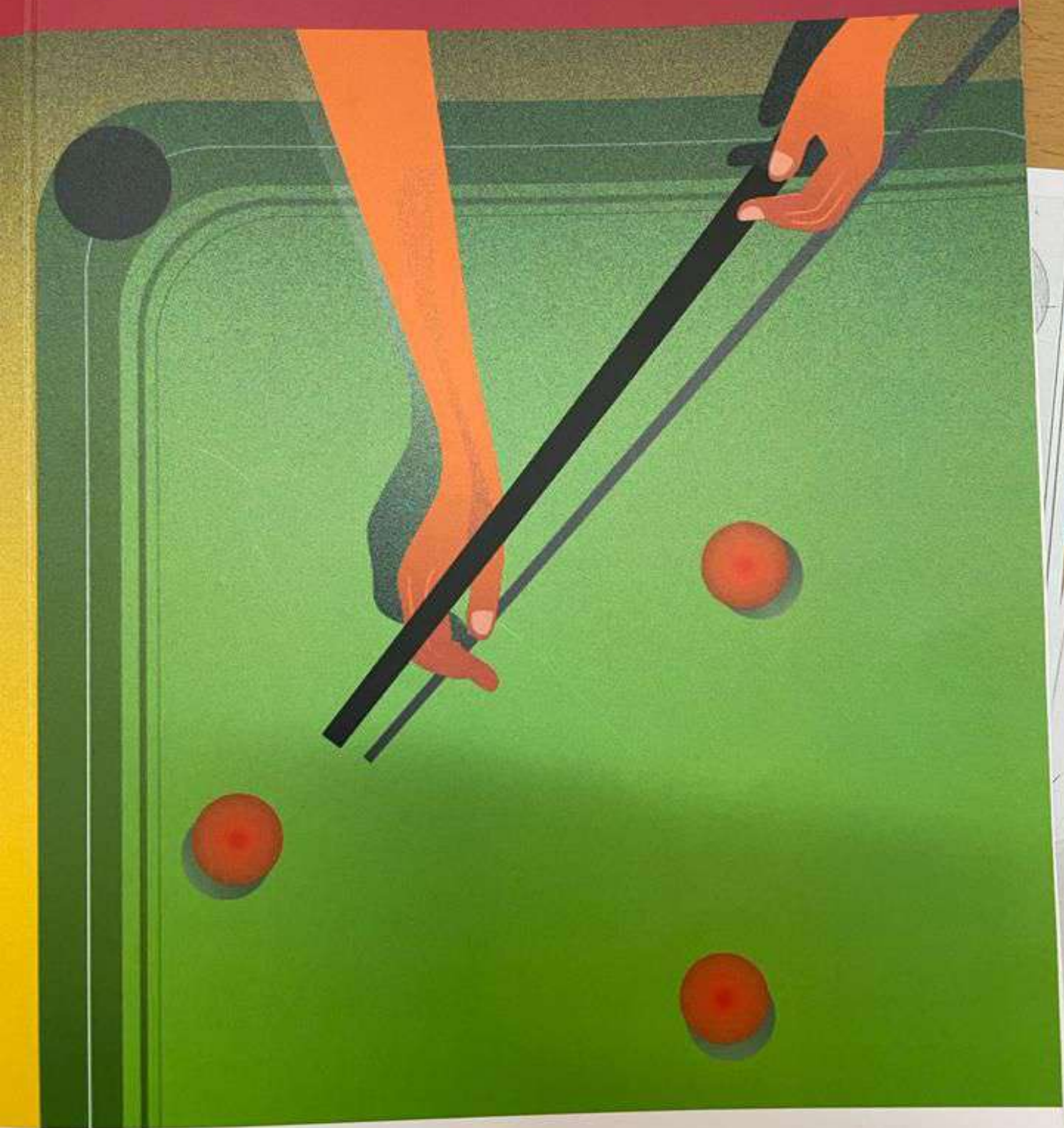


India, China, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

Bilateral Relations, Geopolitical Trends, and Future Trajectory



COUNCIL FOR
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About this report

This report assesses the impact of current geopolitical trends on India's engagement with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in the broader context of People's Republic of China's (PRC) long-term aims vis-à-vis the SCO, and deteriorating Sino-Indian bilateral relations.

In the wake of India's two-front threat from PRC and Pakistan, and its larger policy towards Central Asia, this paper examines the role the SCO can play in stabilizing the current churn in India-China relations, as well as India's view of its role in the SCO. The report explores India's strategies vis-à-vis addressing its continental and maritime security concerns through a multi-alignment policy that requires engagement with forums such as the SCO and the Quad. The report also focuses on India-Russia relations in the context of India's Central Asia policy and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict.

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Research Support

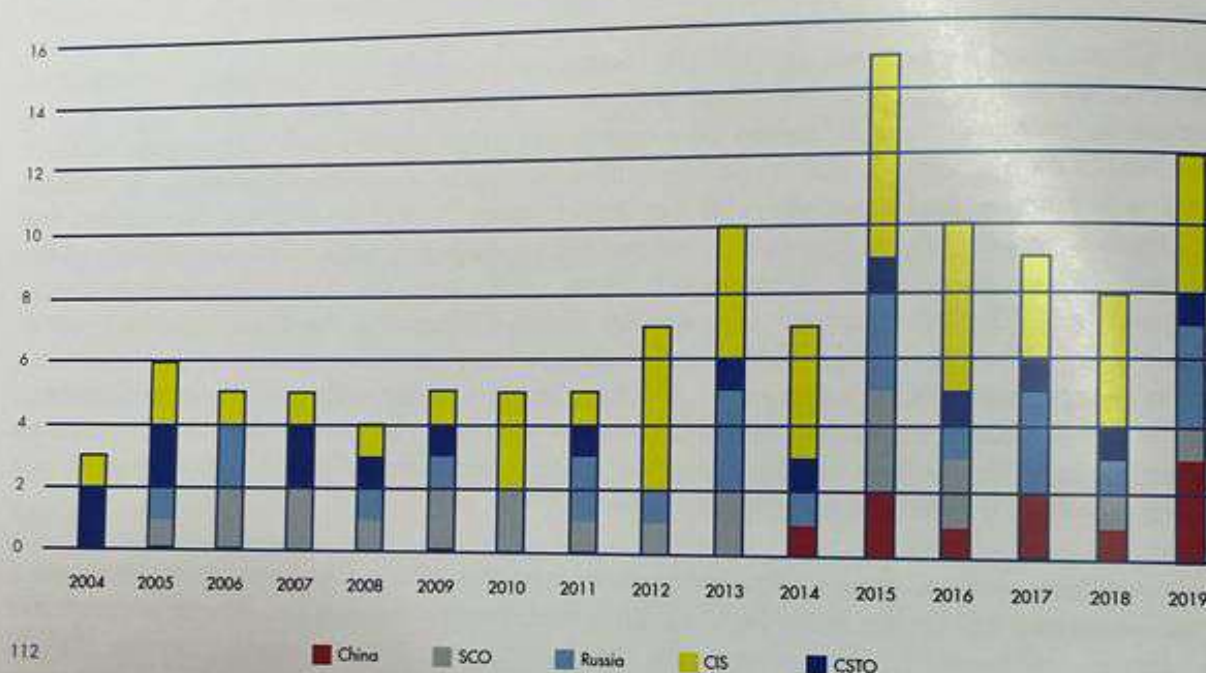
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providing opportunities to cultivate bilateral contacts with other SCO members, and signaling to outside powers, especially the U.S.¹⁰⁷ However, there is very little discussion in India on some of the other concerning aspects of China's achievements through these drills.¹⁰⁸ Aspects such as the expansion of China's military outposts¹⁰⁹, establishment of new training institutions for security forces¹¹⁰, as well as building partnerships between existing training institutions, have not been viewed as a direct threat to Indian interests in Central Asia.¹¹¹ This is partly because India's interests in the Central Asian Region are mostly economic and energy-related. India does not seek any security-related role in the region and believes that the contest for security influence is primarily between Russia and China.

Military Exercises in Central Asia 2004-2009



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