

China trade Economy / China Economy

China’s Chongqing rises as global rail hub linking Asean, EU amid trade war risks

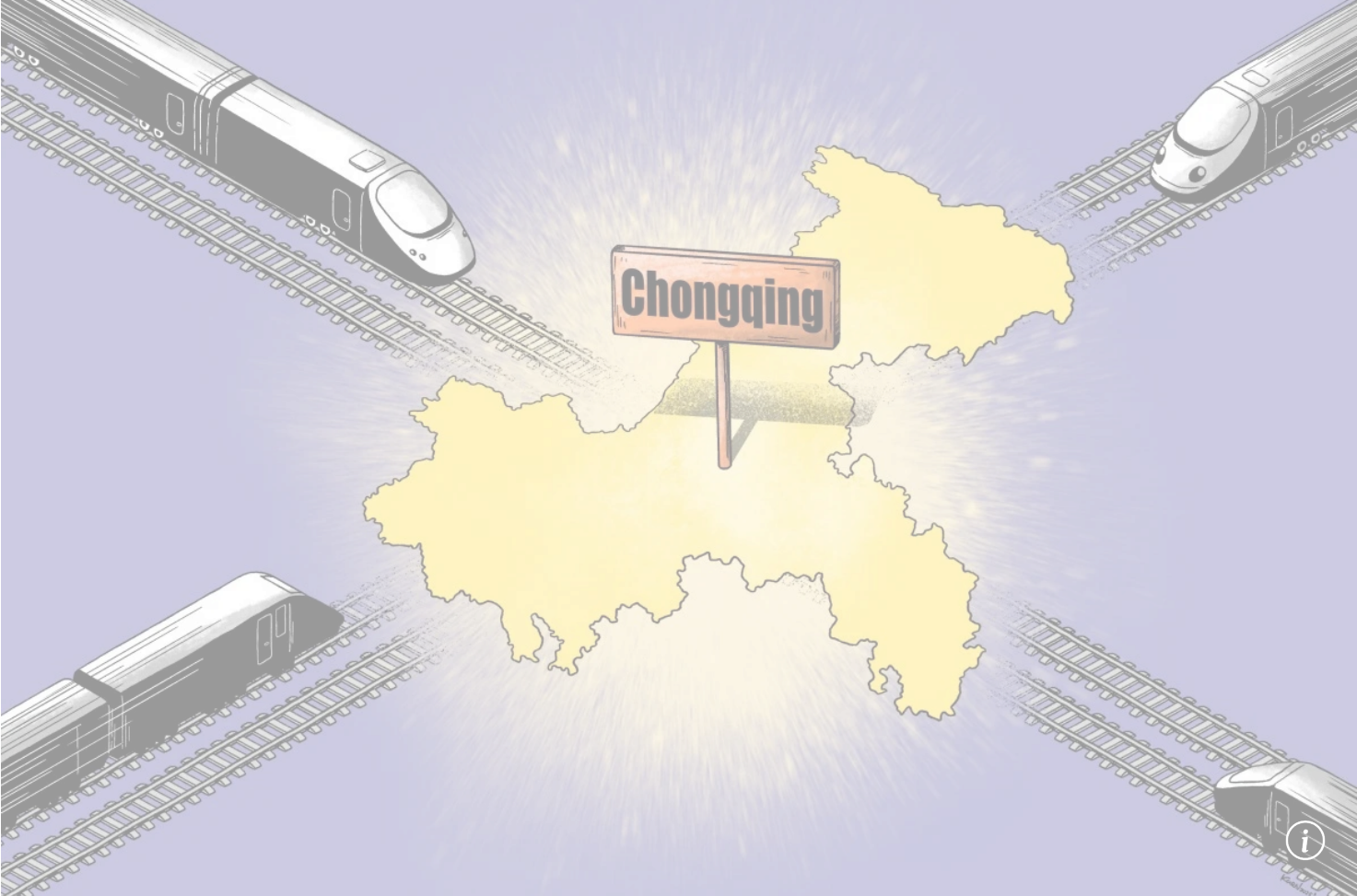
The metropolis is already a rail-powered gateway to foreign markets – now, it wants to go one step further

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Ji Siqi in Beijing
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This is the first story in a [three-part series](#) exploring how China is betting on regional hubs to counter global headwinds and reshape its economy. In this piece, we focus on Chongqing’s rise as a strategic gateway advancing Beijing’s trade ambitions.

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offering other countries a clear route into its vast interior.

But the city’s ambitions go beyond simply doing business with foreign partners. It aspires to become a central node in the global economy through which other countries trade – a rail-based “Suez Canal”, connecting Asia and Europe.

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The changes under way in Chongqing could offer a snapshot of how the world’s second-largest economy is deepening its global trade footprint amid rising geopolitical risks, including the possibility of a complete [decoupling from the United States](#).

“Shipping goods from Asean to Europe via Chongqing by rail is 10 to 20 days faster than traditional sea transport,” said Liu Yizhen, vice general manager of the New Land-Sea Corridor Operation Company, which is in charge of the freight route from Chongqing to Southeast Asia.

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