

wish to increase tensions at the international level and has been trying to follow its own agenda and chose a detached and unimposing take on foreign policy. Its conventional approach as a growing superpower has been unobtrusive, opting to avoid involvement in any nation's political affairs but its own, and mostly concentrating on trade relations and investment agreements. This is in stark contrast to the historically more forceful nature of Western economies' involvement globally. After colonialism was over, the West took to democracy and capitalism as its respective political and economic models. Their implementation became perceived as recurring items on the agenda when a Western nation was involved with a MENA nation. While trying to gain, regain, or maintain security of its own economic interests and political influence

abroad, military intervention was increasingly used by the United States, particularly in the Middle East. In effect, the West demanded that certain political and economic conditions be met with regards to the rule of law and good governance in exchange for formal relations, whereas China's approach has been virtually unrestricted with regard to a regime's own affairs, and has been, for the most part, strictly about business. The relevance of China's presence in the MENA is crucial at such a rapidly changing and interconnected world, and the nature of its foreign policy will have to evolve with it. For now, China's energy security policy—although aggressive—has been successful; time will tell whether China will be subtle enough to avoid conflict in the MENA region.