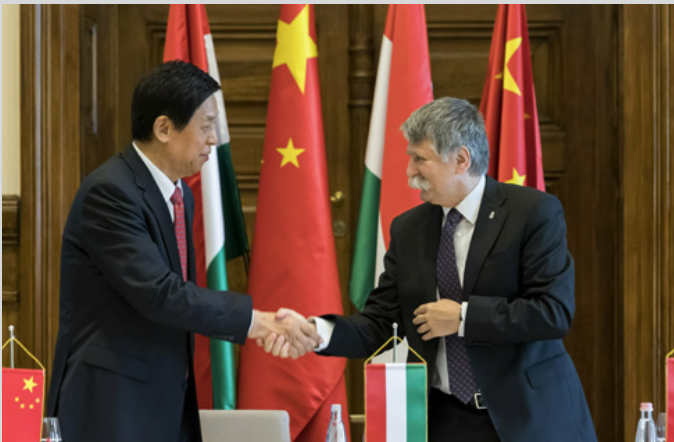




IRI'S COUNTERING FOREIGN AUTHORITARIAN INFLUENCE PRACTICE

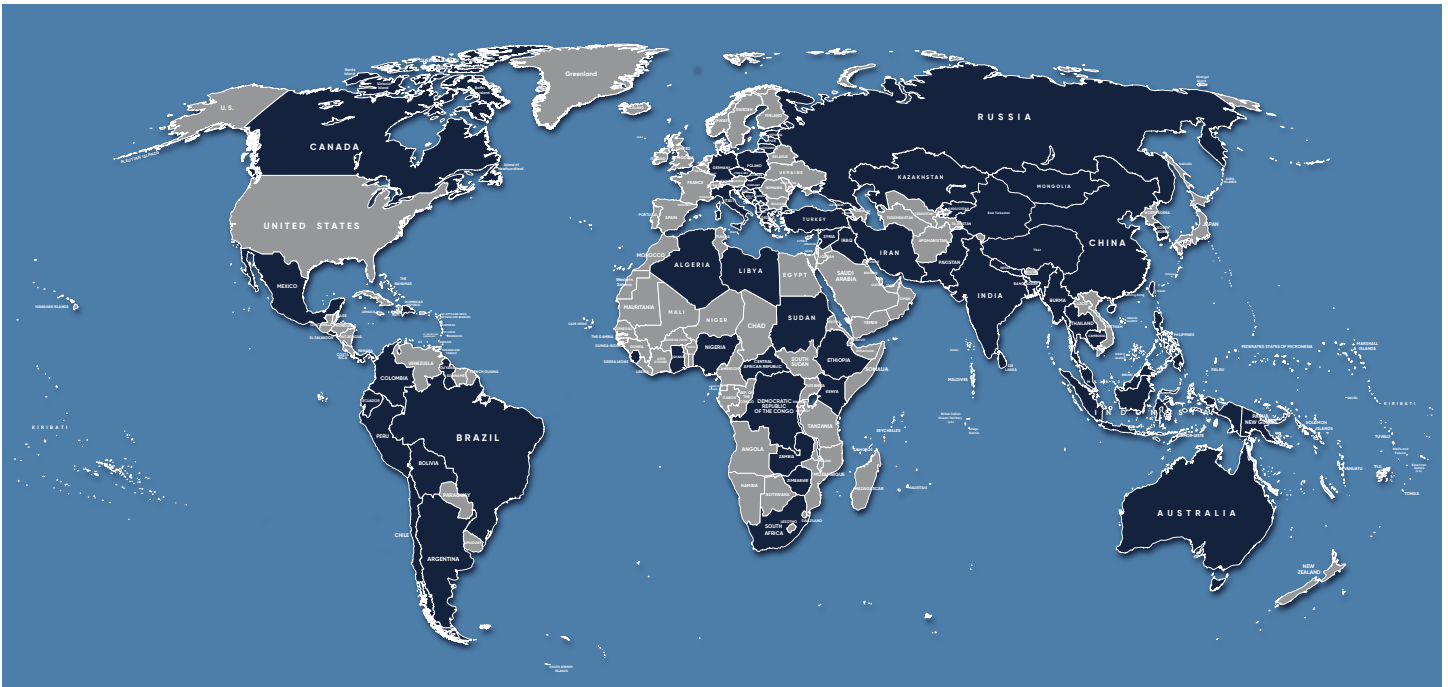


More than ever, foreign authoritarian actors like the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and Putin's regime in Russia are taking an increasingly aggressive approach to exerting influence in democracies around the world. Utilizing economic coercion, information operations, and an expanding digital toolkit, these repressive states are bolstering autocrats and contributing to the erosion of democracy.

IRI's Approach

To help bolster democracies against the corrosive effects of this rising authoritarian tide, IRI's Countering Foreign Authoritarian (CFAI) programming equips civil society, the media, government officials, political parties, and the private sector with the knowledge and tools to expose and counter foreign authoritarian influence. IRI takes a three-step approach to countering foreign authoritarian influence:

1. **Sharing** research on how the PRC or the Kremlin undermine democratic processes and governance institutions;
2. **Empowering** local stakeholders with the means to conduct similar research independently; the skills to craft and message targeted advocacy campaigns to hold leaders accountable; and the tools and resources to devise and advance policy solutions that bolster their country's resilience to external influence; and
3. **Catalyzing** the development and adoption of responsive policy solutions.



IRI's Countering Foreign Authoritarian Influence Work around the World

Latin American and the Caribbean

IRI has conducted stakeholder dialogues and policy workshops in Mexico, Argentina, and Ecuador. Working with partners in media and civil society, IRI is supporting projects exposing the corrosive elements of Russia and China's engagement across the region, raising awareness about how these issues impact fundamental freedoms and undermine democracy.

Eurasia

Field offices in Ukraine have been at the forefront of IRI's approach to countering Kremlin influence. In Central Asia, IRI is addressing the impact of Kremlin and CCP influence in the information space.

The Middle East

IRI partners in Middle East and North Africa regularly advise key stakeholders on Iranian and Chinese influence; disseminate investigative research to local audiences on social media; use satirical sketches on TV and online to call out authoritarian practices. IRI convened pollsters, CSOs, journalists, and policymakers for a regional roundtable on Iranian and Chinese influence in early 2022.

Africa

IRI partners in Ghana and Nigeria are cultivating networks of journalists and civil society activists to build democratic resilience to foreign authoritarian influence through knowledge and information sharing on effective

approaches for exposing PRC influence and media campaigns to promote broader awareness of the impact of such influence on democracy. IRI also works with youth from across the continent to build democratic resilience to foreign authoritarian influence among emerging leaders.

Europe

In Europe, IRI convenes parliamentarians and other stakeholders to discuss openly the risks of engagement with China and the CCP, enhance public discourse, and develop regionally-responsive policy solutions.

Through the Beacon project, IRI bolsters vulnerable democracies' ability to track and identify narratives injected by malign actors, conducting extensive quantitative and qualitative public opinion research and media-monitoring focusing on vulnerabilities to disinformation narratives in Central-Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans. IRI uses this data to inform policymakers and develop integrated responses.

Asia

Across the Indo-Pacific, IRI is working with partners to expose and counter CCP information operations and to bolster democratic resilience in response. Areas of focus include increasing transparency around BRI projects in Mongolia and Malaysia and supporting investigative research and video reporting on PRC influence across Sri Lanka.

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