



## What consequences could the Middle East conflict have on Saudi-Chinese relations?

Author: hirado.hu November 28, 2023

According to several opinions, China could play a key role in resolving the Middle East conflict. However, Beijing seems to be waiting for now, showing little activity on the issue, which appears surprising in light of the efforts of the United States. Due to its good relations with Arab countries and Iran, China supports the Palestinian cause, but concrete actions have not followed. Nevertheless, China is working to deepen its ties with Saudi Arabia.

[...]

According to an Israeli analyst interviewed by The Diplomat, China has put itself in a difficult position by verbally supporting the Palestinians, primarily for the sake of Arab countries, especially Saudi Arabia. However, China has provided little real help to the Palestinians over the years: it does not invest in the Palestinian territories, trade is minimal, and the humanitarian aid to the Palestinians lags far behind that of other countries.

**Galia Lavi**, an analyst at the Tel Aviv Israel-China Political Center, also mentioned that the proximity to the Saudis is the reason why Xi Jinping and Wang Yi have not traveled to Israel and have not had phone calls with regional leaders. This has resulted in a noticeable decrease in Beijing's influence in the region.

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