

WHAT CHINA CARES ABOUT BELARUS: ANALYSIS BASED ON THE CHINA NATIONAL KNOWLEDGE INFRASTRUCTURE DATABASE (1992—2022)

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The article examines the key performance indicators of the China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI) database. Through metrological research and visual analysis of relevant literature, the author explores the hotspot and Chinese strategic cooperation with Belarus.

Keywords: Belarus; China; CNKI; visual analysis; knowledge graph.

ЧТО ВОЛНУЕТ КИТАЙ В БЕЛАРУСИ: АНАЛИЗ НА ОСНОВЕ БАЗЫ ДАННЫХ КИТАЙСКОЙ НАЦИОНАЛЬНОЙ ИНФРАСТРУКТУРЫ ЗНАНИЙ (1992—2022 гг.)

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В статье рассматриваются ключевые показатели эффективности базы данных Китайской национальной инфраструктуры знаний. С помощью метрологических исследований и визуального анализа соответствующей литературы автор исследует «горячие точки» и стратегическое сотрудничество Китайской Народной Республики с Республикой Беларусь.

Ключевые слова: Беларусь; Китай; Китайская национальная инфраструктура знаний; визуальный анализ; граф знаний.

In 1992, China and Belarus established diplomatic relations in 1992, kicking off more than 30 years of strengthening bilateral ties and overall cooperation. Cooperation, in particular, has produced positive achievements in the economy, trade, science, and technology [1—3]. Judging from the research literature, what is China most concerned about in Belarus, or what does China Care about Belarus? The study delves into the Belarus-focused literature from 1992 to 2022 using data visualization and statistical analysis to further visually present research in order to provide a comprehensive understanding of China's research landscape on Belarus, analyze research highlights and fronts, and serve as a reference for the development of bilateral relations and the potential for research cooperation.

Data and methods. The data for this study came from the China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI) database. The CNKI electronic platform was developed in order to combine important Chinese knowledge-based information resources. It is the most authoritative, comprehensive, and largest source of China-based information resources in the world, reflecting the latest developments in Chinese politics, economics, humanity and social science, science and technology. The search lasted from January 1, 1992, to December 31, 2022, using "Belarus" and other keywords as the main subject. The search was limited to Chinese words. There were 5,362 valid Chinese documents in total, and important information was retrieved in RIS format for visual examination and application.

Analysis. With the help of Citespace software and VOSviewer software, the study employed data visualization and statistical analysis — Annual Review, Cited Frequency, Topics, Institutions, Journals and Keywords, to observe the current status of research about Belarus, identify hot spots and analyze research trend. The study used data visualization and statistical applications such as Citespace and VOSviewer.

From January 1, 1992, to December 31, 2022, CNKI yielded a total of 5362 items about Belarus, including 3561 journals, 73 conferences, 595 master and doctorate works, and 728 newspaper pieces.

Annual review. The number of Belarus-related literary publications increased overall throughout the 30-year period from 1992 to 2022. A boom in Belarus-related research occurred in 2010, probably as a result of the complete transfer of a critical military industrial line to China that year. The formation of a comprehensive strategic partnership in 2013 and the launch of the Belt and Road initiative at the same time constituted a watershed moment. There was a temporary decrease from 2011 to 2013, followed by a general increase in publications in other years. Refer to Fig. 1 for annual publication figures.

Citation frequency. In the top 10 Belarus-related articles in descending order based on citations, only the eighth article *A study on current situation, problems and countermeasures of Confucius institutes in the countries along the Belt and Road initiative — Taking Confucius institutes in Belarus as an example* [5], contains the word "Belarus" in the title. Other articles explore Belarus as a study case or incorporate Belarus as a research object. Meanwhile, the most often referenced article in this list was published in *linguistic Strategy Research* in 2016 by Wang Hui and Wang Yalan, focusing on the linguistic situation of nations along the Belt and Road route, with a total citation frequency of 257 times

Meanwhile, in these 10 highly cited articles, the most frequently cited article was published by Wang Hui and Wang Yalan in *Language Strategy Research* in 2016, mainly on the language status of countries along the Belt and Road route, with a total citation frequency of 257 times [6]. Furthermore,

six of the ten articles either directly or indirectly mention the Belt and Road initiative.

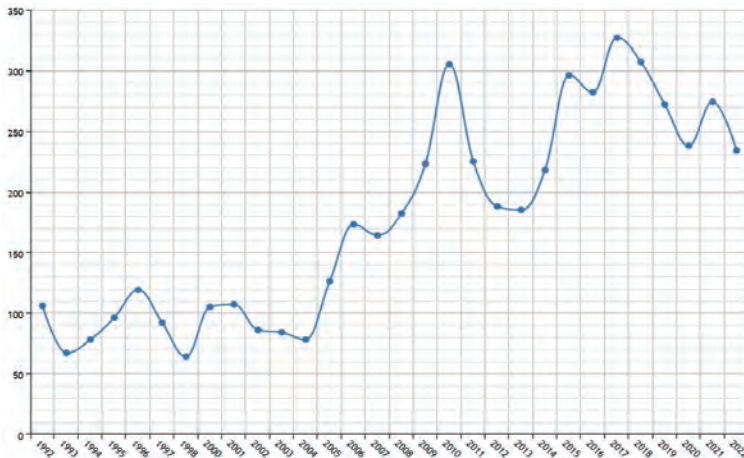


Fig. 1. Annual distribution of published literature in Belarus [4]

Topics. There are 5,362 Belarus-related papers in several scientific fields: 987 about Chinese politics and international politics (25.22 %), 838 about industrial economy (21.42 %), 702 about economic system reform (17.94 %), 491 about trade (12.55 %), 258 about sports (6.59 %), 139 about railway transportation (3.55 %), 136 about transport economy (3.48 %), 134 about military (3.42%), 123 about finances (3.14 %), 105 about agricultural economy (2.68%). According to the findings, the articles about Belarus mainly related to Chinese politics and worldwide politics. The results are shown in Fig. 2.

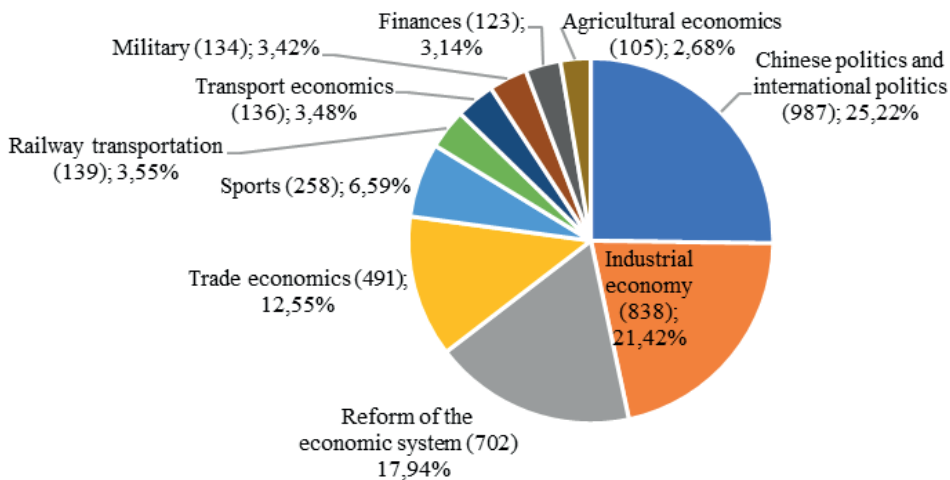


Fig. 2. Figure 2 Subject distribution of Belarus-related articles [5]

Institutions. As shown in Fig. 3, the Top 10 institutes that published Belarus-related articles include: the Institute of Russian, Eastern European, and Central Asian Studies of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (83 publications), East China Normal University (60), Beijing Sport University (39), Xinjiang University of Finance & Economics (38), Jilin University (30), Heilongjiang University (30), China Foreign Affairs University (29), Northeast Normal University (29), and Northeast Normal University (29). In terms of numbers of Belarus-related research, the Institute of Russian, Eastern European, and Central Asian Studies of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and East China Normal University rank first and second, respectively.

Journals. The top 10 journals, in which published Belarus-related articles, are shown in Fig. 4. Eurasian Economy is the journal with the highest number of Belarus-related articles, totaling 164 articles. At the same time, the list includes journals such as People's Daily, World Affairs, Far East Longitude Trade Guide, Xinhua Daily Telegraph, Foreign Nuclear News, Russian, East European & Central Asian Studies, Global Times, Russian Studies, Chongqing and the World. Several of these journals are affiliated with newspapers, indicating an increased focus on Belarus in current affairs.

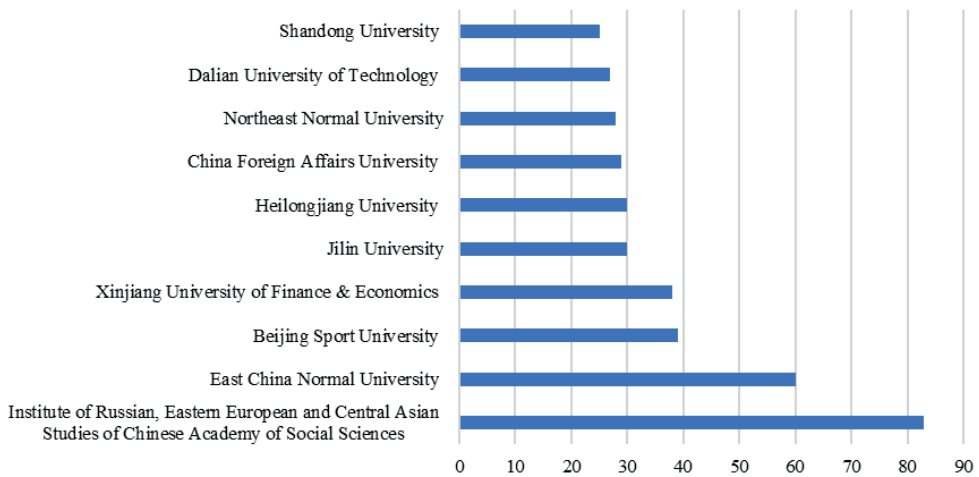


Fig. 3. Top 10 institutions with the largest number of Belarus related research publications [5]

Keywords. Keywords are used to identify the research highlights and fronts in this subject. The study on Belarus is most closely connected to terms such as Russia, Minsk, the Commonwealth of Independent States [7], the Belt and Road initiative [8; 9], and the Eurasian Economic Union, according to the co-occurrence matrix analysis (Fig. 5).

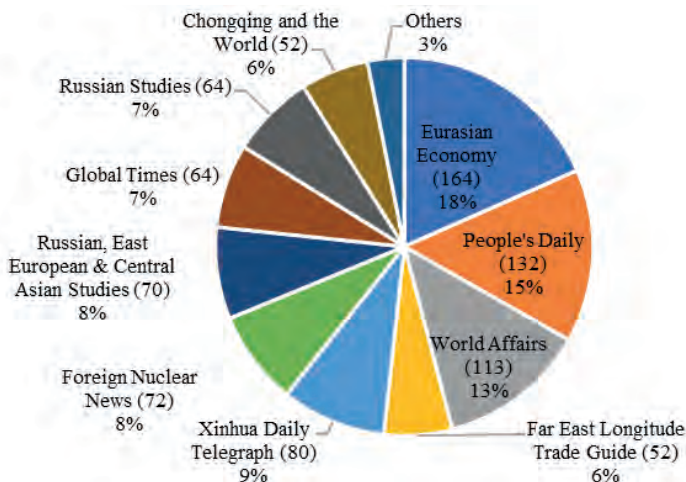


Fig. 4. Top 10 journals in terms of published Belarus-related articles [5]

Conclusion and discussion. In conclusion, China continues to prioritize its own interests and strategies. Simultaneously, there is an increasing emphasis on sharing the research results on the development of relations with Belarus, particularly in the economic sphere. The study's major findings show that the resemblance between Belarus and Russia in the Chinese setting has resulted in the overshadowing of Belarus-related research.

This paper conducts a systematic analysis of the development status and research highlights of 5,362 articles about Belarus during the 30 years from CNKI 1992 to 2022. The results indicate an increasing number of publications, with highly cited articles focusing on political economy, Belt and Road, language policy, etc.; the results suggest that Chinese politics and international political issues are of significant concern regarding Belarus; the journal with the highest number of published articles is Eurasian Economy. According to the analysis of the co-occurrence matrix, the research about is most closely related to keywords such as Russia, Minsk, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Belt and Road initiative, and the Eurasian Economic Union.

There are also constraints to studying Belarus in Chinese academic circles. Firstly, despite being one of the examples, there is a lack of professional study literature on Belarus. Secondly, a bigger volume of material occurs in newspapers and popular reads than in academic research, resulting in less in-depth research. Finally, in the Chinese academic community, the majority of the work is centered in the political and economic spheres, with inadequate attention paid to the many levels and aspects of Belarus.

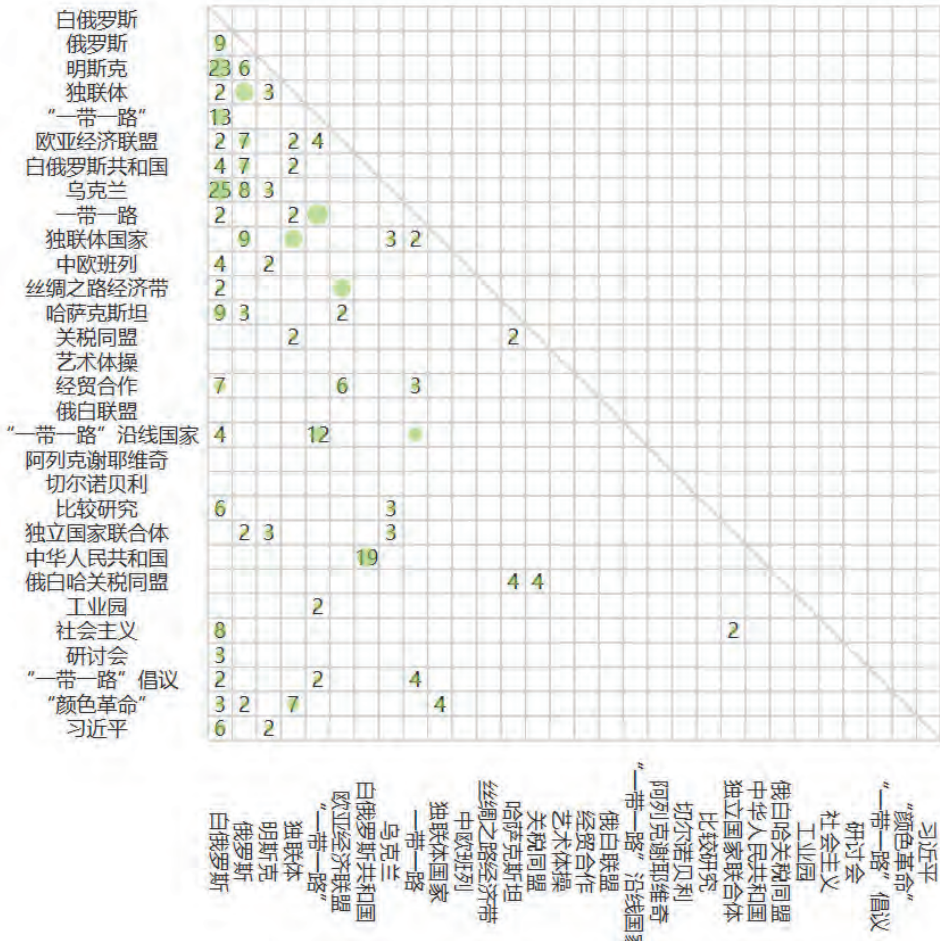


Fig. 5. Co-occurrence matrix analysis of keywords in Belarus research [5]

China's study on Belarus still has a long way to go, and it will need the backing of key national policies as well as the attention of researchers from many disciplines [10]. People will never forget that during the early stages of the COVID-19 outbreak, a special IL-76 jet flew 20 tons of anti-epidemic materials to China, and that the Chinese government sent seven batches of vaccinations and preventive and control equipment to Belarus. Mutual support and close collaboration between the Chinese and Belarusian people demonstrate the high degree and uniqueness of bilateral ties and tell a genuine narrative of shared fortunes in difficult times.

In general, the relationship between the two countries still largely relies on high-level national interaction, such as the head of state diplomacy [1]. With the expansion of mutual research activities and the deepening of mutual understanding, China-Belarus relations are poised to enter a new phase characterized by renewed vitality in China-Belarus cooperation across various fields.

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