

## China's Rising Role in Central Asia and the Middle East

with Professor Pan Guang

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**The Elliott School of International Affairs  
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China's "Belt and Road" (BR) initiative is pushing the development of China-Central Asia relations and China-Middle East relations to a new stage and is the main strategy of China's Middle East policy & Central Asia policy under President Xi Jinping. At the same time, an expanded Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) continues to play an important not only in Central Asia, but also in the Middle East. Prof. Pan Guang will explain the connection between BR and SCO, and how they promote China's rising role in Central Asia, the Middle East, and Eurasia as a whole.

**Prof. Pan Guang** is Professor at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, Director of the SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization) and BR (Belt and Road) Studies Center in Shanghai, Dean of the Center of Jewish Studies Shanghai (CJSS), and Vice President of the Chinese Association of Middle East Studies. He received the 1993 James Friend Annual Memorial Award for Sino-Jewish Studies and the Austria Holocaust Memorial Award in 2006. He was appointed by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan as a member of the High-Level Group for the UN Alliance of Civilizations in 2005, and appointed as Ambassador of the UNAOC in 2008.

Professor Pan has lectured and conducted research all over the world, including at Harvard University, Columbia University, at the RAND Corporation. He has published books and articles on a variety of topics, including "The Jews in China," "The Jews in Asia: A Comparative Perspective," "The Jews in Shanghai," and "The Political and Cultural Impact of the Holocaust."

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