

# China's risky Silk Road lending

Launched in 2013 by President Xi Jinping, China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has left countries across much of the developing world struggling under onerous debt loads



**Sri Lanka: Lotus Tower**, bankrolled by Beijing, remains unfinished after 10 years of construction. **Xi Jinping:** Signature economic idea to create new Chinese-led world order

**Sovereign loans** (\$bn – government backed, 2000-17)  
**Hidden debt** (\$bn – does not appear on government balance sheets)

