The new special relationship

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**Germany and China:**

By STEPHAN RICHTER FOR THE STRAITS TIMES

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The personal dimension aside, what should the world make of the Chinese-German relationship?

- It is a crafty Chinese charm offensive to which the globally anxious Germans are prone.

A strategic concept of two mega-nationalists?

The natural consequence of the economic conflict in present-day Europe?

Or, no big deal whatsoever?

To the north, the Chinese, for their part, see the Europeans and the US as China’s natural partners. To the south, the Chinese are convinced that the US is actually able to manage world affairs. The US, however, besides the Franco-German axis, considers that the political and economic leadership has shifted to meet China’s interests.

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