For almost a decade, China’s relentless rise has redefined the geopolitical landscape. The US-China relationship has become more significant than ever before, as Beijing has emerged as a formidable challenger to the West. The relationship between China and the United States is a special case, with China’s economic prowess, military capabilities, and growing influence in the Indo-Pacific region making it a central concern for global policymakers.

The United States, under the leadership of President Donald Trump, has been critical of China’s economic and military capabilities, alleging that China is a subsidy to China’s unambitious economic and military power in the world. The US has urged China to stop its aggressive tactics concerning WTO reform and its continuous cyberattacks on US companies. In March 2018, the US imposed punitive tariffs on China, leading to a trade war. This led to a total rupture of economic and market access and equal investment opportunities. And at the point they are sick and tired of Chinese procrastination. They will continue to press for the rectification of China’s more questionable industrial and regulatory policies; they have also been taking an increasingly critical view of China’s ever-increasing dominance of global affairs.

In a paper published in March 2020, the European Commission and the High Representative for Foreign Affairs were still describing China as a very different nation. They called it a cooperation partner with whom the EU closely aligned its objectives; a negotiation partner with whom China has a balance of interests while they continued to explore avenues of cooperation in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, securing a speedy economic recovery and mitigating climate change, but its stance will not change. The Europeans will defend their own seatbelts for a rocky road ahead.

The reality of today must not be ignored. They will thus heed the somber warning of Kevin Rudd, the former Australian prime minister, current president of the Asia Society Policy Institute and one of the world’s leading China experts. "Global geopolitical risk is now back with a vengeance. We should all fasten our seatbelts for a rocky road ahead."

BY PHOTOH SOMMER

Europe joins the voices now talking tough to Beijing

A rocky road ahead

Looking for first-hand information about German politics, culture, business or society?

Find what you need on deutschland.de – thoroughly researched and in ten languages.

We are your guide to Germany:

www.deutschland.de/en/newsletter