and developing relations with the countries involved, distributing points of ,convergence of common interests, and settling disputes in an appropriate manner based on the basic interests of different peoples, regardless of differences in social .activities and ideological doctrines
- d. Observing and strengthening the good-neighborly relationship and developing and .strengthening regional coexistence
- e. Strengthening and deepening cooperation and solidarity with third world countries

3- -: (xxiv) Characteristics of Chinese foreign policy:- It can be explained as follows

- a. China's pursuit of full partnership with the United States of America through the .development of bilateral relations between them
- b. Follow the strategy of soft balance with the relations of the great powers in the international community
- c. Supporting efforts to redraw arrangements in various regions, including regions far .from Chinese geography, such as Africa, Central Asia, and the Arab Gulf states
- d. Building a global economic security strategy that contributes to the presence of an .influential Chinese diplomat in the world
- e. Enhancing the work of Chinese soft power by mixing economic, cultural and ideological diplomacy with the aim of increasing the Chinese regional and global .influence

China believes that any country, whether large or small, close or weak, rich or not, is considered an equal member of the international community, and must work to resolve all disputes and disagreements between countries in a peaceful manner through consultations and not resorting to .the use of force and threat

It is clear from the foregoing that China believes that the international system is no longer based on unipolarity, and the need to shift to a polar system, after the global crisis that occurred in the year (2008), which led to the decline in the value of the US dollar, which led to the weakening of the position of the United States of America in Its dealings with China, China's situation, like the rest of the countries, is a choice between three main policies, which are the aggressive nationalist policy, the aggressive realist policy, and the cooperative policy. With international variables for their benefit. As for the third, the state cooperates and integrates peacefully with the international community to achieve its national interests

From what has been mentioned, it is clear that China follows the third policy in its foreign dealings, in particular, since the launch of its economic modernization program in order to enhance its international presence, with the rest of the major countries. It is said that material and non-material factors have a major role in contributing to the status of a state in the international system which is a reflection of the exercise of power, and through material factors states can become sovereign, as a strong economy that enjoys rapid growth rates leads states to think about building their strength Whenever countries feel the solidity of their economic and military components this is reflected positively in attempts to change or modify the regional or global situation, or both As for China, it is making great efforts in dealing with regional issues and its international environment in a manner that reflects its desire to deal peacefully. Today, China has become more responsible. With its interest in international issues through its participation and entry in international and regional organizations, especially its accession to the World Trade Organization China has proven that it is a responsible member of the international organization to bear the international burdens of an economic nature in particular

China worked to increase and modernize its economic growth, which was reflected in its strength factors, and it also tended to develop agriculture, industry, trade and investment, which led to its rise to occupy the second place in the world, so it became a great economic power. On this basis, these factors have reflected positively on China, which plays a prominent role in the international system in its participation in international issues through its effective diplomacy and foreign policy based on closer international relations, on the basis of the principle of cooperation between countries based on a studied and calculated strategy, and these are linked to objectives. It seeks to achieve it by all available means, called (step by step strategy)

The third topic: - The Chinese strategy towards the Arctic region

,The importance of the North Pole has become increasingly important in recent times ,especially after the escalation of the melting process that it is exposed to due to climate changes as it has lost half of its area that was covered with ice, which stimulated the major international powers to move towards it to take advantage of its oil and underground wealth, as well as its sea lanes. And new ways of international trade

In this section, we will explain the nature of the Chinese strategy in the Arctic region, as follows

First - the importance of the Arctic region for China

China sees the Arctic as an important ecological region and an arena of economic opportunities, and Chinese representatives see that China's interest in the Arctic is rooted in China's northern geographic location, and concerns about the potential impact of global climate change on new shipping routes in the Arctic that affect trade and energy routes. Chinese officials argue that environmental conservation along with commercial interest and potentially long-term commercial opportunities in the Arctic have been overshadowed by concern about potential (xxv) economic threats that global climate change may cause

China describes itself as a country near the North Pole - "a formula it chose for itself to give it official status within the region and its diplomatic institutions. To justify its regional role it constantly stresses that changing conditions in the Arctic" have a direct impact on China's climate system as well as on China's economic interests. in Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and (xxvi) Oceans

,And based on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and Oceans of 1982 which confirms that no country has the unilateral right to benefit from the Arctic region, and based on what China owns in terms of capital, technology, and a large local market, China is trying by all political, military and economic means to impose itself on Map of countries . (xxvii) benefiting from the Arctic

Since the signing of the Svalbard Treaty of 1980, China's focus has been focused on (xxviii) scientific explorations in the Arctic

China was accepted as a member of the International Committee for Arctic Sciences in to serve as a start in increasing Chinese participation in the region, and then in 1999 China 1996 sent an expedition aboard the scientific research ship Xue LONG icebreaker, as it facilitated repeated scientific missions to China built a permanent research station called the Yellow River (xxix) Station in the Arctic on the island of Svalbard in 2004

In 2004, China initiated the establishment of the first polar station for scientific research on the island of Spitsbergen, as well as the establishment of working groups specialized in Arctic affairs in the ministries of foreign affairs and oil and gas companies. China and other Asian countries also seek to forge partnership relations with polar countries, such as Norway and Russia. And others, in order to study and invest in the Arctic region, including China's agreement . (xxx) with Norway to conduct a joint project to study the climate in the region

The Arctic Council recognized China's important interests in Arctic affairs and expected China to make many contributions to the work of the Arctic Council. In 2013, China was accepted as an observer member of the Council after its request for permanent observer status was rejected xxxithree times

The acceptance of China as an observer in the Arctic region encouraged an explicit declaration of its interest in Arctic affairs. China also expressed through the White Paper of the Polar Silk Road its rights in maritime navigation, appealing to the law of the seas and oceans on the one hand, and for this to be a motive for convergence to prevent member states in Organization for the development of infrastructure that facilitates the process of international (xxxii) transport in the region on the other hand

The white paper includes three goals of China's policy in the Arctic, which are xxxiii. understanding the North Pole, protecting the North Pole, and developing the North Pole

- a. .Deepening exploration and understanding of the Arctic
- b. Protecting the Arctic environment and addressing climate change
- c. Using Arctic resources legally and rationally, including natural resources and tourism
- d. Actively participate in Arctic cooperation and governance
- e. .Promote peace and stability in the Arctic

China pledged to participate actively in the affairs of the warmer Arctic, as it used the face of the third pole (the Himalayas) to enter the Arctic, and China's keen interest in Arctic affairs is due to its aspiration to rise to the base of the dominant power in the region, so China is trying with all its possessions Power, influence, and economic and military prowess to maximize its ,and China's efforts in the Arctic can be divided into three phases , (xxxiv) interests in the region (xxxv) which are as follows

- a. The first stage, 1980-2000, was the "initial preparation stage" in this period, which began after the dawn of Deng Xiaoping's reform and openness, as China began to send its first scientists to the poles, acquired an icebreaker from Ukraine, built some of its .first stations, and joined treaties related multilateralism
- b. ,The second phase from 2002 to 2015 was the "development phase". During this period ,China greatly increased its polar capabilities by building more stations in the poles building the first local icebreaker, launching more expeditions and investing in polar fixed-wing aircraft and independent platforms. , and dramatically increased its political .role in the region - joining the Arctic Council as an observer
- c. ".The third phase: It extends from 2019-2030, and it is the "polar superpower stage Leaders of the Chinese Communist Party, such as President Xi Jinping and prominent polar figures such as Liu Sugyi, say that China is at the starting point of a new historical phase towards building a polar superpower, which is likely to include The concept is based on hard power, but it also exceeds it, and at this stage it will bring a more ,significant Chinese presence in the Arctic, including more expeditions, more stations new fixed-wing aircraft and icebreakers, more self-capabilities, and a "polar survey fleet" more. From technological investment, the Polar Silk Road, greater efforts to .protect China's polar rights and interests, and more military deployment in the region

Second - Chinese interests and motives in the Arctic: - China has a number of interests in the Arctic that can be summarized as follows

- 1- (Traditional and non-traditional security): China has a political economy, military and .security interests in the Arctic
- 2- ,Resources: China wants access to minerals and hydrocarbons in the Arctic, fishing .tourism, transportation routes, and bio-prospecting

3- Science and Technology: Access to the North Pole is necessary to start the Beidou navigation system; China Aerospace Science Program, Arctic and Antarctic Administration Chen Liaczung stated that the overall goal of China's current five-year polar plan is to increase China's (xxxvi) "status and influence" in polar affairs so as to better protect its "polar rights"

Third - Dimensions of Chinese policy in the Arctic: There are a number of economic motives for China in the Arctic, namely

- 1- (xxxvii) The economic dimension can be explained as follows
 - a. The rapid economic growth causes an increase in the demand for oil, which makes China look for new opportunities for oil imports, and according to the US Geological Survey, the continental shelves extending in the Arctic may constitute the largest future area for oil remaining on Earth
 - b. ,China has a great desire to exploit important untapped natural resources such as copper ,gold, lead, iron, platinum, nickel, zinc and diamonds in the Arctic
 - c. .International shipping plays a very important role in China's economic development The melting of the Arctic ice will provide three major shipping routes of interest to China. For example, the use of the Northern Passage, which is likely to be open for commercial shipping during the summer, will provide a shorter route of 6,400 km to .Europe

Tourism in the Arctic is an emerging industry, and China is a source of tourists to the Arctic. China supports and encourages its companies to cooperate with Arctic countries in developing tourism in the region, and calls for continuous efforts to strengthen security, insurance and rescue systems to ensure the safety of tourists in the Arctic. China trains and organizes Chinese tourism agencies and professionals working in Arctic tourism, and seeks to increase ,environmental awareness of Chinese tourists. China calls for low-carbon tourism, ecotourism and responsible tourism, and hopes to contribute to the sustainable development of Arctic tourism. China participates in the development and use of Arctic resources, provided that the traditions and cultures of Arctic people, including indigenous peoples, are respected, and their unique lifestyles and values are preserved. , respecting the efforts made by the Arctic countries to empower local citizens, promote their social and economic progress, and improve education and medical services, in a way that Arctic people, including indigenous peoples, benefit from the (xxxviii) development of Arctic resources

2. **The security dimension:** Beijing's long-term goals in the Arctic appear to be driven mostly by geopolitics: it aims to build a presence in the region, for now economically, to support its goal of having a seat at the table when geopolitical tensions escalate in the Arctic. There are also direct historical military motives for Chinese interests. The flight path of US and Russian () intercontinental ballistic missilesICBMs .directed against China will cross the North Pole (Thus, the Republic of China considered the North Pole a vital part of its nuclear security and wants to control the region now, and China has six operating attack submarines. With nuclear

,energy, four nuclear-powered ballistic submarines, and fifty diesel-powered attack submarines however, more of them are under construction, and yet these are reserved for Chinese waters and there are no convincing military strategic reasons for China to operate them in the Arctic as a ^{xxxix} () deterrent

Chinese Arctic scientists expressed their concerns about the evolving security competition in the Arctic, especially between Arctic countries such as the United States and Russia, although Chinese sources argued that Chinese activities in the Arctic are only for scientific research and ,environmental preservation, while sometimes the behavior of The North Pole is more complex as it indicates the dispatch of People's Liberation Army naval ships to the polar region, the establishment of Chinese reception stations, the deployment of new military technologies in the region, and the possible endeavor to reach the North Pole. These developments indicate China's interest in the possibility of using military force to protect its commercial interests and research ^(xl) opportunities. Scientific - both of which legitimize China's need to engage in the Arctic

Fourth - China's strategy in the Arctic: - China's strategy in the Arctic region is represented - :by these areas that can be clarified on the following points

1- Economic field: In 2018, China issued its White Paper in the Arctic, which refers to China as a "country near the North Pole" and describes shipping routes across the North Pole as the concept of "Polar Silk Road" and although China and Russia look at each other not Trust, but they established a flexible strategic partnership for pragmatic cooperation on a case-by-case basis. The US and European sanctions imposed on Russia as a result of Russian interference in ,Ukraine's affairs in 2014 played a role in Russia's approach to China in valuing its relationship and given Russia's lack of technological knowledge to exploit shale oil and Arctic fields on its own, China presented itself as a "near-Arctic" cooperation partner, prompting Gazprom Neft to seek joint ventures with Chinese companies, including the China National Petroleum Corporation. The trade war between the United States and China also affects the Sino-Russian partnership, as the United States put on the list the Chinese shipping company COSCO, which cooperated in the Russian Yamal LNG projects, and strategic (economic) cooperation between China and Russia is increasing, as China provides financing and the Russians have a geographical location The two countries also sought to establish partnerships in the development of satellite ^(xli) navigation and military exercises in the North Pacific Ocean

And given the lack of lands in the Arctic for China, it is in its interest to be accepted by the Arctic countries (including Russia), and this explains the focus of its policy on international cooperation in the region, and China is working to deepen its presence in the European Arctic ,through foreign direct investment, and the focus is on Greenland because of its strategic location and Beijing has also gradually strengthened its presence in Iceland, where its embassy in Reykjavik was able to host more than 500 employees, and it is expected in the future that Chinese actors will focus mostly on Russia in terms of oil and gas investments in Greenland with regard ^(xlii) to mining and for the vital economy in Iceland and Finland

The economic experience in China was able to achieve major transformations in the Chinese economy, and it can be inferred that this experience is successful by looking at economic

indicators such as an increase in gross domestic product and an increase in the standard of living per capita income, and then it succeeded in transforming the Chinese economy from an agricultural economy to an agricultural-industrial economy Relies on modern technology in the ^(xliii) means of production

The growth rates of the Chinese economy have reached (13%) in China, and it is expected that by the year (2050) the Chinese economy will grow by fifty times to exceed the American economy, as predicted (Robert Vogel), an economist at the University of Chicago, that the size of the Chinese economy will reach (123) trillion dollars in the year (2040), and its share of the global output will reach 40%, and this guarantees it the unilateral economic domination of the ^(xliv) world

And that one of the four basic principles in the White Paper is "respect." The White Paper affirms China's interests in using Arctic resources in a legitimate and rational manner. China always affirms that China respects the sovereign rights of Arctic countries over oil, gas and mineral resources in areas under its jurisdiction in accordance with the law. International and ,respects the interests and interests of residents in the region. Another key principle "development", is reflected in the resource development section of the white paper. Chinese" ,enterprises, taking advantage of their advantages in capital, technology and domestic market should observe the laws of relevant countries, conduct risk assessments for resource exploration and encourage them to participate in the exploration of oil, gas and resources. Mineral resources in the Arctic through cooperation in various forms and on the condition of protecting the natural environment in the Arctic. China, Japan and South Korea in particular consider the melting of the Arctic Ocean a unique opportunity for international trade to access resources. In September the Chinese icebreaker (Xue Long Snow Dragon) was ,2012manufactured History By becoming . the first Chinese ship to cross the Arctic Ocean, the ship crossed the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean and conducted oceanographic research, this 85-day voyage was a clear statement of Beijing's interest in increasing its presence in the Arctic, according to the statement of the Polar Research Institute in Shanghai The Snow Dragon obtained "first-hand information about navigation in the Arctic sea lanes, the surrounding environment, and carried out exploration and ^(xlv) useful practices for our country's ships using Arctic lanes in the future

And due to the high temperatures in the Arctic, the fish wealth is likely to move north, as a result, the Arctic may become a new fishing ground. While China's goal is to participate in the exploitation of this new fish wealth in the medium to long term, it has signed a precautionary ,measure to preserve it. In the short term in 2017, the five coastal countries in the Arctic, Iceland the European Union, and three Asian countries with major ocean fishing fleets: China, Japan and South Korea reached the coordination of the Arctic negotiations (5 + 5) to a historic international agreement, and extends The legally binding voluntary position on commercial fishing in the central Arctic Ocean for at least 16 years, until more research is available and more international ^(xlvi) mechanisms are put in place to protect Arctic fish stocks

The Arctic region is a central region for China's strategic needs of oil and minerals in the ,future, as well as the sea and air routes in the Arctic are critical to China's future economic

political and military expansion as a global superpower. China participates in a 5-year (2016-2021) assessment of resources Polarity and governance that will help improve the existing polar strategy in China and direct policy and regulation and encourage Beijing to multi-level and multi-agency participation in the region and disseminate knowledge about opportunities in the Arctic to Chinese citizens and companies. As for China's rights in the Arctic, it was represented by the following:

- a. Scientific and economic activities
- b. Arctic Council Observer Center
- c. Access to the Arctic seas for scientific research, transportation, tourism and fishing
- d. Arctic Air Routes

2- The scientific field: - Scientific research is a large part of China's participation in the Arctic, and China uses science to justify its continued participation in the Arctic region, "as China participates in many scientific and professional organizations located in the Arctic, and there are many meaningful cooperation through International institutions and related businesses, including the International Arctic Science Commission (IASC) the Arctic Region, the Pacific Polar Group (PAG) the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Asian Forum for Polar Sciences (AFPS) provide all Among these bodies is an official place through which, to work on Arctic issues, these organizations and groups are necessary to maintain multilateral relations in the Arctic (xlvi)

China was interested in what is known as the economy of ice and snow, as this term appeared during the Sino-Russian negotiations at the Economic Forum in 2019, in which representatives of Beijing proposed to their Russian partners a concept of cooperation entitled the economy of ice and snow, as Beijing relied on studies that confirm that by 2030 the Arctic will be empty Completely free from ice in the summer months, which will facilitate the transportation of Russian liquefied natural gas (LNG) (xlvii)

Through the foregoing, it is clear that China saw itself as a major power to be reckoned with, which prompted it to enter and compete with global powers over the wealth of the Arctic and by virtue of the presence of successful Chinese diplomacy, it achieved its goal when it became a member of the Arctic Council, to set its sights after that on the economic gains hidden in that region, so it initiated steps that brought it closer to achieving its goals in the Arctic including initially entering the Arctic region for scientific studies, research and hunting, to be followed after that by claiming its right to navigation towards the ocean according to the international law of territorial waters, and then investment operations in the Yamal project, these things combined reflect The truth about the Chinese approach towards the North Pole and its wealth.

Conclusion

The Arctic region, especially after the outbreak of the effects of climate change, witnessed a state of regional and international competition, and this competition comes as a result of the

importance that the polar region possesses, and this importance is represented in two axes, the first of which is the air-sea route between southeastern Siberia and East Asia, and on the other hand between Russia and the United States of America. On the other hand, the entry of countries into the competition over the Arctic comes for several motives, including what is economic and the other is political, and each country has a strategy and special dimensions for its policy in the Arctic.

The decline in the global balance of power is shifting towards China, and the US share of global trade and GDP is declining, and China is increasingly challenging the US hegemony in many regions, including the China Sea, and China is gaining influence in major international organizations, and these things indicate that the world today is heading to the end of the American polar hegemony and that China has become more daring and assertive at the same time. And once China declared itself as a country close to the pole, it would most likely enter into a military confrontation with the United States, and thus constitute a source of concern for the interests of the United States in particular and for the stability of the pole North in general. Therefore, many of those involved in Arctic affairs expect that there will be an upcoming war between the major powers in the Arctic, led by China and the United States, which may add to more militarization. It is not possible to ignore the development of Sino-Russian relations in this field, as it is noted that they are going through a stage of prosperity, especially in the military and security aspect. He wrote for the Independent Military Review that the possibility of joint defense between Russia and China in the Arctic in the coming years is living proof.

Washington fears that China will exploit the Ukrainian crisis in the future to enhance its influence in the northern countries. As Beijing invests billions in mineral resources in Greenland, geothermal energy in Iceland, and in the field of information with Finland, Washington also fears China's support for the Danish island of Crynland to decide its separation from Denmark, so Washington loses its strategic influence in it, especially as it hosts an important NATO military air base in "took over". The North Pole is likely to become an arena for international competition and China will not be far from that competition. Rather, it is expected to exploit it to enhance its international influence. This will negatively affect security and stability in the region in particular and the world in general.

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