
Locating Academic Sources with NotebookLM

GLBL 2150
February 18, 2026



GLBL 2150: Historical Approaches to Global Affairs: Locating Academic Sources

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AI Resources

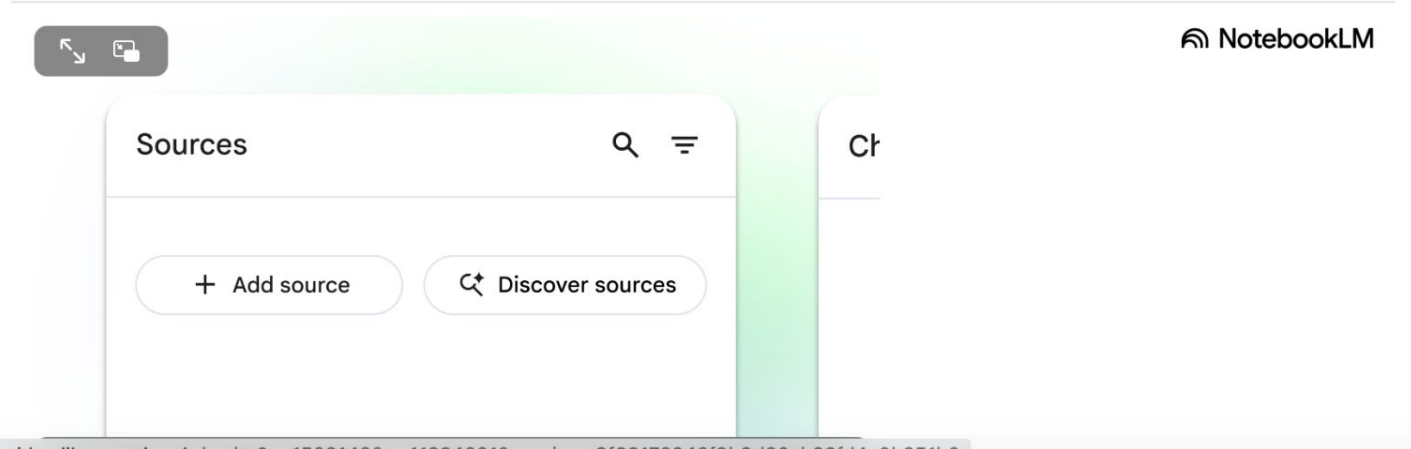
Locating Academic Sources



Locating scholarly books and articles with AI

Resources for the class session held on February 18, 2026, on formulating AI queries to locate scholarly books and articles using NotebookLM.

What is NotebookLM?



<https://guides.library.yale.edu/GLBL2150a>



Sophie Calderon Monarrez

she/her

Email Me

Hello! I am a sophomore double-majoring in Computer Science and the Humanities. I am your Student AI Liaison (SAIL) for GLBL 2150.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have about the resources we cover in this class.

Yale
Poorvu Center

sophia.calderonmonarrez@yale.edu

Why AI-powered search?

- Uses Natural Language Processing (NLP)
- **Semantic search:** goes beyond “keyword-matching” to give you related sources based on *meaning*, not just exact words
- Search multiple databases at once
- Can handle complex queries
- Great for follow-up questions
- Can get citations quickly

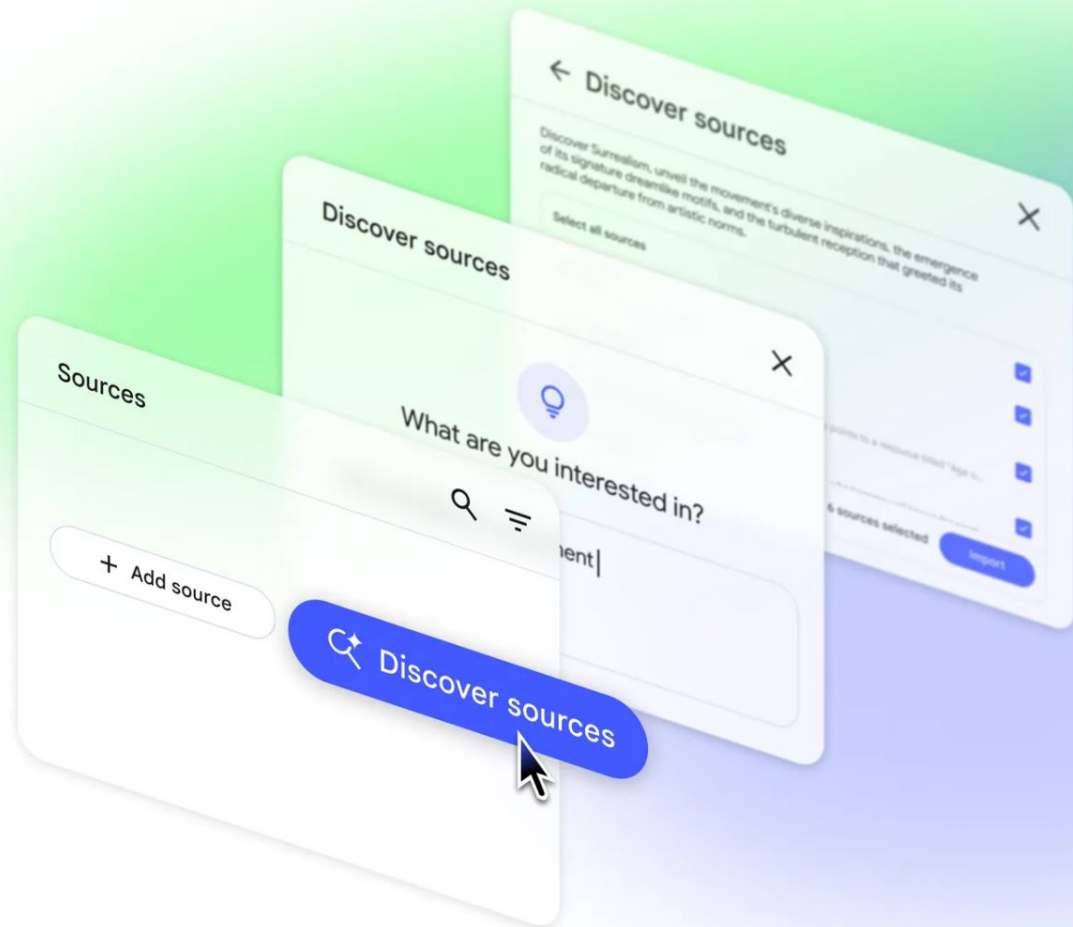


perplexity



NotebookLM

(IBM, n.d.)



What is NotebookLM ?

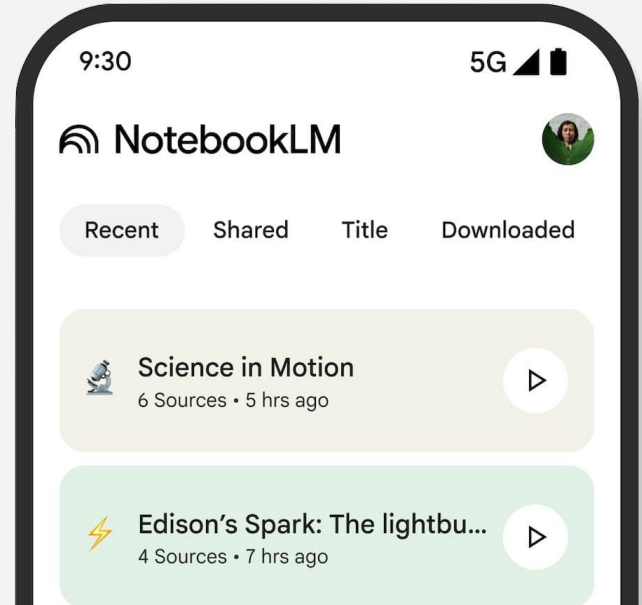
- AI research tool powered by Google's Gemini model.
- NotebookLM supports a wide range of functions, from summarizing sources to generating resources or answering queries based on a given set of materials.



What is NotebookLM ?

With NotebookLM, you can:

- Create topic-specific notebooks with up to 50 sources per notebook.
- Perform AI-powered web searches for specific topics.
- Create mind maps of relevant topics and sources.
- Generate a bibliography list in a given citation style of your choice for saved documents.



How should I formulate queries?

- Be specific and set constraints!

Find sources regarding [Topic]. Prioritize peer-reviewed journal articles, university press books, and government technical reports (.gov). Exclude commercial blogs, opinion editorials, and general news sites. Focus on results from databases like JSTOR.

How should I formulate queries?

Try using the **RISE** framework

- Role: Who should the AI be?
- Input: What is relevant context needed?
- Steps: What are the actions required?
- Expectation: What should the output be?

(Griffin, 2024)

How should I formulate queries?

Try using the **RISE** framework

R: *You are an expert academic librarian specializing in [topic/region].*

I: *I am working on a literature review on [topic].*

S: *Search for scholarly articles exclusively from peer-reviewed journals. Prioritize [subtopic]. Filter out blog posts, forums, and non-academic sources.*

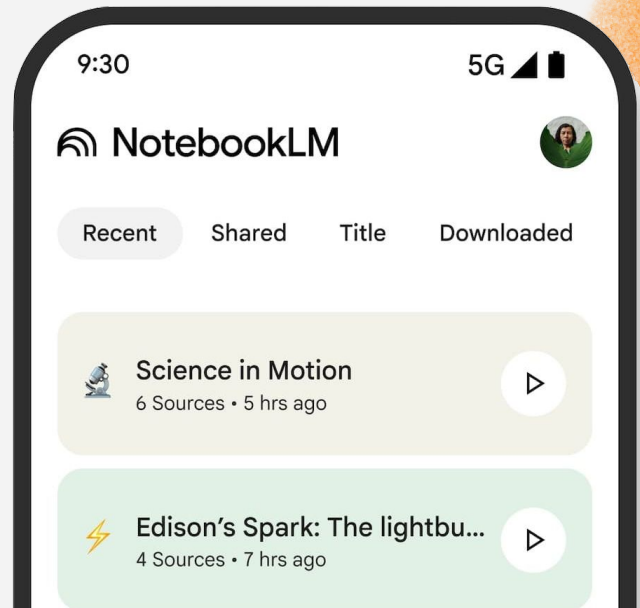
E: *Provide a list of 10 sources in Chicago format.*

(Griffin, 2024)

Getting started with NotebookLM

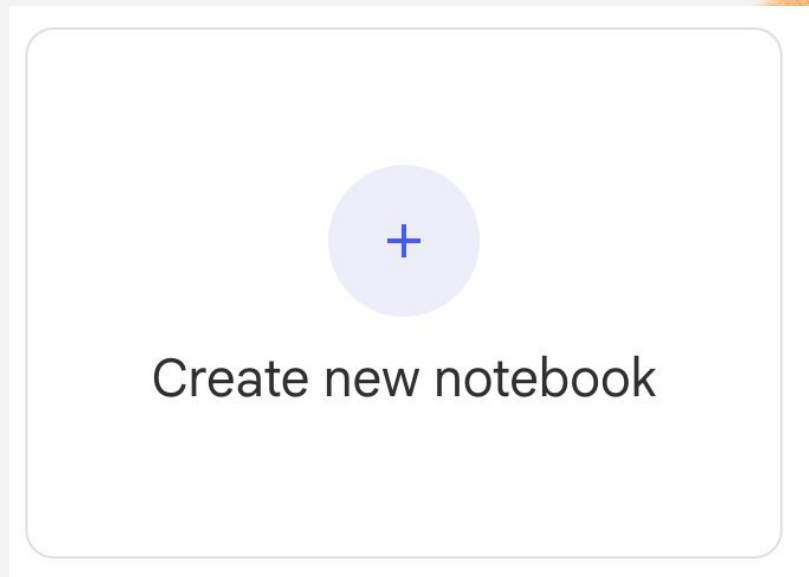
notebooklm.google.com

Log in with your Yale net-id



Getting started with NotebookLM

To start researching your topic, create a new notebook



Define your prompt

Start with the “Fast Research” option

The screenshot shows the NotebookLM interface with a modal window titled "Create Audio and Video Overviews from websites". The modal contains a search prompt: "Find academic sources regarding the origins and operations of China's Belt and Road Initiative. Prioritize peer-reviewed journal articles, university press books, and government technical reports (.gov). Exclude commercial blogs, opinion editorials, and general news sites. Focus on results from databases like JSTOR." Below the prompt are two selection buttons: "Web" and "Fast Research", with the "Fast Research" button highlighted. A blue arrow button is to the right. Below the modal, there is a section titled "or drop your files" with the text "pdf, images, docs, audio, and more". The background shows the NotebookLM interface with a sidebar on the left and a main area on the right. The sidebar has a "Sources" section with a search bar and a "Saved sources will appear here" section. The main area has a "Studio output will be saved here" section. The top of the interface has a "Untitled notebook" title, a "Create notebook" button, and "Share" and "Settings" buttons. The bottom of the interface has a disclaimer: "NotebookLM can be inaccurate: please double check its responses."

Untitled notebook

+ Create notebook

Share

Settings

Sources

+ Add sources

Search the web for new sources

Find academic sources regarding the origins and operations of China's Belt and Road Initiative. Prioritize peer-reviewed journal articles, university press books, and government technical reports (.gov). Exclude commercial blogs, opinion editorials, and general news sites. Focus on results from databases like JSTOR.

Web Fast Research

or drop your files

pdf, images, docs, audio, and more

Studio output will be saved here

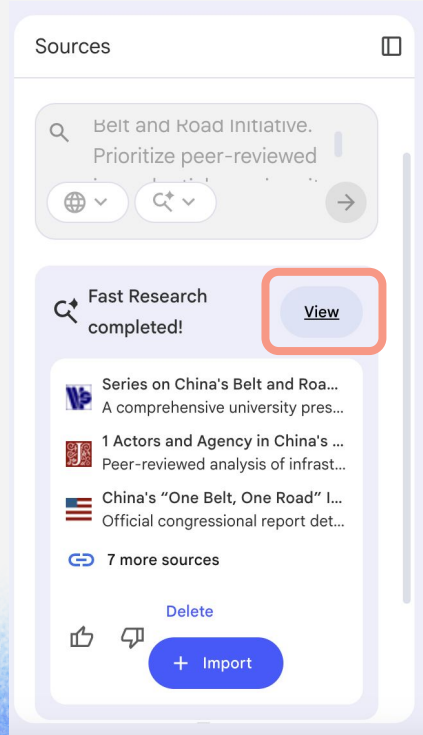
er adding sources, click to add A

erview

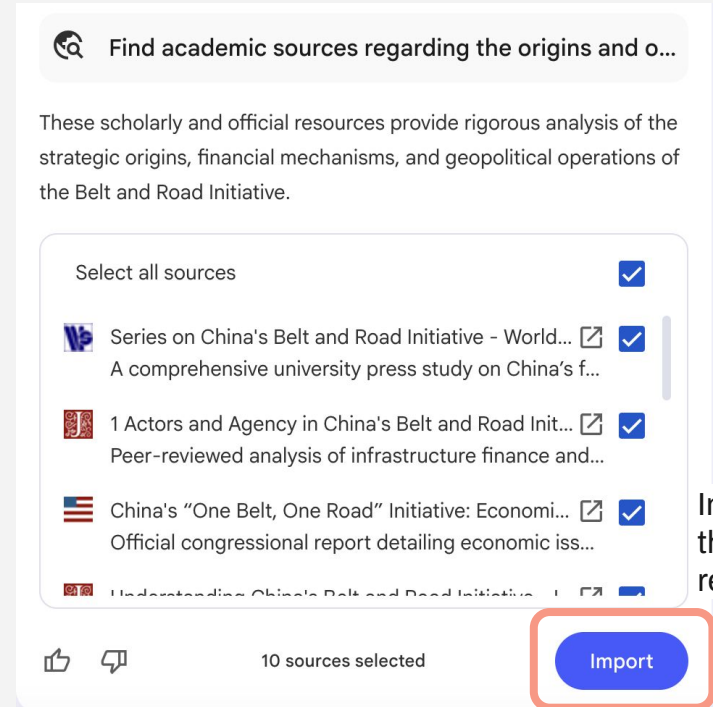
Add note

NotebookLM can be inaccurate: please double check its responses.

Select relevant sources



Check generated
sources



Import sources
that fit your
requirements!

Select relevant sources

Not all sources may import correctly if they are behind a paywall or some other restriction, but you may have access with your net-id

Sources 

 Belt and Road Initiative - Loc 

 China's "One Belt, One Roa... 

 Competing with Belt and R... 

 Framework for the Resoluti... 

 From the Director - U.S. Na... 

 The Silk Road Economic Bel... 

 <https://www.jstor.org/stable/...> 

 <https://www.jstor.org/stable/...> 

 <https://www.jstor.org/stable/...> 

 <https://www.worldscientific...> 



Copy
link

 Download

Import
PDF

 **NotebookLM**

Importing sources

The screenshot displays a web application interface for a notebook. At the top, there's a header bar with a logo, the text "Untitled notebook", and a "+ Create notebook" button. Below the header, the interface is divided into three main sections. On the left is a sidebar with a list of source icons, including the US flag, the US Capitol, a crown, a shield, and a book. A red circle highlights a "+" icon with the text "Add source" below it. The middle section, titled "Chat", shows a list of "10 sources" and a paragraph of text discussing China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The text mentions specific countries like Djibouti, Egypt, Kenya, Malaysia, and Pakistan, and discusses themes like peaceful development, connectivity, debt sustainability, and geopolitical friction. At the bottom of this section are buttons for "Save to note" and a "Start typing..." input field. On the right is a "Studio" panel with various tool icons like "Audio...", "Video...", "Mind...", "Repor...", "Flash...", "Quiz", "Infogr...", "Slide...", and "Data...". A "BETA" label is next to some icons. At the bottom of the Studio panel, there's a message: "Studio output will be saved here. After adding sources, click to add Audio C... Mind" and a button labeled "Add note".

Untitled notebook

+ Create notebook

Chat

10 sources

The provided documents offer a comprehensive look at China's **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**, a massive global infrastructure and economic project spanning several continents. These reports detail specific developments in nations such as **Djibouti, Egypt, Kenya, Malaysia, and Pakistan**, highlighting large-scale efforts like ports, railways, and energy plants. While China frames the initiative as a tool for **peaceful development and connectivity**, the sources document significant concerns regarding **debt sustainability, lack of transparency**, and potential threats to national sovereignty. Legal frameworks are often established through **non-binding memoranda of understanding**, creating unique challenges for international oversight and the resolution of commercial conflicts. To address these complexities, the texts explore various **dispute resolution mechanisms**, including international arbitration, mediation, and specialized commercial courts. Ultimately, the collection illustrates the **geopolitical friction** between the economic promises of Chinese investment and the strategic anxieties of participating and observing nations.

Save to note

Start typing...

6 sources

Studio

Audio... Video... Mind... Repor... Flash... Quiz... Infogr... Slide... Data...

BETA BETA

Studio output will be saved here. After adding sources, click to add Audio C... Mind

Add note

Importing sources

or drop your files

pdf, images, docs, audio, and more

⬆️ Upload files

🔗 📺 Websites

📁 Drive

📋 Copied text

6 / 50

Be mindful of
the 50 source
limit per
notebook!

Getting an overview of your sources

Based on the abstracts and table of contents of each of my sources, give me an overview of each source.

6 sources



Source 1: Belt and Road Initiative (Law Library of Congress)

This report examines the **legal and policy frameworks** governing the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) across various global jurisdictions ¹. It analyzes the nature of agreements signed between China and host countries, the involvement of local companies and labor, and with purposes beyond commerce ¹.

- **Comparative Summary:** Provides a high-level structure of BRI agreements ¹ ².

- **Regional Sections:** Detailed chapters cover Cambodia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines), the Central Asian Countries), **South America**, and **Sweden**, Switzerland, Portugal, and the United Kingdom.

Source 2: China's "One Belt, One Road" Initiative

Comparative Summary

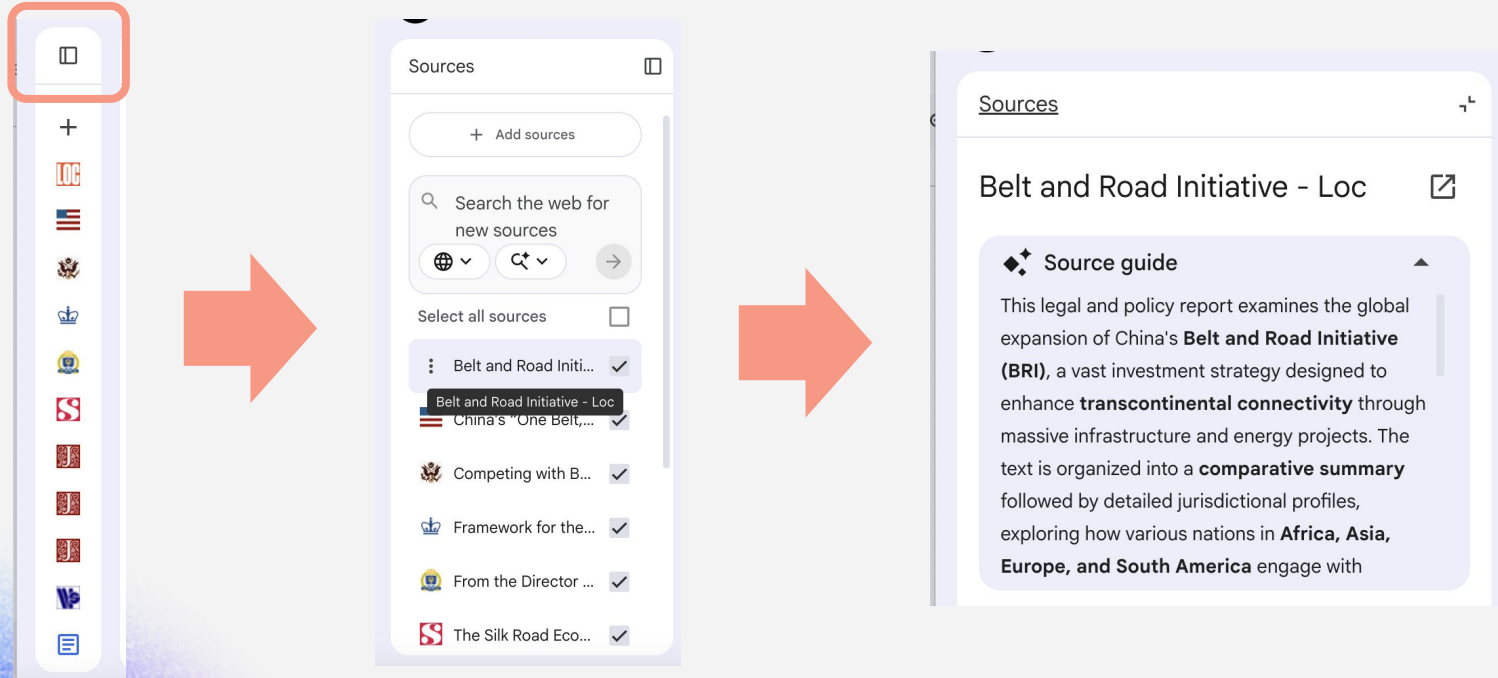
Tariq Ahmad

Foreign Law Specialist I. Introduction This report covers the legal and policy frameworks that govern the Belt Road Initiative (BRI) (formerly known as "One Belt One Road") in select jurisdictions and regions around the globe, namely, China, Cambodia, Djibouti, Egypt, Greece, Kenya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom (UK), and certain Central Asian

Hovering over the number will show you where the information came from

Getting an overview of your sources

Alternatively, you can expand the source tab, select a source, and look at the overview



Getting an overview of your sources

Look at mind maps to explore related topics!

The screenshot displays a three-panel application interface. The left panel, titled 'Sources', contains a search bar, a list of sources with checkboxes, and a list of URLs. The middle panel, titled 'Chat', shows a summary of sources and detailed information for 'Source 1: Belt and Road Initiative (Law Library of Congress)'. The right panel, titled 'Studio', features a grid of tool icons, with 'Mind Map' highlighted by a red box. A large red arrow points from the 'Mind Map' icon to a separate 'Mind Map' card on the right.

Sources

+ Add sources

Search the web for new sources

Select all sources

- Belt and Road Initiative - Loc
- China's "One Belt, One Road..."
- Competing with Belt and Roa...
- Framework for the Resolutio...
- From the Director - U.S. Nav...
- The Silk Road Economic Belt:...
- https://www.jstor.org/stable/4/...
- https://www.jstor.org/stable/p...
- https://www.jstor.org/stable/p...

Chat

The following overviews of the sources are based on their provided abstracts, summaries, and tables of contents.

Source 1: Belt and Road Initiative (Law Library of Congress)

This report examines the **legal and policy frameworks** governing the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) across various global jurisdictions ¹. It analyzes the nature of agreements signed between China and host countries, the implications of major project debt, the involvement of local companies and labor, and whether projects serve military or strategic purposes beyond commerce ¹.

- Comparative Summary:** Provides a high-level overview of legal structures and structural structure of BRI agreements ¹ ².
- Regional Sections:** Detailed chapters cover **China**, **Africa** (Djibouti, Egypt, Kenya), **Asia** (Cambodia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines), the **Caribbean**, **Eurasia** (Russian Federation and Central Asian Countries), **South America**, and **Western Europe** (Greece, Luxembourg, Sweden, Switzerland, Portugal, and the United Kingdom) ³ ...

Source 2: China's "One Belt, One Road" Initiative: Economic Issues (CRS)

This focus report provides a concise overview of the **economic objectives** of the BRI, describing it as an ambitious multifaceted policy to expand China's global reach and influence ⁸.

- Scope and Objectives:** The source details how the initiative aims to vertically

Start typing...

6 sources

Studio

Mind Map

Flashcards

Infograp... BETA

Data Table

Video... BETA

Reports

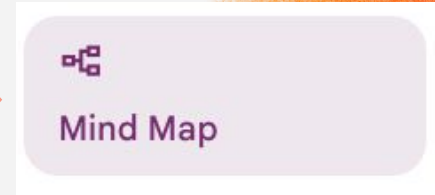
Quiz

Slide Deck BETA

Studio output will be saved here.

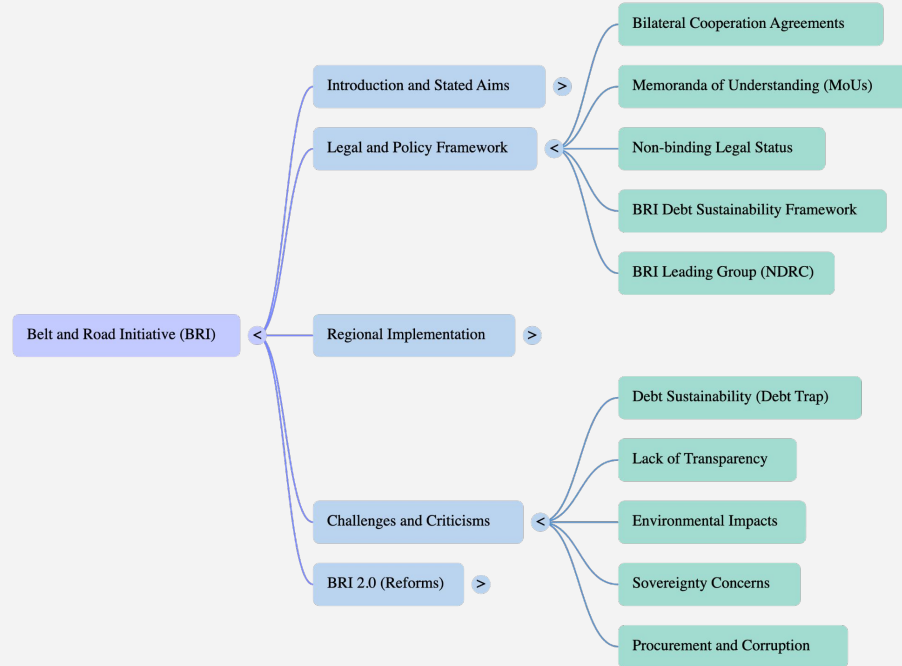
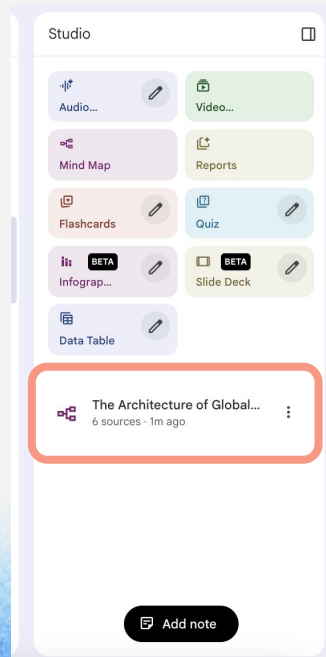
After adding sources, click to add Audio Overview, Study Guide, Mind Map, and more!

Add note



Getting an overview of your sources

Great way to refine future queries



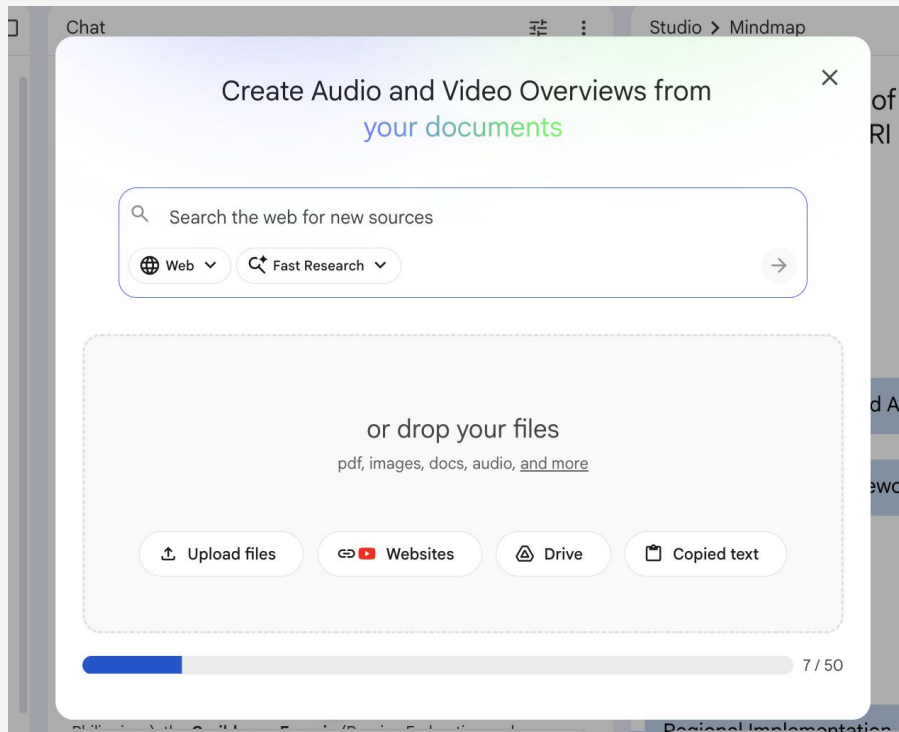
Adding more sources

The screenshot displays a digital note-taking application interface. At the top, a header bar contains a logo, the text "Untitled notebook", and a "+ Create notebook" button. Below the header, the interface is divided into three main sections:

- Left Sidebar:** A vertical list of icons representing different sources or categories. The top icon, a plus sign inside a circle, is highlighted with a red square and labeled "Add source". Below it are icons for the US flag, the US Capitol, a crown, a shield, a book, and a magnifying glass.
- Chat Window:** The central area displays a text source titled "10 sources". The text reads: "The provided documents offer a comprehensive look at China's **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**, a massive global infrastructure and economic project spanning several continents. These reports detail specific developments in nations such as **Djibouti, Egypt, Kenya, Malaysia, and Pakistan**, highlighting large-scale efforts like ports, railways, and energy plants. While China frames the initiative as a tool for **peaceful development and connectivity**, the sources document significant concerns regarding **debt sustainability, lack of transparency**, and potential threats to national sovereignty. Legal frameworks are often established through **non-binding memoranda of understanding**, creating unique challenges for international oversight and the resolution of commercial conflicts. To address these complexities, the texts explore various **dispute resolution mechanisms**, including international arbitration, mediation, and specialized commercial courts. Ultimately, the collection illustrates the **geopolitical friction** between the economic promises of Chinese investment and the strategic anxieties of participating and observing nations." Below the text are buttons for "Save to note", a share icon, a thumbs up icon, and a comment icon. At the bottom of the chat window is a text input field labeled "Start typing..." and a button labeled "6 sources" with a right arrow.
- Studio Panel:** The right side of the interface features a "Studio" panel with a grid of icons for adding media and tools: "Audio...", "Video...", "Mind...", "Repor...", "Flash...", "Quiz", "Infogr..." (marked BETA), "Slide..." (marked BETA), and "Data...". Below the grid, a blue banner states "Studio output will be saved here." followed by the text "After adding sources, click to add Audio C... Mind". At the bottom of the studio panel is a button labeled "Add note".

Adding more sources

Explore relevant
subtopics you found!



Generate your bibliography

Chat

Generate a Chicago-style bibliography in alphabetical order for all my sources

Ghiasi, Richard, and Jiayi Zhou. *The Silk Road Economic Belt: Considering Security Implications and EU-China Cooperation Prospects*. Solna, Sweden: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), 2017 . 1 .

Goh, Allison. "Framework for the Resolution of Disputes Under the Belt and Road Initiative." *Arbitration: The International Journal of Arbitration, Mediation and Dispute Management* 87, no. 2 (2021): 243–67 . 2 .

Law Library of Congress, Global Legal Research Directorate. *Belt and Road Initiative*. Washington, DC: Law Library of Congress, August 2021. LL File No. 2021-020264 . 3 .

Parks, Brad. "Competing with Belt and Road 2.0." Written testimony before the U.S. House Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, May 16, 2024 . 4 .

Sharman, Christopher. "From the Director." *CMSI Quarterly Review* 1, art. 3 (2025). In *CMSI Translation Volume 1: Maritime Geopolitics of the Belt and Road Initiative*. Newport, RI: China Maritime Studies Institute, U.S. Naval War College . 5 .

Sutter, Karen M., Andres B. Schwarzenberg, and Michael D. Sutherland. "China's 'One Belt, One Road' Initiative: Economic Issues." CRS In Focus IF11735. Washington, DC: Congressional Research Service, January 22, 2021 . 6 . 7 .

Start typing...

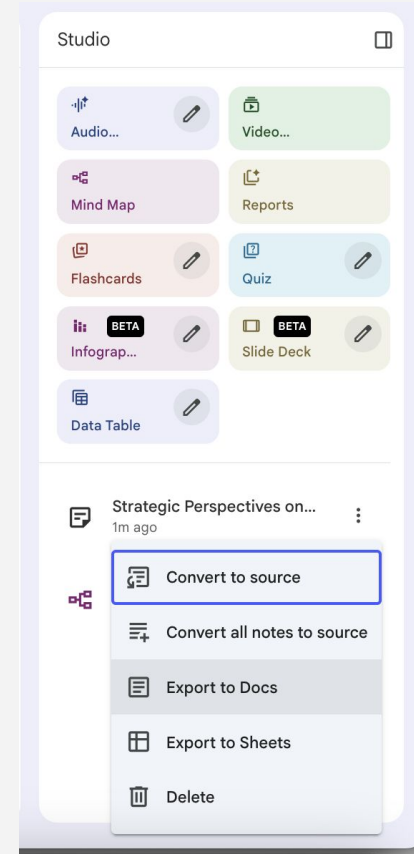
 6 sources →



Save to note

Generate your bibliography

Save your bibliography to Google Docs by clicking on the 3 dots, then “Export to Docs”



Using AI Resources as a starting point

AI search tools can be a great starting point... but beware of summarized information!

Models may **hallucinate** and present incorrect information with confidence.

Double-check all information and ask the model to provide *where* the information is coming from.

Another Resource: Perplexity AI

@**Academic** in your prompt will filter to academic sources only

/ allows you to create shortcuts

For example: **/academic-research** can automatically add:

“Prioritize peer-reviewed journal articles, university press books, and government technical reports (.gov). Exclude commercial blogs, opinion editorials, and general news sites. Focus on results from databases like JSTOR.” to your queries.

perplexity

Find sources regarding the origins and operations of China's Belt and Road Initiative. Prioritize peer-reviewed journal articles, university press books, and government technical reports (.gov). Exclude commercial blogs, opinion editorials, and general news sites. Focus on results from databases like JSTOR. Academic

+

Academic

Model ▾

🔊

➔

♥ Health

🔗 Compare

🔧 Troubleshoot

👤 Parenting

🔍 Analyze

You can download sources and input them into NotebookLM

Answer Links Images

- “Continental metropolitanization Chongqing Belt and Road” tandfonline
- “Reshaping the international economic order Belt and Road Initiative” journals.umcs
- Filters to apply:
 - Content type: Articles, Research Articles, or Book Chapters.
 - Discipline: Political Science, International Relations, Asian Studies, Economics, Development Studies.

These settings will prioritize peer-reviewed material and university-affiliated publications while excluding news, blogs, and editorials. perc.ncbi.nlm.nih

📄 28 sources