

# *Silk in the Caribbean*

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By Roberto Morejón

Cuba took steps in 2021 towards insertion in the ambitious Chinese economic program of the Silk Road and Strip, in which it seeks, among other objectives, to advance in the promising field of clean energy.

Cuba and China signed documents to promote the Asian giant's initiative, linking it to specific plans of the Caribbean nation in pursuit of its development until 2030.

For the first time those purposes are identified, covered by already existing agreements.

It has come this far since 2018, when both states signed a memorandum of understanding on Cuba's participation in the Silk Road and Strip.

We are talking about a pretentious design of Chinese investments in infrastructure and for the promotion of trade links in Asia, Europe and Africa, useful for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Cubans believe that due to its geographical position the country could play a relevant role in the maritime and logistic communication of the Route.

The largest of the Antilles considered from the beginning the Chinese proposal, to which today almost 145 countries are related in some way, as a commercial and investment procedure of interest, for its inclusive nature, without violating sovereignty and discarding conditions.

Quite the opposite of what is stated in the hegemonic press, which refers to the Silk Road and Strip as a tool of China to, according to what it describes, achieve an advantage in its trade dispute with the United States.

However, Argentina, which is willing to cooperate with the Belt and Road initiative, and Cuba favorably appreciate Beijing's bid.

Representatives of the Antillean nation stressed during 2021 that the platform of understanding raised by the Asian giant defines for good the objectives, principles and fields of cooperation, among them, trade and financial integration.

From the conversations held, the two parties valued the possibility of relations in tourism, telecommunications, science and technology, food, biomedicine and renewable energies.

The Latin American and Caribbean peoples take note that in eight years of existence, the Silk Road and Belt program has had some successes, such as a rail link between China and Laos and the laying of roads and maritime routes to reach other continents.

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