

CHINA CROSSROADS

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Are Multinational Businesses Planning to Leave China?

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Are MNCs planning to leave China? This straightforward question has no succinct answer other than “no.” A longer and more nuanced answer would need to account for the change in thinking over the past decade when China switched from an easy “Yes, let’s invest more”, to a “Maybe it’s time to reconsider options”. Since about 2008, when China began to flex its muscles in geopolitics and demonstrate its values at home and abroad, business leadership in the West has needed to recognize that China does not intend to be a liberal democracy. Regardless of or perhaps despite this values mismatch, many MNCs realize that even though China may have different values, it cannot be ignored. China is often an essential leg in a three-legged stool that includes a foundation in Europe, North America and Asia. Of course, not all feel compelled to be in China. But for many and for a long time to come China will be a will still play a pivotal role in global markets. This presentation describes some of MNCs we meet in China today illustrating what their business models are designed to accomplish.

[Francis Bassolino](#) is Founder and Managing Partner of Alaris Consulting, a management consultancy that specializes in generating proprietary information and working alongside management and investment teams to develop and implement strategic objectives. For the last thirty years, he has worked as an investor and advisor developing strategies, structures and implementation plans to find growth and cost reduction opportunities in Asia. He holds an MBA from the University of Chicago.

[China Crossroads](#) hosts talks on all topics related to China, including business, foreign policy, and other areas as they relate to China, the idea being that China is both already a “crossroads” of the world and itself at a “crossroads” in terms of its future global influence. For more information, contact Frank Tsai at editor@shanghai-review.org.