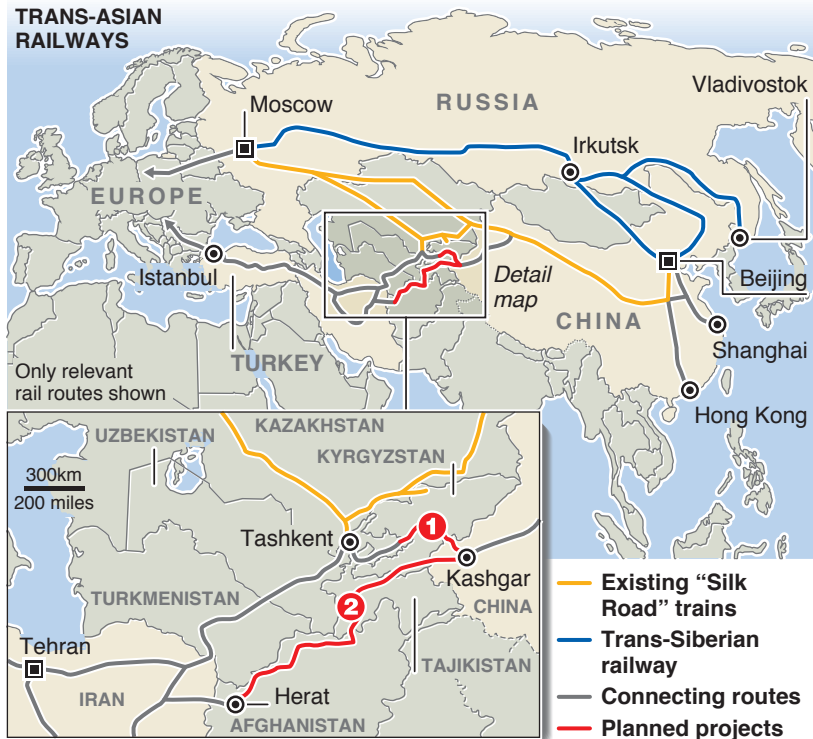


China planning Central Asian rail corridor

China is aiming to connect its existing rail network to lucrative markets in Turkey and Europe with a "Silk Road" rail route through central Asia

TRANS-ASIAN RAILWAYS



1 China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway: Planned 268km line under negotiation since 1997

2 Iran-China railway: Direct link between China, Iran and Turkey – all three use same rail gauge