

RUSSIA-CHINA RELATIONSHIP IN THE ACTUAL GEOPOLITICAL CONTEXT

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***Abstract:** This article presents the relationship between Russia and China in the modern world, with the current challenges and how these have taken a turn after the start of the war in Ukraine. Although from the beginning of the conflict, China was mostly neutral and evasive, it seems to have changed its position recently, despite the fact that was not openly stated. The purpose of this paper is to show what changes have taken place, how they came about and future consequences.*

***Keywords:** Geopolitics, Peace and Conflict Studies, International relations, Security and Defense*

Introduction

Since the beginning of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, China refused to condemn the war and even abstained from voting in the Security Council (UN)¹. It was not well seen by America and the international community, which hoped and asked a much firmer and decisive stand in condemning the war.

China's rise as a global economic power has reshaped the geopolitical landscape. More than 50 years ago, U.S. President Richard Nixon and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger secretly traveled to China to meet with ailing leader Mao Zedong, a daring act that changed the geopolitical dynamics of the superpower rivalry. The initiative was to encourage China to become more involved in the rest of the world.

China and the Soviet Union were communist allies, but they were so at odds that Mao feared a Soviet invasion. The visit of Richard Nixon laid the groundwork for Beijing's opening to the world and the establishment of

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¹ Michelle Nichols, Humeyra Pamuk, "Russia vetoes U.N. Security action on Ukraine as China abstains", Reuters, 26 February 2022, available at: <https://www.reuters.com/world/russia-vetoes-un-security-action-ukraine-china-abstains-2022-02-25/>, accessed on: 24.03.2023