



[Russia and China Renew Their Friendship and Cooperation Treaty](#)

This week, the leaders of Russia and China renewed their friendship and cooperation treaty, as the two countries seek to strengthen their shared interests and standing on the world stage. The move comes amid strained relations between the respective regimes and the West, with Russian President Putin and Chinese President Xi hoping that it will serve as a mutual benefit to both parties. Putin expressed that the original signing of the agreement back in 2001 had helped lead to the current positive state of Russian-Sino ties, with the latest renewal extending the treaty for an additional five years. Putin and Xi have also highlighted the importance of their strategic relationship, particularly in the face of deteriorating ones with the United States and its Western allies due to legitimate concerns regarding serious human rights abuses committed by the ruling governments in both Russia and China. Ultimately, through the renewal of the pact, the signatories will strive to solidify their trade and security ties while also protecting each nation's global foreign policy agenda.

Russia is interested in this friendship treaty continuation with China because a strong ally will bolster its standing against the West. The partnership also enables economic development within both nations as a result of trade increases and the strengthening of ties. Russia is facing significant pressure from the United States and western Europe, which has made it difficult to pursue its interests across the globe. As such, having a partner like China will give Russia more weight in its diplomatic endeavors. However, the drawback for Russia is the complications that might arise if its relations with China evolve into substantial dependence. While Russia and China's economic ties are mutually beneficial and military cooperation is useful, mistrust may play a major factor. Russia wants a hefty ally but is also wary of one which could overpower its own influence. This dynamic of the relationship will force Russia to consider Chinese interests when engaging in various actions, such as selling arms to certain nations.

Meanwhile, China has much to gain from the extension of the treaty without a lot of risk. The strengthening of ties between the two nations allows China to obtain resources from Russia and dictate the terms of the trade deals because of the latter's need for the economic investment. China also gains the benefit of having Russia back their interests abroad and support within the United Nations. This gives China the credibility it needs to oppose the nations which have been increasingly critical of its repressive behavior. Russia also offers China military advancements and support which can aid in its Pacific Ocean territorial disputes. The only downside that China faces is that Russia will disapprove of China expanding its influence into the Russian sphere. This may cause issues as China invests into those nations but overall, China gains much more from the partnership than they risk.

The United States faces multiple issues when confronted with a strong Russia-China relationship. First, the support that Russia and China provide each other in the United Nations is a reoccurring issue for the U.S. when resolutions are subject to denial. Additionally, the U.S. and its allies have put increasing pressure on Russia and a strong partner like China would make the implementation of sanctions, for example, more difficult to achieve. China may also have more leverage to increase its influence in the Pacific region. Finally, a unified force of China and Russia could pose considerable opposition to U.S. interests across the globe. In the end, it remains to be seen how these variables play out and whether the strengthening of Russian-Sino ties is still held back by a sense of mistrust between the regimes in the two countries.