



# **China's Foreign Policy in the South and East China Seas: The Implications on Thailand**

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# Presentation Outline

1. Background Information
2. Research Objectives
3. Analytical Framework and Research Methodology
4. China's Foreign Policy in the South and East China Seas
5. Situations in Thailand and Her Response to China's Moves
6. Conclusions and Policy Recommendations for Thailand

## Background Information



“building a community of common destiny for humankind”.

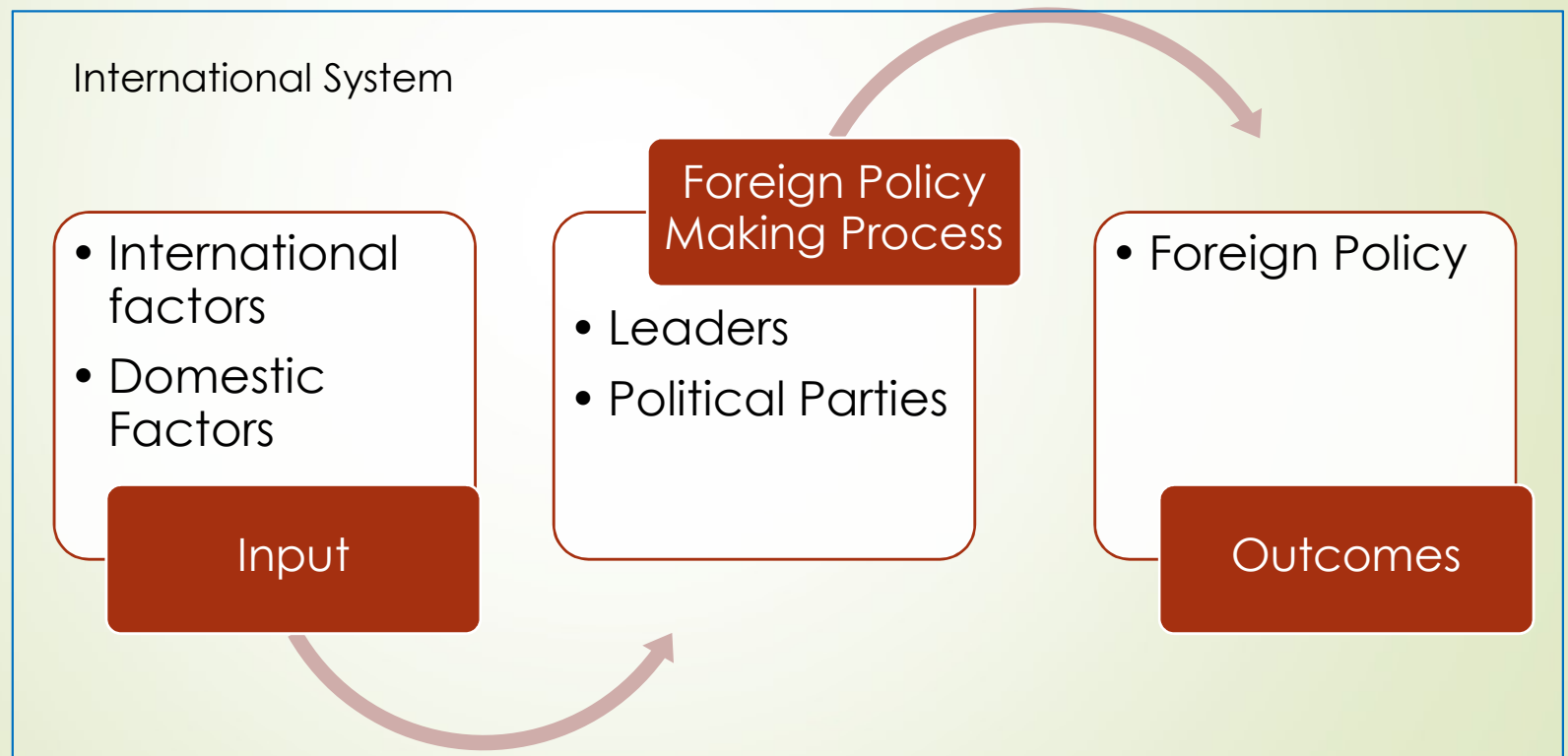


## Research Objectives

(1) To identify China's foreign policy in the East and South China Seas under President Xi Jinping's administration and their implications on Thailand.

(2) To propose some policy recommendations for Thai Foreign policy in accordance with the situation in the international system, as affected by China's foreign policy in the South and East China Seas.

# Analytical Framework and Research Methodology



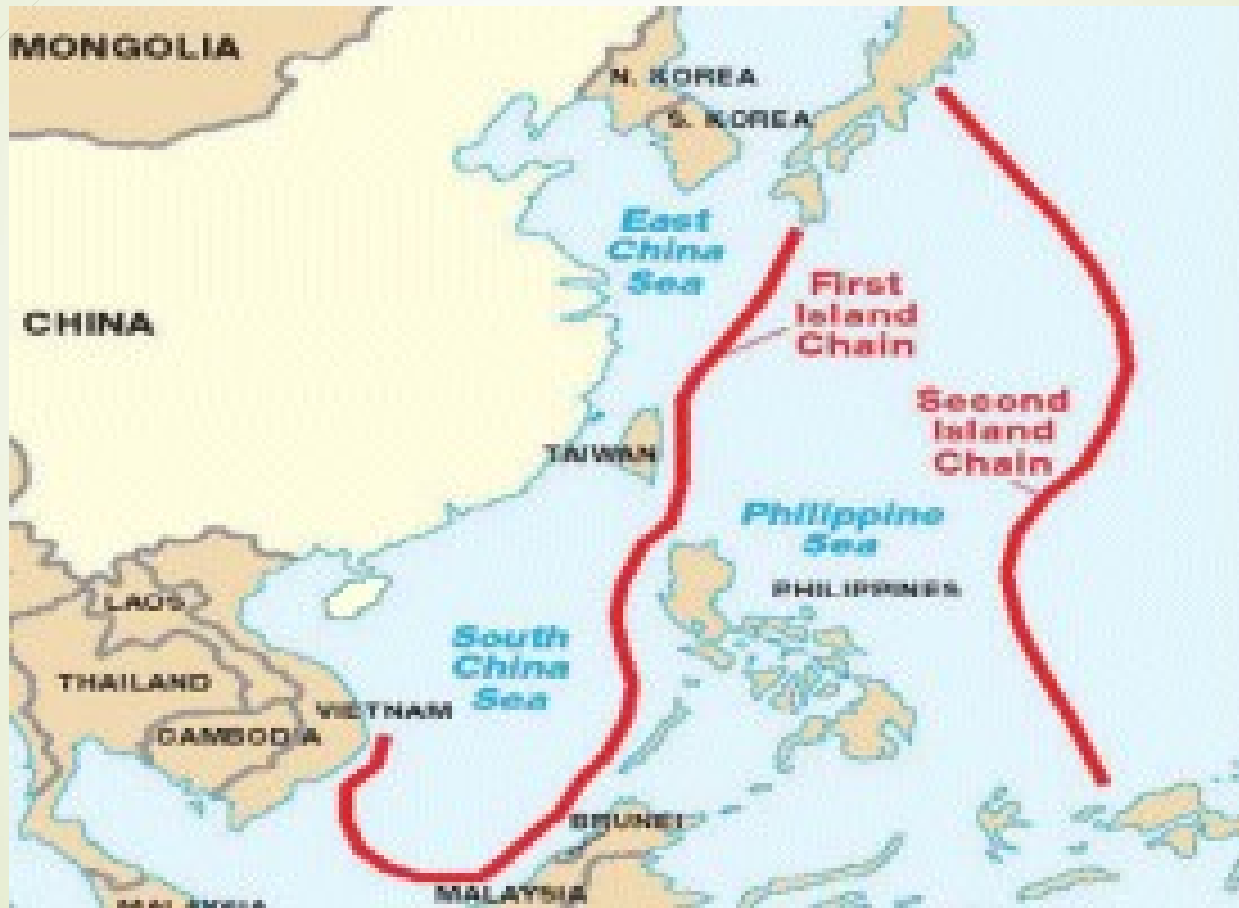
# China's Foreign Policy in the East China Sea



# China's Foreign Policy in the South China Sea



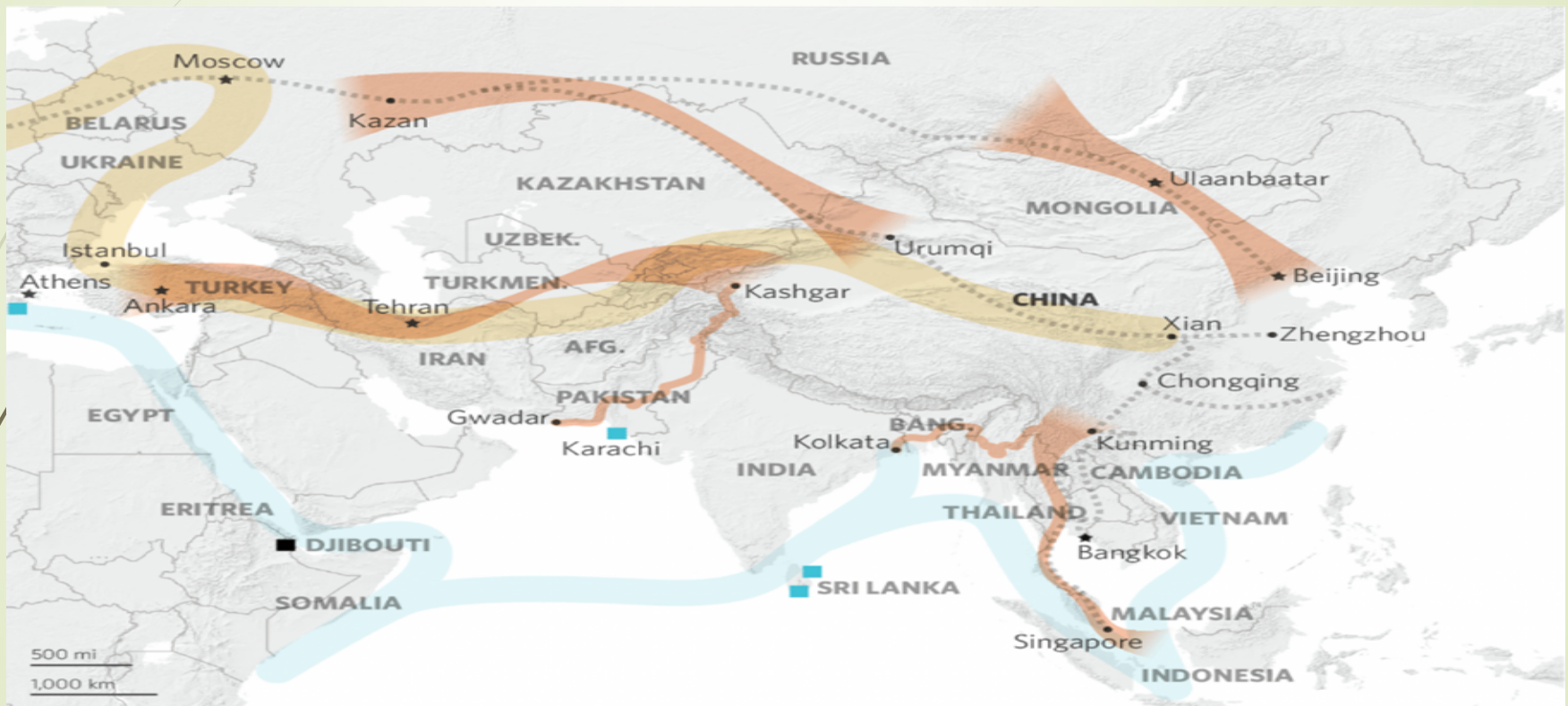
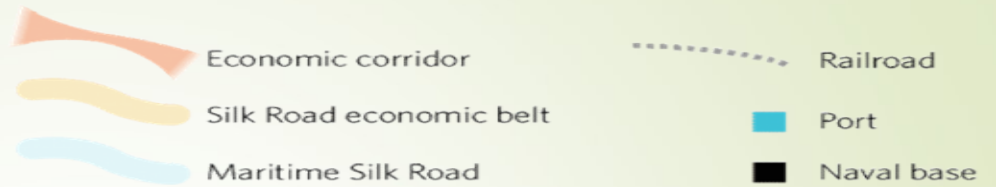
## People's Liberation Navy - Offshore Defense





## China's Belt and Road Initiative

The massive connectivity initiative, first unveiled in 2013, combines China's long-standing visions for the Maritime Silk Road and Silk Road Economic Belt, targeting 64 countries and 15 Chinese provinces for transportation, energy and trade projects.



Source: Mercator Institute for China Studies

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## Situations in Thailand and Her Response to China's Moves (1)



## Situations in Thailand and Her Response to China's Moves (2)







## "Falcon Strike 2018"

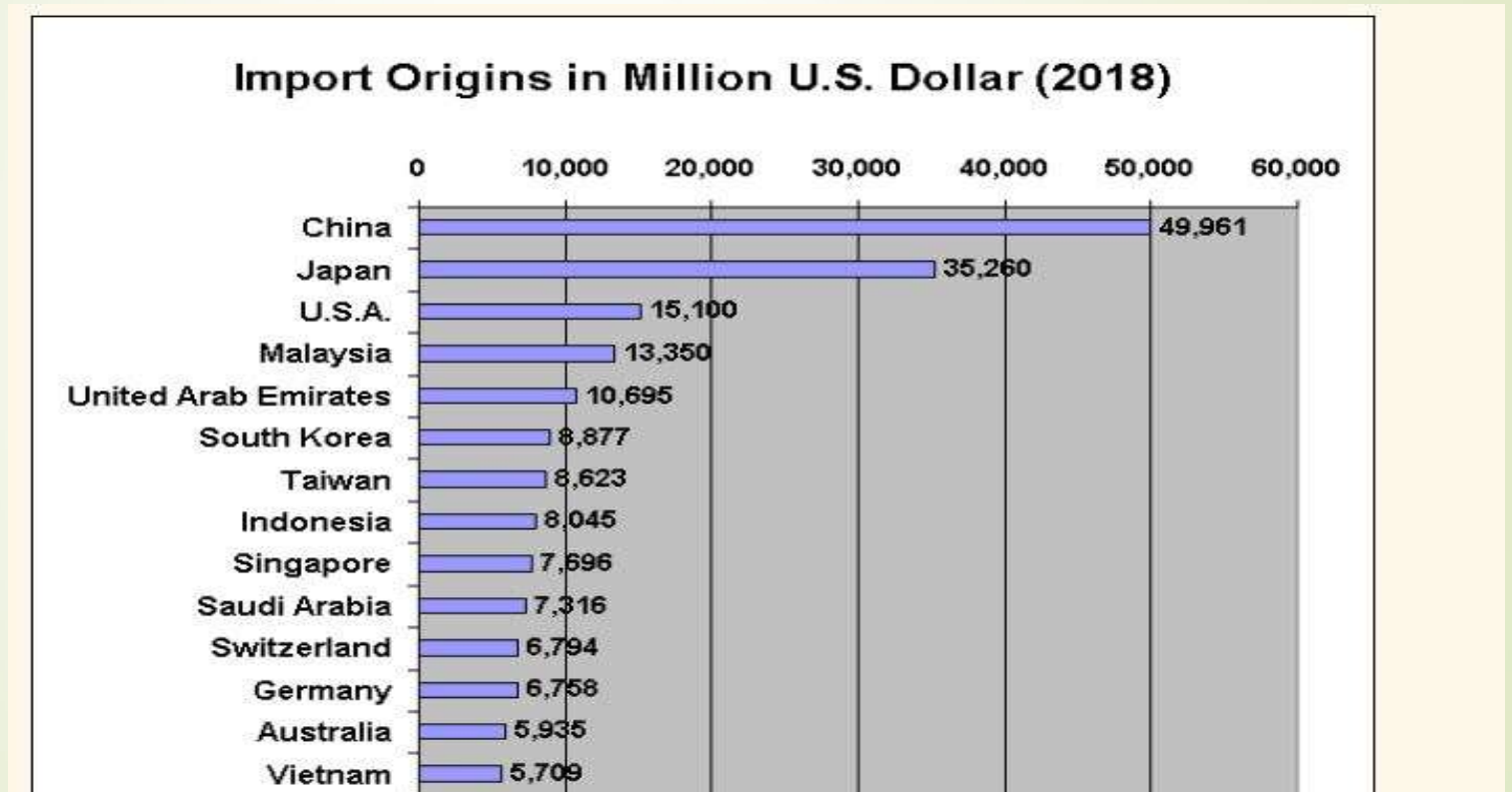
Source: [http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2018-09/07/content\\_9275202.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2018-09/07/content_9275202.htm)

# Thai-China Economic Relations (1)



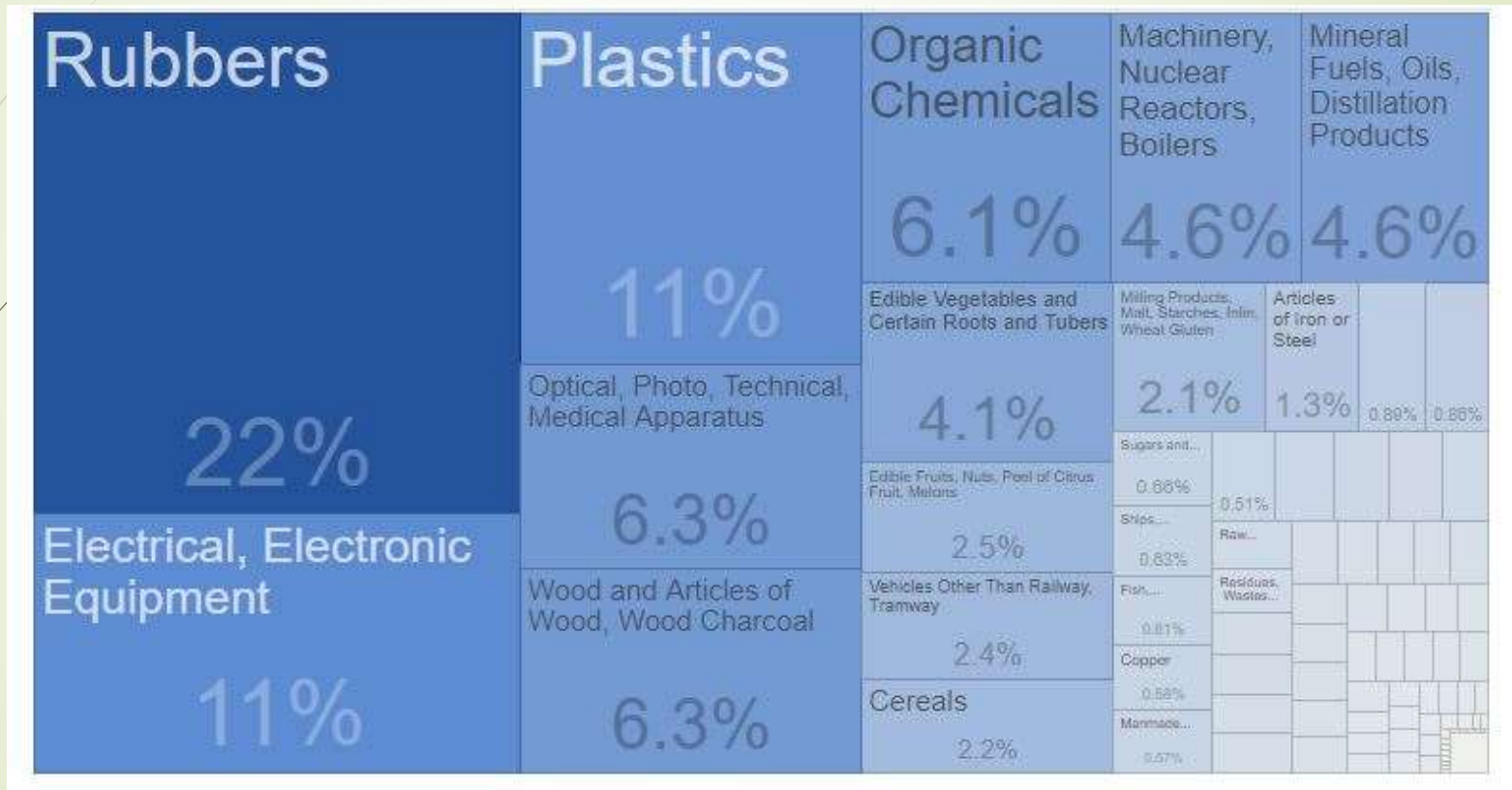
<http://www.thaiwebsites.com/imports-exports.asp>

## Thai-China Economic Relations (2)



<http://www.thaiwebsites.com/imports-exports.asp>

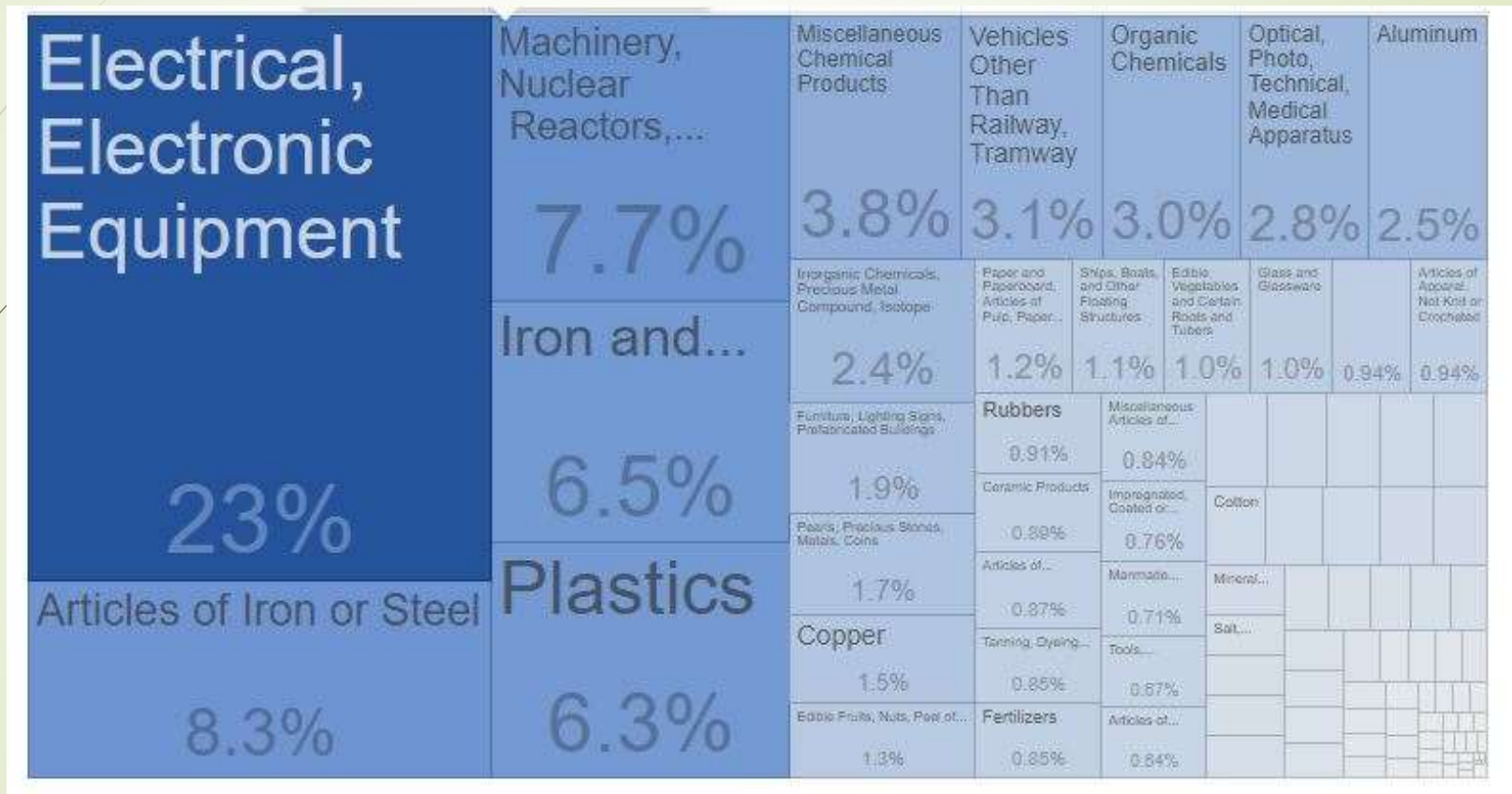
# Thailand Exports to China



<https://tradingeconomics.com/thailand/exports/china>



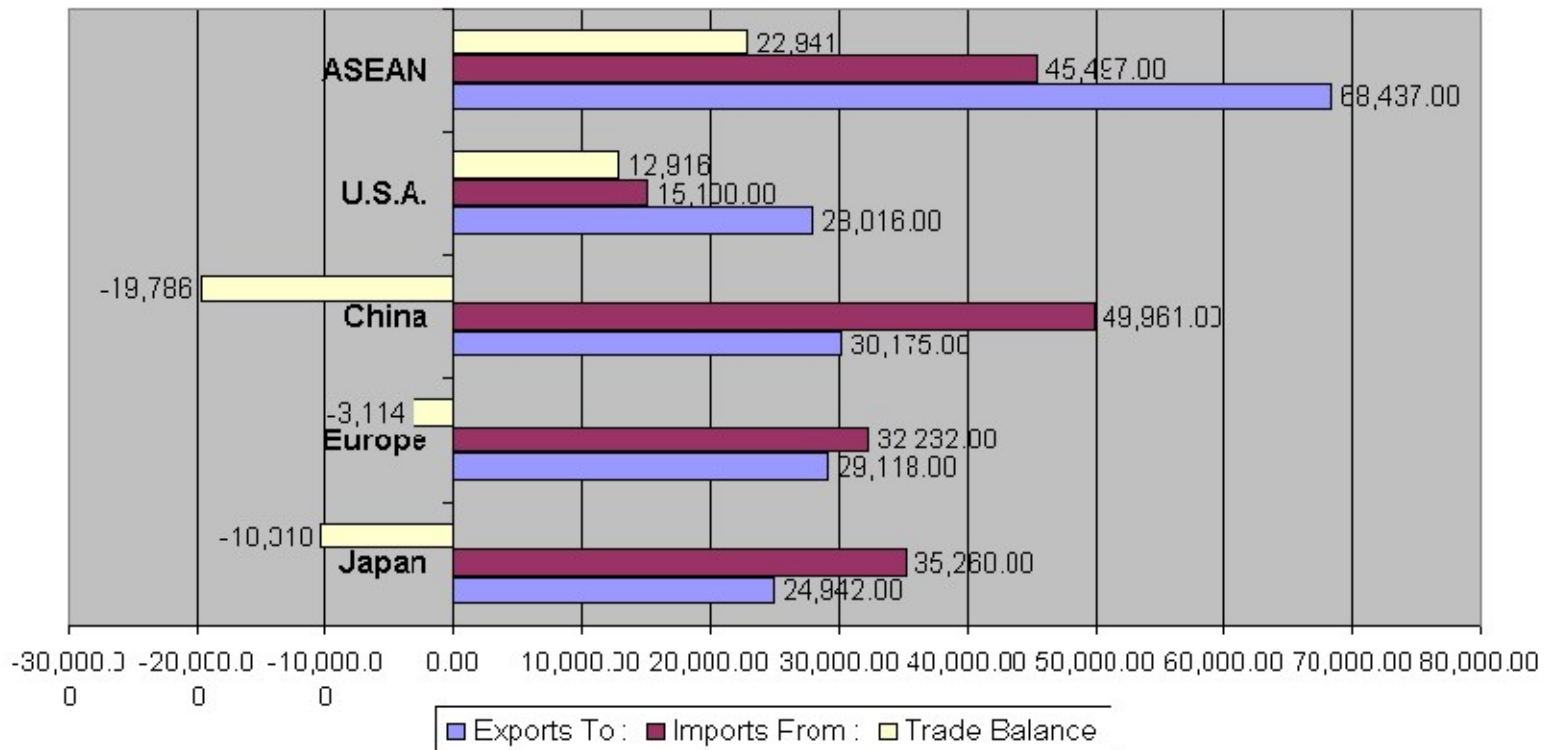
# Thailand Imports from China



<https://tradingeconomics.com/thailand/imports/china>



### Exports, Imports, Trade Balance (2018) Millions of U.S. Dollars



## Conclusions and Policy Recommendations for Thailand

- ▶ the social, economic and political problems Thailand is facing currently require it to lean toward China. This policy has to date produced positive results.
- ▶ however, Thailand should try to walk on the middle ground by maintaining the balance of power in the region → “bending with the wind” policy
- ▶ Thailand should promote multilateral cooperation in Southeast Asia rather than focusing on bilateral cooperation with any major powers