

ALL ROADS LEAD TO CHINA

Darwin is a tropical port city in Australia's Northern Territory. We visited Darwin last winter on a trip to that part of the world. Most of Australia's natural resource exports such as oil, gas and gold ship from there. 75% of Australia's exports now go to China. In 2015, China signed a 99-year lease to control the port. Not too many Americans are aware of this.

Silk Road All Over Again

The Port of Darwin is just one of dozens of ports Chinese companies control in over 30 countries. They also control ports in Oman, Malaysia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Cambodia. It's part of their \$1 trillion Belt and Road Initiative – an enormous network of land and sea routes connecting China to Europe, Southeast Asia and Africa.

Why does this matter? If you control the trade routes, you control the trade. When these projects are done in 2025, China's system of ports, railroads, pipelines and factories will cover more than 60 countries and touch 25% of all goods and services sent around the world.

In addition, China has built seven man-made islands in the South China Sea. They have installed air and naval bases on them. This aggressive move by China is getting a lot of countries riled up.

Americans know all the salacious details of our politicians and movie stars but not nearly as much on important global affairs like this.



Liz Uihlein

.....AND THEN SOME TO WISCONSIN

There are 90 miles between Milwaukee and Chicago. In between these two Midwest cities there is a lot of space, sometimes endless cornfields and water. Uline moved our corporate headquarters across the Illinois border to Wisconsin 8 years ago because we needed space. Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin, had plenty of it.

WELCOME TO
WISCONSIN



Sensing Silicon Valley and Boston are two tapped out, expensive high-tech areas, a company called Foxconn decided to place a big bet on southeastern Wisconsin for a new technology hub. Today, Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker is calling this corridor "Wisconn Valley."

The Taiwanese electronics giant is best known for manufacturing Apple components. In Wisconsin, they will be building advanced 8K flat screen displays and working on high-speed 5G cellular products. They broke ground on a \$10 billion manufacturing facility right in our backyard. Foxconn is saying this will create 13,000 jobs and thousands more through an extensive supply chain.

There are a lot of farm fields here. I sure wish I had bought some land. New houses are selling like "Hotcakes" right now.

Geography certainly is interesting these days.