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|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Country/entity</b>           | China<br>Russia   |
| <b>Region</b>                   | Asia and Pacific<br>Europe and Eurasia  |
| <b>Agreement name</b>           | Agreement on the Eastern Section of the Boundary between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the People's Republic of China (1991 Sino-Soviet Border Agreement) |
| <b>Date</b>                     | 16 May 1991   |
| <b>Agreement status</b>         | Multiparty signed/agreed  |
| <b>Interim arrangement</b>      | Yes   |
| <b>Agreement/conflict level</b> | Interstate/interstate conflict  |

### **Sino-Soviet Border Conflict (1969 - 1991)**

Lasting 7 months, this undeclared border war erupted at the height of the Sino-Soviet split in March 1969 in the area of Zhenbao on the Wusuli River. Ten years earlier, the two allies had stood as champions of communism. Indeed, Soviet Russia played a key role in supporting Communist rebels against the nationalist Koumintang. However, relations soured over differences in ideology and leadership and although a border treaty was drawn up in 1965, Nikita Krushchev refused to sign after allegations by Mao Zedong were leaked that Tsarist Russia had stripped China of its historical territory. Accounts of the conflict vary between Chinese and Russian historians. Nonetheless, a People's Liberation Army raid on a Soviet border outpost on March 2, 1969 left over a hundred dead. Although, the conflict brought both countries to the brink of a greater war, with troops amassing on both sides, this outcome was avoided. The conflict was formally ended in September 1991 with the first border demarcation agreement. Other agreements were signed with formerly-Soviet States included Kazakhstan.

Close

Sino-Soviet Border Conflict (1969 - 1991)

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>Stage</b>           | Framework/substantive - partial  |
| <b>Conflict nature</b> | Territory  |
| <b>Peace process</b>   | China-Russia border dispute peace process  |
| <b>Parties</b>         | People's Republic of China<br>Plenipotentiary<br>Qian Qichen<br><br>Union of Soviet Socialist Republics<br>Plenipotentiary<br>Alexander Bessmertnykh |

**Third parties**

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**Description**

Detailed border demarcation agreement on the Eastern Sector of the Sino-Russian border running through thirty three boundary points running South Easterly from Tarbagan-Dakh to Guoluminiwujiaoshi Mountain. Agreement stipulates that the seventh, eighth, tenth and eleventh boundary points will be agreed upon in another agreement. Agreement establishes a boundary demarcation committee.

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**Agreement document**

[CN\\_RU\\_910516\\_Agreement on the Eastern Section of the Boundary.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

**Agreement document (original language)**

[CN\\_RU\\_910516\\_Agreement on the Eastern Section of the Boundary\\_CN.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#)

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**Groups****Children/youth**

No specific mention.

**Disabled persons**

No specific mention.

**Elderly/age**

No specific mention.

**Migrant workers**

No specific mention.

**Racial/ethnic/national group**

No specific mention.

**Religious groups**

No specific mention.

**Indigenous people**

No specific mention.

**Other groups**

No specific mention.

**Refugees/displaced persons**

No specific mention.

**Social class**

No specific mention.

## **Gender**

**Women, girls and gender** No specific mention.

**Men and boys** No specific mention.

**LGBTI** No specific mention.

**Family** No specific mention.

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## **State definition**

**Nature of state (general)** No specific mention.

**State configuration** No specific mention.

**Self determination** No specific mention.

**Referendum** No specific mention.

**State symbols** No specific mention.

**Independence/secession** No specific mention.

**Accession/unification** No specific mention.

**Border delimitation** [Summary] Entire agreement is a border demarcation agreement.

Page 1, Article 1

The contracting parties agree to use the existing treaty related to the Sino-Soviet border line as a basis and to act in accordance with the standards of international law, based on the spirit of equal agreement, mutual understanding and mutual accommodation. In addition, they will use the agreement reached in the process of border negotiations, to fairly and reasonably resolve the historical issue of the Sino-Russian border and clarify and determine the direction of the borderline which runs between the two countries.

Page 1-8, Article 2

[Summary] Description of the 33 border points in eastern section running south east from Tarbagan-Dakh to the Guoluminiwujaoshi Mountain.

Page 8, Article 3

The Contracting Parties agree to continue negotiations on the direction of the eastern section of the Sino-Soviet boundary, from the seventh to the eighth boundary points, and from the tenth to the eleventh boundary points, in accordance with Article 1 of this Agreement.

Page 8, Article 4

In order to clarify and determine the borderline that is described in Article 2 of this agreement, the Contracting Parties decided to establish a joint demarcation committee on the basis of reciprocity, and to give this committee the task of boundary surveying. This committee will be in charge of determining the exact location of the main channel centreline, river centreline or main stream centreline, and in accordance with Article 5 of this Agreement, will determine the ownership of the islands and islets in the centre of the rivers. It will also establish landmarks, draw up boundary surveying documents, draw up detailed boundary surveying maps, as well as resolving and completing each of the specific tasks mentioned above.

Page 8, Article 5

The Contracting Parties agree on the borderline that is described in Article 2 of this agreement, the navigable river that follows the main channel centre line, and the non-navigable river that follows the river or mainstream centre line. The exact location of the main channel and what is regarded as the borderline's main channel, the river centre line or the mainstream centre line, thus divide the islands and islets in the river and the section of the watershed that the borderline follows along will be specifically determined at the time of Sino-Soviet boundary surveying.

The main channel is determined by the water depth, combined with the channel width and the radius of curvature, in addition to comprehensive consideration. The main channel centre line indicates the centre line between the two corresponding isobaths of the main channel.

The main stream is primarily determined by the river flow rate at the mid-water level.

Page 8, Article 6

The Contracting Parties agree that the boundary line on the ground between China and the Soviet Union shall also be divided vertically into the sky and the subsoil.

Page 8-9, Article 7

Any natural changes that may occur on the boundary river do not affect the location of the Sino-Soviet boundary line and the ownership of the islands assigned in the field, unless otherwise agreed by the Parties.

After the demarcation of the boundary line of the boundary river, any newly emerging islands in the boundary river will be divided according to the demarcation line. If the

**Cross-border provision** No specific mention.

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## **Governance**

**Political institutions (new or reformed)** No specific mention.

**Elections** No specific mention.

**Electoral commission** No specific mention.

**Political parties reform** No specific mention.

**Civil society** No specific mention.

**Traditional/religious leaders** No specific mention.

**Public administration** No specific mention.

**Constitution** No specific mention.

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## **Power sharing**

**Political power sharing** No specific mention.

**Territorial power sharing** No specific mention.

**Economic power sharing** No specific mention.

**Military power sharing** No specific mention.

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## Human rights and equality

**Human rights/RoL general** No specific mention.

**Bill of rights/similar** No specific mention.

**Treaty incorporation** Page 1, Article 1  
The contracting parties agree to use the existing treaty related to the Sino-Soviet border line as a basis and to act in accordance with the standards of international law, based on the spirit of equal agreement, mutual understanding and mutual accommodation. ...

**Civil and political rights** No specific mention.

**Socio-economic rights** No specific mention.

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## Rights related issues

**Citizenship** No specific mention.

**Democracy** No specific mention.

**Detention procedures** No specific mention.

**Media and communication** No specific mention.

**Mobility/access** Page 9, Article 8  
The Contracting Parties agree that vessels of all types, including military vessels, may navigate unobstructed from the Ussuri River (Ussuri River) through Khabarovsk City to Heilongjiang (Amur River). The competent authorities of both sides shall be responsible for regulation of navigation.

Page 9, Article 9  
The Soviet side and its related side agrees that Chinese vessels (carrying the Chinese flag) can navigate back and forth along Tumenjiang (Tumanaya River), which is described after the thirty third boundary point narrated in article 2 of this agreement. This specific issue related to sailing shall be resolved by consultation from both parties.

**Protection measures** No specific mention.

**Other** No specific mention.

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## **Rights institutions**

**NHRI** No specific mention.

**Regional or international human rights institutions** No specific mention.

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## **Justice sector reform**

**Criminal justice and emergency law** No specific mention.

**State of emergency provisions** No specific mention.

**Judiciary and courts** No specific mention.

**Prisons and detention** No specific mention.

**Traditional Laws** No specific mention.

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## **Socio-economic reconstruction**

**Development or socio-economic reconstruction** No specific mention.

**National economic plan** No specific mention.

**Natural resources** No specific mention.

**International funds** No specific mention.

**Business** No specific mention.

**Taxation** No specific mention.

**Banks** No specific mention.

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## **Land, property and environment**

**Land reform/rights** No specific mention.

**Pastoralist/  
nomadism rights** No specific mention.

**Cultural heritage** No specific mention.

**Environment** No specific mention.

**Water or riparian  
rights or access** Page 1-8, Article 2  
[Summary] Description of the 33 border points in eastern section running south east from Tarbagan-Dakh to the Guoluminiwujaoshi Mountain. Several of the border points cross or are situated in rivers and estuaries.

Page 8, Article 4

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The main channel is determined by the water depth, combined with the channel width and the radius of curvature, in addition to comprehensive consideration. The main channel centre line indicates the centre line between the two corresponding isobaths of the main channel.

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## **Security sector**

**Security  
Guarantees** No specific mention.

**Ceasefire** No specific mention.

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|---|----------------------|
| <b>Police</b>                                       | No specific mention. |
| <b>Armed forces</b>                                 | No specific mention. |
| <b>DDR</b>  | No specific mention. |
| <b>Intelligence services</b>                        | No specific mention. |
| <b>Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces</b> | No specific mention. |
| <b>Withdrawal of foreign forces</b>                 | No specific mention. |
| <b>Corruption</b>                                   | No specific mention. |
| <b>Crime/organised crime</b>                        | No specific mention. |
| <b>Drugs</b>  | No specific mention. |
| <b>Terrorism</b>                                    | No specific mention. |

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### **Transitional justice**

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|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Transitional justice general</b> | No specific mention. |
| <b>Amnesty/pardon</b>               | No specific mention. |
| <b>Courts</b>                       | No specific mention. |
| <b>Mechanism</b>                    | No specific mention. |
| <b>Prisoner release</b>             | No specific mention. |
| <b>Vetting</b>                      | No specific mention. |
| <b>Victims</b>                      | No specific mention. |
| <b>Missing persons</b>              | No specific mention. |

**Reparations** No specific mention.

**Reconciliation** No specific mention.

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**Implementation**

**UN signatory** No specific mention.

**Other international signatory** No specific mention.

**Referendum for agreement** No specific mention.

**International mission/force/similar** No specific mention.

**Enforcement mechanism** No specific mention.

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