

CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	7
Preface: China Creating an Additional Strategic Partnership with the Post-Communist Part of Europe? <i>Rudolf Fürst</i>	9
Part I: The Visegrad Four and the Baltic States: Prominent Actors and Hesitators	
Poland and China: a Strategic Partnership in the Making? <i>Justyna Szczudlik-Tatar</i>	25
The Slovak and Hungarian Partnerships with China: High Hopes that Did Not Come True <i>Gabriela Pleschová</i>	45
The Czech Experience with Relations with China: Nothing to Win, Nothing to Lose <i>Rudolf Fürst</i>	60
The Baltic States: Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia: Coming Out of the Shadow <i>Rudolf Fürst</i>	69

Part II:**The Balkans Revisited:****The Chinese South-Eastern Hub in Europe***Filip Tesar*

China and South-Eastern Europe: Introduction	83
Traditional Allies: Bulgaria, Romania and Albania	100
Strategic Transit: Greece and Serbia	122
Serbian Forelands: Montenegro and Bosnia-Herzegovina	140
An Unreliable Terrain: Macedonia and Kosovo	150
A Secondary Branch? Slovenia and Croatia	158
Conclusion: Strategic Pragmatism instead of Strategic Friendship	166

Part III:**Eastern Periphery of EU: Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova***Karel Svoboda*

Introduction: Chinese Relations with Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova	181
A Way of Crisis? Chinese-Ukrainian Relations	183
China-Belarus Relations: A Better Friend for Lukashenko	196
China and Moldova: Giant and the Dwarf	205

Conclusion*Rudolf Fürst*

209

Appendix

221

Abbreviations

223

Notes

224

Bibliography

254

Notes on Contributors

280