

Política Internacional e Geopolítica

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PARTE I – TEMA PRINCIPAL

O regresso da questão nuclear da Coreia do Norte (1) [FONTE: Encyclopaedia Britannica]



O regresso da questão nuclear da Coreia do Norte (2) [FONTE: Encyclopædia Britannica]



O regresso da questão nuclear da Coreia do Norte (3) [FONTE: Guardian, 18/03/2021]

China must persuade North Korea to give up nuclear weapons, says Blinken



▲ Antony Blinken spoke at a joint press conference after he and the US defence secretary met South Korea's foreign minister and defence minister in Seoul. Photograph: Getty Images

China must use its “tremendous influence” to persuade **North Korea** to abandon its nuclear weapons, the US secretary of state, Antony Blinken, has said, hours after the regime said it would ignore requests by a “hostile” US to resume negotiations.

Blinken said **China** had a “critical role” to play in influencing North Korea given its status as the impoverished state’s main trading partner and diplomatic ally.

O regresso da questão nuclear da Coreia do Norte (4) [FONTE: Guardian, 18/03/2021]

Blinken and the US national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, are to meet China's top diplomat, Yang Jiechi, and the state councillor, Wang Yi, in Anchorage, Alaska, on Thursday - the first face-to-face talks between senior officials from the two countries since Joe Biden took office.

“Beijing has an interest, a clear self-interest in helping to pursue denuclearisation of [North Korea] because it is a source of instability. It is a source of danger and obviously a threat to us and our partners,” Blinken told reporters in Seoul after he and the US defence secretary, Lloyd Austin, had met their South Korean counterparts.

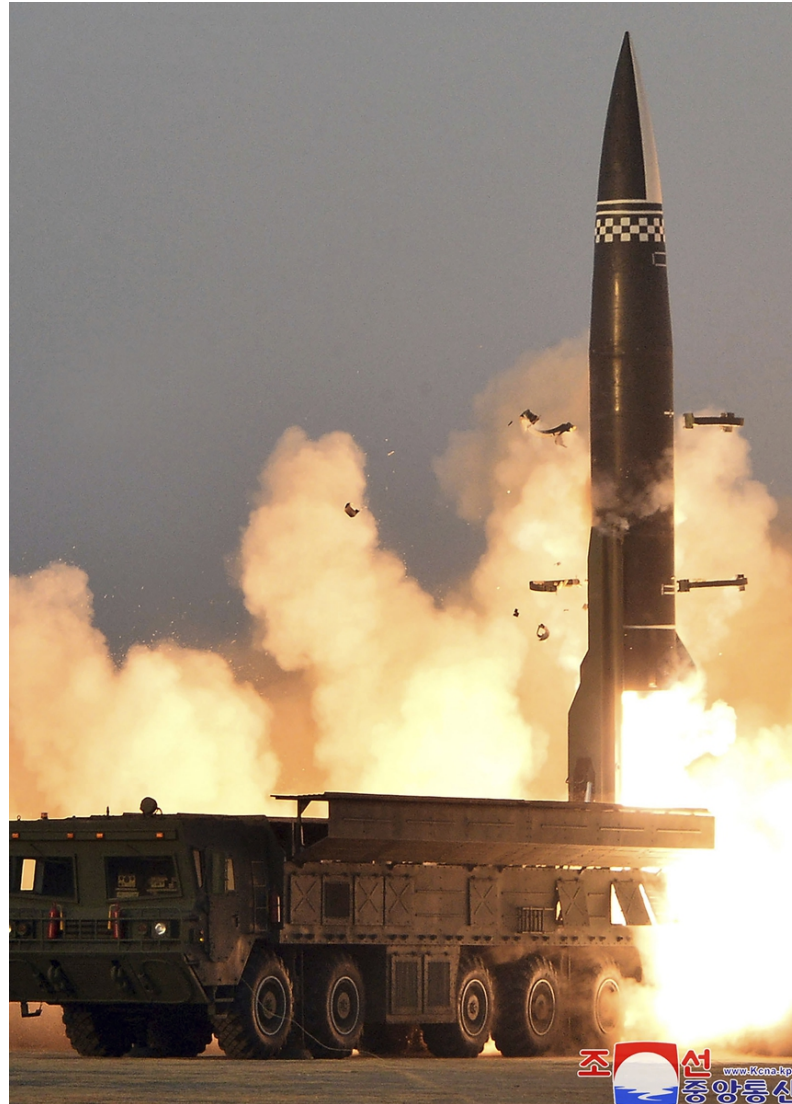
As a permanent member of the UN security council, China was also duty-bound to fully enforce sanctions imposed on North Korea in response to its nuclear weapon and ballistic missile programmes, Blinken said.

Biden inherited a diplomatic stalemate from Donald Trump, who failed to make progress on denuclearisation after three meetings with the North Korean leader, [Kim Jong-un](#).

North Korea's first vice foreign minister, Choe Son-hui, confirmed on Thursday that Washington had been reaching out to the regime since mid-February, but that it had not responded.

Choe described the US approach as a “time-delaying trick”, adding that North Korea would continue to ignore offers of talks unless Washington dropped its “hostile” stance.

O regresso da questão nuclear da Coreia do Norte (5) [FONTE: Global Times, 26/03/2021]



Korean Central News Agency reported that North Korea test-fired newly developed new-type tactical guided missiles on Thursday. It was the first ballistic missile launches by North Korea in about a year. Photo: VCG

O regresso da questão nuclear da Coreia do Norte (6) [FONTE: BBC, 25/03/2021]

North Korea fires two ballistic missiles into Sea of Japan



North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's return to testing missiles will be getting the attention of the White House

North Korea has fired two ballistic missiles into the Sea of Japan, says the US and Japan - the first such test since Joe Biden became US president.

Pyongyang is banned from testing ballistic missiles, considered threatening weapons, under UN Security Council resolutions.

Both Japan and South Korea have condemned the test.

It comes just days after North Korea reportedly fired two non-ballistic missiles into the Yellow Sea.

O regresso da questão nuclear da Coreia do Norte (7) [FONTE: Reuters, 24/03/2021]

U.S. POLICY CHALLENGE

Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul, said Biden's North Korea policy review would come within the context of the administration's strategy on China, North Korea's only major ally.

"North Korea's military activities after reaffirming ties with Beijing raise questions about how China is complicit in sanctions evasion and may be enabling the Kim regime's threats to the region. This will increase calls in the U.S. and elsewhere to sanction Chinese firms involved in illicit trade," he said.

North Korea has not tested a nuclear weapon or its longest-range intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) since 2017, ahead of an historic meeting between leader Kim Jong Un and former U.S. President Donald Trump in 2018.

In early 2018, North Korea announced a moratorium on testing nuclear weapons and ICBMs, though it says it no longer feels bound by that after negotiations with the Trump administration faltered.

Biden's diplomatic overtures to North Korea have similarly gone unanswered, and the North said it would not engage until the United States ceased hostile policies and military exercises with South Korea.

Analysts have noted a change in wording from previous U.S. administrations, emphasising the "denuclearisation of North Korea" rather than the whole peninsula - a position likely to be anathema to Pyongyang.

O regresso da questão nuclear da Coreia do Norte (8) [FONTE: Japan Times, 27/03/2021]

North Korea accuses Biden of 'provocation' and warns of 'consequences'

Seoul –



A man watches a television screen at Suseo Station in Seoul on Friday showing news footage of North Korea's missile test. AFP-JIJI | AFP-JIJI

North Korea threatened a further military build-up on Saturday in response to Joe Biden's condemnation of this week's missile launches, a weapons test that marked Pyongyang's first substantive provocation since the U.S. president took office.

O regresso da questão nuclear da Coreia do Norte (9) [FONTE: Japan Times, 27/03/2021]

Following the launch, Biden labeled the test a violation of U.N. resolutions and advised the isolated state against ramping up military testing, warning that "there will be responses if they choose to escalate."

Ri Pyong Chol, a leading official in North Korea's missile program who supervised the test, said the president's comments had revealed his "deep-seated hostility" to the regime.

"Such remarks from the U.S. president are an undisguised encroachment on our state's right to self-defense and provocation to it," Ri said in a statement published by state media outlet KCNA.

Ri said Pyongyang was expressing its "deep apprehension over the U.S. chief executive faulting the regular testfire, (an) exercise of our state's right to self-defense, as the violation of U.N. 'resolutions.'"

"If the U.S. continues with its thoughtless remarks without thinking of the consequences, it may be faced with something that is not good," he added, warning that North Korea was prepared to "continue to increase our most thoroughgoing and overwhelming military power."

The comments came at a time when Washington is in the final stages of a policy review on North Korea, with signals of a firm line on denuclearization, sanctions and human rights.

O regresso da questão nuclear da Coreia do Norte (10) [FONTE: Japan Times, 27/03/2021]

Biden's approach so far demonstrates a change of tone from Trump, who engaged in an extraordinary diplomatic bromance with Kim and last year repeatedly played down similar short-range launches.

Officials of the administration say they have sought to reach out to Pyongyang through several channels but have received no response so far.

"Kim Jong Un intends to use provocations to demand concessions but may end up increasing international resolve for North Korea's denuclearization," Easley said.

The White House, which said its North Korea policy review was in the "final stages," declined to comment. The State Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

When asked earlier about the launch and whether it would affect the policy review, department spokeswoman Jalina Porter again condemned the test as "destabilizing."

"North Korea's unlawful nuclear and ballistic missile programs constitute serious threats to international peace and security," she told a regular news briefing.

"I can't underscore enough that the president and his security team are continuing to assess the situation and one of our greatest priorities right now is ensuring that we're on the same page as our allies and partners."

O regresso da questão nuclear da Coreia do Norte (11) [FONTE: Japan Times, 27/03/2021]

'Gangster-like logic': North Korea rejects Biden's missile launch criticism, points to Washington's own saber-rattling

27 Mar, 2021 02:35 / Updated 1 day ago



Responding to American criticism of its recent missile launch, North Korea has accused Washington of denying its right to self-defense, even as the US holds war games at the country's doorstep and tests advanced weaponry.

"It's a gangster-like logic that it is allowable for the US to ship the strategic nuclear assets into the Korean peninsula and launch ICBMs any time it wants but not allowable for the DPRK, its belligerent party, to conduct even a test of a tactical weapon," senior North Korean official Ri Pyong-chol said in [statement](#) on Saturday.

O regresso da questão nuclear da Coreia do Norte (12) [FONTE: Foreign Affairs, 25/03/2021]

It Is Time for a Realistic Bargain With North Korea

Denuclearization Is Probably Out of Reach for Now
—but It Might Be Possible to Reduce the Nuclear
Threat

BY ERIC BREWER AND SUE MI TERRY March 25, 2021

ERIC BREWER is a Senior Fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies who has served on the National Security Council and the National Intelligence Council.

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North Korea's recent missile tests serve as a reminder that U.S. President Joe Biden faces no more intractable foreign policy problem than Kim Jong Un. Biden's predecessors have tried every approach to North Korea short of war. Over the years, a succession of U.S. presidents have gradually tightened sanctions, including through multiple UN Security Council resolutions, while keeping the door open to diplomacy.

O regresso da questão nuclear da Coreia do Norte (13) [FONTE: Foreign Affairs, 25/03/2021]

President Donald Trump amped up the threat of military action with rhetoric about “fire and fury”—then tried unsuccessfully to convince Kim to give up his nuclear weapons at three high-profile summits in 2018 and 2019.

Throughout all of this, North Korea has continued to produce nuclear weapons at a rapid rate. Estimates vary, but the country produces sufficient fissile material to make 12 new weapons per year and could now have enough for a total of 60 weapons or more. In addition to short- and medium-range missiles that can target Japan and South Korea, North Korea also produces missiles capable of reaching all of the United States. Pyongyang might not have perfected this technology, but Americans can no longer assume they are safe from a North Korean nuclear strike. And the North is working on missiles that it can launch faster, that are more difficult to detect, and that are harder for ballistic missile defenses to stop.

O regresso da questão nuclear da Coreia do Norte (14) [FONTE: Foreign Affairs, 25/03/2021]

Launching a preventive strike on North Korea—as Trump reportedly contemplated doing in 2017—is a terrible idea. Such a strike would be unlikely to eliminate Pyongyang’s entire arsenal but would be virtually certain to spark a regional war—and potentially a nuclear one. Another round of all-or-nothing diplomacy aimed at convincing North Korea to relinquish its nuclear weapons in return for sanctions relief would come with less downside risk but is unlikely to be any more successful than Trump’s attempts in 2018 and 2019. And as North Korea reminded the Biden administration earlier this month by reportedly failing to respond to backchannel outreach, Pyongyang gets a vote on engagement, as well. Doing nothing as sanctions continue to bite—a containment strategy—may be safer than either war or diplomacy, but it still allows North Korea to expand its nuclear and missile programs.

O regresso da questão nuclear da Coreia do Norte (15) [FONTE: Foreign Affairs, 25/03/2021]

There is another way the Biden administration could approach North Korea, however. It could explore a more limited strategy, one that stops trying to convince Kim to disarm entirely and instead seeks to slow the growth of his arsenal of weapons of mass destruction and reduce the risk of war. In other words, the United States could seek a freeze or a partial rollback of North Korea's capabilities and a lessening of tensions, rather than the total elimination of Kim's nuclear arsenal. The United States should not give up the long-term goal of denuclearization, but in the meantime, it could try to strike a more realistic bargain and prevent the threat from getting worse.

Washington should test whether a limited arms control approach could work. Such a strategy is not guaranteed to succeed—far from it. But its odds are better than any of the other options at this point, as long as the Biden administration is clear about what it expects to achieve. A good arms control agreement that verifiably reduces the threat from North Korea's nuclear weapons without endangering the security of Japan or South Korea—and that does not give the North any unearned concessions—would be a considerable improvement over the current standoff, but a bad agreement could be worse than the status quo.

O regresso da questão nuclear da Coreia do Norte (16) [CARTOON: Craig Stephens / SCMP, 1/02/2021]





PARTE II – NOTAS BREVES

O Xinjiang e as relações da China com o Ocidente (1) [FONTE: Encyclopaedia Britannica]



O Xinjiang e as relações da China com o Ocidente (2) [FONTE: SCMP, 14/02/2021]

China sees leverage as Portugal takes presidency of European Council

- Beijing is keen to get its investment pact with Brussels ratified and has urged Lisbon to help speed up the process
- Analyst says Portugal's clout in Europe might be limited but the country is seen as China-friendly



Eduardo Baptista

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Published: 7:00pm, 14 Feb, 2021

[Why you can trust SCMP](#)



O Xinjiang e as relações da China com o Ocidente (3) [FONTE: FT, 1/03/2021]

Biden pressed for tough response to China's repression of Uighurs

Some lawmakers call for boycott of winter Olympics in Beijing over its policies in Xinjiang

March 1, 2021



Uighur protesters who have not heard from their families in Xinjiang hold a demonstration against China in Istanbul, Turkey © TOLGA BOZOGLU/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock

US lawmakers and human rights activists are pressing Joe Biden to make a tough response to China's repression of 1m Uighurs in Xinjiang, which [Antony Blinken](#), secretary of state, has called "genocide".

Republicans have introduced a slew of resolutions calling on the International Olympic Committee to rebid the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympic Games. Some are urging the US president and the US Olympic Committee to boycott the games unless they are moved to another country.

O Xinjiang e as relações da China com o Ocidente (4) [FONTE: FT, 1/03/2021]

The clamour for action has been joined by likely Republican 2024 presidential contenders, including former UN ambassador Nikki Haley. Asked this week if Biden would participate in the games, Jen Psaki, White House press secretary, said: "There hasn't been a final decision."

Activists have also urged Biden to take concrete measures to respond to the persecution of the Uighurs, a Muslim ethnic minority who are being detained in camps in the northwestern province of Xinjiang.

China has grown infinitely more repressive since [2008] and you can bet it will put on another impressive show to distract from the genocide

***David Shullman,
International
Republican Institute***

In a letter, two dozen rights groups, including Human Rights Watch and Uyghur Human Rights Project, [urged the president](#) not to send high-profile or senior officials to the games because of the abuses and the IOC's "unwillingness" to carry out due diligence.

Sophie Richardson, China director at Human Rights Watch, said there was a more vocal debate about a boycott because the human rights situation was "exponentially

worse" than when China last held the Olympics in 2008.

O Xinjiang e as relações da China com o Ocidente (5) [FONTE: Reuters, 22/03/2021]

EU, China impose tit-for-tat sanctions over Xinjiang abuses

[Robin Emmott](#)

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - The European Union imposed sanctions on Monday on four Chinese officials, including a top security director, for human rights abuses in Xinjiang, to which Beijing responded with its own sanctions on Europeans.

Unlike the United States, the EU has sought to avoid confrontation with Beijing, but a decision to impose the first significant sanctions since an EU arms embargo in 1989 following the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy crackdown indicates a change in posture.

The Netherlands summoned China's ambassador to The Hague after Beijing announced its measures on 10 Europeans, while the European Parliament, along with German and Belgian and other foreign ministers, rejected the Chinese retaliation.

Accused of mass detentions of Muslim Uighurs in northwestern China, those targeted by the EU included Chen Mingguo, the director of the Xinjiang Public Security Bureau. The EU said Chen was responsible for "serious human rights violations."

O Xinjiang e as relações da China com o Ocidente (6) [FONTE: H&M Group]

H&M GROUP STATEMENT ON DUE DILIGENCE IN XINJIANG



H&M Group is deeply concerned by reports from civil society organisations and media that include accusations of forced labour and discrimination of ethnoreligious minorities in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR). We strictly prohibit any type of forced labour in our supply chain, regardless of the country or region. If we discover and verify a case of forced labour at a supplier we work with, we will take immediate action and, as an ultimate consequence, look to terminate the business relationship. All our direct suppliers sign our [Sustainability Commitment](#) that clearly states our expectations with regards to forced labour and discrimination linked to religion or ethnicity, for their own operations as well as their supply chains. With a diverse and global supply chain involving more than 1,700 manufacturing factories around the world employing 1,6 million people, and many more throughout our supply chain, our work to ensure the respect and compliance with international labour standards is continuous. We are committed to respecting human rights and our approach is guided by the UN Guiding Principle on Business and Human Rights and OECD Guidelines for responsible business conduct.

H&M Group is today present in over 80 countries with retail and sourcing operations. As a global business, we are required to comply with regulatory frameworks and expectations in all markets we operate in. We closely monitor evolving legislations, such as mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence, as well as relevant updates to trade and import regulations and practices.

O Xinjiang e as relações da China com o Ocidente (7) [FONTE: BBC, 25/03/2021]

Nike, H&M face China fury over Xinjiang cotton 'concerns'

19 hours ago



Getty Images

H&M is facing a backlash in China over its refusal to use Xinjiang cotton

Retail giants Nike and H&M are facing a backlash in China after they expressed concern about the alleged use of Uighur forced labour in cotton production.

Many Chinese have called for boycotts, celebrities have cut ties and e-commerce platforms have dropped H&M.

O Xinjiang e as relações da China com o Ocidente (8) [FONTE: BBC, 25/03/2021]

How did Nike and H&M find themselves here?

The statements in question were made by the companies last year, but only resurfaced in recent days following the announcement of Western sanctions.

Both companies had said in separate statements that they were "concerned" about reports that Uighurs were being forced to pick cotton in Xinjiang, and that they did not source products from the region.

But the latest furore appears to have been sparked by a recent social media post by the Communist Youth League, a Chinese Communist Party group.

"Spreading rumours to boycott Xinjiang cotton, while also wanting to make money in China? Wishful thinking!" it said on microblogging platform Weibo on Wednesday morning, as it shared screenshots of H&M's statement.

State broadcaster CCTV said that H&M (Hennes & Mauritz) - a multinational firm with the headquarters in Sweden - had "miscalculated" in trying to be a "righteous hero", and that it "must pay a heavy price for its wrong actions".

O Xinjiang e as relações da China com o Ocidente (9) [FONTE: Global Times, 25/03/2021]

Chinese consumers won't pay for multinational companies' political correctness that caters to West

By Hu Xijin

Published: Mar 25, 2021 12:39 PM



Photo: CFP

On Wednesday night, sports brand Nike became a trending topic on China's Twitter-like Sina Weibo. Netizens found the company's statement from last July which said "Nike does not source products from the XUAR (Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region) and we have confirmed with our contract suppliers that they are not using textiles or spun yarn from the region."

O Xinjiang e as relações da China com o Ocidente (10) [FONTE: Global Times, 25/03/2021]

You cannot ask Chinese side to step back and spare those companies so that they can be "politically correct" in the West — all the while leaving Chinese consumers with damaged dignity. Chinese netizens denouncing those Western companies is a normal reaction of any consumer group, particularly when they feel deeply offended.

The ideological conflict between China and the West will be a long-time struggle. The West has various methods to discredit the Chinese government. But it lacks tactics to deal with Chinese public opinion. From the perspective of morality, what they are most fearful about are powerful Chinese grassroots voices.

China must not only further its opening-up but also stick to principles to safeguard its interests and dignity. We welcome foreign companies to enter China. But they must act with respect to China. The demand is simple and just. Those companies need to comply with local rules and customs. The rules and habits that they follow when they are in the West need to interact with the principles of the Chinese society, from this, they can then make adaptations.

O Xinjiang e as relações da China com o Ocidente (11) [FONTE: Global Times, 25/03/2021]

Exclusive: How US forces 'Xinjiang forced labor' narrative on enterprises, industry agencies

Rough trade

By Liu Xin, Fan Lingzhi and Yang Ruoyu in Xinjiang

Published: Mar 27, 2021 06:30 PM



A cotton field in Manas County, Xinjiang Photo: VCG

Using the pretext of "forced labor" to pressure and sanction other countries' companies has been an old trick by the US, which is now exerting extreme pressure on companies in cotton-related industries in Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

O Xinjiang e as relações da China com o Ocidente (12) [FONTE: Global Times, 25/03/2021]

Apart from creating lies about "forced labor", anti-China forces in the US and the West have also released reports, held hearings and taken other measures to slander China's Xinjiang policies. They have also tried to draw US and European companies, including Adidas and Nike, into their campaign. They have also persuaded the Better Cotton Initiative (BCI), a nongovernmental organization with head offices in Geneva and London that aims to promote better standards in cotton farming, to suspend licensing in China's Xinjiang region, even though it contradicts the results of its own Shanghai office's investigations.



Workers in a cotton company in Xinjiang Photo: Liu Xin/GT

A geopolítica da navegação internacional: o ponto crítico do Canal do Suez (1) [FONTE:

Encyclopaedia Britannica]

Suez Canal

Suez Canal, Arabic **Qanāt al-Suways**, sea-level waterway running north-south across the Isthmus of Suez in Egypt to connect the Mediterranean and the Red seas. The canal separates the African continent from Asia, and it provides the shortest maritime route between Europe and the lands lying around the Indian and western Pacific oceans. It is one of the world's most heavily used shipping lanes. The canal extends 120 miles (193 km) between Port Said (Būr Saʿīd) in the north and Suez in the south, with dredged approach channels north of Port Said, into the Mediterranean, and south of Suez. The canal does not take the shortest route across the isthmus, which is only 75 miles (121 km). Instead, it utilizes several lakes: from north to south, Lake Manzala (Buḥayrat al-Manzilah), Lake Timsah (Buḥayrat al-Timsāḥ), and the Bitter Lakes—Great Bitter Lake (Al-Buḥayrah al-Murrah al-Kubrā) and Little Bitter Lake (Al-Buḥayrah al-Murrah al-Ṣuḡhrā). The Suez Canal is an open cut, without locks, and, though extensive straight lengths occur, there are eight major bends. To the west of the canal is the low-lying delta of the Nile River, and to the east is the higher, rugged, and arid Sinai Peninsula. Prior to construction of the canal (completed in 1869), the only important settlement was Suez, which in 1859 had 3,000 to 4,000 inhabitants. The rest of the towns along its banks have grown up since, with the possible exception of Al-Qanṭarah.

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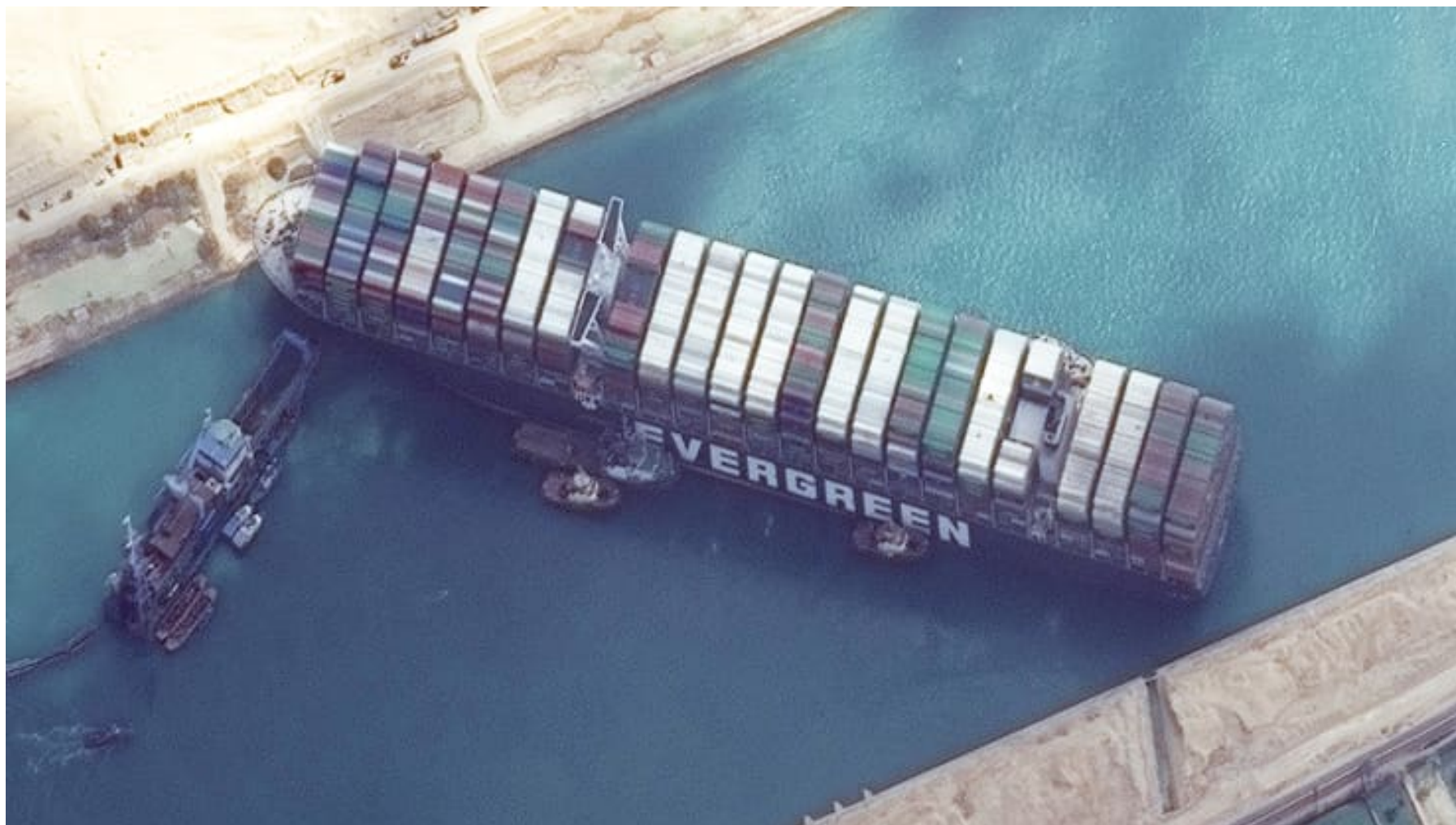
- Introduction
- Physical features
- The economy
- History



A geopolítica da navegação internacional: o ponto crítico do Canal do Suez (2) [FONTE: Encyclopaedia Britannica]



A geopolítica da navegação internacional: o ponto crítico do Canal do Suez (3) [FONTE: CNBC, 26/03/2021]



A geopolítica da navegação internacional: o ponto crítico do Canal do Suez (4) [FONTE:CNBC,

24/03/2021]

In pics: Giant container ship Ever Given gets stranded in Suez Canal

Updated : March 25, 2021 09:17 PM IST

The Ever Given, a cargo container ship that's among the largest in the world, has turned sideways and blocked all traffic in Egypt's Suez Canal threatening to disrupt a global shipping system already strained by the coronavirus pandemic.



CNBCTV18.com



A geopolítica da navegação internacional: o ponto crítico do Canal do Suez (5) [FONTE: FT, 24/03/2021]

Suez Canal blocked after huge container ship runs aground

Tailback of vessels threatens to disrupt global trade flows and worsen container shortage

Taiwan-based Evergreen Marine, which operates the 220,000-tonne vessel, on Wednesday said the ship had entered the Suez Canal from the Red Sea on Tuesday and became stuck after being blown off course.

Bernhard Schulte Shipmanagement, the technical manager of the container ship, said that despite earlier reports, the boat remained stuck on Wednesday afternoon in Egypt and "initial investigations" had ruled out "any mechanical or engine failure as a cause of the grounding".

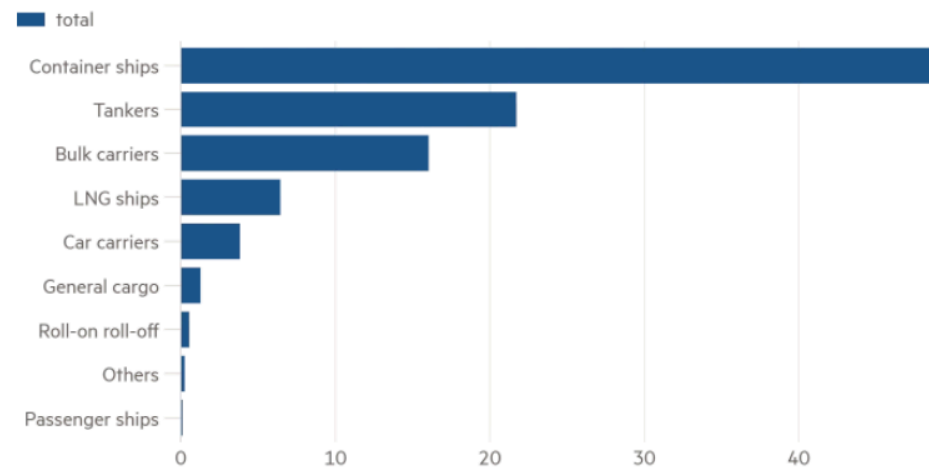
Leth Agencies, a transit agent, said two dredgers were en route to the site and were expected to begin work in the evening to assist the rescue effort. VesselsValue said that by the afternoon almost 100 vessels were at anchor waiting to transit the canal.

"The canal is a key chokepoint for global trade," Madani said. "If they can free the vessel quickly then the impact will be minimised but any prolonged blockage would have severe consequences, from affecting oil prices and shipping rates to forcing container vessels to take the much longer route around Africa."

A geopolítica da navegação internacional: o ponto crítico do Canal do Suez (6) [FONTE: FT, 24/03/2021]

Roughly half the tonnage that passes through the Suez Canal is on container ships

Net tonnage by ship type, Feb 2020 (m)



Source: Suez Canal Authority
© FT

"It's a massive problem as literally everything from Asia to Europe comes through there," said Philip Edge, chief executive of UK freight forwarder Edge Worldwide Logistics, who has goods held up.

"The longer this lasts, the worse it gets," said Lars Jensen, chief executive of SeaIntelligence Consulting.

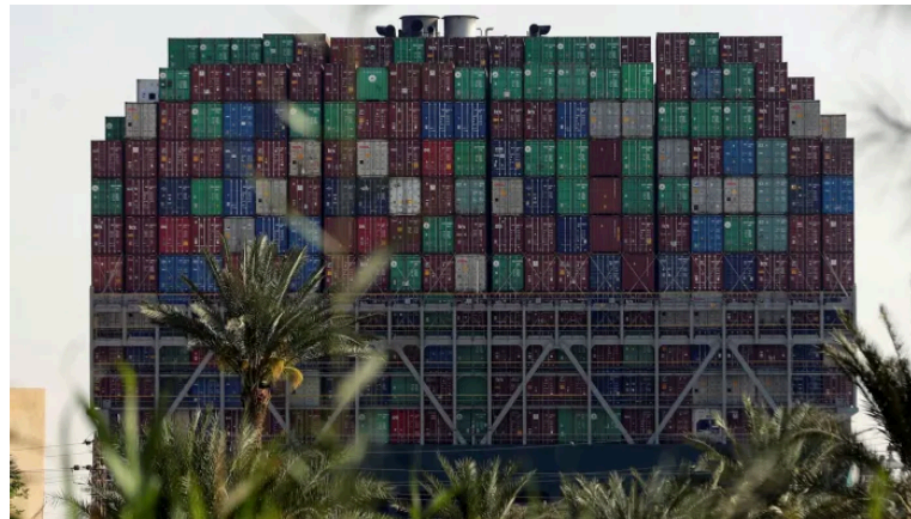
Jensen added that "this has the potential of creating bottlenecks in European ports" next week, as delayed vessels idle at ports at the same time as those arriving on time from elsewhere, while also risking delays to the return of desperately needed containers to China.

A geopolítica da navegação internacional: o ponto crítico do Canal do Suez (7) [FONTE: FT, 26/03/2021]

Suez blockage prompts shipping groups to call US Navy over piracy threat

Companies face prospect of rerouting vessels to potentially risky routes around Africa

March 26, 2021



Specialist dredgers are trying to refloat the 220,000-tonne Ever Given after it became wedged across the Suez Canal on Tuesday © Mohamed Abd El Ghany/Reuters

Shipping companies from multiple countries have contacted the US Navy about the potentially elevated threat of piracy to rerouted vessels after a container ship ran aground and blocked the Suez Canal.

A geopolítica da navegação internacional: o ponto crítico do Canal do Suez (8) [FONTE: FT, 26/03/2021]

A spokesperson for the US Navy's Fifth Fleet told the Financial Times the blockage had prompted a series of inquiries over the past two days from global shipping companies over maritime security in the region, which has a history of piracy.

Asian shipping associations confirmed the concerns. Zhao Qing-feng, office manager of the China Shipowners' Association based in Shanghai, said that potentially rerouting vessels included security considerations.

"Africa has the risk of piracy, especially in east Africa," he said, adding that shippers may need to hire extra security officers.

Willy Lin, chair of the Hong Kong Shippers' Council, said that because of piracy on the African route, naval warships from different countries might be needed to protect ships in the area.

The warnings came as shares in Asian shipping operators jumped on Friday on the prospect of higher freight rates, as industry executives contemplated rerouting cargo around southern Africa, which would add at least seven days and significant costs to journeys.

China's Cosco Shipping and South Korea's Hyundai Merchant Marine led the stock price surge in Asia, with almost 10 per cent increases after salvage experts indicated it could [take weeks to dislodge](#) the 400-metre Ever Given container ship from the banks of the Suez Canal.

While east Africa has long been known for piracy, there has been a surge in [kidnappings at sea](#) and other maritime crimes in west Africa in recent months.

Sugestões de leitura

