

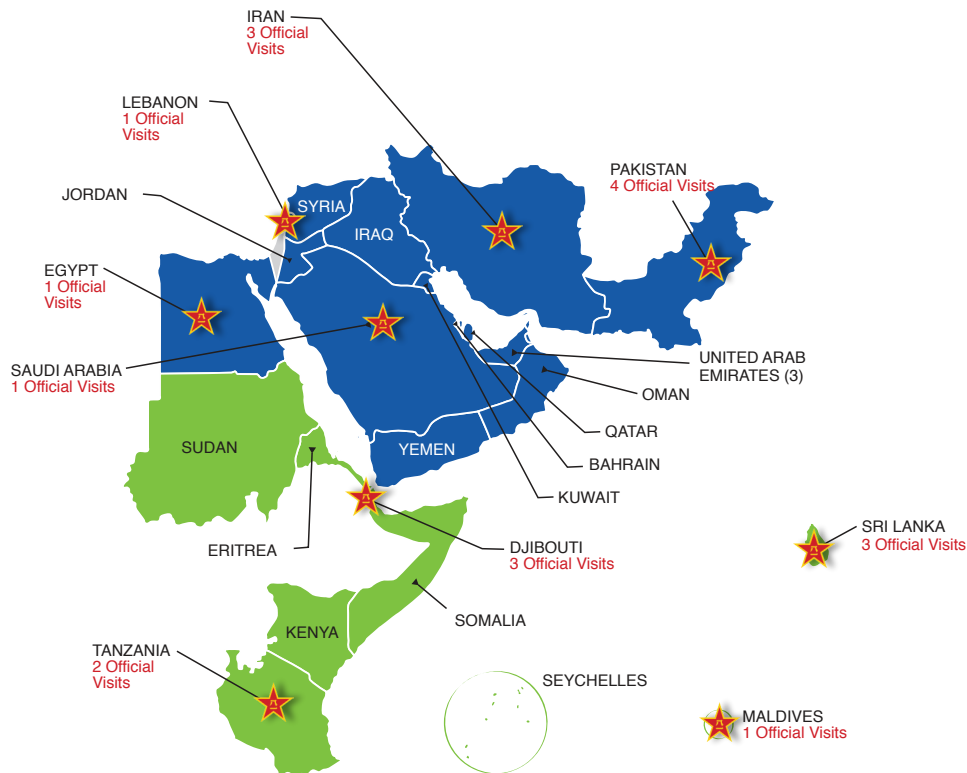
AT A GLANCE



MILITARY

In 2017, China officially opened its first overseas base in Djibouti. Located directly on the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, this base provides China with a permanent military facility along a critical waterway.

DIPLOMATIC: PLA SENIOR OFFICER VISITS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN REGION, 2013–2016



Source: Data derived from Allen, Saunders, and Chen, "Chinese Military Diplomacy, 2003–2016: Trends and Implications."

ECONOMIC



INFORMATION



Sources: See section in References entitled "Sources of Information on Chinese Port Development."

Instead of looking for a proxy in the Middle East, China promotes peace talks; instead of seeking any sphere of influence, China calls on all countries to join the circle of friends for the "Belt and Road"; instead of attempting to fill the "vacuum", China builds a cooperative partnership network for mutual benefits and win-win results.

President Xi Jinping speaking at the Arab League Headquarters in Cairo, Egypt, January 2016