

China overtakes USA for most diplomatic posts

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China is now the country with the most diplomatic posts around the world. Diplomatic posts are embassies, consulates, high commissions and other places to represent a country overseas. China

overtook the USA as the country with the most diplomatic posts. China now has 276 diplomatic posts globally, while the USA has 273. The two countries have an equal number of embassies, but China has more consulates than the U.S. China overtook the USA as the most diplomatically represented country after it opened five new embassies in the past two years. The embassies are in Burkina Faso, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, the Gambia and Sao Tome and the Principe.

Information about how many diplomatic posts countries have was published by an organization called the Lowy Institute. Its report is called the Global Diplomacy Index. Bonnie Bley, a spokeswoman from the Lowy Institute, said the Index shows how China is having more influence around the world. She said the number of China's diplomatic posts shows it wants to be a key player in geopolitics and the global economy. Ms Bley said: "The results suggest that, on a practical level, China's network of overseas consulates can support the rollout of Beijing's economic ambitions." While China is expanding its diplomatic presence around the world, Ms Bley said: "U.S. diplomacy has entered a period of limbo".

Sources: cnn.com / yahoo.com / lowyinstitute.org

Writing

China is now the number one country in the world. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

China / diplomatic / posts / embassy / overseas / globally / equal / two years / information / published / organization / influence / key / geopolitics / limbo

True / False

- a) China overtook the USA for the most diplomatic posts in South America. T / F
- b) A High Commission is a diplomatic post. T / F
- c) China has three more diplomatic posts than the USA. T / F
- d) China has opened five new diplomatic posts this year. T / F
- e) A report was published by an organization called the Lowy Institute. T / F
- f) A spokeswoman said China wants to be a key player in geo-tagging. T / F
- g) China's diplomatic posts cannot support its economic ambitions. T / F
- h) A spokeswoman said U.S. diplomacy is currently in a state of limbo. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. country | a. treading water |
| 2. overseas | b. identical |
| 3. globally | c. representative |
| 4. equal | d. abroad |
| 5. opened | e. details |
| 6. information | f. nation |
| 7. spokeswoman | g. major |
| 8. influence | h. launched |
| 9. key | i. worldwide |
| 10. in limbo | j. power |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do diplomats do?
- c) What do you need to be a good diplomat?
- d) How much influence does your country have in the world?
- e) What do you think China's economic ambitions are?
- f) What relations does China have with your country?
- g) Why is U.S. diplomacy "in limbo"?
- h) What questions would you like to ask a Chinese ambassador?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. other places to represent a country | a. posts globally |
| 2. China now has 276 diplomatic | b. around the world |
| 3. The two countries have an equal | c. country |
| 4. the most diplomatically represented | d. economic ambitions |
| 5. it opened five new embassies | e. overseas |
| 6. Its report is called the | f. period of limbo |
| 7. China is having more influence | g. geopolitics |
| 8. it wants to be a key player in | h. in the past two years |
| 9. the rollout of Beijing's | i. Global Diplomacy Index |
| 10. U.S. diplomacy has entered a | j. number of embassies |

Discussion – Student B

- Have you ever been to an embassy?
- Would you like to be a diplomat?
- What are the differences between embassies and consulates?
- Why does China have so many embassies?
- What do you know about China?
- How important is diplomacy?
- How diplomatic are you?
- Where would you like to work overseas?

Spelling

- Diplomatic posts are ebssiesma, consulates
- represent a country aservoec
- 276 diplomatic posts albolgyl
- have an aleuq number
- diplomatically dreenpetres
- the Dominican lepubRci
- having more nulnefeic around the world
- a key player in iiegoplsoct
- on a itcaracpl level
- Beijing's economic inaotsmib
- expanding its diplomatic sepercen
- a period of limob

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. i	4. b	5. h
6. e	7. c	8. j	9. g	10. a

Role Play

Role A – Japan

You think Japan is the most important global key player. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their countries aren't as key. Also, tell the others which is the least influential of these (and why): India, Saudi Arabia or the United Kingdom.

Role B – India

You think India is the most important global key player. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their countries aren't as key. Also, tell the others which is the least influential of these (and why): Japan, Saudi Arabia or the United Kingdom.

Role C – Saudi Arabia

You think Saudi Arabia is the most important global key player. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their countries aren't as key. Also, tell the others which is the least influential of these (and why): India, Japan or the United Kingdom.

Role D – United Kingdom

You think the United Kingdom is the most important global key player. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their countries aren't as key. Also, tell the others which is the least influential of these (and why): India, Saudi Arabia or Japan.

Speaking – Key Players

Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest key players on the world stage at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------|------------------|
| • France | • Saudi Arabia |
| • Brazil | • Nigeria |
| • India | • Canada |
| • Japan | • United Kingdom |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	F	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.