

Israel between the Chinese dragon and the American elephant

While the Chinese involvement in Israeli infrastructure is insignificant, the current and potential added Israeli value to either the American or Chinese capabilities is important.

By [Oded Eran](#) / August 13, 2019

It is probably the most difficult period for the Chinese leadership. The demonstrators in Hong Kong are clearly determined to face Beijing's warnings and threats. The Chinese option of quelling the protests by brute force does not appeal to Beijing and rightly so. At stake is much more than Hong Kong. It is the image that China wishes to develop and convey to the whole Asian continent and beyond and the influence it wants to gain as one of the instruments to achieve global parity with the other superpower, the United States.

Allowing the demonstrations and protests to continue may have long-term implications in the heart of China, not just in remote Hong Kong with its unique political history and relationship with Mother China. The absence of Chinese mass media coverage of the events in Hong Kong cannot be taken by Beijing as a guarantee that millions in China are not aware of what happens there.

On the external front China finds itself confronted by an American president who adopts a "hot and cold" diplomacy and who imposes sanctions and high tariffs left and right, shaking global markets and posing a dilemma for China's rulers. Entering a long trade and currency war with the US is a colossal risk even for a strong economy like China's. There are numerous indications that the Chinese economy may be slowing down and a trade war may have harmful implications. This is a tough double test for Beijing. The success or failure to meet these two challenges will certainly impact on China's future in the coming decade.

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