

Debt trap on China's new "Silk Road"

China's "Belt and Road Initiative" (BRI) is reportedly burying some countries under massive debt. Of the 68 countries involved, eight are vulnerable to debt distress, owing almost \$18 billion to Beijing

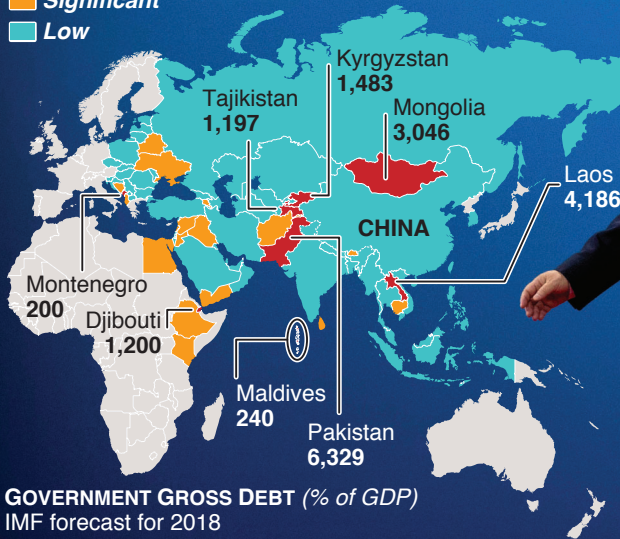
DEBT RISK BY COUNTRY

Figures show debt to China (\$ millions)

High

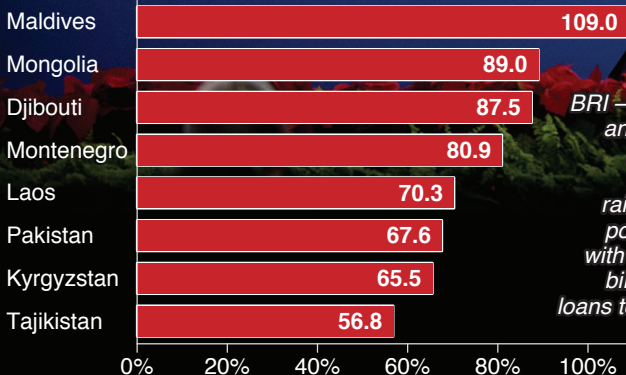
Significant

Low



President Xi Jinping denies Beijing is engaging in "debt diplomacy"

GOVERNMENT GROSS DEBT (% of GDP) IMF forecast for 2018



BRI – "New Silk Road" announced by Xi in 2013 – envisions construction of railways, roads and ports across globe, with Beijing providing billions of dollars in loans to many countries