

TÍTULO DA TESE EM INGLÊS: Portugal and the Port of Sines in the Chinese Grand Geoeconomics Strategy: Belt and Road Initiative

ABSTRACT

In 1978, with the reforms implemented by Deng Xiaoping, the People's Republic of China began a new cycle focused on economic development that made it compete for world leadership with the United States of America in less than four decades. Its reemergence, in a world dominated by globalization, depends more and more on international trade relations. The BRI is, in a way, a means of projecting its economic power globally, so as to be able to export the excess of its productive capacity, while guaranteeing the supply of resources that it needs for the sustainability of its economy and consequently the maintenance of its political system.

In this context, the present dissertation aims to understand the potential that the integration of Portugal will have in the interconnectivity of this Chinese initiative worldwide. In particular, it seeks to ascertain how the location of the Port of Sines at the westernmost point of Eurasia, along with the exceptional technical characteristics of the port increases the possibility of Portugal being included in the Chinese official documents as part of the BRI.

Keywords: Strategy, Geoeconomy, People's Republic of China, Portugal, *Belt & Road Initiative*, Port of Sines