CPEC and its Socio-Political Impact on South Asia

Dr. Zahid Faqir, PhD

"CPEC has connected Pakistani's in yet another Socio-Political Web"

CPEC and its Socio – Political Impact on South Asia

Dr. Zahid Faqir

WA Publishing

Creating pages – Drafting Dreams

Published by Wah Academia (SMC-PVT) Ltd,
CB-458, Lane 9, Nishtar Road, Lalazar, Wah Cantt.
Tel: (92)309 5499292.
email: info@wahacademia.com
https://org.wahacademia.com/

All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or stored in an information retrieval system (other than for purposes of review) without the express permission of the publisher in writing.

© Copyright 2025 Zahid Faqir
ISBN 978 627 7901 01 1
First edition 2025

Zahid Faqir has asserted the right to be identified as the author of this work, in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1911.

Wah Academia Cataloguing in Publication Data
A catalogue record for this book is available from the Wah Academia Archive.

The ideas and interpretations presented in this book are offered in good faith for general reflection and discussion. No responsibility is accepted for any loss, misunderstanding, or consequence arising from reliance on specific statements in this context. The concepts—like social, economic, and political landscapes—are complex, evolving, and deeply nuanced. Readers are encouraged to engage critically with the material and consult diverse sources or authorities when considering its implications for their own circumstances.

WA Publishing

Creating pages – Drafting Dreams

Dedication

This research study is dedicated to my late **father,** "Flight Lieutenant Retired **Faqir Muhammad** (May Allah Bless him in Heaven) " who taught me to be better than others by doing good deeds and work hard to do something good for my country – **Pakistan,** I also dedicate this research to my **teachers** who made me what I am today; there are many on the list but few like **Sir Iqbal Saghir** and **Sir Khalil** who taught me the art of communication, **Professor Dr Syed Ibrahim Shah Bukhari** who enriched me with pearls of wisdom and knowledge, **Dr Tanweer Khalid** who guided me throughout my research effort not only as a mentor but also a human coach, I also need to dedicate this to **my family Rehana, Bassam, Kashaf and Fabyha** who had to bear with my non-availability due to my research work and busy schedules. In the end I dedicate my research work to my loving **Mother, Viqar un Nisa** who stood by me in my moments of despair and dismay just to make me feel I am not alone.

Terms and Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AF-PAK	Afghanistan Pakistan
AIIB	Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
AI	Artificial Intelligence
ANF	Anti-Narcotic Force
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BC	Before the Death of Christ
BCIM-EC	Bangladesh–China–India–Myanmar Economic Corridor
BOP	Balance of Payment
BRI	Belt and Road Initiative
BIMSTEC	Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectorial Technical & Economic Cooperation
BLA	Baluchistan Liberation Army
BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa
CAREC	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation
CARs	Central Asian Republics
CPC	Communist Party of China
CDB	China Development Bank

CPEC	China Pakistan Economic Corridor
CTF	Combined Task Force
ECHR	European Convention on Human Rights
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organization
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EPA	Environment Protection Agency
EPZs	Export Processing Zones
EU	European Union
FATA	Federally Administered Tribal Areas
FBR	Federal Board of Revenue
FDI	Foreign Direct Investments
FTA	Free Trade Agreement
FANA	Federally Administered Northern Areas
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FTA	Free Trade Agreement
GENCOs	Generating Companies
GB	Gilgit-Baltistan
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GPA	Gwadar Port Authority

HEC	Higher Education Commission
HRD	Human Resource Development
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPI	Iran–Pakistan–India Pipeline
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ISIS	Islamic State of Iraq and Syria
IT	Information Technology
IWT	Indus Waters Treaty
JCC	Joint Coordination Committee
JV	Joint Venture
KM	Kilometer
KPK	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
KKH	Karakoram Highway
KDI Triangle	Kashgar – Dushanbe – Islamabad Triangle
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas
LEAs	Law Enforcement Agencies
LEMOA	Logistics Exchange Memorandum Agreement
M-1	Motorway One
MW	Megawatts
ME	Middle East

MOUs	Memorandums of Understanding
NEQS	National Environment Quality Standards
NHA	National Highway
NOC	No Objection Certificate
NAP	National Action Plan
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
OBOR	One Belt One Road
OEM	Original Equipment Manufacturer
OCOR	One Culture One Region
NEPRA	National Electric Power Regulatory Authority
PCJCCI	Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry
PLA	People's Liberation Army
PMSA	Pakistan Maritime Security Agency
PN	Pakistan Navy
PRC	People's Republic of China
QTTA	Quadrilateral Transit Trade Agreement
RAW	Research and Analysis Wing
R&D	Research and Development
RS	Ranbir Sena
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

SAPTA	South Asia Preferential Trade Arrangements
SCO	Shanghai Cooperation Organization
SEZs	Special Economic Zones
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
SLOC	Sea Lanes of Communication
SSD	Special Security Division
TEVTA	Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority
TAPI	Turkmenistan–Afghanistan–Pakistan–India Pipeline
TTP	Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan
UK	United Kingdom
UPKC	US-Pakistan Knowledge Corridor
UN	United Nations
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
US	United States
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UNESO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHCR	United Nations Higher Commission for Refugees
WTO	World Trade Organization
WPF	World Peace Forum

CPEC and its Socio-Political Impact on South Asia

Abstract

China has begun transforming the dynamics of regional politics through China Pakistan Economic Corridor, more often referred as CPEC. Apparently, it is proclaimed as an economic venture connecting Chinese manufacturers with South Asian markets. However, the greater picture seems different. CPEC is likely to become epicentre of all," Belt and Road Initiatives" as rolled out by China. The increasing number of communication networks around this corridor is further augmenting its geo-strategic and socio-political significance. South Asia is once again in the limelight. The impact of CPEC is not only visible on Pakistan's relations with its neighbours or strategic partners but also on socio-economic indicators of the region. At government level both Beijing and Islamabad continue to portray a very positive picture but there are lot of apprehensions amongst masses and even our neighbours. Some of the critics consider it as a new great game. *It is imperative that we must carry out a research-based analysis of this socio-political impact and transformation, amidst CPEC.* The research will also help us in identifying the extent of this impact and ultimately conclude in pronouncing an agreement and or disagreement with the hypothesis, *"CPEC is not just an economic venture, it is likely to turn into geo-political talking over of the South Asian region".* Focus must be on Pakistan as it is one of the most important stake holders of the CPEC. Such research can be very helpful in dealing with the apprehensions of various stake holders.

Keywords: *Belt One Road Initiatives, China Pakistan Economic Corridor, Regional Polities, Socio-Political Impact, geo-politics, South Asia.*

Table of Contents

Abstract 11

Chapter One 13

Introduction 13

Chapter Two 33

Literature Review 33

Chapter Three 54

Genesis of CPEC: Historical Perspective 54

Chapter Four 87

Regional Dichotomy and Apprehensions 87

Chapter Five 118

Geo-Political Transformation of Eurasia in the Context of CPEC 118

Chapter Six 153

Socio Political Impacts of CPEC 153

Chapter Seven 176

Conclusion 176

BIBLIOGRAPHY 216

Chapter One
Introduction

Pakistan once declared linchpin by US President Eisenhower[1] is geo strategically located on the crossroads[2] of East & West by virtue of its inheritance. Despite many socio-political odds in its internal affairs, it remains in the limelight and focus of many regional as well as global power players. Inherited from British occupied Indian sub-continent in 1947 AD as an independent state, Pakistan geo-strategically appeared so significant that global giants, America and Russia immediately moved in,[3] trying to establish far lasting relations with the newly emerged, Islamic State of Pakistan. They foresaw the significance of Pakistan in the South Asian Region. Pakistan incidentally opted to be more inclined towards capitalist United States and did not show significant inclination towards Russian Invitation right from its inception. It led to Pakistan's entry into the new great game or the cold war.

China which started its democratic journey after independence in the sixth decade of twentieth century stood next. With almost 438 KM of border with Pakistan it surely was an important neighbour besides being a silent spectator of the cold war politics during the previous century.

Pakistan was amongst those first few countries which recognised claims of Mao Tso Tung on mainland China and discarded its diplomatic relations with the anti-Mao Taiwan in 1951. It resulted in Beijing's tilt towards Pakistan. China also realised the need for having stronger bonds and ties with Pakistan. The period between 1950 and 1960 can be marked as an era of struggle and stability both for China and Pakistan. Chinese claimed areas across Gilgit which lead to the border

[1] Hagerty Devin, South Asia in World Politics, Rowman, and Littlefield, 2005 p. 53
[2] Dr Hafeez Malik, About Pakistan: Geography, American Institute for Pakistan Studies, archived from the original on 21 July 2011. Retrieved 24 July 2010.
[3] Robert J. McMahon, "The Cold War on the Periphery: The United States, India, and Pakistan" Columbia University Press, 1994 pp. 123-136

dispute between the two[4] but that was resolved amicably by 1963 through bilateral negotiation and dialogue. China which had started its foreign affairs with the policy of neutrality eventually began entering into various partnership agreements with Pakistan in defence, strategy, and economic development by 1979.

With India they were conducting themselves on a different note. China developed very serious conflicts with India over Dalai Lama, Tibet Plateau, Aksai Chin and Mac Mohan Line after 1954. The exchange of multiple letters and dialogues between Nehru and Chou in Li could not help rather the situation became extremely suffocating on the border. The first major military action was in 1962 in the form of Sino-India War. Pakistan extended full moral support to Chinese claims against India on Tibetan Plateau. India also lost Aksai Chin[5] and kept proclaiming after the war that it was part of ancient Kashmir and which was forcefully annexed by China. During 1965 Indo-Pakistan War China reciprocated the conduct. Beijing proved to be a great support for Islamabad as they extended not only moral backing but also provided material help to Pakistan Army for resisting the Indian Attack. It further helped in strengthening strong brotherhood relations between the two new neighbours.

As the time progressed, Pakistan and China continued to have good relations. Though inclination towards America also remained integral part of Pakistan's foreign policy narratives; China was interacting more on ground with Pakistan. *"Pak Cheen Dosti"* was a common slogan during all these years. Despite of some lows in Sino- Pakistan Relations, the socio-economic cooperation did

[4] K. Arif, "China Pakistan Relations, 1947-1980" Vanguard Books, 1984 p. 60
[5] Mohan Malik, "China & India - Great Power Rivals" 1st Forum Press, 2011, pp. 220-230

not stop between the two. During the East Pakistan crisis, the war erupted between India and Pakistan in 1971, China firmly supported Pakistan. The incorporation of Karakorum highway in 1978 redefined the very genre of China Pakistan Relations. The trade between the two countries expanded and China began tapping into Pakistani markets. With the right to veto China helped Pakistan in desisting many anti-Pakistan moves by India in the United Nations.

Here it is pertinent to observe that geo strategically and even demographically India and China are almost at par and even if not at par still both countries are continuously trying to build up their regional as well as international influence through economic as well as military strength. More significantly, China seems, not only interested in regional role but aspiring to be a global influencer. Due to its ever-increasing economic spread in global markets, China has almost surpassed American supremacy in the world of trade and economy. This has begun generating a feeling of unease amongst US think tanks.

9/11 served as a reason for America to enter South Asia through Afghanistan[6]. Pakistan had to join hands with United States in their war against terrorism because as proclaimed and somewhat evidential the western borders of Pakistan were not secure enough to restrict terrorist influences in and out of Pakistan. The US War against terrorism helped Pakistan in re-visiting its border management[7], human scrutiny, administrative controls, and social uprisings. On the darker side of its Pakistan also lost lives of hundreds of innocent civilian and soldiers in this war trying to eliminate terrorism from our circle of influence. Security apprehensions and unease reduced, and

[6] The 9/11 Commission Report: Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, National Commission on Terrorist Attacks, Norton, 2004 p. 25

[7] Lulu.com, "Pakistan Intelligence, Security Activities & Operations" IBP USA, 20th Mar 2009, p. 44

the infrastructural development works started because of these efforts in the war trodden clannish belt on the western frontiers of Pakistan.

Pakistan Army lodged a substantial role in dissuading against the roots of terrorism from within Pakistan but it still seems to be an ongoing process as many of the adversaries of Pakistan still feel and propagate that Pakistan has not done enough with regards to terrorism.

However, the twists of events made India Uneasy[8]. Mr Modi adopted aggressive mobilization of Indian army on Indo- Pakistan border to distract Pakistan Army from western front or from the war on terrorism. Unfortunately, India has not been able to suppress separatist movement in Kashmir despite dedicating 0.7 million troops in Kashmir. Their tacking with uprisings has often led to bloodshed and international unease. The anti-government elements in India continue to attack Indian forces as and when they can sneak an opportunity. Every time they do so, India blames Pakistan. The result is antagonism between the two. India in its lust to be regional power does not expect Pakistan to grow peaceful and stable. During last one decade as discussed above "Zarb-e-Azb"[9] helped Pakistan in dislodging many clandestine and spy networks operating in Pakistan supported by India. The drive helped in deterring against various radical clusters such as Tehreek-i-Taliban - Pakistan (TTP), Lushkar-e-Jhangwi, Al Qaeda, Haqqani network, Jundallah, the Islamic movement in the eastern Turkmenistan and the one in Uzbekistan who had some roots or off shoots in the western mountainous region of Pakistan. Especially when such organisations lodged series of terrorist attacks within Pakistan including the one at Jinnah International Airport

[8] Nyshka Chandran, "Modi may spark more violence in Kashmir with intensified strategy" CNBC, July 5th 2018, http://www.cnbc.com/2018/07/05/

[9] APP "US commander commends Zarb-e-Azb for disrupting Haqqani network's ability to target Afghanistan", The Express Tribune, Washington, November 6th 2014 https://tribune.com.pk/story/786641/us-commander-commends-zarb-e-azb-for-disrupting-haqqani-networks-ability-to-target-afghanistaan

Karachi and Air Base near Sharah-e-Faisal Karachi. Though the operations disturbed and displaced more than one million people of the Waziristan agency but the same also helped Pakistan to improve its security situation. So much so even Russian praised Pakistan for their role in dislodging terrorist elements from its frontiers[10].

While the security situation was being set to normal China also increased its support to build devastated economy of Pakistan. Earlier it was serving as diplomatic supporter more than an economic partner or patron. China also planned and initiated strategic changes. The launch of a giant economic venture under the umbrella of One Belt and One Road Philosophy, China Pakistan Economic Corridor abbreviated as CPEC was a magnum leap. It was Forty Six Billion US dollar investment plan initially but today it appears to be much more[11] which included construction and improvement of road links between China and Pakistan specially the one passing by western mountains and the plains of Indus valley. Interestingly and optically thousands of miles of roads are being constructed in Pakistan to provide save and alternate passages for future economic interactions between China and Pakistan. But as the experts express, this economic corridor would, in no way be limited or restricted to Pakistan. From Gwadar onward there are many more plans in the pipeline. Some analysts believe that China through CPEC is not only entering into Pakistan but shall be making a head way to Gulf, Arabia, and Africa.

Many critics have shown their concerns[12] on CPEC from in and out of Pakistan. India is being the biggest critic. United States is also not very comfortable with CPEC. Iran began increased interaction with India and allowed Chahbahar, an Iranian Port to be developed by India.

[10] Russia Praises Operation Zarb-e-Azb", The News, 18 Jun 2015, archived from the original on 18 Jun 2015, Retrieved 18 Jun 2015.
[11] Kiani, Khaleeq (30 Sept 2016) "With a new Chinese loan, CPEC is now worth $62bn" The Dawn, archived from the original on 30 Sept 2016 Retrieved 19 Nov 2016.
[12] Arlen Clemens, “China Pakistan Economic Corridor Needs a Counter Strategy of India” Alpha Editions, 2018

Afghanistan is already fighting Indian, US & Russian Influences. Within Pakistan lot of political turbulence may be co related with CPEC. Where Baloch's have begun to facilitate CPEC some of their tribes feel they are still not getting enough out of it. Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa administration continues to raise voices over neglect of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa in CPEC plans. Sind has its own reservations. But still CPEC is on the roads of continuity.

The regional and international relations have surely been affected by CPEC and it is very pertinent for all of us as students of international Relations to understand these influences and explore the future dynamics of regional politics in post CPEC Scenario. Having had a brief synopsis of post CPEC scenario following it is important to figure out if CPEC is to be considered only an Economic Venture of China or they having some strategic plans as well? It may be too early to assess but surely, we all understand China is facing population crisis since many centuries and for them keeping almost two billion Chinese busy and working within China is itself one big challenge. Despite some of the great leaps by China in economy they cannot restrict Chinese to China only specially in this global world which is turning into global village. The interactions between states has increased to a great extent during last couple of decades largely focused on matters of mutual business gains. China could not have continued with policy of isolation with such changing scenarios in world politics. Where west was busy in wars to justify their military forces and expenses China seems to have staged and waged economic imperialism. "One Belt, One Road" or "Belt and Road Initiative" aimed at spreading its economic outreach. They began it with strengthening Chinese Rail link with Europe[13] to transport Chinese Goods to European

[13] Curran, Enda "China's Marshall Plan - *China's ambition to revive an ancient trading route stretching from Asia to Europe could leave an economic legacy bigger than the Marshall Plan or the European Union's enlargement, according to a new analysis."*, Bloomberg, August 7th 2016 Retrieved 22 Jan 2017

Markets at much faster pace than earlier passing through more than six countries. In Parallel to BRI between China and Europe they also began developing better road and rail link to Indian Ocean by starting another BRI between Kunming China passing through Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and then Bangladesh. In 2015 they started off with China Pakistan Economic Corridor to get to Gawadar 17 days earlier than Sea. Almost 2800 km of Road Network between Shanghai and Gawadar is under continuous construction and improvement since last half a decade at full pace. China Started with a declaration of investing forty-six billion US dollars on the project and had to extend the plan to almost 62 billion US dollars of late. Furthermore, to link CPEC with Afghanistan they have added yet another big chunk of investment. There is no doubt that CPEC itself is growing into bigger economic venture as it was initially anticipated both by Pakistan and Chinese but we also need to explore and find out as to what are the economic prospects for Pakistan in CPEC in reality? Pakistan has of course recovered from an energy crisis because of the CPEC but many critics believe that most of the power plants that have been constructed by China are coal based and quality of coal does not support many of these hi tech power plants which forces Pakistan to import coal from abroad burdening the national exchequer. In addition to this these coal power plants are also bringing environment pollution especially those sited in the middle of green fields in Punjab for instance in Sahiwal. It is also very pertinent to mention that China herself began reducing power generation through coal within its own geography so why did it bring coal plants into Pakistan First. Sceptics have begun questioning on the way Chinese CPEC investment contracts are being managed or handled in Islamabad. For instance, most of the investments in the umbrella of CPEC are based on “Built operate transfer”. The coal plants shall be managed and owned by Chinese companies for almost ten years and then handed over to Pakistan. Even the key employments are for Chinese and only the frontline workers or labourers are from Pakistan. They

are paid low salaries. Only in terms of visible numbers they may be more in few companies but when it comes to overall salaries and perks distribution Chinese are getting 70-80% of the income. There are also reports that people from Chinese Jails with criminal records are being transported to various construction sites operating under CPEC specially those managed by Chinese managers and they are made to work to earn for their families. Such articulations may not be of real time economic benefit to Pakistan and we surely need to dig out social, political, and economic implications of all these on our society and industrial workers. America has been warning in between the lines Pakistan[14] about darker side[15] of the CPEC for Pakistan. However, such warning from United States is being taken as obvious by Islamabad in the wake of Sino US rivalry at global level. We have enjoyed considerably good relations with United States since many decades and especially during Russia- Afghan War. We have also supported their war on terror and have been able to manage better security discip0line inside our frontiers because of US War on terror. America has been one of the bigger suppliers of arms and technology to Pakistan after China and ignoring America advice will be intricate. We need to explore and find as to what effect CPEC would bring onto US-Pakistan Relationship? Though US under Trump who is more of a businessman then a statesman we should hope that America will club itself more deeply into CPEC if it really wishes to compete with Chinese economic imperialism. China on the other hand is also aiming to dislodge monopoly of US Dollar. The situation can be very quizzical. Pakistan must be very careful in giving allowance to China or squeezing US Presence in Pakistan. Angry America can be equally dangerous for Pakistan as uneasy China. The Balance must be stuck. US Pakistan

[14] Banyan, "Massive Chinese investment is a boon for Pakistan, but China Pakistan Economic Corridor project carries risks" *The Economist, Asia Page,* September 9th 2017

[15] Siegfried O. Wolf, "The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor of the Belt and Road Initiative: Concept, Context and Assessment" Springer, 2019, pp. 281-290

relations in post CPEC Scenario would be of significant value and need to be seen with more critical paranoia. Pakistan might have come out from immediate power crisis, but we are still very weak in dealing with other energy resources specially water, gas, and oil. While the whole world is getting into long term agreements with oil and gas producing countries, we are stuck in plans with available prepositions of Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Indian Oil Pipeline (TAPI) as well as Iran Pakistan India Gas Pipe Line (IPI). Analysts believe that Chinese Economic Corridor in Pakistan will also have a cross over point or connection from the two projects mentioned above likely to conclude in a decade or so. Which also means that China will have an opportunity to take benefits from these two lines by generating some mechanism to T-Off resource transfer point. This need to be understand as to what are the prospects of Iran, Pakistan and Indian natural gas transportation project or that of the Turkmenistan to India vis Afghanistan and Pakistan Oil pipeline in the Post CPEC Scenario? Who would be the biggest beneficiary of these project? And would Pakistan be able to reap some marginal economic benefit from these projects or would serve as only as a silent broker and security guard managing the deal. Especially when it comes to Pakistan Iran Gas Pipeline, we must stretch our thinking to US Iran and Saudi Iran Relations as well, which are mostly at daggers drawn. Under such circumstances we must also weigh it out between US Pakistan Relations and Saudi Pakistan Relations against Pakistan Iran Relations. The apprehensions need to be carefully dealt with. Even with Afghanistan connectivity to CPEC would also entail continuity of Afghans in Pakistan. We have already had tough times managing Afghans since 1979 and especially after they moved in millions as refugees into Pakistani Border Areas. China has clear desire of spreading the wings of CPEC into other regions of the world. If India announces support to CPEC, China will not mind constructing another BRI between Islamabad and Delhi. The link with Kabul or Delhi must be carefully investigated. Pakistan has a history of

animosities and non-accepting each other with both Kabul and New Delhi. Under such circumstance can CPEC help Pakistan to improve its Relations with Afghanistan? The Pashtun Factor is already on the nerves of administrators in Islamabad. Pashtuns of Afghanistan and some of those who live in the tribal belts of Pakistan continue to desist against Durand Line. With CPEC passing linking with Afghanistan the Pashtuns might demand abrogation of Durand line and opening of geographical frontiers between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Even today according to government of Pakistan more than one and a half million Afghan refugees still live with in Pakistan and the worst is that many of them remain, unregistered, even today. Such situation would add on to the difficulties for the Pakistani Governments. But despite all it is important to consider the positive side of the CPEC Linking with Afghanistan. India has also been uneasy on the China Pakistan economic corridor merely because it considers China as regional and global competitor. They have their own apprehensions not merely due to CPEC but while they construct bigger picture, they tend to believe that China is engulfing them from all sides by increasing their presence towards each side of India. With increased presence in Pakistan China has begun decreasing Indian influences on Pakistan. The fact that CPEC has been pronounced as game changer for Pakistan has also not been taken positively by India. They never expect Pakistan to become economically strong enough being adversary. To deal with this concern and apprehension they began building blocks with United States in Indian Ocean, Afghan Government in Kabul, and Iranians in Tehran in the West of Pakistan. And even with some of the Central Asian Republics (CARs) in the west of China, and Vietnam in the east of China. Indian Prime Minister Mr Modi announced heavy investments in Iranian underdeveloped port of Chahbahar to convert it into an alternate of Gawadar and further transforming it into Joint Iran Indian Naval base. But during recent developments in Kashmir and the way present Indian Government is treating the Muslims in India Iran began

parting its way with India. It may be a temporary shift of relations because India has been quick at reposes. Is Chahbahar a Counter to Gwadar? Is itself a bigger question? Optically and apparently not, but time shall dictate. The facts need to be explored and assessed with more critical overview before giving any final statement on the subject.

China despite pronouncing self-restraint in 2002 through South China Sea declaration of conduct continued various tactical operations and manoeuvres to exercise greater control in the region. It became progressively more reactive to foreign influences in the South China Sea especially those backed by United States. Some political analysts called it a heavy-handed approach by China on maritime affairs. It became more assertive after 2012 which surely set alarms across world. Especially countries which were establishing new partnerships with China and presuming China as a country only interested in economic spread or influence. China has begun emerging as one of the major strategic power. The way Beijing emphasized on China's sovereignty, freedom of action within its sphere of influence, national security and its great power status manifested this. China economic or military outreach is continuously growing across world. It appears that half a century from now, China may have reached every part of the globe either through economic leaps or through military footholds.

In recent months China's involvement in South China Sea can be termed slightly low or may be optically low but that was largely due to its focus on developing Silk Road from Beijing to Africa via Pakistan for getting into South Asian Markets, Arabian Peninsula and ultimately reaching to an African Foot Hold. United States, India and some of the other Regional Influencers are quite uneasy about Chinese Venture through Pakistan – The CPEC. However further developments indicate that despite their unease and efforts to Isolate Pakistan from the rest of the world on so

called account of Terrorism CPEC is turning geo strategic significance not only for China but also for Pakistan.

In the first half decade after the launch of CPEC diverse turbulences were observed all along the corridor route especially in the tribal areas of western mountains and Baluchistan. Security appeared to be a greater challenge than project itself. Interestingly the federation stood steadfast to exercise greater control over its geography and deal with all types of security issues. The men in uniform and the bureaucracy along with ruling parties, all played their part and role to improve security and it did. The Chinese plans turned into actual projects and security was the first reap from the venture. But apart from this immediate benefit there is lot more pouring in for instance, CPEC has already started shaping the regional economic and security environment in favour of Pakistan. Some of the Check Points are,

- Visit to Gwadar by Chief of Russian FSS to study feasibility of future security, maritime and trade linkages,
- Iran's desire to form part of Chinese flagship OBOR initiative, CPEC; reiterated during recent visit to Iran by Chinese Deputy Prime Minister - means China cognizant of CPEC's medium term realisation,
- Upcoming trilateral talks on Afghanistan in Moscow involving Russia, China, and Pakistan - Regional security initiative,
- Pakistan forming part of Lapis-Lazuli Corridor involving central Asian states, Oman, Afghanistan, and Turkey - Regional economic initiative,

Regional security alliance is already in the offing with Russia, China, Iran, and Pakistan expects to remain part of it. Thus, CPEC is driving the regional economics in much more imaginative ways than earlier perceived Russia and China have also begun to join hands on few fronts. CPEC has

also started affecting India's strategic aspiration of 'uni-polarity' and even US influence in Asia. Infect as the CPEC matures the overall political balance in South Asian Region would require a definite shift and review by all stake holders. This would surely include 'Indian Look East Policy' which had taken Indian power projection to its limits in an unchartered and less concerned territory, Establishing economic linkages regionally with the emerging bloc will be new realisation in India very soon or even asking SCO to resolve / help manage disputes with Pakistan?

East-West economic corridor may become operational sooner than expected. Philippines President Rodriguez Duterte has already opted in favour of China. Let us see what happens with India. All these are signs of Positive Outputs from CPEC some have already begun to conclude many others in pipeline. However, one of the negative impacts of CPEC is Indian Animosity. They are still taking CPEC as threat to their strategic plans for making India a Regional Superpower of South Asia. Their earlier Plans of influencing the region through magnum investment plus presence in Afghanistan and anti-Pakistan drives in Persian Gulf have begun to fail because of CPEC. India seems extremely angry and at unease on CPEC and to her Chinese Presence in Pakistan is least acceptable.

So Much so that it would not be wrong to state that on one hand recent Indian plot to wage war against Pakistan on the pretext of Uri Brigade Attack is because of CPEC to some extent. India seems continuously agitated over the Chinese Investment Plans in Pakistan, also because of the disclosure of RAW activities in Baluchistan and because of overall success and impacts of “Zarb-e-Azb” Operations by Pakistan Military and State. All these actions are bringing back Pakistan to stability, peace and prosperity which are not to the advantage of India. Resultantly, they are in state of anxiety to dislodge all these achievements and efforts. Uri Attack optically appears to be an event that is helping India to evade away world’s attention from atrocities in Indian Held

Kashmir. The magnum movement of the forces on Indo Pakistan Borders by India and then a state sponsored media campaign against Pakistan could have placed Pakistan in difficult position but China's Presence in Pakistan for CPEC also helped to dilute the building crisis for now. Furthermore, Mr Modi's recent speeches indicate Indian intention of isolating Pakistan. It was because of this reason alone that India Entered Afghanistan with more than 50 Consulates/ Diplomatic and or Cultural Offices; trying to invest relations in Afghanistan to use Afghanistan against Pakistan. Even Iran was offered many economic concessions and offers by India for Chahbahar and other socio-economic projects. But despite all these attempts, the Sino-Pakistan Friendship Corridor continued. It helped Pakistan to bring back irritated Afghans and uneasy Iranians into the folds of socio-economic relationship with Pakistan in coming decades. Being one major investor in Afghanistan China can play still a significant table in convincing Afghanistan to bridge the Gulfs with Pakistan.

China undoubtedly has begun to emerge as more powerful regional as well as global power because of its earlier concluded Beijing-Warsaw Road-Rail Link and now CPEC. Where we can see Chinese products gaining access to larger world markets, we can also see Chinese Political, Social and Geographical empowerment in the world of politics and international relations. Conclusively speaking it is pertinent to admit that Chinese Strategy of "One Belt - One Road" has significantly enhanced China's standing not only in the economic terms but also on geopolitical and geo strategic front. In parallel Pakistan will also reap enough fruit out of this investment. They have an opportunity to evade away from US influence which earlier was posing lot of difficulty for government to exercise control over anti American feeling and masses. Furthermore, the loose ends of Baluchistan which kept Islamabad on the toes for a long time re being addressed more

diligently and with poise. The annoyed Iran and uneasy Afghanistan have also started seeing CPEC as an avenue for regional trade and development.

One of the most difficult question with regards to CPEC that can bug alarm for anyone in Pakistan is, as to How far and how much CPEC may affect freedom of Pakistani Government in its foreign policy? Lot of historians and economists believe that there is always a cost of foreign investment in terms of socio-political losses. Pakistan has also signed some agreements with timelines if half a century with China like many other Chinese BRI partners. But there are certain negative indicators as well. Certain U turns from Belt and Road Initiatives by Malaysia, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka and then some serious administrative and economic conflicts with project partners were difficult to resolve. At instances, Beijing used only diplomatic offices and leadership influences but, in some cases, china continues to force upon its legal rights and at others they have been shunted out of the geographical ambits of the countries in conflict. Even with change of government in Pakistan variety of concerns were levied and raised against predecessors with regards to CPEC. Some contracts revisited and in many the government could not do much. However there have been air of unease between Islamabad and Beijing during 2018 but the deals are being managed intelligently by both sides. We need to also understand that still the construction work continues and the CPEC is still not fully operational. There may be things in hide. We must assess and define likely level of freedom Pakistan will have after completion of this geo-economic venture. Some radical local Pakistanis still carry apprehension that China might take over most of Pakistan in the garb of economy.

CPEC in nutshell may not just an economic venture of China but a Geo Strategic Plan of an emerging global giant to extend its Geopolitical regional influences besides capturing the world business opportunities. China’s ever-increasing presence in Pakistan is being a concern as well.

Some critics believe it would transform our society from pro-Islamic to pro-communist. Though it is too early to declare this, but the signs of socio-political transformation are slowly appearing around us. There is a need to investigate all such avenues that might converge onto shaping Pakistan into a different country from what it is today. China has its own identity and social structure which is much different from what we have in Pakistan. Even the political structure in China revolves around one political party, The Communist Party which manages China through very strict controls and monitoring as compared to our political system which is webbed around military influences, feudalism, multi-parties, ethnic pressure groups, sectionalism and even racialism. Socio-Politically Pakistan is much complex than China and the impacts of CPEC on our society and country can be very diverse and different from existing perceptions.

One of the purposes of this research is to find out potential prospects and socio-political risks associated with CPEC for Pakistan and suggest measures to deal with them. Pakistan is already confronted with large number of socio-political issues and with Chinese influx in the shape of CPEC these socio-political factors are taking new shapes and dimensions. There is an apprehension that CPEC will bring impact on how people of Pakistan live and think. There would surely be some positive outcomes and some negative impacts as well. Without any biasness to the purpose research shall focus on finding various socio-political avenues because of Chinese venture.

Aim and Objectives of the Book

- The aim of this book is to ascertain socio political impact of China Pakistan Economic Corridor on the region with a focus on Pakistan to suggest strategies to deal with the impact.

- And while doing so, “highlight link of this socio-political impact of CPEC on the regional politics of South Asia specially Pakistan and its neighbor’s”

Important Aspects covered in the Book

- Is CPEC limited to Economic outspread or China will politically and socially subjugate South Asia in the garb of CPEC?
- What Socio Political Impact CPEC will have on the people of Pakistan?
- Will there be an impact on the religious freedom due to CPEC?
- What impact CPEC will create on the regional politics of South Asia? Specially Pakistan and its neighbours?
- How CPEC will influence or impact various socio-economic sectors of Pakistan such as Agriculture, Education, Hi Tech Industries, Telecom and Communications, Information Technology?
- Will Pakistan lose its sovereignty due to CPEC in coming decades?
- Can CPEC really serve as game changer for the economy of Pakistan or its only China who will continue to reap greater benefit?

Analysis Methodology

- Qualitative Assessment from History of China has been carried out to ascertain how far China went, and established itself in other regions as a Colonialist State and or in some other form during last few centuries. Their conduct as a responsible state amongst the comity of nations.

- Quantitative research was also done at three different points such as the volume of investment and capital involved was measured within CPEC in order to visualize and infer magnitude of losses for stake holders. At yet another point demography of China was also
- explored to understand if population played significant role in initiation of OBOR and CPEC. Finally, a sample-based survey was conducted from a very carefully seceded audience in various socio-economic sectors of Pakistan to get the feedback of those Pakistani's who are directly or indirectly under socio-political impact due to launch of CPEC.
- Qualitative Exploration of earlier researches on the subject with a focus on China Pakistan Economic Corridor, South Asian Regional Politics, New Great Games, OBOR, US-China Relations, Sino-Indian Competition, The politics of South China Sea, Domestic Politics of Pakistan, Tribal Influences and Economic indicators of Pakistan.
- Qualitative assessments of various reports, official statements and intra state communications in context of CPEC made since 2000 AD and till last year as officially recorded, published through accredited print channels, websites or televised media.
- Interviews and live interaction were also made with hundreds of Chinese Professionals working on various projects in Pakistan in order to find out their opinion on Chinese out growing. This was done informally to make sure they respond naturally.
- In order to ensure merit in research only official reports, documents, geographical surveys, geo-strategic assessments, operational orders, reconnaissance reports, autobiographies, travelogues, minutes of conferences, meetings, summaries, pacts and contracts, memoranda and, most of all, declassified documents of Pakistani and Chinese governments were given preference.

Limitation faced

- With CPEC still in infrastructural development stage there was very little information and data available when the research started however there was a sudden and rapid rise in flow of information resultantly with new and emerging facts the research carried multiple challenges with regards to focus, sifting of information and drawing final inferences.
- Large volume of earlier researches carried out by Chinese Scholars are in Chinese language and many of them are inaccessible or difficult to translate so more dependency during research was limited to data or information available in Urdu or English

Hypotheses

The Study is based on the following hypotheses

- "China Pakistan Economic Corridor is not just an economic venture but a new great game of China, to disengage the United States from Pakistan and implant socio-political and economic influence over Pakistan, initially and then also in South Asian Region".

Chapter Two
Literature Review

The Global Economic Crisis. The Great Economic Depression of the XXI Century

Michel Chossudovsky and Andrew Gavin Marshall have very tactfully presented the case of global economic recession in this book comprising of twenty chapters. Though the book largely focuses on how crook and corrupt governments and economic planners have gone all across globe. But it hunts down to the impact of various governments on the lives of people as well. Choosing the word depression instead of recession augments the concern. In their opinion most governments have begun to exploit social needs of people for their political stability. Most economic ventures end up in vested gains even if they are initiated in the garb of social or public interest. The authors establish that the global economic depression has placed most of the countries into challenging situation across globe. This serves as an opportunity for those who could outgrow their economic outreach.

One Road Many Dreams - OBOR is China's bold plan to remake the Global Economy

A Book that was available towards the last few years of research and which actually identifies some of the diverse strategies that China employed while rolling out OBOR. It's a go-getting strategy with over two trillion USD budget. A T King Smith, Daniel Drache, Duan Qi pronounce it as a challenge to the present socio economic or political world order. One Road, Many Dreams discloses the real extent of China's ambition, examines the impact of the One Belt, One Road ingenuity and measures its chances of success and failure. While the authors call twenty first century as an Asian century they seem to be firm believers that China has strategic plans to reshape the world economy. China is spending trillions of dollars in hundreds of projects connecting diverse geographies into what is considered as a geo-economic and geo-political network spread over three major continents initially. It is achieving access and management controls over ports,

buildings, industrial estates, transport networks, communication infrastructure, and cyber spaces and even at some places even in local administration. Especially in energy and power sector China is supplying manpower where looked-for, the technical resources from equipment to technology and from funds to capitals actually lifting up their own economic returns in the process. With eighty plus countries as already members of China's OBOR club the author's target 2049, as the year when this number may surpass the UN member list. Till today China has exercised only soft power of the debt diplomacy and financial might astutely, helping the world's ignored middle-income and underprivileged nations. A T King Smith, Daniel Drache and Duan Qi are three highly regarded political economists who believe the balance of One Belt, One Road is unmatched. It may be a whole new world order and potentially seismic. The book looks at the plan as well as the players, the projects and the purposes, the agreements and the alliances. Though the book reconnoiters diverse opportunities for China across globe specially bearing the fact that United States is returning to apparently, isolation somehow. The book concludes with an open question if China was compelled to outgrow or it plans to engage global economy to its own benefit.

The China–Pakistan Axis: Asia's New Geopolitics

British author Andrew Small has explored historically the socio-cultural alignments and political stalemates that kept Pakistan China relation progressively growing over the years. This book was release in 2015 when both countries were overwhelmingly involved in rolling out agreed road map of CPEC. The book examines not only the history of this time-tested relationship between the two countries but also the current trajectory. Interestingly Andrew starts the book with a very powerful statement that 'The China-Pakistan axis plays a central role in Asia's geopolitics, from India's rise to the prospects for a post-American Afghanistan, from the threat of nuclear terrorism to the continent's new map of mines, ports and pipelines. Andrew has also assessed socio political aspects

arising out of CPEC and the way Administration in Islamabad is managing them to stay aligned with positive reaps of the CPEC. As Expressed by Andrew it took him six years to produce this research work which actually covers China Pakistan relationship bridged over six decades. During his research he was able to win the confidence of numerous sources in the government officials those in Beijing and many in Islamabad, Chinese army, military intelligence and even the security services. Published in parallel from UK and USA in 2015 the book declares the CPEC as positive venture for Pakistan which will surely boost its economy and also social wellbeing.

OBOR Initiative and ASEAN Connectivity: Synergy Issues and Potentialities

Bruno Jetin (2017) made comparison between Marshal Plan and the OBOR. Engulfed in transformation from socio-culturally dominant dynastic and imperialist country to a 21st century outspreading China, the slogan of Deng Xiaoping "Hide your brightness, bide your time" served as the strategic philosophy of China. The OBOR aims to put Asia, Africa, and Europe on a new course of human expansion. Infrastructural connectivity is just first and initial part of the venture followed by progressive increase in business activities and trade. While launching the initiative in 2013, China declared it to be focused on two major elements. Developing a stronger and tactically planned web of "on land road networks' all around the ancient silk route economic belts. And secondly establishing strong harbouring points all around the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean to keep alternate business route map alive. It is interesting to note that total cost of Belt and Road Initiatives twelve times more than that of the Marshall Plan even if comparatively calculated in current valuation which was one hundred and twenty billion United States dollars approximately.

Origin of CPEC

Though some critics like Malik, Hasan Yasir (2012) also believe that one of the hidden reasons to launch OBOR was to develop western Chinese regions specially Guizhou, Xinxiang, Gansu, and Qinghai. Ferdinand, Peter (2016) has linked China OBOR with Go west. He proclaims that Xinxiang is tactically valuable because its frontiers with eight countries, including Russia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, and India. Belt and Road Initiative initially aims to strengthen infrastructural and road networks on six different routes or corridors. These corridors include,

Each corridor has its own significance and importance however CPEC is considered phenomenally more important for China bearing the fact that there is only one country that China must deal with, and it provides an opportunity for China to establish a totally new purpose-built port in the form of Gwadar to address multi directional business needs of China. Often prescribed as game changer CPEC has begun impacting gross domestic product, employment ratios and foreign direct investments of Pakistan apart from multiplying its transport infrastructure. Officially, signed off on the 5th day of July 2013, it stands alone as one significant part of OBOR. The project is equally important for China and Pakistan, so despite change of governments there is a continuous management commitment exhibited by both sides for success of the project.

Impact of CPEC Projects on Agriculture Sector of Pakistan: Infrastructure and Agricultural Output

Ahmed, Riaz, and Usman Mustafa. (2014) produced their research work describing how infrastructural development lead to parallel growth in many sectors specially agriculture as well. They believe that just accessibility enhancement to far furlong areas has begun helping farmers to dwell more inputs into their farms and fields and the agriculture activities have paced up including the livestock. Magnum investments have been observed in the transport infrastructure, energy sector, mineral exploration, information technology, tele-communication networking, and upgradation of ports and on development projects.

Strategic Importance of Gwadar Port

Malik, Hasan Yaser (2012) published his research work with a focus on Gwadar. He analyses that in terms of time, CPEC is divided into three phases. Short-term projects that were expected to be completed between 2014 and 2020. Medium-term are expected to be completed between 2021 and till 2025 whereas long term projects shall culminate between 2026 and 2030. Optically CPEC aims to link Xinjiang, China with Gwadar, Pakistan. In terms of distance this link would entail development of a 2700 kilometre of an economic corridor between Gwadar and Kashgar. Gwadar is the epicentre of CPEC project. Located in South Western area of Pakistan in the Baluchistan Province it was purchased from the Sultanate of Oman on 8th Sept 1958 but was officially declared as a district and included in Baluchistan in July 1977. Interestingly more than twenty percent of the worlds oil around seventeen million barrels per day, passes through Gulf of Oman and Strait of Hurmuz right just few hours from Gwadar. As part of the CPEC project, coastal highway has connected Gwadar with complete coastal belt of Pakistan. Gwadar is naturally blessed with two semi-circular bays i.e., Gwadar Eastern Bay and Gwadar western bay. Opening into Arabian Sea in the south east and Gulf of Oman in the South west it has almost acquired position of the 3rd largest port of Pakistan and is likely to become number one by 2040. With a natural depth of 46

feet, it is proclaimed to be deepest warm water seaport of the world and can manage large volume of cargo ships along its coastline. With an approximate total cost of 248 million USD its initial phase was completed between 2000 to 2007 through joint effort by Pakistan and China. Throughout this process socio political groups of the region from local to national and even international level kept building their interest and involvement in multi-faceted business opportunities in Gwadar. Apart from China, Afghanistan, Central Asian States, Russia and even countries in the Arabian Peninsula are becoming finding room and space in CPEC through Gwadar. Gwadar is also being foreseen as one of the naval footholds, by China in relation to their greater security needs in the Indian Ocean. It would serve as refuelling and harbouring station for Chinese merchant ships. CPEC has also steered great deal of research and discussions on the Impact of infrastructure development on regions.

Special Economic Zones (SEZs): A Comparative Analysis for CPEC SEZs in Pakistan

Zia, Muhammad Muzammil, Shujaa Waqar, and Beenash Afzal Malik (2018) in their research work explored the advantages reaped from infrastructural expansion leading to employment opportunities emphasizing on the phenomenon that the throughput and social welfare in an area is improved manifold because of infrastructure development. Some European countries like Greece, Germany and Spain attained extraordinary GDP increase due to extensive public sector infrastructure development during the last century. On the contrary the Arab world did not achieve similar growth due to absence of infrastructure investment, notwithstanding enormous internal oil proceeds. Estache and Garsous (2012) also validated the same hypothesis through their research work. Correspondingly, International Labour Organization (2011) assessed comparison between capital- and labour-intensive road construction projects. ILO inferred that the labour-intensive

ventures generate twice more employment opportunities than the one where one country provides money for investment only.

Critics of CPEC also attempted to analyse the potential risks and prospects of CPEC.

Assessing CPEC: Potential Threats and Prospects. Pakistan Economic and Social

Ambreen (2016) stated that despite the number of risks and constraints, CPEC has an ability to become a big game changer.

An Analysis of Chinese Outward Foreign Direct Investment in Emerging and Developing Countries: Implications for Pakistan under, CPEC.

Alexander and Mumtaz (2016) conducted study of Chinese Foreign Direct Investment projects executed between 2009 and 2014 and reached to a conclusion that that nearly all the Chinese projects were fruitful. They assessed the subtleties affecting level of Chinese outward investment using panel data from the previous Chinese projects in various regions of the world.

China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Its Geopolitical Paradigms

Fakher (2017) explored the geopolitical and geo strategic impact of CPEC with regards Pakistan China relations in the last few decades. The write ups and literature on CPEC have spontaneously developed immediately after the declaration of China's overall aspirations under the wrap of the BRI initiatives. There is an exponential growth in the number of inputs, research papers, surveys, editorial briefs, articles, seminars, and opinion write ups which will be comprehensively analysed in this segment. The

Chinese views and commentary on periphery diplomacy

Swaine, M. D. (2014) elaborates Chinese formal narrative expressed from time to time will be in view which is focused more on building a positive prognosis of Chinese Belt and Road initiative. The declarations dispensed by the national leadership of Peoples Republic of China since 2015 have strongly highlighted China's positive intention. The commission constituted by the Chinese Government for the project continues to endorse that the aim of all BRIs including China Pakistan, Economic Corridor which shall extend the wings of Chinese business groups across the globe for further enriching the output of global economy. They also aspire to share the technology, China has excelled in. The Commission reiterated on five fundamentals that shall govern the relationship of China while extending the ambits of their belts and roads initiative. These include deference for the political and territorial freedom of all partners, non-interference in internal affairs of participating countries, mutual passivity, parity and benefit and non-violent sharing. The commission's report is one vital document that provides understanding into China's official standpoint with regards to the worldwide opinions on their economic spread out plan.

Modernisation of the PLA: Gauging Its Latent Future Potential

Jiti S. Bajwa (2002) has captured relation of people liberation army of China with socio-political developments and ventures by China. He is of the view that whatever Chinese Communist Party or the leadership decides PLA Backs it. He has quite elaborately explained that Belt and Road Initiatives have been well thought out and carefully planned out enterprises and their success is pre-evident from the level of cohesive commitment between Chinese think tank and their military.

The Maritime Silk Road & the People Liberation Army, China as a "Maritime Power"

Morgan Clemens (2015) published a research paper in a Conference. He advocated that China would like to be more peaceful after one belt one road completion because negative events and impact on one corridor will have further impacts on other such ventures so they would surely get

to amicable resolutions. Yet another school of thought indicates that China will have strong military built-up after Belt and road initiatives to deal with security challenges on its investment and they are likely to increase their assertive role in world politics in coming years.

China's 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Initiative, Energy Security and SLOC

Christopher Len (2015) has analysed China's OBOR plan much differently. He observes that apart from various other aspects and impacts OBOR will improve the transport and communication network not only on the mainstream corridors but through multi-lateral and multi-dimensional road/rail/commutation links. He has discussed in detail that China carries lot of focus on Indian Ocean through CPEC. Indeed, improving every type of transportation and communication to improve China's business outreach remains at the ebb of every plan. Even the trade and economic activities will spread out faster. They strongly endorse it as a multi-dimensional, industry and transport connectivity venture.

China, Threat in South Asia

Pushpa Adhikari (2012) has examined Chinese moves towards South Asia as threat to Indian supremacy in the region. She has extensively explained how such move would impact Indian influence over Nepal and even Pakistan. She declares that by the end of this century China would be number one in the world economy and United States, India, and Japan next on the list. She declares CPEC as an alarm point for India. Bunce has examined China Pakistan Economic Corridor more thoroughly and contrived out eleven objectives of China and ten purposes for Pakistan in this venture.

The China Pakistan Economic Corridor, Indicator of Chinese Strategic Energy goals and a Challenge to the Open Procurement Status

Taninecz (2017) expressed on potential concerns and hidden impediments the CPEC might bring to state administration in Islamabad. He has also pointed out large number of barriers and implications likely to cause delay in completion of the China to Pakistan Economic Corridor. In his opinion China would also cause certain degree of influence and dominance in the internal affairs of Pakistan followed by systemic imbalances and conflictive interpretations in agreed terms during execution phase. There is no scarcity of literature on Pakistan and China build ups and their ramifications on national, regional, and international politics. But at occasions it appears that most agreements were secretive between the two. Interestingly, most of the research work already carried out on China Pakistan Economic build-up relates to either categorical support of or divergent to Pakistan-China Economic alignments.

India-China Relations in the First Half of the 20th Century,

B. R Deepak (2001) and Bill Gertz (2013) can be termed as Intransigent Stoics, cognoscente scholars affiliated with the western camps and pro-nationalist Indian writers continue to project CPEC as a dangerous black box.

The Karakoram Highway, the Impact of Road Construction on Mountain Societies,

Hermann Kreutzmann (1991) was a Geo-economist who have been engaged in understanding the impact of roads on the socio-economic activities of various regions. Proclaimed that infrastructural developments especially of the commutation and road networks lead to intra-regional economic integrations

Butz and Cook have also concluded that apart from many positive outcomes from infrastructural development such as roads there are many negative consequences of such human ventures like the irrevocable mistreatment of the natural resources and ecological degradation.

It is also believed that the natural and scenic beauty of northern areas of Pakistan that was being managed and maintained naturally due to lesser human intervention has also been slightly disturbed by the construction of Highway along the silk route which has further increased the economic, tourism and exploration activities in the region. The economic and social distances between the Gilgit and the Baltistan and the rest of Pakistan have been reduced offering more educational and economic opportunities to the people of various far flung regions.

Though most of the literary work is expressive of a win-win outcome from Chinese venture of CPEC but another major group of writers are focusing on its negative impacts. These include writers from India and some authors from United States mostly anti-China or anti-Sino Pakistan Indian or American nationalists. Whatever the case may be, even for most Pakistanis CPEC seems to be a question mark even now despite being in fast track execution phase. They feel CPEC is likely to change socio political structure of Pakistan much more than the speculated economic gains. The religious parties and the clerics have been very vocal in their anti-China sentiments. For few the reports from Uyghur serve as the basic reason for anti-Chinese paradigms. There can be another dimension to geo-economic corridors of China specially the CPEC which has less been harped upon. The socio-political influences, conflict between local and international market practices and day to day cultural misunderstandings can turn into impediments to BRIs and even CPEC.

Military, Inc. inside Pakistan's Military Economy

Ayesha Siddiqa (2016) on the role of Pakistan Army during last many decades have a totally different viewpoint. For them Pakistan Army seems to be on forefront to assist China in crafting China Pakistan Economic Corridor. It also means more influential role of Pakistan Army in coming years as it shall be expected to even protect the corridor besides dealing with other border as well

as internal security issues. Too much dependence on Pakistan Army has begun squeezing in the role of Pakistan's democratic offices and the parliament. If army is focused on gearing the economic wheels, they may become involved once again in governance which should not be their subject. Pakistan Army has been busier in armament race, nuclear build up and missile technology whereas civilians look at consumer goods, amenities, utilities, and daily livelihoods.

The China Pakistan Economic Corridor of the BRI - Concept, Context & Assessment,

Siegfried O. Wolf, (2019) expressed that at times military controls or involvement may lead to use of coercive power even in conventional business norms resultantly an air of conflict amongst investors and the reapers of investment. Siegfried after comparing both declared CPEC has come back Marshall Plan that aimed at rebuilding Europe after World War-II which helped United States to win European affiliation and Loyalty for decades. But China appears to be less focused on political gains as compared to America. *Their logic on new silk routes is to reduce the transportation lead time of produced commodities and enhance the overall trade activity. Probably it would also help China to deal with its population spread and needs.*

China's Offensive in Europe

There is no doubt that China is opening, spreading its economic ventures beyond its own geographic boundaries especially since last one decade. Political and strategy experts like Philippe Le Corre who happens to be a visiting faculty in the international centre at Brookings and Alain Sepulchre observe that China has redesigned its geo-economic strategy. Earlier its focus was on Natural Resources, but it limited the scope of international business and investment. In recent past China began investing in infrastructural development, heavy industries, power and energy sector, tourism, hospitality, and real estate as well.

Inside the Mind of Xi Jinping

François Bougon (2018) tried reading the mind and the strategic vision of China's President. Chinese President Xi Jinping, officially pronounced "One Belt, One Road" concept in October 2013 though they had started working on open door economic policy much earlier. "One Belt, One Road" aimed at linking Chinese Manufacturers with more than sixty-five countries and 4.5 Billion people of the world through well planned railroad and sea routes. They reconstructed a Beijing-Warsaw Railway Line for 9800 KMs. Further Initiative included a Road Link from China passing through more than a dozen of Central Asian States and culminating at Europe while passing through Turkey and also a Maritime Route through the Indian Ocean passing along Africa and entering into the Mediterranean Sea in Europe. China has already been doing trade of approx. 600 Billion US Dollars per year and they aim at expanding this trade volume to 1 Trillion US $ by 2020. China expects Pakistan to be more involved in the Afghanistan and Central Asia to strengthen regional connectivity in the umbrella of OBOR instead of spending its energy in responding to behind the border, Indian roars.

Asia's Quest for Balance: China's Rise and Balancing in the Indo-Pacific

Sumana Bandyopadhay, André Torre, Paulo Casaca, Tomaz Dentinho (2017), expressed hat there is nothing new about these trade routes because Silk Route existed between Eurasia (Europe) and India (South Asia) even in ancient times. Only the pace of commutation needed today is much more significant and vital for international trade as compared to those times and that is what is likely to be achieved by China through these Trade Routes. America and few other major powers seem concerned on China's Economic out spread especially CPEC which has shaken many American Foreign Policy experts. On 30th Aug 2016, US Government signed (LEMOA) a

Logistics Exchange Memorandum Agreement with Indian Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar aimed at making India as an American Ally against Chinese Intervention in South China Sea and South Asia through Logistic need.

However, despite such moves which seem to be more of interest to India than America and some critics believe in the fact that in the garb of CPEC infrastructural development would take course in Pakistan and would lead to Poverty alleviation and socio-economic prosperity that would surely help Pakistani masses to evade extremism and radicalization. India is but adamant that Chinese Presence in Pakistan would make India weaker as a Regional Giant.

China continues to express that all their international investments aim at peaceful socio-economic prosperity and co-existence. Mr Keith Johnson differed from this stance. He identified many instances where these economic ventures helped China in political gains. Firstly, Afghanistan, started supporting Chinese proclaims in the South China Sea after China had invested millions of dollars in Infrastructural and industrial development of Afghanistan

The Belt and the Road Initiative in the Global Context, World

Wang Linggui, Zhao Jianglin, (2019) has identified CPEC as political stunt. They identified that Kazakhstan after investment worth fifty Billion US $ from China started offering not only concessions to Chinese Companies for further trade but also started supporting China on many regional issues and Global arrangements. With continuous investment outpours in Europe countries like Great Britain, France, Germany & Italy have also started supporting Chinese Foreign Office on many international issues and disputes. Amazingly Czechoslovakian Government began supporting Chinese stance over Tibetan Conflict which was the other way around for many years.

China Pakistan Economic Corridor is yet another venture which would enable China's fast track entry into the Indian Ocean apart from Guaranteed Assistance from Pakistan on the Chinese Foreign Office Objectives in the longer run. Another Geopolitical gain which China can achieve through CPEC would be Regional Dominance. This is one reason why India seems perplexed.

Macro and Micro Economic Dividends for Pakistan and the Region,

Sarah Siddiqa Aneel, (2017) observes that Pakistan should not be much concerned about Chinese Plans at this stage because an Investment worth 46 Billion US $ would help in infrastructural development, poverty alleviation, reduction in unemployment rate, industrial growth, and the spread of technology. However, it surely is pertinent that the government carefully craft every agreement and concession to China in a manner that strategic freedom of Pakistan as an Independent State is not compromised. The world is no more unipolar, nor can it be. The States and the governments are much more inter dependant and involved with each other than they were, in earlier decades. Resultantly, building secluded ties with one economic giant may lead us to more intricate situation than we have anticipated ever. Balance in International Relations is equally important. We also need to critically evaluate if Pakistan is considered as a reliable friend by China as well. As an investigative Researcher if we only work out and calculate Chinese total investment in the world, we would be astonished that China is not only investing in Pakistan but in every part of the globe. It has expressed harmonious and cooperation for many other states. We must understand that we must respond diligently with poise while dealing with China.

World views of aspiring powers - domestic foreign policy debates in China, India, Iran, Japan, & Russia,

Henry R. Nau, Deepa M. Ollapally, (2012) noted a change in China's Foreign stratagem from passive diplomacy to assertive diplomacy.

Critical Assessments and Under Currents as evolved during Literature Review

During July 2009 Chinese President Hu Jintao expressed on the need to enhance China's authority and power in the International politics. He used a strategic term, *"tooguang yanghui, youssuo zuoweei"* which meant "keeping low profile and accomplishing something. This was expressed in front of some strategic think tanks of China called national envoy. Interestingly, the full text of the discussion and the speech were never disclosed publically. However, one of the leading newspapers, *The People's Daily* often considered as the formal marketing instrument for the Communist Party leaders expressed more explicitly that China must re-define its foreign policy on four fundamental principles,

- *China should exert greater influence in world Politics*
- *China should serve as one of the key players in global economy*
- *China should prove to be a more adaptable country*
- *China should serve as more appealing moral force*

But it did not happen the way it was being expressed. China began conducting more aggressively in South China Sea with an intricate and warlike crisis with Philippines and United States. China claimed authority over more than eighty percent of the South China Sea. This claim was devised out of nine dash line philosophy, a "U" shaped line that cutbacks southwards in the direction of Malaysia. Chinese claim conflicts with territorial claims of Malaysia, Brunei, Vietnam, The Philippines, and Taiwan. Geopolitical analysts observe that China is getting more belligerent for geo-political gains apart from influencing the world economy through multi dimension and multi-faceted socio-economic access routes.

To conclude it can be said that despite a direction from political leadership to work aggressively but conduct in low profiles China has begun to exercise slightly more forcefully during last one

decade or so. In 2011 Chinese media began criticizing that China is overindulging in conflictive issues and has lost track *"tooguang yanghui, yousuo zuowei"* not adhering to keeping a low profile. The present government and the new Chinese President Xi Ping transformed the earlier doctrine of "tooguang yanghui, yousuo zuowei" which meant "keeping a low profile and achieving something and mentioned a new term *fenfa youwei* ('striving for achievement' or SFA) to realise the 'Chinese dream' on the world stage. It was further elaborated as prosperous China with a powerful military.

Under Xi foreign affairs and security institutions was re-structured and rebuilt, including the establishment of the CNSC (Central National Security Commission) in January 2014. The CNSC is headed by the Chinese president himself and it aimed at improving the national consensus for a superior national security tactic to set pace to the emerging Chinese impacts across the globe.

Xi's new declaration, fenfa youwei is contradictory to the earlier node of keeping a low profile while launching economic spread across world. Some of the Chinese Officials believe that moving from low profile to striving for achievement philosophy has been transpired by certain impediments that serve or pose risks to Chinese investment at such a large scale in other parts of the world. *fenfa youwei* (SFA) Striving for achievement emphasizes on the need to uphold China's national sovereignty and security interests while articulating means to achieve economic success. According to Professor Yan Xuetong of the Tsinghai University of China, Xi's stratagem "SFA" is focused more on success and achievement than maintaining just low profile. It would help China to generate a favourable environment for China's national transformation. This varies fundamentally from the earlier strategy of KLP, which seeks to create an international environment favourable to economic development.

Xi has clearly pronounced China as one of the significantly important player and power of the stage of the world. Despite challenges with United States in South China and / or over Taiwan China is employing all tools to engage every country in some business, political or military deal to keep every country in some form of alignment to avoid any resistance in economic spread out. So much so it was part of the SFA strategy that they offered participation in UN peace keeping efforts by sending 8000 soldiers bridging ties with uneasy United States. They invited US to join them in reaping the benefits from these corridors by linking Eurasia with further routes extending to American continents.

With diversifying moves in and around the South China Sea, the Asia Pacific region has become one core of China's foreign office. They continue to increase their armed presence in the South China Sea and further down into the Indian Ocean largely proclaiming to protect their investment effort in the region. But this seems to be one side of the story. Indian, American, and Malaysian critics continue to criticise all such moves and efforts and plans, presuming this would cause power imbalance in the pacific. The interesting part is that China is only generating deterrence through presence and is not indulging in any physical encounter at this point of time. It is too early to visualise that China may attempt to switch from economic spread to the military spread. Xi pronounced in 2013 that China shall be promoting political ties, improve economic interactions, strengthen security collaboration, and build up cultural exchange in all those regions where it expects to have access corridors. In the same context Chinese government established AIIB, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and even a Silk Road Fund.

With such actions, initiations and pronouncements many countries, governments and even social groups have become active in understanding Chinese spread and then drawing benefits or withdrawing from such intrusions. The whole of Asia, most of Europe and Africa seems like

getting involved. The term Eurasia has again been heard across globe after Chinese OBOR initiatives. New world order is imminent. WE and India are the two countries which consider themselves at risk with OBOR. And within OBOR China Pakistan Economic Corridor stand out as one of the greatest threats to their regional influence in Asia. Gwadar port is being pronounced as potential naval base and military foothold of China in the Indian Ocean. CPEC is continuously on the agenda table of Indian Government and even the white house or the pentagon. However, China is continuously desisting all such concerns and allegations. They commit to focus only on economic build up and not any military construct. Pakistan has passed through many stages of transition and transformation. It has suffered in the hands of feudalism, racialism, sectarianism, corruption, and socio-economic problems, cross border disputes with India, Afghanistan, and Iran. Such sufferings did not allow the country to get out of the clutches of IMF and the World Bank. Debt servicing never allowed any government to spend much on social reformation or infrastructural development. Power and energy crisis were at the peak when CPEC was announced and it appeared like a blessing in disguise. The offing carried attractions like recovery from the power crisis, setting up of a new port, availability of a huge commutation networks, influx of technology, employment opportunity and much more. Optically partnering agreement on CPEC has steered economic activity across Pakistan. But there is continuous political turbulence and realignments.

With growing resistance and concerns evolving out, xi stressed the importance of safeguarding national sovereignty and interests of China through strive for achievement strategy both at the 2013 Periphery Diplomacy Work Meeting and the 2014 Central Foreign Affairs Work Conference. In the words of Admiral Sun Jiangsu in May 2015, China is only protecting its economic ventures and investments and declared all measures by Chinese government as ‘legitimate and justified.

Understanding the dynamics or the outlook of the CPEC or the BRI initiative is just one part. However, until and unless, explored through the canvas of history such understanding would remain incomplete and insufficient.

Chapter Three

Genesis of CPEC: Historical Perspective

China with 1.5 billion people is most populated country of the world constituting 19% of the world Population[16]. Geographically it has an area of 9.6 Million Square KM, 8% of the landmass[17]. Recorded history of China dates to 4000 years from today however signs of an organised Chinese Society in Neolithic age have also been found through various archaeological research. The topographical entities like Hindu Kush, Himalaya & Karakorum in the south, Pacific in the East, Gigantic Soviet Union in the West, and the Snow-Clad Northern Hemisphere kept Chinese Region limited within for centuries. The contacts between Ancient China, and the rest of the world was also restricted to specific trade routes which were difficult to tread. Despite narratives issued by some historians to highlight Chinese Socio-Political interactions with other parts of the world it appears that China lived within its own geo-political confines until late twentieth century because Road Connectivity from China with rest of the world had never been easy in the past.

Understanding the Link between ancient Silk Route & CPEC. Besides Pacific, The Ancient Silk Route that was defined by Zhang Qian (200-113 BC) almost two millennia earlier existed as another opportunity for trade between China and the South Asian Region for Centuries[18]. As derived from the name itself Silk Route was largely used to export Chinese Silk to other parts of the world. For the First 1000 Years the Silk Route was also used by Buddhist Preachers[19] to pave way for Buddhism into China and then for next five hundred years Islam followed suite due to

[16] Gu' Lipping. (2018), World Population in 2018: Facts and Numbers Retrieved July, 11, 2018 from http://www.ecns.cn/news/society/2018-07-11/detail-ifyvzyvz7260424.shtml
[17] D John M. Cunningham and Charles W. Hayford (2014). China Britannica Retrieved Jan 14, 2014 from https://www.britannica.com/place/China
[18] Xinru Lu, (2010) The Silk Road in World History, Oxford University Press, Pg. 3-9 NewYork
[19] Priscilla Galloway, (2009) Dawn Hunter, Adventures on the Ancient Silk Road, Annick Press, Pg.33

interaction of Chinese people with Indian and Arab Muslims. These movements were influenced by some extra ordinary religious clerics and never involved mass immigrations. During the era of the Tang Dynasty, Guangdong and Guangzhou in China had become the strongest footholds of Islamic belief. Ferdinand Von Richthofen a German geographer officially pronounced it as "The Silk Route" while he was summarising an account of his travels, in the year 1877 AD[20]. Interestingly silk route was tri-directional that connected mainland China with three Regions i.e. South Asia (Xin Kiang to Taxila), Western Asia (Kashgar to Constantinople via Central Asian States) and the Far East (Kunming – Myanmar – India - Bangladesh). Xian, Chengdu, Kunming & Kashgar fostered and flourished as important business hubs within China because of trade connectivity provided by the ancient silk routes. The Trade through this route revolved around exports of silk, salt, sugar, teas, porcelain, and spices from China and import of silver, gold, and cotton, ivory and wool into China. However, travelling to China had never been easy even up till middle ages. Distance of 5331 km between Kashgar and Istanbul (Constantinople) through silk route used to take a minimum of two months even without many intervals in the16th Century. Traversing through deadly Gobi and the Northern Mountains carried lot of turbulent times for those travelling through the silk route. Diversity of weather conditions and climate also impeded movements. Security Conditions were also not favourable due to number of areas under threats from dacoits or warring tribes. There was hardly any international body, organisation, or Law. Limited agreements between regional allies existed and served as moral obligations on the states. With all these problems states conducted international relations through focused / time barred treaties and memorandums of Understanding. China never carried out mass trade through silk route

[20] Peter Frankopan, (2016) The Silk Roads: A New History of the World, Bloomsbury Publishing Plc pp. 221-239

however, some local merchants and trading companies kept using the silk route for ages. The Era of Industrialisation and the scientific age helped states to interact more. It also helped to reduce travelling time between various regions of the world. Establishment of League of Nations in 1919 and UNO in 1945 facilitated documented legislation in international relations. International law created enhanced security and room for international trade as well as maritime laws. As one important player of global business activity China began focusing more on its role in the battle of economies. The realisation that China must spread out its business activities surfaced during last few decades of the twentieth century. The 1300 km long Karakorum highway carved through world's most difficult terrain in twenty years from 1959 till 1979 on the ancient silk route and the 8242 km long Shenzhen – Warsaw Rail link paved way for out of the Box economic ventures. The success of these two infrastructural initiations lead to broadening of the vision in the form of "One Belt, One Road" (OBOR) and/or "Belt and Road Initiatives" (BRI). CPEC or the China Pakistan Economic Corridor is one out of six ventures under the greater Chinese philosophy of Belt and road Initiative.

Faster Accessibility into the Indian Ocean. Alfred Thayer Mahan opines that supremacy in the seas and the oceans will help countries to become more influential and powerful in world politics and the economy. His theory serves as an advisory not only for United States and Great Britain but also for many other countries which increased their maritime spread during the last 100 years or so. Robert Kaplan argued that the Indian Ocean shall become the epicentre and the node of the power conflict in coming years[21]. The Indian Ocean, geo-politically, can be pronounced as one of

[21] Robert D. Kaplan, (2010) Monsoon: The Indian Ocean & the Future of American Power, New York: Random House, pp. 230-245,

the most important of all the seas of the world because almost eighty percent of the world maritime trade is directly and indirectly dependant on accessibility and passage through this ocean. The underwater oil and gas lines web the link between many countries and states of the world besides offering an opportunity to those who can draw or reap benefits from these lines. Since Indian Ocean is 3rd largest sea of the world containing 20% of the world sea water with an area is 73,556,000 sq. km and a maximum spread of 10,000 km at the base between southern edges of Africa and Australia. It is geo politically very impacting because five busiest sea-enclaves fall within it i.e. the Strait of Malacca between Indonesia and Malaysia, the Sundra Strait between Java and Sumatra, the Cape of Good Hope near the southern edge of Africa, the Strait of Bab-el-Mandeb near southern end of the Red Sea and the Strait of Hormuz at the southern end-point of the Persian Gulf. The shipping routes around Africa are dependent on the Cape of Good Hope, the southern side of the Suez Canal is guarded by the strait of Bab-up-Mandab, and Strait of Hurmuz protects the transportation of oil between the Gulf Region and the Arabian Isthmus. And the other two, oversee maritime traffic into the Indo-Pacific Oceans. In terms of statistics 50% of the world maritime oil trade is done through this region. Chokepoints like the Straits of Hormuz and Malacca alone caters for 32.2 million barrels of petroleum and the crude oil. Furthermore, Indian Ocean contributes to 40 % of the world's offshore petroleum production. All these factors make it vital for all the regional as well as international economic giants including China to find their space and impact in the Indian waters. The Last Few Centuries are a clear exhibit of the above analysis. In 16th Century the Dutch were the first to try their luck in the Indian Ocean followed by the French, Portuguese, Spanish Germans and finally the British who exercised firm control over the Indian Ocean for almost a century largely because their ground control extended from Makran Coast to

the Bay of Bengal from 1803-1947 AD. British pronounced the Indian Ocean as the British Lake. It was geo strategic significance of the Indian Ocean that lead to German plan of building a rail-link originating from Germany, passing through Turkey, Mesopotamia (Iraq- Baghdad) heading to the Indian Ocean in the early years of the twentieth century. This was the idea of Kaiser Wilhelm II the emperor of Prussia, (1888 to 1918) who envisaged Germany as an economic and military power. This railway link was considered vital by Germans who wanted to create a new maritime connection from the Europe to the Far East through the Gulf of Persia and the Arabian Sea resisted to the idea Germans had to opt for negotiations. It was at this point that an approach was considered to force Kuwait out of Ottoman Empire to facilitate Oil needs of the British as well as Germans. Yet another big attempt to get wider access to the Indian Ocean was made by Russians when they entered Afghanistan in 1979. But even the Russians could not do much about it as they were taken aback by the resolute Afghans backed by Pakistan and the United States. The Soviet-Afghan war concluded at the dismemberment of USSR. China for decades remained restricted to South China Sea and the Pacific, but it surely understands that an access plus presence in Indian Ocean is vital to its expanding economic and business needs. The Chinese naval strategist, Zhang Ming clearly pronounced India as China's most realistic strategic rival raising concerns over Indian Influences in the Andaman-Nicobar Islands which can impede or even block Chinese entrance into Indian Ocean through Strait of Malacca[22]. The Chinese weakness lies in the Indian Ocean[23]. Observing the increased US Naval actions in the Indian Ocean as perpetual threat to their Trade ventures.

[22] Zhang Ming, and Michael G. Gallagher, (2010) "Future of Indian-South-Korean Ties: *Can Seoul Use India to Balance China?"* Korean Journal of Defence Analysis, 22-1 (March 2010) p. 47.

[23] Raja Menon, (2013) *"A Mountain Strike Corps is Not the only Option"*, The Hindu, Lead https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/a-mountain-strike-corps-is-not-the-only-option/article4963979.ece Retrieved on July 13 , 2013.

Initiation to link Beijing with Gawadar was an option with the, already crafted Karakorum Highway route so they further augmented it in the umbrella of OBOR or the Economic Corridor between China and Pakistan. However, if we take a holistic view it seems that China is trying to strengthen its control not only in the Indian Ocean but also engulfing much broader area from the southern tips of Africa to the South China Sea[24]. It is being termed as Strategic Line of Control in the Sea created, maintained, and controlled by Beijing[25]. China is slowly and gradually entering Indian Ocean through various points of contact. In the first place and towards the east China has been insisting to carve the Bangladesh–China–India–Myanmar Economic Corridor to connect North Eastern India with the Chinese province of Kunming through various road-rail connections. India seems reluctant but China is still making some headway through facilitation from Myanmar and Bangladesh. The Focus remains the Strait of Malacca which receives energy sources from the Middle East and if blocked can cause turbulence in Chinese trade activities. Due to Increased presence of Russian and US Ships in the region and naval security apprehensions in the Malacca Straits running in the middle of the Malaysian cape and Indonesian Peninsula of Sumatra, China's enhanced interest in the Indian Ocean should never be a question mark. China established agreements with Cambodia, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Siri Lanka, Maldives, Pakistan, Yemen Sudan, and Djibouti with regards to their investments and expectations for the port, to serve almost as a Chinese Port. The Table below indicates names of the ports in the above referred Countries.

[24] Abhijit Singh, (2014) "China's Maritime Silk Route: Implications for India," IDSA http://www.idsa.in/idsacomments/ChinasMaritimeSilkRoute_AbhijitSingh_160714 Retrieved on July 16, 2014.
[25] Abhijit Singh, (2014) "China's Maritime Silk Route: Implications for India," IDSA http://www.idsa.in/idsacomments/ChinasMaritimeSilkRoute_AbhijitSingh_160714 Retrieved on July 16, 2014

S/N	Country	Port	Chinese Investment by 2017	Agreement/MOU Year
1	Pakistan	Gawadar	50.6 b US $	2007
2	Cambodia	Sihanoukville	5.6 b US $	2015
3	Myanmar	Kyaukpyu	7.4 b US $	2010
4	Bangladesh	Chittagong	24.1 b US $	2016
5	Siri Lanka	Hambantota	14.7 b US $	2014
6	Maldives	Ihavanddhippolhu	1.3 b US$	2017
7	Yemen	Aden	0.507 US $	2003
8	Sudan	Port Sudan	10 b US $	2017
9	Djibouti	Doraleh Port	0.59 b US $	2015
10	Tanzania	Bogomoyo	10 b US $	2015
Ports in the Indian Ocean Earmarked by China as significant for their Strategic Investment under OBOR				

A US Expert on International Relations Mr. Booz Allen Hamilton used a term "String of Pearls"[26] for Chinese Strategic Spread in the Indian Ocean in 2005. He tried raising alarm in Pentagon with regards to Chinese increased naval presence and civilian maritime infrastructure build up all along the Indian Ocean. Mainland China increased its investments in of the Indian Ocean even on some of the smallest islands and states by building seaports, establishing Industrial footholds, res-shaping infrastructure and making headway for some of the energy rich areas. It optically seems, *"China Pakistan Economic Corridor China was expecting to add one more rather major access point to the busiest lanes in the Indian Ocean".*

Sino-Indian Regional Conflicts. China and India started with almost similar socio-economic growth trajectories in the middle of the last century. However today China continues to surpass in most of the socio-economic growth indicators. A Chinese Institute of Social Sciences conducted a comprehensive study and pronounced following ranking of top ten countries with regards to their

[26] Washington Times, (2005) "China Builds up Strategic Sea Lanes" https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2005/jan/17/20050117-115550-1929r/ Retrieved from Jan 17, 2005

national power[27]. Both Countries have regional significance in Asia right from the outset and pose resistance against each other's regional ventures. When India began talking about "Akhand Bharat"[28] on the eve of British Disengagement from the sub-Continent this concept was strongly resisted by the Muslim League. Back in 1940, on 7th & 8th October a Hindu Nationalist Leader. Radha Kumud Mukherjee chaired a meeting titled, Akhand Hindustan Conference that aimed at creating greater India aspiring to include, what is todays,

Pakistan, and Bangladesh and even Nepal and Rangoon. Despite Division of the Sub-continent into two separate and independent states, Indian Leadership kept the concept of Akhand Bharat alive. So much so it remains part of their foreign policy objectives even today. This Indian plan continued to serve as a major barrier to regional peace in South Asia for decades. China observed it as one potential risk to its regional supremacy. It remained concerned over Indian hegemonistic and aggressive designs with its neighbor's during the various stages of history. Indian Involvement in Tibet, Nepal and Singapore served as a strategic bone of contention between the two. They indulged in a war in 1962 further parting their diplomatic relations. Pakistan took it as an opportunity to get closer to China. India was bashed by China for unjustified cross border intervention in East Pakistan during 1971 Indo Pakistan War that left Pakistan fragmented and India as victorious. China strengthened its relationship with Pakistan to keep its access open to the warm waters of the Arabian Sea and in the South Asian Region. Construction of Karakorum Highway further paved way for improved ties between China and Pakistan. India resisted Chinese influence over Pakistan and always expressed it as threat to regional security. China continues to

[27] Herbert S. Yee, (2011) Publishers Routledge, China's Rise – Threat or Opportunities Pages 172-173
[28] Erdman, H. L. (17 Dec 2007) Swatantra Party & Indian Conservatism, Cambridge University Press. p. 55

support Pakistan over The Kashmir issue which is yet another source of unease for India. When we look at a larger picture, India and China appear to be more regional rivals than partners as they sometime indicate to be. Despite many short terms diplomatic moves the gulf between the two has hardly reduced. People Liberation Army of China is considered largest in the world with more than 2.23 million soldiers whereas Indian army is 3rd largest with 1.23 million soldiers as regular troops. Both Countries are entrenched in a never-ending regional power game. China significantly enhanced its modern surface combatants, sub marine technology, missile system, Cyber War strategies, and nuclear capability apart from having phenomenally larger military force then India. Similarly, India also continues to enhance its military might. When Afghan Government became uneasy with Islamabad on the Durand line and cross border influences India increased its presence in Afghanistan with more than a dozen foreign missions and consulates[29]. This was an exhibit of a regional empowerment plan. India considers China as an infiltrator in South Asia though India itself has been deeply involved in cross border influences in various countries all along its border. India's role in Sri Lanka to support Tamils, Doklom in Bhutan, Dalai Lama and Tibetan Issue towards Nepal, In East Pakistan and even in Maldives clearly indicate that the lust for being a regional power remains the epicenter of Indian rulers. Despite serious concerns as expressed by New Delhi, China continued its socio-economic spread all around in the Eurasian region. The One Belt One Road philosophy is aggressively being followed by China. A road east of India starting from Kunming passing through Myanmar, Bangladesh and Thailand and a Road West of India

[29] Ahmad Shayeq Qassem (2016) Afghanistan's Political Stability, A Dream Unrealised, Publisher Routledge p.178

passing through a Pass into Mainland Pakistan and culminating at Gwadar as CPEC. Strategists consider these two corridors as an opportunity for China to engulf India. It was probably because of this reason that India expressed its deep concerns on CPEC and declared it as a threat to Indian security.

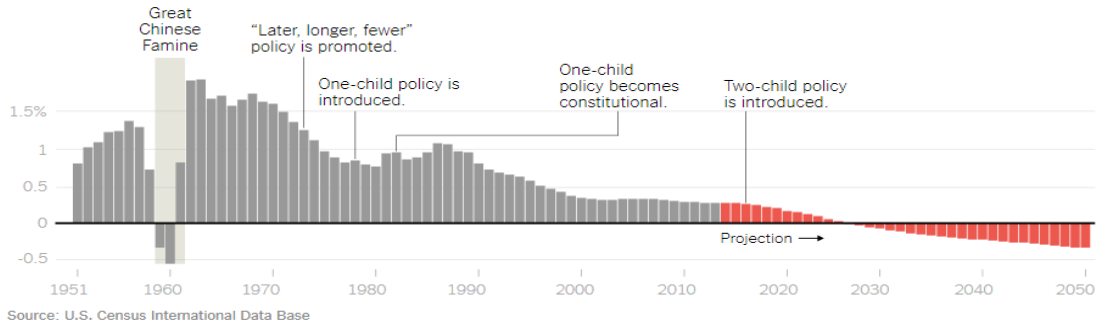
Demographic Instability. Analysts on China's role as an emerging economy have largely focused on its economic factors, energy needs, raw material potential, international participation, strategic drives and to some extent environmental concerns. However, one important feature cannot be ignored which is China's changing demography. It is today the world's most populous country. Though some social scientists believe that India is going to outnumber China in this regard within few decades, however the population of China shall remain a difficult aspect to handle. The aged people are going to double by 2020 in China according to World Bank and they shall be almost 44% of Chinese Population. China had a very strong rural collaborative public health protection system in the 1980s but due to rapid increase in the incidents pertaining to hygienic conditions, air and water contamination, smog, pollution, food poisoning, and contagious health calamities such as the SARS pandemic of 2003[30], the general health index constantly improved. The life expectancy became 70.7 for males and 74.5 years for females. This is just one factor that continues to bother Chinese Strategic Think Tanks. Though recently they did away with one child restrictions that was initiated in 1980[31] but still 90% of the families in China bear one child, resultantly lesser younger people to look after the more elderly. The state must pitch in. It increases burden on

[30] Feng Wang, (2010) China's Population Destiny: The Looming Crisis, Brookings https://www.brookings.edu/articles/chinas-population-destiny-the-looming-crisis/ Retrieved from Sept 30, 2010

[31] Tom Phillips, (2015) "China ends one-child policy after 35 years by in Beijing" The Guardian, https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/oct/29/china-abandons-one-child-policy Retrieved from Oct, 29th 2015

national exchequer. Where elderly is trying to get more pension and health covers the young population is uneasy about low wages and more work. The men and women ratio are also falling apart. It is believed that in the coming years twenty to thirty million Chinese men will not be able to find wives from within China. Lot of Chinese began moving from villages to towns and cities to find better facilities and life. This movement within China also disturbed the balance between rural and metropolitan is China impacting rural life and decline in agriculture capacity of the country. The mortality rate in China has also dropped to a significantly low level. The lesser young people led to decline in schools, colleges, and Universities population as well. These demographic inequalities will also have consequences for the world economy, which counted China as a global factory since last couple of decades. The demographic dividend adversely impacted China, reducing favorable demographic conditions to one-fifth of the average level maintained between 1982 to 2000. It is imperative to point out that this term demographic dividend refers to those per capita gains or losses by a state which are primarily due to vicissitudes in a population's age structure. Furthermore, it is generally expressed in terms of difference in the growth rate of active consumers to the growth rate of active producers. It does look like but is not the same as the generally used "dependency ratio," which is in fact the ratio of the reliant-age population (such as those up to the age of fourteen and also those beyond the age of sixty) to the productive-age population (people between fifteen and fifty nine years of age).With all the above stated problems it was pertinent and necessary for China to find a strategic resolve against population crises. The One Belt One Road seems to be opening of China to resolve its population crises. According to an estimate almost 20 million Chinese have already moved out to work in various parts of the world in the umbrella of One Belt One Road, grabbing on the raw, resources and opportunities as they

exist in other parts of the world. Doing away with One Child Policy was also possible because they have begun to capitalize on geographies beyond China[32] to facilitate their ever-increasing population.



In Search of Raw Material. It is important to understand that "nine traditional industries" in China such as steel, coal, ship-building, wind energy, solar energy, cement, petrochemical, electrolytic aluminum plate and glass began facing crises with regards to availability of the raw material[33]. So, China and Chinese had to move out OBOR & CPEC serve as fundamental to economic, easy, cheap, and quick transportation of all such needs that shall continue to serve as anchor bolt for Chinese Eco-Infrastructure. Xi's initiative did not come out of the blue. Chinese economic growth had become ever more reliant on foreign investment and exports after 1980's. And, in support of the process, the Chinese Leadership had to use its own foreign investment and loans to secure markets and the raw material needed to support its export activity. Number of

[32] Steven Lee Myers, Jin Wu, and Claire Fu (2020) China's Looming Crisis: A Shrinking Population, The New York Times, Asia Pacific Section Retrieved on Jan 17th 2020

[33] Martin Hart-Landsberg (2018), *A critical look at China's One Belt, One Road initiative*, CADTAM *Comité pour l'annulation de la dette du Tiers Monde* or Committee for the Cancellation of the Third World Retrieved on Oct 10, 2018

power plants that run on coal have been incorporated into power and energy sector of Pakistan increasing dependency on the coal. The neglected coal rich areas of interior Sindh and Baluchistan have come to the limelight and the exploration activities have also increased in volume. May be this is just one start point for collection of raw material but the way CPEC has been crafted through difficult terrains and topography, magnum opportunity would lie for those who wish to focus on mineral resources from within Pakistan.

Defense Strategy. While the world focuses more on economy these days security remains ultimate of all economic ventures. The arms and armament race are still not over. China, USA, Russia, France, Great Britain, and Germany continue to remain big sellers of arms. The buyers exist in every part of the world, but the underdeveloped or less developed countries consider themselves more insecure and challenged. They become biggest customers of the defense products. China sells them at a much cheaper price than any other country. The result is in the form of increased business interactions between Beijing and the countries of the third world. OBOR largely pass through these countries and even if when we look at Chinese Plan in Africa it seems they plan to sell more weapons then Chinese Products. When it was being launched, One Belt and One Road initiative aimed at linking China with seventy countries across Asia, Africa and Europe. Belt and Road Initiative carry two separate terms such that “Belt” which refers to specifically linkable industrial estates, towns, areas, and locations within one direction. The second terminology in the BRI philosophy is “Road”. It does not indicate one simple road, but a series of commutation channels including railways, highways, waterways and even ports which help to transport goods and services much faster between various regional markets and trading hubs. This initiative also carried an additional feature in form of several separate but linked investments. These investments

include large-scale gas and oil pipelines, development of dry ports, energy, and power projects to facilitate transport facilities and trade centers across each belt or the corridor. All of these have helped China not only sell more arms, but they have also strengthened military footholds in form of naval bases and strategic infrastructure allowing to establish communication headquarters across the globe.

Fact Sheet - CPEC Projects

The economic corridor between China and Pakistan appears to be one significant charter of regional connectivity between any two neighbours. It has been designed in a manner that its socio-economic impact is likely to engulf much larger tracts of territories then they appear. China and Pakistan may be one of the biggest beneficiaries, but we cannot underestimate the impact of CPEC on regional neighbours like Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Iran, the Gulf States, South Eastern Africa, UAE, and India. CPEC is not just another road but an avenue of opportunities enhancing the geographical link between Arabia, Africa, South Asia and China through better-quality roads, faster rails, and a backup of air transportation system. Furthermore, the impact seems inevitable on the socio-economic growth activities, people to people connection between numerous areas of the world, transformation of academic processes and curricula, cultures and ethnicities, trade, and business activities.

China Pakistan Eco Corridor is another translation of Chinese OBOR Philosophy. It’s a composition of multi-faceted drives, projects and plans that aim to achieve stronger regional Connectivity, faster transportation/communication networks, energy projects, and development of industrial zones/dry ports, social harmonization, Institutional Development and an enhanced

business activity. It encompasses construction of a faster road network between Beijing and the newly established Port of Gwadar in Pakistan which is 2442 km long and China continues to emphasize that CPEC aims at faster transportation of Chinese goods to Pakistan and then further ahead into Arabian Peninsula and African Countries. The plan was magnum and is being followed aggressively by China in close coordination with the Government of Pakistan. The start was never easy, and it was important to establish a well-defined infrastructural framework to manage the CPEC in various quarters. This infrastructure can be understood through table 1.1:

Management Infrastructure of CPEC There were concerns right in the outset of CPEC due to which China and Pakistan established a management infra-structure to stay out of conflicts during construction and execution	
Formation of JCC – Joint Cooperation Committee Jointly managed by the Vice Chairman NDRC, and the Minister PDR	
JWG for Planning	JWG for Energy
JWG for International Cooperation	JWG for Security
JWG for Transport Infra structure	JWG for Gwadar
JWC - for Socio Economic Development	JWC- Industrial Parks and Special Economic zones

China has been aggressively pursuing the Construction of CPEC Road networks it is obvious that apart from just transportation China will have a stronger business access and activities all along the CPEC and lot of analysts are trying to explore if CPEC has a Political Dimension or Impact as well. The Pronouncements made by Chinese Government and official's time again and again

specially the Chinese President Mr Xi Jinping[34] that the Chinese focus shall only be on expanding their business outreach. But the political impact of CPEC in various Regions especially South Asia cannot be ignored. It may be a framework or platform for continuous, far reaching, and progressive alliance between China and Pakistan but there are many countries in the region and even outside who are concerned about the Corridor.

The concerns expressed by India, Afghanistan and United States cannot be overlooked. In the comity of nations, no country alone or with fewer alignments can achieve greater economic prosperity or socio-political peace. It is imperative that the potential geo-political risks attached with CPEC specially those impacting Pakistan in relation to the socio-financial aspects should be kept in mind.

Pakistan China Cooperation Projects. CPEC has become the corner stone project[35] for the Future of Pakistan China Relationship. There have been many successful mega projects that were taken up by China and Pakistan in the past such as Construction of Karakorum Highway (808 Km in length) in the world's most difficult terrain of Hindu Kush, Karakorum and Himalaya, the Kamra Air Rebuild Factory project commonly known as KARF, Manufacturing J-F 17 Fighter Air Craft and many others. However, in almost 71 Years history of Pakistan CPEC happens to be the largest foreign investment project and the roots of CPEC are embedded deep into Pak-China historical bondage. Just in Power Sector we have begun to see a vital change through initiated

[34] Tom Hussain (2015) "China's Xi in Pakistan to Cement Huge Infrastructure Projects, Submarine Sales". McClatchy Monthly News, https://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/nation-world/world/article24783286.html Retrieved from April 19, 2015

[35] Salam, Nihau. "Pakistan, China sign agreements, Memorandum of Understandings on Economic Corridor Plan, maritime cooperation". www.nihao-salam.com Retrieved on May,18th 2017

projects of 17,045 MW of electricity[36]. About 10 years ago Pakistan was facing problem with regards to acute shortage of electricity and CPEC turned to be a blessing in disguise almost 50% of the Power Plant Projects[37] have already reached their financial close and begun generating electricity which has decreased the load shedding across Pakistan. Four urban mass transit projects in major cities i.e. Karachi, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, and Lahore are also picking up pace. Two of them already concluded. Nine Special Economic Zones as part of CPEC Plans shall create new clusters and hubs of business activities in some of the far furlong areas of Pakistan. All these development projects and initiatives lead to a rise in annual economic growth rate to 5.3% in 2017 which was a decade high milestone. Economic Experts presuppose that CPEC shall have positive impact on Gross Domestic Product growth rate likely to rise to 7% by 2020 from 5.2% in 2017. It is estimated that a five billion dollars shall be collected by 2022 in terms of toll money. SEZs shall be main contributor to growth and revenue. Looking at the associated projects

Gwadar[38] Port. *In May 2001 President of Pakistan General Pervez Musharraf met Chinese Prime Minister Mr Zhu Romaji and on 22nd March 2002 and laid the foundation stone for Gwadar Port. The Makran Coastal Highway linking Gwadar with Karachi was one mega project as well[39]. The focus, then was to have a backup port other than Karachi and to initiate a launching pad for*

[36] "Prime Minister Inaugurates Port Qasim coal power plant's unit in Karachi – Pakistan" Dunya News, Retrieved Feb 27th 2018
[37] Kugelman, Michael (July 9th, 2015) "Pakistan's Other National Struggle: It's Energy Crisis" The Wall Street Journal Retrieved 11 December 201
[38] Abrar, Mian (2015) "Between the devil and deep Gwadar waters", Pakistan Today, Retrieved Dec 6th 2015
[39] "China kick-starts Pakistan's Gwadar East Bay Expressway" World Highway 9 Sept 2015 Retrieved 9 Apr, 2016 https://www.academia.edu/36419810/China_Pakistan_Economic_Corridor_-_Wikipedia.pdf

Industrialization in Baluchistan. Almost 248 million US dollars were required to build the Port out of which almost 80% funds[40] were provided by China and only 20% were provided by Government of Pakistan. Gwadar was almost constructed in four years and on 20th March 2007 it was inaugurated by General Pervez Musharraf. It was at this occasion that he linked Gwadar with Chinese Trade Route. Initially the Port of Singapore was assigned the contract to manage Gwadar port for the next 40 years starting from 2007 till 2047 with agreed investment of 550 Million US dollars within the first phase. However, security was one barrier to the project during initial stage. Pakistan Navy also carried some reservations with regards to extent of land and space transfer. The company remained indecisive and did not manage properly. The result was a failed contract. By 2013 they were completely disengaged. A new Contract was signed with a Chinese Overseas Port Holding Company signed on 18th Feb 2013 for management of port affairs. The contract signing ceremony was attended by Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari and the Chinese Ambassador Liu Jian. Two Years later, in 2015, Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of Pakistan signed another contract officially leasing the port to China for 43 years, until 2059. Seemingly, China did not lose its interest or expectations from Gwadar at any point of time since the initiation of the project largely because it is related to CPEC. 9% gross revenue of Gwadar port and 15% gross revenue of Free trade zone of Gwadar.

Reconstruction of Karakorum[41] Highway. Sceptics considered old Karakorum highway as an inherent concern within CPEC. Its depleted state, slow traffic ability because of the twists, turns and gradients shall remain a question mark. Specially bearing the fact that one of the fundamental

[40] Kiani, Khaleeq (30 Sept 2016) "With a new Chinese loan, CPEC is now worth $62bn". Dawn
[41] Mahnaz Z. Ispahani Roads and Rivals: The Political Uses of Access in the Borderlands of Asia, First ed. Cornell University Press (1989) p. 191

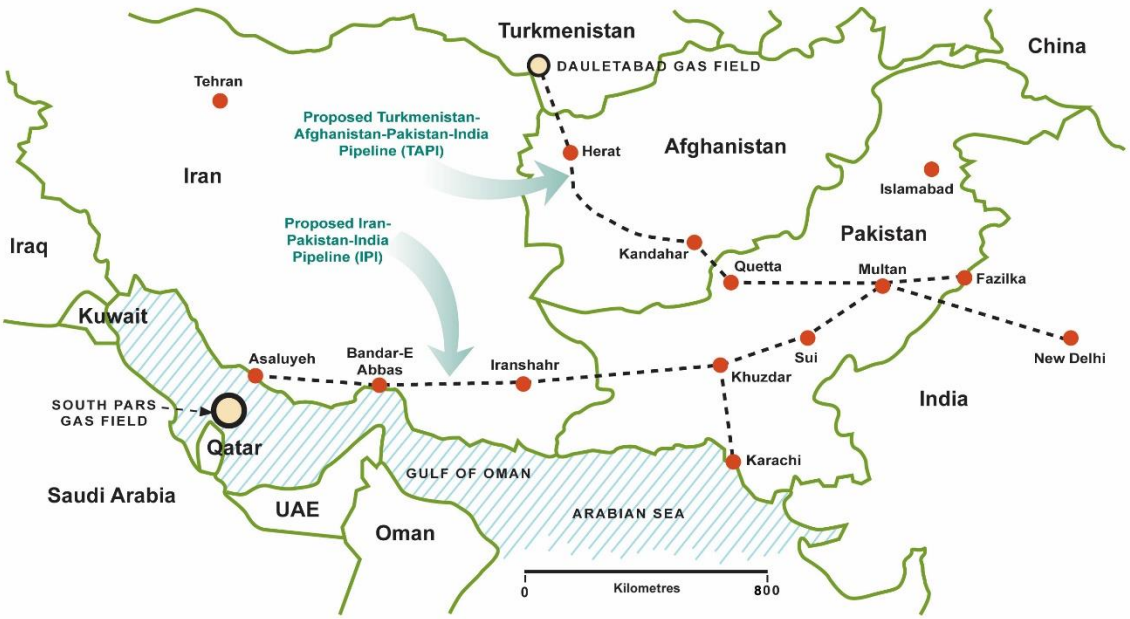
purposes of CPEC is to generate a faster communication and road network to facilitate transportation of Chinese goods and products to the other parts of the world. National Highway 35 that refers to the road between Torkham and Burhan is 887 km in length. It surely was very difficult to carve this road out of the northern mountains of Pakistan, so its width remained 10-15 feet for most of its total length. The sharp edges and frequent landslides often dislodge its dependency. With so much focus on strategic route map reconstructing KKH seemed one top priority project. Incorporated carefully into CPEC the overall reconstruction plus widening of the road has already been in full swing. M1 motorway intersect N-35 at Shah Maqsud Interchange and thereafter it adjoins Islamabad Lahore Motorway with a speedy access. Improvement of 487-kilometre-long passage between Burhan and Raikot is part of CPEC. Pronounced as the Karakoram Highway Phase II project. Furthermore 354 kilometres of road north of Shinkiari culminating near Chilas is being constructed as a highway with two lane which will be one big break through. In April 2016, the construction work for the first transit between Shinkiari and Thakot[42] was initiated followed by Havelian to Shinkiari Four Lane Dual road as well. Construction on both these sections is expected to be completed by fall 2020 approximately costing $1.26 billion. 90% of funds have been provided by Chinese EXIM bank with some low interest rate through loans to Pakistan. Hydro Power projects have also been initiated along KKH. The Diamer-Bhasha Dam and Dasu Dam are significant examples in this regard. An amount of 72 million dollars had already been spent by 2017 in improving the existing Karakorum Highway.

[42] "PM Sharif performs ground-breaking of Havelian-Thakot Motorway". The News Pakistan. 28 April 2016. Retrieved 4 May 2016.

Attabad Lake Project. In 2010 after a massive earthquake in the northern mountains of Pakistan jolted a vast area. Large scale landslides in the Indus River, near Attabad resulted in creation of a huge water reservoir later termed as Attabad Lake. However apart from long term positive impact many poor people lost their land and lives in the lake. Some portion of the Karakoram Highway also vanished in the lake, diverting all road movement onto barges to traverse the new reservoir. With quick and immediate support from China, the Government of Pakistan immediately launched[43] construction and erection of a series of bridges and tunnels in 2012 extended for almost 24 kms of distance in Attabad. This project itself served as a supplement to CPEC and within a record three years' time the new passages were paved around Attabad Lake. These passages include two large bridges and five kilometres worth of tunnels inaugurated for public use by 14 September 2015 at a cost of $275 million. The 175-kilometre road between Gilgit and Skardu is also being upgraded to a 4-lane road at a cost of $475 million to provide direct access to Skardu from the N-35.

Pak Iran India Gas Pipeline Project[44] *China seems clear in improving every area along CPEC. They have expressed their readiness to help Pakistan in completing Pakistan Iran India gas pipeline project. A cluster of pipelines to transport LNG, Oil & natural gas from Iran to Gwadar and then to Nawab shah*[45] *is part of the Chinese Commitment worth $2.5 billion.*

[43] "NHA launches projects to improve KKH's condition". The News. 22 August 2015. Retrieved 11 February 2016.
[44] Kugelman, Michael (9 July 2015). "Pakistan's Other National Struggle: It's Energy Crisis". The Wall Street Journal. Retrieved 11 December 2015.
[45] Bhatti, Sohail Iqbal (30 September 2015). "Chinese company to build LNG, gas pipeline projects in Pakistan". Dawn News. Retrieved 6 December 2015.



There have been numerous other projects, many of them almost completed leading to multi-dimensional socio-economic impact and even concerns. It is also envisaged that approx. 25 lacs new jobs shall be created for Pakistani's during 2020-2030 due to CPEC[46]. Leadership – Both in China and Pakistan continue to show their resolve on CPEC's significance and importance. Support from the local administrators, pressure groups, military, political parties, and population of the two countries has reasonably been acquired. Officially, in the month of May 2013, Chinese Prime Minister Mr Li Keqiang[47] proposed the initiative of CPEC while he was visiting Pakistan indicating huge volume of investment in Pakistan. The Plan was taken very positively by the government in Pakistan specially bearing the fact that 17500 MW of Power Generation units were

[46] Shah, Saeed. "Big Chinese-Pakistani Project Tries to Overcome Jihadists, Droughts and Doubts". The Wall Street Journal. ISSN 0099-9660. Retrieved 2016-04-10

[47] "Massive Chinese investment is a boon for Pakistan". The Economist. 8 September 2017. Retrieved 8 September 2017.

also, part of the plan and Pakistan was facing serious energy crisis. By July 2013 Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was visiting China for signing a memorandum of understanding to start the construction of China Pakistan economic corridor. The work started aggressively with Pakistan Army taking over security of the Project. Series of major projects have already reached their conclusive stage (refer to table below)

Early Harvest Energy Project	**Capacity**	**Location**
Coal Power Project	1,320 (2 x 660 MW)	Sindh
Thar Coal-l Project	1,320 (4 x 330 MW)	Sindh
Thar Coal-ll Project	1,320 (2 x 660 MW)	Sindh
Coal Power Project – Sahiwal	1,320 (2 x 660 MW)	Punjab
Coal Power project – Rahim Yar Kahn	1,320 (2 x 660 MW)	Punjab
Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park	Azam 1,000 MW	Punjab
Hydropower Project - Suki Kinari	870 MW	KPK (completion in 2020)
Hydro Power Project - Karot	720 MW	Punjab (completion in 2020)
China Power Generation – Hub	2 X 660 MW	Baluchistan
Engro Coal Power Project - Thar	660 (2 x 330 MW)	Sindh
Coal power project - Gwadar	300 MW	Baluchistan
United Energy Pakistan Wind Farm	100 MW	Sindh
Dawood wind power project	50 MW	Sindh
Sachal Wind farm	50 MW	Sindh
Sunnec Wind farm	50 MW	Sindh

Early Harvest Energy Project	Capacity	Location
Matiari to Faisalabad transmission	660 kilovolts	Sindh Punjab
Matiari to Lahore Transmission Line	660 kilovolts	Sindh Punjab

And many others are still in the pipeline. With increase in pace of work, activities, and business interactions there have been many lows and highs between China and Pakistan on various issues and concerns but despite odds and evens CPEC is moving ahead steadily.

There has been continuous increase in Chinese Visiting and working in Pakistan,

Years	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Visas Issued to Chinese	7859	69	13,268	6268	12,287

This frequent and increased flow of foreign nationals into Pakistan encouraged FDI (foreign direct investment) which grew up to 163 percent to $222.6 million in July 2017 data collected from the State Bank.

There are more than 50,000 jobs already generated through 22 ongoing mega projects directly associated with the CPEC and 214 other small size projects in the country.

15,780 military personnel have also been assigned as part of SSD (Special Security Division) & MSM (the Maritime Security Force).

There are certain Fundamental Principles that have been jointly agreed upon which would contribute to the success of CPEC. In the first place not only, the governments but also the media, social organizations, local industrialists and political organizations need to support the very idea

of CPEC in true letter and spirit because this project is spread over many decades and is surely benefitting in far-flung and neglected areas. Secondly, there is clear understanding that during each stage and step care shall be taken to seek alignment from each other to remain in a win win situation instead of getting into legislative conflicts later. China & Pakistan has also agreed on priority projects with power plants[48] on the top of list. China is expected to instruct its companies not to bypass local and statuary laws of Pakistan however they also expect special treatment and facilitation to in Transportation and administration of their companies and resources.

The ambits of CPEC as agreed by China and Pakistan encompass four significant areas of Investment and development:

- Development of Gwadar Port
- Incorporation of Power Generation Units
- Improvement of Infrastructure for Transportation of Goods and Services through a mainstream Highway & many other connecting roads and supporting rail tracks
- Establishment of new industrial estates, zones, and regions all along the CPEC Areas

All cohesively and coherently leading to the overall success of CPEC as one Project. In the world of Economists this is called as 1+4 economic Cooperation Pattern.

However, Scope of CPEC Is not just limited to Business Growth or Infrastructural Development we have observed and seen lot of initiations in science and technology, education exchange

[48] "PAKISTAN PM Nawaz inaugurates Balloki power project, which would add 1223 MW". The News Teller. 10 November 2015. Retrieved 10 March 2016.

programs, waste Management Assignments, Poverty & Hunger elimination Drives, Tourism and even town planning between China & Pakistan.

A Cooperation Committee has been set up with carefully delegated technocrats from both countries. This Committee has organized itself further into five sub Committees namely, power & energy, transportation infrastructure, industrial cooperation, long-term planning, and Gwadar port. The Joint Cooperation Committee has established two parallel secretariats one in Beijing (NDRC China) & the Other in Islamabad (Pakistan's Ministry of Planning, Development & Reforms) to deal with issues and concerns related to CPEC. These secretariats are responsible to communicate and coordinate with the various ministries and functionaries within two countries, respectively. JCC serves as the think tank coordinators of CPEC in China and Pakistan. Since 2013 Seven Meetings have been held of CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee Meeting. In the seventh meeting on 20th Nov 2017 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Demand of giving preference to Rashakai as potentially more preferred site for an Industrial Estate as compared to Hatter was registered and logged. Even more deliberations were done on increasing a focus on Science and technological development as well as tourism, education, agriculture, industrial & Financial Cooperation with a Long-Term Plan (LTP) 2014-2030 signed during the meeting.

Progressively speaking China Overseas Ports Holding Company Limited (COPHC) has carried out major repairs and up-gradation processes of the Gwadar Port facilities to restore its designed capacity. The Cargo liners have begun visiting the port every month since June 2016. On November 13, 2016, as part of CPEC Test & Trial Run and as a CPEC Pilot Project First Trade Convoy was moved right from China to Gwadar through a very close watch and security. Pakistan-China joint convoy of trucks took carrying goods passed through some of the difficult western

landforms of Pakistan all the way from the north to the south. Today Gwadar Port has begun its operations with containers being received and exported in considerable volume.

The Gwadar Airport is also operational and is being improved. The East Bay Expressway is expected to be completed by 2019 with six lanes expressway right from the port linking with Makran Coastal Highway commonly called as N-20 covering 2300 acres of free trade zone to facilitate the movement of heavy inflow and outflow of Containers from the Port. A Railway track is also the part of east expressway.

Gwadar Smart City Plan is also underway, near to completion jointly managed by China and Pakistan with a focus on improving the standard of living of the local population. A School at Faqir in Gwadar has been made Operational symbolizing Pakistan China Friendship along with Gwadar Hospital. Vocational College, and Water Desalination Plant are also near to completion. In the garb of CPEC Pakistan has been able to deal with its very serious energy and power crisis to some extent. We all understand that for sustainable industrial development and even for continuous economic activity Energy and Power resources are required.

16 Power Generation Projects were intimately planned and agreed by both sides as part of CPEC investment by China with accumulative target of generating 10,400 MW of Electricity. Despite many ifs and buts Chinese commitment remained on track. They have almost completed 60-70% of their priority power projects as part of CPEC.

S/N	Location	Sub Project	Investment	Status
1	Bahawalpur	300 MW Solar Park		Completed
2	Bhanbhor	50 MW Wind Farm 33 Turbines	115 m $	Completed
3.	Karachi	1320 MW Coal Fired Power Plant		Completed
4	Thar	3300 MW Coal Fired Power Plants		Completed
5	Sahiwal	1320 MW Coal Fired Power Plant		Completed
6	R. Yar Khan	1320 MW Coal Fired Power Plant	1.8 b $	Completed
7	Kaghan	870 MW Hydro Power Project		By 2020
8	Hub	1320 MW Coal Fired Power Plant		By 2020
9	Gwadar	960 MW Coal Fired Power Plant		By 2020
10	Sachal	50 MW Wind Farm		By 2020
11	Karot Kahuta	720 MW Hydro Power Project		By 2020
12	Jhimpir	100 MW UEP Windfarm		By 2020
13	Matiari	50 MW Wind Farm		By 2020
14	Kohala	1100 MW Hydro Power Project		In planning

Power Generation has improved overall in Pakistan because of CPEC Investment. This is an immediate inference.

Improvement and investment in Transport Infrastructure: CPEC itself is crafting North-south corridor in Pakistan. Bridging many existing roads with one state of the art mainstream Highway remains the epicentre of Transportation Infrastructure in CPEC. In the First Stage development and construction of the missing connections have been completed. In phase two both Governments intelligently planned to deal with easiest patches. Karakorum Highway between Havelian-Thakot section and Peshawar-Karachi Motorway at Sukkur-Multan section have been completed. Feasibility of Railway Line Up gradation Project as ML1 between Peshawar-Karachi has been completed with discussions going on for contractual agreements and groundwork options.

On industrial Front China Pakistan Economic Corridor caters for establishment and incorporation of much larger opportunities. For centuries, the areas of Baluchistan that remain unattended despite magnum mineral resources can easily be accessed and linked with an International Route hereafter. The Industrial Zones and Estates as are being crafted under CPEC have begun creating lot of job opportunities for the locals as well as investment opportunities for many multinational companies from abroad. The increased trade activity and inflow of Chinese Products would also trigger competitiveness amongst local industrialists as well. Economic cooperation and business interaction between states shall increase leading to more supporting roles internationally on many other fronts. Where China expects free and fast passage Pakistan Expects Industrial Growth, More jobs, and Technological enhancements. The two sides have already agreed on two major industrial cooperation projects.

Declaration of Gwadar Free Zone has drawn more interest and attention not only of many local industries but of many multinational groups and companies apart from China. Ground-breaking Ceremony was held for the Gwadar Free Zone on 1st September 2016 with China Overseas Ports Holding Company Limited speedily concluding the project. Pakistan has also declared few other

locations all along CPEC to be developed or strengthened for incorporation of industrial zones. Dry Port in Faisalabad, Haier-Ruba Economic Zone, Hattar Industrial Estate and Rashakai Industrial Estate are a few examples.

Interest-free loans have also been provided by China for the laying of Optical Fibber Cable from Rawalpindi to Khanjerab, a project that would further increase the communication impetus on CPEC. This project started in April 2016 and is likely to complete by 2021. Feasibility study on the utilization of Digital Terrestrial Multimedia Broadcast in Pakistan has also been completed and plans are under approval for yet another initiation.

As China launched CPEC there was initially lot of turbulence[49] from locals in Pakistan. Specially areas in the western mountains and Baluchistan[50]. However, through continuous and proactive negotiations with various stakes things became slightly easy[51]. Preferential agreements helped. With every new day the spread of CPEC has become a source of increased trade activity and social development in many neglected or ignored parts of Pakistan specially those towards western borders. CPEC projects are surely in the limelight. For instance, the Karakorum Highway from Thakot to Havelian and Suki Kinari Hydropower Station have soothed down large number local masses in support of overall CPEC drive. Both projects are in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The China-Pakistan Cross-border Fibber Optic Cable Plan and ML1 railway up gradation is also being well received. Peshawar and Quetta have been included in roads of CPEC as node points. Transport Monographic Study for the China Pakistan Economic corridor as was endorsed during the 5th JCC, included Quetta-Sohrab roads, Burhan-Dera Ismail Khan, as short-term preferential

[49] "'Violence-related fatalities in Baluchistan, Punjab increased" Dawn. 4 Jan 2017. Retrieved 9 Feb 2017.
[50] Singh, Raj (12 July 2016). "India must extend support to our freedom struggle: Baluchistan separatist leader Hyrbyair Marri". India TV. Retrieved 13 Jul 2016.
[51] "Mass surrender: Up to 24 militants laydown weapons" Express Tribune. 22 Jan 2017. Retrieved 9 Feb 2017

projects. Dozens of projects are increasing the employment ratio in Baluchistan such as Gwadar Free Zone, Gwadar Port, and Makran Coastal Highway Gwadar International Airport, Gwadar East-bay Expressway[52], Gwadar and HUBCO coal-fired power plants.

CPEC which was the outcome of OBOR one belt one road philosophy of Chinese Think Tank has further transformed into one corridor, multiple passages as it moved into Pakistan to make necessary adjustments for the local support, needs and aspirations. Resultantly the spread of CPEC is not just from North to South rather it is proving to be an East[53] West Spread as well. So much so that China went a step further ahead by expecting to link it with New Delhi in India and Kabul in Afghanistan[54]. With such added expectations the fruitfulness of CPEC would increase. The relations with India and Afghanistan can be improved through significant role and importance of CPEC in coming decades.

The American Marshal Plan that was launched to deal with stranded European Allies is being linked with CPEC by some of the analysts[55]. However, CPEC seems much more aggressive than the US Marshal Plan. Marshal Plan was more of an opportunity driven doctrine in the Post-World War II scenario. Americans were all out to exert an influence in the emerging states of css. Most of the countries in Europe were war trodden and needed technological plus capital support from the rest of the world. Marshal Plan served as perfect choice which optically aimed at reconstructing, Europe.

[52] Abbas, Syed (23 Sep 2016) "Iran wants to be part of CPEC, says Rouhani". Dawn. Retrieved 23rd Sep 2016
[53] "Kazakhstan shows willingness to join CPEC project". The News. 26 August 2015. Retrieved 23 Jan 2016
[54] Daily Pakistan Today 4th Mar 2016, "Afghanistan ready to grant Pakistan access to Central Asia".
[55] Sukumar, Arun Mohan (2017), The Wire (India) "What the Marshall Plan Can Teach India About the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor" The CPEC may be a bilateral endeavour, but New Delhi cannot ignore its spill over effects on regional governance. The inequities in the China-Pakistan relationship and the nature of proposed.

CPEC though is purely an economic venture. Associating CPEC with the Marshall Plan is not right. The drive and inspiration behind both these massive plans were totally different from each other. So much so they were launched under diverse environments. Approved as an Economic Cooperation Act by the United States Congress in 1948 "The Marshall Plan" was clearly interpreted and expressed as symbol of brotherhood and unison between the World War II allies. Though one of the needs was to desist opportunity for Communist Russians to influence eastern European states as well. The frail economic conditions of those countries had made them vulnerable to the blitz of communism both from within and even outside. America provided an assistance of twelve billion United States Dollars, to Europe. The initiative also was intended to create a market for American goods in Europe. Apart from political motives such as anti-communist alignment, maintaining relationships with friends in war, and creating marketing and business space for US investors, the Marshal Plan was also regarded as one big philanthropic effort. Conclusively, the Marshal Plan had economic, ideological, dimensions and humanitarian. And it undoubtedly nudged resurgence of European industrialization and consequently also boosted the US economy by establishing markets for its goods in Western Europe. While the Marshall Plan focused only on Western Europe, the Chinese vision has a global approach. Chinese President Xi Jinping while addressing the World Economic Forum 2017, vividly spelt out the role that China envisaged playing in orchestrating economic globalization. Referring to rising protectionism and uncertainties generated by Brexit he said, "Though globalization has created new problems, there is no justification to write off economic globalization completely. Rather, we should adapt to and guide economic globalization, cushion its negative impact, and deliver its benefits to all countries and all nations". The foregoing facts make it quite evident that there are no striking similarities between CPEC and the Marshall Plan.

It is of particular attention that that during PM Imran Khan's second trip to China, on April 28, this year, Islamabad and Beijing embarked on the new phase of the CPEC by signing memorandum of understanding-agreements on the first Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and socio-economic development and a new agreement on free trade. The new phase of the CPEC would be characterized by industrialization—20 factories is being set up in Rashakai, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province. In view of trade being an important element of the CPEC, the two sides concluded the second stage of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) aimed at strengthening trade ties between the two countries. Under the new FTA, China would open 90 per cent of its market for Pakistani goods whereas Pakistan would share 65pc of its market with Chinese exports. This would also help in redressing, to a certain extent, the yawning trade imbalance between the two countries, which stood at $9.7 billion last year. The two sides also signed an agreement on a technical package for up gradation of Pakistan's main railway line-Mail Line-One (ML-1) under which a double track from Peshawar to Karachi will be built with China's help. China who will spend $1bn on 27 projects, help Pakistan Railways in improving its capacity.

Chapter Four
Regional Dichotomy and Apprehensions

Triggering Strategic thinkers[56] all over in South Asia, the Chinese move towards Gwadar has set new alarms in Delhi, Kabul, and Tehran. *South Asia in the middle of geo strategic conflicts[57] has been intruded by a corridor of hopes – The CPEC*. The region seems in a quagmire. Either to continue with conflicts and build on apprehensions against CPEC or become part of it and reap the benefits that exist within it for each participant. For war trodden Afghanistan they seem inclined to look at it, as an opportunity, the emerging regional giant India seems uneasy about China gaining economic and political influence all around its borders, Iran looking at Gawadar as an interference into Persian Gulf economic activities; CPEC has created *regional dichotomy*. However, if carefully explored each *apprehension* on CPEC seems more of an illusion than reality.

India is already into conflicts with China[58] since decades and CPEC to most Indian would increase Chinese Influences and Presence in the Region and will reduce freedom of action for India. The 7000 km of border between the two serve no good. The 1962 China India War was just a display of intent by both sides which continues to keep them apart. The uneasy feeling between Delhi and Beijing remains at the ebb of every diplomatic move they make to bridge their relations. Aksai Chin remains bigger bone of contention. Indian Government continues to proclaim that 37,555 sq. Kms of Aksai Chin[59] and even 5180 square km of Shaksgam valley are the areas which originally remained part of composite Kashmir and have been taken over by China through force and influence. India considered Chinese Military movement in Depsang plains a threat to Indian North Eastern Air Base of Daulat Bed Oldie during 2008, the time when CPEC was gearing up into full swing. The skirmishes in the border of Chumar, Demchok, Chushal, fukche further agitated India.

[56] Melissa Conley Tyler, Rhea Matthews, Emma Brockhurst, Think Tank Diplomacy, BRILL, 2017 p. 8
[57] B. M. Jain, South Asia Conundrum: The Great Power Gambit Rowman & Littlefield, 2019 p. 22
[58] Willem Frederik Eekelen, Willem Frederik van Eekelen, Indian Foreign Policy and the Border Dispute with China Springer 2013, p. 79-133
[59] Robert Wirsing, War or Peace on the Line of Control? The India-Pakistan dispute over Kashmir turns fifty, IBRU,

With such high temperatures in the North, India appears intolerant on CPEC. For them increasing Chinese presence in Pakistan is threat to India. To them, Gwadar will turn into Chinese Military Port in the Indian Ocean linking Chinese maritime influences from South China Sea to Indian Ocean. Some of the Indians have begun describing strings of pearl as Ring of Pearls all around India. India had earnestly desired not only to be a Regional Monarch but also one of the permanent members of Security Counsel. In such situation the loss of influence in region can harm her strategic plans of Akhand Bharat. Their opposition to China Pakistan Economic Corridor is obvious.

Afghanistan expressed its concern over CPEC initially.

Before starting the construction of road networks in Pakistan China needed stability and security in the areas through which the passage had to be linked. Pakistan Army was patronized with Funds and Technological Support.

The fence on the Durand line helped. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Tribal Areas of FATA were managed differently. Infrastructural improvements coupled with better governance helped in

improving security controls on Pak-Afghan Borders. Where on one end such improvements helped the governments in Islamabad as well as Kabul in dealing with cross border influences[60]. It also brought concerns between socially knit Pathan and Pashtuns on both sides of the border. With improved fence and security situation on western frontiers to support CPEC the nomadic and freelance tribal people have been subject to discipline which makes them uneasy about CPEC. The acceptance of fence on Durand is still at low amongst Afghans. The unaccounted trade or the smuggling by locals has gone down. The Pashtuns of Afghanistan still demand Visa-less entry into Pakistan. Though the government is not charging the any fees on the visa[61]. They sometimes blame CPEC as the reason for geographical locks.

However, this is one side of the story. The War Trodden Afghanistan has been economically at its worse. Americans are fed up with staying more in Afghan after what is one of the longest militaries stay, they had after World War II in any other country of the world. NATO has already began detaching themselves from US-Afghan War after 2015. The funding for Afghan War is going down. Afghanistan is still not free from Talibanization. About 12% of Afghanistan is still in the complete control of Taliban's[62], About 54% by the present Afghan Government and 34 % remains as active war zone where the local tribes largely pro Taliban's continue to give tough resistance to pro American Afghan Government. Ultimately only half of the Afghanistan seems to be at slight ease. Zalme Khalilzad Who is leading the peace process and negotiation in Afghanistan and who has been trying very hard to bring all the groups on one table has also been uneasy about these statistics. The UN Security Council reported 22,487 violent incidents during 2018 in Afghanistan with more than 13000 armed engagements amongst these. The peace process that started five years

[60] Hafeez Ullah Khan, Regional Security Threats to CPEC – A Strategic overview by published in the Journal of research Society of Pakistan, Volume no 56, Issue No I, 2019
[61] Pakistan's visa policy for Afghanistan unchanged, FO says published in Pakistan Today on January 9, 2019)
[62] According to Special Instructor General for Afghan Reconstruction (Sigar) as of 2018

ago seems to be in stalemate situation. About 50000 Afghan Soldiers have been killed during this time. Many Americans feel if they still must negotiate with Taliban's to get out of Afghanistan, it indicates their Victory not America's. For instance, when the War was started the target was to eliminate the Taliban Uprising and Hold in Afghanistan along with destroying Al Qaida.

During last one-decade Americans have begun to believe that they must accept Taliban's as one influential part of post-war Afghanistan. Within Taliban's there is variety of divide. Few negotiating with United States, some engaged with Russians and others still not ready to negotiate or quit war. US has already been cutting on war expenses in Afghanistan. China takes it as an opportunity. They announced linking CPEC with Kabul, Qandahar, and Jalalabad to grab hold of post war economic opportunities.

This may be a concern and apprehension for many Afghans. Historically Russians attempted in Afghanistan during 18th Century, followed closely by Britishers till 19th Century and then again Russians at the fall of 20th Century followed by US War on terror and their presence since the start of 21st Century. All these superpowers used war as a tool of annexing Afghanistan. China seems to be in different mood, but they are also taken as Intruders by most of the Afghan leaders.

It is not easy for them to believe that CPEC is an opportunity for Afghanistan. China is a superpower already into many conflicts with United States and has taken over as biggest competitor against America. With such notions in display Kabul is careful in allowing yet another superpower to replace America. But they do not have much choice. If Americans pull out suddenly their economy would collapse which is still passing through turmoil's. Controlling Taliban's will also not be easy. Apprehensions defeat apprehension. Americans entered Afghanistan to destroy radical elements and they did cause lot of damage to them. Chinese are looking forward to re-construct Afghanistan and generate host of opportunities. Probably this reason was enough for the

Kabul and Afghanistan ultimately voiced her sturdy desire to seam into CPEC since 2016. Dr. Omar Zakhilwal[63], the Afghan ambassador in Pakistan stressed upon Afghan government's interest in linking into CPEC. He opined that an extension of CPEC into Afghanistan would not only help Afghans in participating in international trade activity, but it would also spread the Chinese and Pakistani Business prospects in Afghanistan. Undoubtedly every country in the world is looking for raw material and mineral resources to feed their industry. Afghanistan remains untapped. As and when CPEC is linked with inside Afghanistan, the probabilities of developing and strengthening exploration infrastructure in Afghanistan would enhance.

With worth of over one trillion US Dollar mineral resources Afghanistan presents itself as one great geo-strategic ally for any country of the world. China, Pakistan, and Central Asian Republics seem to be more interested. But such interests are impacted by US war on terror in Afghanistan, Regional Conflict between India & Pakistan, and Russian desire to reap neighborhood benefits from Afghanistan. Irrespective of who is doing what and to what extent? China is generating its own economic space within Afghanistan. The extension of CPEC is more likely and must have been in the initial plans right from the start.

The fact that Chinese government signed a 30-year agreement with Afghanistan to access Mes Aynak, in 2008 which is pronounced as the world's second largest UN extracted deposit of copper. This was worth three billion dollars plus deal. It could have turned as game changer for Afghanistan in the long run, but the security situation brought it to halt. If peace prevails, this is

[63] Anurag Ram Chandran, Why Afghanistan Should Join CPEC? Trilateral cooperation between Afghanistan, China, and Pakistan on the Belt and Road would benefit all three states, The Diplomat, 2017

surely going to be another link point with CPEC. China has been continuously supporting post war peace process in Afghanistan[64]. After 2014 this effort increased in quantum and form.

By 2018, Pakistan had already spent US $200 billion[65] on hosting millions of Afghans in Pakistan. After 2015 when the situation began to ease out in Afghanistan from all-out war to low scale limited war the government of Pakistan launched a massive campaign to immigrate thousands of Afghan Refugees back to their homeland with the support of many humanitarian organizations from across world. According to reports a total of 0.38 million[66] Afghans migrated back to Afghanistan during the year 2016. The United Nation Higher Commission for Refugees documented that around 1.3 Million Afghans were still in Pakistan by 2017. The return of all the refugees can be beneficial for both governments but that is bit intricate as well. Afghanistan will have more labor force, many of them educated from some of the finest institutes of Pakistan who can add value to management of various disciplines of the Government in Kabul. The return of refugees is not an easy affair. Lot of Afghans consider themselves Pakistanis proclaiming they were born in Pakistan. They do not want to return as they feel Afghanistan can never be peaceful. United Nation Human Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) must play its part. Despite various incentives, drives and rehabilitation schemes Afghan Refugees are not ready to leave Pakistan. Incidentally, a great number of refugees have entered marriages with Pakistani men and women. The National Data & Registration Authority (NADRA) was unable to keep a good check on their own registration processes in its foundation years which paved way for many Afghans to register

[64] Mu, Xuequan. 2014. China Willing to Play Constructive Role in Afghan Reconstruction: PM. December 16. Accessed 7 December 2015 http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2014-12/16/c_127306705.htm
[65] "Burdened economy: 'Pakistan has spent $200b on Afghan refugees'". The Express Tribune. 26 October 2013. Retrieved 30 June 2019.
[66] Diplomat, Umair Jamal, The. "Why Is Pakistan Expelling Afghan Refugees?" The Diplomat. Retrieved 2017-01-27

themselves as Pakistani's. This social intermixing lead to complexities[67] in the return of Afghan Refugees to Afghanistan. Of late government of Pakistan launched separate Identity card for Afghan Refugees to manage and monitor their activities in Pakistan but most of the Afghans remain reluctant to such new identity. The Chinese are continuously increasing their influence on the routes and link routes associated with CPEC. Unaccounted and Unregistered Afghan Refugees in Pakistan would remain a burden and a security concern for Pakistan as well as China. China also participated in rehabilitation and repatriation dialogues which aimed at desisting Pakistan from the influence of Afghans.

Indeed, for Pakistan Peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan would be of greater benefit and this has been often expressed by the Foreign Office and the Government of Pakistan.

There is a strong desire and urge amongst Pakistani Think tanks to foster faster communication links with the Central Asian Republics.

China began building One Belt One Road from Xian to Warsaw in Europe passing through the Business Hubs of Central Asian States i.e. Urumqi, Almaty, Bishkek, Samarkand & Dushanbe much earlier. The rail link between China and Europe was redefined and restructured. Yu'Xin'Ou[68] was a freight rail[69] route that was initiated to develop rail link between southern China - Chongqing with European City of Duisburg[70] in Germany passing by Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus, and Poland. All these ventures indicate significant and vital role of Belt and Road Initiatives by China.

[67] "Independence Day: We are Pakistanis now, say Afghans". Express Tribune. 15 August 2011. Retrieved 16 November 2011.
[68] "Hauling New Treasure along the Silk Road". NYT. 2013-07-20. Retrieved 2014-03-29.
[69] "Yuxinou Railway: The New Silk Road?" Open to Export posted by UK Trade & Investment. 2013-06-06. Archived from the original on 2014-12-14. Retrieved 2014-03-29.
[70] "A Silk Road for the 21st century: Freight rail linking China and Germany officially begins operations". Shangaiist.com. 2011-07-04. Retrieved 2014-03-29.

The Central Asian Republics since their independence in 1991 are considered as land of opportunities by most of the world predominantly because of their mineral potential specially gas and oil.

The five Central Asian Republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan with 65 million population and an area of 4 million[71] square kilometers are reportedly accounted for world's third largest region for Oil & Gas Reserves after Gulf & America.

Talan Observes that **Kazakhstan** can be epicenter of world's energy related discoveries and inventions with almost 10 to 22 Billion barrels of established crude oil reserves and 53 to 83 trillion cubic feet of gas. In addition, there are about 130 geographical bowls in Kazakhstan yet to be explored and each is suspected to be containing large volume of mineral resources. Kazakhstan has been into the production of oil since 1911 with first oil well discovered in 1899 but somehow under Russian Control it did not boost its oil production for decades. As soon as it became independent of Moscow it significantly increased its oil exploration and production activity involving investments from many international oil companies of the world. Some of the biggest oil fields in Kazakhstan are those of Manistee, Uren, Giant Tengiz, Atone and Karachaganak Kashgar in the western region of the country. KMG – Kaz Money Gas is one of the largest and main Kazak Oil and Gas Company which was formed in 2002 after freedom from Russia playing a pivotal role in reorganizing Oil and Gas Exploration, Production and Transportation for economic gains of the country. The company expressed its concerns over the oil and gas export capacity because most of the export lines were under Russian controls and were limited to the western region. In case we can lay pipeline from Tajikistan to Islamabad there are always probabilities that we may be able to further extend the lines to Kazakhstan and increase the

[71] (Source: National Geographic concise Atlas of the world 2012)

business opportunities for all those enroot. China has already developed business deals and relations with KMG. They have almost acquired 51% of the companies share in managing pipelines related to transfer of oil and gas to Europe[72]. CPEC would surely be a strong foundation stone for all such ventures most likely to become reality in coming decades.

Turkmenistan is also considered rich with natural gas with approximately 95 to 155 trillion Cubic feet of gas with still a vital part uncharted. Caspian Sea has a border with Turkmenistan and one of the geographical bowls next to Caspian Sea in Turkmenistan also has been in limelight for large volume of oil and gas resources. In Uzbekistan is yet to tap its oil reserves but around 70 to 105 trillion Cubic feet of gas has been tapped.

Tajikistan has been importing oil but in July 2012 Tethys Petroleum of Kazakhstan announced that its exploration zone in southwestern Tajikistan can hold over 27 billion barrels of recoverable oil equivalent. Tethys Petroleum signed a joint venture with Tajik Oil Company Sangam and are planning to explore for more oil in Tajikistan. With such high volume of energy resources, the Central Asian Republics are becoming a region of interest for many. Asian Development Bank in 2010 reported that Central Asian Republics since there independence from Russian Federation must restructure their export lines. Despite having plenty of gas and oil reserves only Kazakhstan has pipelines that can help international exports. All other states have been facing challenges with regards to export of oil and gas specially bearing the fact most of the Central Asian Oil and Gas Pipelines were constructed before the fallout of Soviet Union and largely aimed at regional transportation only. Here it is pertinent to highlight that oil is one commodity that can easily be transported through pipelines, ships, or trucks. Oil over a period has become one of the most

[72] China Energy Company to acquire 51% of KMG European assets for $680 million by Oct Published as an article on SEENEWS by Nicoleta Benila on May 3rd, 2016

demanding products across globe. On the other hand, transportation of gas other than pipelines can only be done on limited scale and is of lesser export value.

The Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Sher khan-Ninjpayan border route has been identified by Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan as a potential corridor for trade.

Kashgar – Dushanbe – Islamabad Triangle needs to be seen carefully. For instance, 690 km distance between Kashgar and Islamabad can be traversed at an average/constant speed of 50KM Per hour pace in 13.80 hrs. (14 Hours) through Karakorum Range. As an alternate if travelling is done from Kashgar to Islamabad via Dushanbe it would require approx. 1700 KM of travelling and about 30 hours travelling time. In all probabilities if China Establishes these two parallel options which seems evident it can transport its industrial products through road networks to Gwadar within two to three days instead of 21-24 days which is being consumed while transporting goods through South China Sea and the Indian Ocean. Dushanbe, Tajikistan would serve link point and an alternate route to CPEC for China. It can be easily interpreted from this **KDI Triangle** that in coming year's regional peace and cooperation between Pakistan, Afghanistan and Tajikistan will be equally important to China. **Pakistan in its independent capacity has been dealing with its energy deficits since last two decades[73]. CPEC served as an Opportunity with more than 10,000 megawatts of power generation plants gifted by China in the garb of it.** Still the oil and gas deficiencies remain bigger challenge. Household gas needs are already on the verge of crisis.

[73] Powering Pakistan: Meeting Pakistan's Energy Needs in the 21st Century by Michael Kugelman, Robert M. Hathaway
Oxford University Press, 2009 – pg. 55-77 pages

The gas and oil pipelines from Central Asian Republics and the one from Iran carry volume weight for future of Pakistan. The road network between Dushanbe and Islamabad can play a defining role for the first.

Pakistan and China are seriously thinking to link Kashgar and Gawadar with rail link as well besides a Road. As part of greater plan similar link can also be crafted directly from Tajikistan passing through WA khan in Afghanistan[74] and then entering north western mountains of Pakistan to further connect with the China Pakistan Economic Corridor. With such venture turning into reality it can turn into one of the shortest trade routes between Central Asian Republics and South Asia further making it easier go to the Gulf Region and Arabian Peninsula. But before establishing link with Central Asian Republics the first pivotal point is Afghanistan itself.

The 132 km Peshawar –Jalalabad road has already been widened to accommodate more speed and traffic. Furthermore, Islamabad has also initiated construction and improvement of roads between Dera Ismail Khan and Angora Addax + Ghulam Muhammad further gaining better access to Patoka and Khost regions in Afghanistan. These cities are further being linked with CPEC Road networks generating avenue of opportunities in the border areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Pakistan has been one of the biggest buyers of Afghani Goods.

In 2015 Pakistan and India imported 70% of the Afghani Exports which included goods like dry fruits, herbs, handmade carpets and rugs, gems, and leather for shoe Industry. Unfortunately, Copper, Iron Ore, Titanium, coal, chromite, barite, and zinc remain unexplored due to security, investment, and technology limitations in Afghanistan. Number of surveys carried

from time to time, indicate Afghanistan has rich reserves of all these besides 1400 more mineral resources.

Afghanistan or India both have diversity of opinions over CPEC. India seems more agitated. **Chinese increased presence in Pakistan is within itself one potential concern to India and they call it security risk to India.** Afghanistan is more concerned about US presence in their country and to them China can be a balancing intruder. The regional expectations have begun to change after initiation of CPEC. India right from the outset began criticizing CPEC and declared it as an attempt to gain regional supremacy by China. Apparently, India pronounced her concerns over Gilgit and Skardu – The Baltistan Region and called them as part of ancient Kashmir which was made part of India in 1947 by the declaration of their rulers foregoing majority consensus.

CPEC passing through Gilgit is not acceptable to India. But that is more of an Illusion than reality. The real reasons are much beyond Gilgit and Baltistan.

Firstly, with CPEC China is likely to capture much more influence than India or any other country of the world in Asia which is not easy to absorb for Indians.

Secondly, CPEC has been pronounced as Game Changer for Pakistan and it has begun appearing to be. The power crisis is almost over. Unemployment ratios of Pakistani have begun to fall. The Fiscal gains in the garb of CPEC have begun reducing financial worries of Pakistan on Development expenses. Even the security situation in tribal belts of Pakistan have been improved. **A stronger Pakistan portrays greater concerns for the government in New Delhi.**

India began looking towards United States as an ally to counter China. Trump also accepted the need because it is against the interests of United States that China establishes its influence in other regions of the world through CPEC or whatsoever.

The suspension of $2 billion of military aid to Pakistan by Trump Administration in 2018 was just one display. Joint military exercises with India in Indian Ocean was yet another. The alliances would continue to change in next couple of years but CPEC seems to be moving ahead with all these challenges and impediments.

India is also concerned because of Chinese parallel move through BRI initiatives towards its eastern borders as well. The OBOR initiating from Kunming passing by Laos and culminating in Bangkok is considered as Chinese attempt to engulf India from all sides.

By 2004 US began referring to Chinese influences[75] in the South China Sea and Indian Ocean as Strings of Pearl. Booz Allen Hamilton is one of the consulting firm which pronounced this hypothesis in the first place, claiming that China has begun expanding[76] its naval military presence in the umbrella of improving maritime infrastructure all along the South China Sea and the Indian Oceans. A host of Chinese Commercial establishments and Military facilities been

[75] Foot, Rosemary. 2013. U.S.-China Interactions in Global Governance and International Organisations. In Tangled Titans: The United States and China, ed. David Shambaugh, 347–367. Plymouth, UK: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers.
[76] 2010b. China's Rise, Global Identity, and the Developing World. In China, the Developing World, and the New Global Dynamic, eds. Lowell Dittmer and George T. Yu, 203–230. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers

carved on various ports to support its maritime business and strategic operations between Chinese mainland to Port of Sudan. India seems extremely angry on all such moves. Probably it was due to this reason that **the Indian Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj suggested "Look East" doctrine.** India began realizing that their focus on Pakistan has earned them no good. India remained less involved in Bhutan, Burma, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Vietnam which resulted in Chinese increased involvement towards East. As regional counterpart China traded much more then India in these countries. The strings of pearl further paved way for Chinese added influence in the Eastern borders of India. With Pakistan and India continuously engaged in non-acceptance of each other SAARC could not be as productive as it was expected to be at the time of its creation. With all the above facts in mind India has begun expressing **Strings of Pearl Hypothesis as Ring of Pearls** all around it.

China seems to be less concerned about how India feels or thinks. They continue to follow their own doctrine of **'Going Out' (zou chuqu) policy that aims at deepening China's access to International Markets much beyond China or its neighbors.**

During the time of Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Man Mohan Singh India launched an all-out effort to build their own business foot hold with countries in the east. Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectorial Technical and Economic Cooperation was directed on the same lines. The **Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectorial Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)** was an international association created between India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand, and Bhutan in July 2004 with their first meeting in Bangkok. It was to administer the business opportunities of the member states through agreements of mutual trust. It was stated in BIMSTEC that the member countries house more than 1.6 Billion people such that one third of the world population which means much more business avenues or opportunities than

any other region of the world with over 3.5 billion US dollar annual combined Gross Domestic Products (2018) which can be further expanded through mutual cooperation and support. This was one of the steps by India as part of Look East policy.

India and Vietnam have also signed several defense agreements. The selling of Brahmos Cruise Missiles was one of these. Vietnam has begun opening to Indian investors and businessmen providing more relaxed tax and duties on Indian imports. The operational space to Indian Navy at the port of Nha Trang in Vietnam has also been expanded which is located on the western shores of the South China Sea. Russia as age old friend of India has also added to the flare by providing six fully equipped submarines to Vietnam. These Varshavyanka submarines carry enhanced capability of destroying ships and submarines in shallow waters of South China Sea. This arrangement seems to be anchored by India.

As part of look east policy India is building unison between Regional Economic Giants such as Japan, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia and even trans regional Giant United States. They seem seriously concerned on Chinese economic imperialist plans spreading all around Indian frontiers.

It is interesting to mention that when it comes to Indian concerns over Indian Ocean many critics express that India has only control over an area up to 18 kilometers or 12 nautical miles from coast. The remaining part of the Indian Ocean around the sub-continent is owned by Maldives, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. Whatever remains is considered as international waters where every country of the world has equal rights to pass through. In greater response to strings of pearls India has also pronounced a strategy of Iron Curtain and look east is just part of it.

Chinese Think Tank Chi Haotin expressed that "The Indian Ocean was never India's Ocean". India responded, "The way South China sea was never China's sea". Sino-Indian Confrontations have increased after China started its groundwork to improve communication and road work between Kashgar and Islamabad further extending it to Gwadar. New Delhi has also initiated number of alignment steps with United States to strike some resistance and balance to Chinese outgrowth. These are regional concerns and are redirecting themselves in various directions. Asia has become battle ground for war of economies and CPEC is yet another that leave

On 3rd Oct, 2017 James Mattis, US Defense Secretary while speaking to some lawyers expressed that the US had recapped its support for India's resistance to China's One Belt, One Road initiative the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) a part of which traverses disputed territory of Kashmir in Pakistan. The Indian envoy to China Vikram Mistri also harped upon the same feeling. Pakistan in response not only condemned US Statement but strongly rejected the pleas or pretext quoted by both parties. Americans had been part of OBOR Summits and conferences and even India was open heartedly invited so their objection on CPEC was questionable.

The Shaksgam Valley or Pakistani Held Kashmir is very peaceful with hardly any signs of lawlessness or anti state rallying the way it is happening in Indian Held Kashmir. Pakistani Held Kashmir can never be declared as a disputed territory until and unless there are mass separatist movements. After the US Foreign office statement by Mattis, Chinese also came back with a very straight forward response. China expressed that CPEC is part of OBOR plans and had been backed by the United Nations. The Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Mr. Lu Kang also reemphasized on the need for India to join CPEC or any other OBOR Plan.

China made it categorically clear that Belt and Road Initiatives various regions of the world including Pakistan were only for the good of people across continents and carry an avenue

of opportunities[77]. Those who have begun participating into it will reap more benefits and those who are following the policy of wait and see, can continue waiting. CPEC or the other Belt and Road Initiatives by China are continuously progressing towards completion.

India did not purposefully participate even in the second conference of the BRIs which was held in Beijing from April 25th to 27th, 2019 which was attended by heads of state from 40 countries foregoing any Indian concerns. Where Pakistan acknowledged the positive outcomes of the Belt and Road Initiatives by China specially CPEC the India and United States continue to denounce the same.

During last couple of months variety of strategies have been lodged by India and the United States to impede the pace of work on CPEC. The war of propaganda is on, in social media, US and Indian Research Institutes and at every forum dominated by India or United states. In the same context the **international media gave lot of coverage to a report released by an Indian backed lobby of UNPO (Unrepresented Nations and People Organization) which portrayed a completely different picture of Gilgit, Baluchistan and Sindh as areas with anti-Pakistan feelings, violence, military subjugation and perpetuations during April, 2017**. Based on misrepresentation, the report also maligned the Belt and Road Initiative of China Pakistan Economic Corridor as violence of the International law proclaiming that Gilgit and Baltistan were also disputed territories and Pakistan or China had no right to Plan some international route through this region.

[77] China's Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang on Monday said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is an "open initiative", inviting more countries to take parts in the project on the "principle of equality and voluntarism" published in The News International on Tue Sep 10, 2019

Due to difficult terrain these regions were neglected for centuries and even British east India company despite staying for more than two centuries in the sub-continent could never extend administrative or infra structural ease to these areas.

It was after the creation of Pakistan and with the Joint efforts of China and Pakistan that **Karakorum highway was carved in the world's most difficult mountains** after which host of business opportunities were created for the people of Gilgit Baltistan Region. **More than eight hundred engineers and workers out of which majority was of Chinese died during construction of this road which is one finest display of association and attachment** for the downtrodden people of these regions by the governors of Pakistan. The region that constitute a magnum potential of trade with China and even the Central Asian Republics or the rest of the world because of avenues related to tourism, timber, mountaineering, minerals, hydro power projects, gems and jewelry, precious stones, agriculture-farming and livestock. The ground realities with regards to the CPEC are much encouraging. Indian lobbying or propaganda on CPEC is only keeping India away from an enterprising opportunity.

India is also running out of its oil and gas arrangements for its population and industry. They surely need to pool up more resources and contracts to fill in expanding gaps. They have developed relations with Gulf Countries and some of the central Asian oil and gas rich countries but the cost of managing sea-based gas or oil lines is much higher than land-based lines. **TAPI – Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India gas pipeline project and Iran Pakistan India pipeline project are two initiatives that can withdraw whole of Indian antagonism against Pakistan.** Unfortunately, the second one is little more intricate than the first one due to US Iran rivalry. Some of the critics also consider these two projects as contributory reasons to CPEC.

TAPI or IPI lines will have to cross at some point the China Pakistan Economic Corridor and China would not mind generating a T-Off.

It seems CPEC can bring some change in India stances towards Pakistan especially if she starts looking at bigger picture and or the long-term economic gains. India has been trying to spread it say and stance in Central Asian States, Iran and even in Afghanistan. Initially the purpose was to keep Pakistan isolated from all its neighbors. They had been quite successful in doing so but since the inception of Belt and Road Initiative the whole outlook of International Relations is changing. The regional politics is transforming. **China declared that they shall be spending to link CPEC[78] with some of the neighboring regions and establish economic zones to further spread the benefits of CPEC.**

Robert D. Kaplan in his one of the latest books The Revenge of Geography has expressed that Europe role in Globalization has reduced and the Eurasia is now the battleground of all the future wars. **The OBOR or Belt and road initiatives of China is generating a host of economic and political competitions amongst Eurasian Countries. CPEC is no less.**

India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Tajikistan, and China are in the middle of alliances and counter alliances due to this corridor.

India started off by making all out efforts to dislodge CPEC and was ready to convene any relation that could help them achieve the goal.

Supporting the leftist Baloch Tribal Chiefs who are being sheltered by western powers is one of the tactics and tool adopted by Indians. Kalboshan Yadev episode is one clear example of

[78] Bergsten, C. Fred. 2007. China and Economic Integration in East Asia. In the China Balance Sheet 2007 and Beyond, eds. C. Fred Bergsten and Eve Cary, 171–186. Washington, DC: Center for Strategic and International Studies and The Peterson Institute for International Economics

how far India is trying to interact with local Baloch leftists. The fact that Kalboshan Yadev's entry was plotted and piloted through Iran further made it a point of concern for Chinese and Pakistani Think Tanks. His key assignment was to generate waves of anti-Pakistan feelings among Baloch people through various archives of terrorism and propaganda tactics. Pakistan did face difficulties in maintaining law and order situation on its western frontiers for a long time especially till Kalboshan Yadev was not arrested. **The arrest of Kalboshan Yadev revealed and exposed Indian plans to cause damage Pak China Relations leading to hold CPEC.** On the other hand, Indian Media remained very biased and vocal on tribal uprisings of Baluchistan which on ground hardly existed. They love making fancy stories out of very common and day to day conflicts. Highlighting every time that people of Baluchistan have lot of unease and or concerns over CPEC. In the same context Mama Qadeer[79] whose actual name is **Abdul Qadeer Baloch, was even given wide coverage by Indian Local Channels as well as CNN in early 2018.** He came to limelight when he walked for almost 877 km along with the families of few missing persons from Quetta to Islamabad in 2013 and accused government agencies and military of kidnapping 25,000 Baloch men for suppressing Baluchistan Separatist Movement. The Courts in Pakistan immediately took note of such claims and a special judicial investigation committee was formed with Justice Dr. Javed Iqbal as its head. The committee went through every single case as was being claimed in almost four years' time with no formidable evidence against any missing person and by 2017 the court ultimately declared that there had been no mass abduction in Baluchistan and the figure of 25000 was extremely exaggerated. After failing in a foiled propaganda inside Pakistan Mama Qadeer was engaged by Indian RAW when he proclaimed that Kalboshan Yadev was kidnapped

[79] Nafees Takar, (Managing Editor) Mama Qadeer Baloch Interview (Jan 5, 2014) Deewa TV/Radio, VOA, Washington

through some influential tribal leader from Iran where he was on his usual business trip as businessman. Kalboshan Yadev who was a serving military officer of Indian Army deputed as an Indian Spy was caught in March 2016 from Baluchistan by Pakistani intelligence agencies and then after trial of one year was sentenced to death in April 2017. On 18th Jan 2018 gave an interview to CNN News 18 Channel during which he tried pronouncing Yadev as innocent offering his support to Indian Agencies while they prepare defense in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for Kalboshan Yadev. Indian intelligence agency RAW had arranged an Iranian cleric, Mullah Omer Balochi Irani who was to confess kidnap of Yadav from Iran and then his selling for 40-50 million rupees to the Pakistani Agencies. With all this information one can conveniently establish that despite diversity of diplomatic moves Iran and India have some greater regional connectivity since the inception of CPEC[80].

In September 2017, a book Baluchistan: Forgotten War, Forsaken People Monograph was published by an Indian Author Sushant Sareen supported by General NC VIJ, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, Director, VIF, Former Chief of Army Staff and, Founder Vice Chairman, NDMA published from New Delhi which is very clear indication of how Indian think tanks have been propagating about Baluchistan.

European Parliament members Alberto Cirio and Fulvio Martusciello are two individuals who have been commenting and speaking loudly against Pakistan in European Parliament as well as on social media since 2015. They urged the international community to take notice of events such as the one of Asma Bai and those related to missing persons in Quetta proclaiming the government in Pakistan was unable to protect the rights of common citizens, political activists,

[80] Arduino, Alessandro, eds. Mingjiang Li and Kalyan M. Kemburi, China-Central Asia: A New Economic, Security, and Logistic Network. In China's Power and Asian Security, Oxon: Routledge 2015, p. 214–230

journalists and intellectuals. They also expressed, Pakistan did not invest enough in Baluchistan for the development of basic amenities or social infrastructure and even the CPEC aimed at harvesting the mineral riches of Baluchistan. However, this is one side of the story they had. Both Alberto Cirio and Fulvio Martusciello are Italian by origin and close friends as well. **When Modi visited EU ON 30th March 2016, he was able to snatch volume attention from the European Parliament because of potential trade opportunities between European nations and India.** The Europe is one of the largest business partners of India with almost 12.5% of India's overall trade during FY 2015-16, little ahead of China and the US which were 10.8% and 9.3% during the same period. His sessions with Alberto Cirio and Fulvio were described as very warm by media. Alberto Cirio presented Asma Bai case in EU Parliament questioning GSP Status of Pakistan on 10th April 2018[i] with Fulvio Martusciello as one staunch supporter of the argument. **It seems so strange that on one end Fulvio Martusciello was talking of the human right violations in Pakistan but on the other hand he was made responsible to lead relation building between the European Parliament and the Israel's State Assembly Knesset in Oct 2017.** Israel has been one of the biggest human right violators in Ghaza and while dealing with Palestinians and when Fulio Martusciello was invoking MEPs against Pakistan on Human Rights some of the members must have been thinking as to, look who is talking. These two EU Parliamentarians have never visited Pakistan and did not know much of what is happening actually in Pakistan and the way they became expressive after 2015 indicates the way Indian Government and lobby works on organizations and people to initiate and drive anti Pakistan moves. Interestingly a website security-risks.com has been highlighting minutest of comments by these two European Leaders during last couple of years but when you dig deep down you realize that the website is being run by an ex Indian military veteran Rahul K Bhonsle and Promila Bhonsle.

India is restless since the initiation of CPEC. For them Chinese presence in Pakistan will add to enhancement and enrichment of Pakistani Resources making Pakistan a stronger enemy. India began adjusting with United States while combating Chinese Invasion into south through CPEC. Ostensibly, a shift in regional alliances was also set in motion as soon as CPEC was rolled down. Rejecting Chinese Invitation to be part of CPEC Indians started gathering anti CPEC friends from across the world. America appeared to them as one great ally[81] because they considered China as the biggest Rival to US Global Supremacy. Trump Began with blocking 2 Billion Arms Deal to Pakistan and then adding Jamaat-ul-Ahrar (TTP-JA) to its terror list in 2016 triggering more animosities against United States in Pakistan and which could have disturbed security situation on the routes of CPEC as a large portion passed through tribal belt where Jamaat ul Ahrar had quite a say. Chances of insurgency and violent demonstrations coupled with anti-state terrorist attacks were likely. However Pakistani Government and Military kept their resolve and dealt with any ill feelings right till grass route level. Though there were still fewer incidents such as the one in Quetta which costed 135 lives during Aug and September of 2016. Political Analyst Ian Price raised concern if it was American planned attempt to disrupt CPEC or an only an indirect flow of event. America also declared Syed Salahuddin and his freedom for Kashmir Movement Hizbul Mujahideen as insurgent and a radical organization. These acts exhibited US dismay with Islamabad after CPEC and their enhancing relation with New Delhi. India had been instrumental in funding Baloch Liberation Army to destabilize CPEC.

Since 2004 Pakistan Army along with all other law enforcing agencies have restructured and reorganized their combat strategies against terrorism. Quick and rapid response patrols, cluster of night vision devices, CCTV surveillance cameras, improved access control and individual

[81] Luttwak, Edward, The Rise of China vs. the Logic of Strategy, Cambridge, The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2012

monitoring, use of satellite technology for security monitoring and advanced GPR Systems are just few initiations. Though it may be too early to comment or say but CPEC has already progressed much faster than it was anticipated by Indians or Americans. Despite many tragic episodes or incidents that were aimed at slowing it down. By December 2016 almost 44 workers were killed and around 100 injured in various attacks carried out by local criminals, terrorists and activist backed by various anti CPEC organizations. During 2017 in May on 24th two Chinese[82] were kidnapped from Jinnah Town Quetta and murdered by a militant group. These two Chinese Lee Zing Yang who was 24, and Meng Li Si who was 26 were reportedly involved in some missionary activities and were not actually part of CPEC Team. However, every single incident that happened with those working on CPEC or in areas adjacent to CPEC geographic ambit indicated that diverse attempts are being made to harm Sino-Pakistan Relation with a focus to fail CPEC. A completely new army division with almost 10000 plus troops was dedicated by Pakistan Army to look after the security of CPEC Workers all along the CPEC Route. It is believed that without doing so the construction of CPEC Projects could not have picked up pace and the killings could have been more. In one of the interviews to AFP Geand Baloch after four people were killed in an armed attack on Chinese Consulate in Karachi on November 18, 2018 categorically declared Chinese as Oppressors along with Pakistan Army and he proclaimed[83] that aggression against CPEC would continue until the project is put on hold and Chinese leave Baluchistan. During the attack on Chinese Consulate the response by Guards, Local Police and the Rangers was quick, and all the 21 staff members of the consulate remained safe. Government in Pakistan remains concerned over such anti CPEC

[82] https://www.dawn.com/news/1339692/chinese-nationals-abduction-murder-not-linked-to-cpec-fo
[83] https://gulfnews.com/world/asia/pakistan/four-killed-as-gunmen-attack-chinese-consulate-in-karachi-pakistan-1.1542949491380

India not only allowed rather zestfully participated in the inauguration ceremony of The Free Baluchistan office in New Delhi during 2018.

After 9/11 terrorist's attacks in United States India began improving relations with Afghanistan. The prima face of these relations was to quantifiably increase Indian Presence in Afghanistan and then squeeze in or sandwich Pakistan between main line India in the East and a very deeply knit/webbed pro-Indian Afghanistan. Indeed, Training and supporting organization like Baluchistan liberation army etcetera was easier. One of the well-known American authors, Webster Tarpley, indorses the preceding by stating RAW is "recruiting anti Pakistan crazies from Afghanistan to bring them down and help them to engage in terrorism inside Pakistan."

US under Trump is not comfortable with Chinese economic ventures of OBOR. Initially they expressed a positive or a quiet response on the Economic Corridor between China and Pakistan. Later Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff General, Joseph Dunford the Secretary for defense USA, Jim Mattis Spoke before Armed Services committee of their Senate that the China Pakistan Economic Corridor pass through a disputed territory between India and Pakistan. This statement also caused further unease between India and Pakistan over CPEC. America is much more intelligent than India in every aspect of diplomacy and international relations. It is quite possible that India becomes a frontline state for United States to deal with Chinese advance through economic ventures. The confrontation between China and India[84] over CPEC would result in more disaster for India than any other country. If India remains out and isolated from CPEC China would surely become a stronger ally of Pakistan. Many Indians still believe that linking Delhi with CPEC can

[84] https://www.csspmspk.com/obors-connect-deters-us-india-hegemony/

be of benefit for Indian economy as it would increase prospects of Indian exports besides risks of cheaper Chinese imports capturing Indian markets.

Since the inception of China Pakistan Economic Corridor Pakistan Army has been working much harder than ever before in improving the security situation all along its western frontiers specially FATA & Baluchistan. The elimination or the reduction of Tehreek e Taliban Pakistan commonly TTP Factor, the improved controls and monitoring over madrassas and religious schools, changing the status of FATA, development of health, sports and education infrastructures in tribal areas, operation Zarb-e-Azb, the strengthening of Pak-Afghanistan Durand line through fence accumulatively contributed to better administrative controls and security situation in Pakistan. Most of the CPEC Projects are either completed or on the verge of completion. India has been blaming Pakistan for fostering insurgency and terrorism since many decades. With overall improvement in security controls within Pakistan to facilitate Chinese Corridor the likelihood of terrorist elements fostering in the country has also decreased. Even the banned organization Jaish Muhammad or Harkat ul Mujahidin are not getting breathing space in recent years. The only bone of contention or the bigger of bone of contention between India and Pakistan is Kashmir. The disputed territory since 1947 has been biggest hurdle in the congenial relations between India and Pakistan. Until and unless it is resolved chances of getting support or acceptance of CPEC from India are nil. On 5th Aug 2019 India changed the status of Kashmir under article 370 of their constitution followed by implementation of Curfew plus section 144. It is one of the most destructive constitutional moves in human history which is turning into catastrophic disaster and is likely to turn into world's largest genocide. The status of Indian Held Kashmir from a disputed territory has been changed into as part of India. Kashmiris are not ready to accept or tolerate this. The division of Kashmir and then its inclusion into India is painful to them because India despite

calling itself as secular state is turning to be Hindu State. The atrocities against minorities and specially the Muslims in India during last two decades have risen to record high. There are regular Muslim killings being reported by extremist Hindus in various parts of India further making life of Muslims in India suffocating. Under such circumstances even if there was some 5-10% support in Indian Held Kashmir to remain part of India, it is most likely over now. India declared officially and deployed around 0.8 million regular armed forced in Kashmir to force Kashmiris not to agitate. With such acts of cruelty on Muslims especially Kashmiris in India Pakistan mobilized all its moral, political, and legal resources to desist Indian aggression over Kashmir. Chances of war are also imminent which may turn deadly then all the previous due to nuclear capabilities of both sides. The border is no more silent. India is employing all its strategies to cause damage and harm to Pakistan, so it stops supporting subjugated Kashmiris. They opened the gates of the Alchi dam without and early warning to Pakistani authorities and released water into Sutlej due to which huge area and population in Pakistan was affected. In 3rd week of Aug 2019, they released over 3 lakh cusec feet of water without intimation causing massive damage to the Pakistani villages and farmers in south eastern Punjab. Pakistan has been continuously trying to act tolerant to Indian aggressive policies since the start of the one belt one road project in Pakistan. The return Abynanad the Indian Air Force Pilot whose plane was shot down by Pakistani Air Force when it entered Pakistani territory was one gesture for peace. The way Kirtar Singh Corridor is being allowed and constructed to facilitate the Indian Sikh community to enter Pakistan for the purpose of worship and pilgrimage at Nankana Sahab is another gesture. Offering participation in CPEC is yet another. But contrary to this Indian Government of BJP lead by Mr. Modi with its deep-rooted links with RSS is extremely intolerant and aggressive in its conduct with Pakistan. The refusal to play with Pakistani cricketers, kabaddi, and snooker teams is one example. Release of waters into Chenab and Sutlej to cause floods is yet another, Subjugation of the people of Kashmir, the antagonism

filled media campaigns in all Indian channels, getting hold of innocent fishermen and farmers from border and declaring them terrorists are the gestures in return. CPEC has been widely condemned by a host of Indians specially those who have some connection or roots with extremist Hindu Nationalists. They have also declared that CPEC is not only anti India plan, but it is going to be an anti-Pakistan plan as well. China negates this preposition and has been continuously and categorically clarifying on Indian concerns[85] with regards to the CPEC or OBOR.

CPEC has five Intra Regional Dimensions and Avenues. In the First Place it is going to increase trade activity, opportunity and connectivity between China and Pakistan. China is far ahead in technology and such enhanced interaction would also help Pakistan to improve its Industrial Infrastructure and capacity. The economic interdependency between China and Pakistan would further cement their political bonding leading to an affirm support to each other on international issues and concerns.

Secondly, with China Pakistan Economic Corridor becoming more active the underdeveloped areas of Pakistan especially those in Baluchistan, FANA, FATA & Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would become more actively involved through a network of Economic Zones, Business Centers, Dry Ports and Employment Opportunities. This would create an avenue for developing new regions in Pakistan with host of economic opportunities.

The Link between Pakistan Afghanistan & Central Asian States has begun evolving into CPEC Contingency plans. The Tajikistan Afghanistan Pakistan and India Gas Pipeline is just one project under implementation. Afghanistan has already expressed its desire to join CPEC and the Roads between Kabul and Islamabad are being improved. Afghanistan has suffered in the hands of

[85] Sajjad Shaukat, "US vs Islamic Militants, Invisible Balance of Power: Dangerous Shift in International Relations" Ferozsons, 2015, pp. 230-241

foreign invasions and wars since 1979 for over four decades and they earnestly wish to re-construct and re-organize themselves as free and independent country. CPEC can help. It is purely an economic venture through which they can attract great number of investors and attract technology into Afghanistan from China. Furthermore, the strained relations with Islamabad can be improved. The allowance to use China Pakistan Economic Corridor by Afghans would entail a higher level of understanding between Kabul and Islamabad. Resultantly there are more positive prospects in linking CPEC with cross border Afghan Cities and Towns and further into Central Asia.

In the Fourth Place, India is one of the largest Consumer Market of the world and they expect to outgrow as well. By entering CPEC through "Roads for Connections" India would get an opportunity to send its own consumer products to Arab world through Gwadar Port and even to China or the central Asian states. They have already invested a lot in Afghanistan and Central Asian States in terms of achieving greater socio-political space through a network of consulates, embassies, and cultural centers. Turning the same for economic benefit or gains through CPEC will further augment these relations and Indian influence in the region.

Last but not the least, Gawadar is going to further serve as supplement to Chahbahar, Dubai, Karachi, Oman, and Aden. The Trade activity in the Indian Ocean has also doubled during last twenty-five years and managing it through existing ports and spaces is becoming cumbersome every new day. Deep water port of Gwadar within itself is a great opportunity. However apart from just an important transfer point on CPEC, Gawadar is also becoming a source of greater regional connectivity between Iran, Afghanistan, Russia, Gulf Countries and Pakistan. The economic and business interactions are increasing everyday as Gawadar port is being capacitated to further increase its operational domains. Gwadar is sited next to Gulf of Oman very close to Persian Gulf on the East just 75km from Pakistan Iran Border. As part of CPEC 460 km of Coastal Highway

between Karachi and Gawadar has further enhanced regional trade link. Strait of Hormuz with 13 million[86] bb/d of oil Trade daily being transported through it, involving stakes of tens of countries will have Gawadar as backup security, replenishment or refueling port.

[86] Javaid, Umbreen & Rashid, Azhar. (2015). Oil and Gas Potentials of Central Asian Republics and Relations with Pakistan. South Asia Journal of South Asian Studies. 30. 127-148.

Chapter Five

Geo-Political Transformation of Eurasia in the Context of CPEC

Lot of it has been debated and said, that the next world war will be for energy resources. Strategies shall change from use of weapons to the geo-economic alliances. Since 1945, United States has appeared as one of the most powerful and influential state. For few decades the Union of Socialist Soviet Russia tried to balance it out during the era of cold war but the fall of Russian Federation in the aftermath of Russia Afghan War lead to open grounds for US to outplay[87] any other emerging power. They entered Gulf to deal with Saddam against Kuwait and then in Libya to finish the story of Moammar Qaddafi who was building an African Block as regional leader. Entering Afghanistan was yet another venture that appeared to be anti-radicalism move but sceptics also consider it replacement of Russia in the heart of Asia. United States is present in Afghanistan and its adjacent territories in the wake of the war on terrorism since 9/11. They are in the center of their adversaries. The cold war opponent Russia, the initiator of economic imperialism China[88], the anti-US Iran and the aspirant of Akhand Bharat – India. This can be considered as geo strategic placement of US forces and troops.

American presence in the region cannot be taken in Isolation in the context of their war on terrorism. United States purposely attempted to gain greater grounds in a region which has become nucleus of international trade and activities after 1980.

Geopolitical Analysts call it The Eurasian Context. Undoubtedly more than half of the world population live in Eurasia and even so, more than half of the tapped energy resources are in the same region. There is a co relation between demography, energy resources and new great games in Eurasia. Russia is attempting to regain its influence and composure, China spreading its

[87] Gries, Peter Hays. 2006. Identity and Conflict in Sino-American Relations. In New Directions in the Study of China's Foreign Policy, eds. Alistair Iain Johnston and Robert S. Ross, 309–331. California: Stanford University Press.
[88] Gurtov, Mel. 2010. Changing Perspectives and Policies. In China, the Developing World, and the New Global Dynamic, eds. Lowell Dittmer and George T. Yu, 13–36. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers

economic outreach and America holding grounds in the region especially between China Europe Belt and China Pakistan Belt.

Historically, China began introducing Market-oriented reforms in 1970s to deal with their population and economic needs. They began moving out in their role as Global Economic Power after 1980's establishing themselves as an ascetically thriving nation. They proved sustainable to the United Nations and were ahead in achieving Millennium Development Goals on poverty alleviation. The spreading economic clout followed by a phenomenal increase in geopolitical influences in the world, China is replacing United States. Pentagon seems worried but lot of new alliances in the region and even across globe are changing and rapidly transformed providing more business space to China. Beijing's[89] is now extensively using an army of diplomats and foreign office experts in combination with hard core economists to challenge the Western-led world orders. China expects phenomenal space in various markets[90] across globe. They are using economic diplomacy[91] as the tool for this spread. Belt and Road Initiative has been successfully spread in all directions but 80% of it revolves around Eurasian Region. Interestingly, while dealing with variety of countries and administrative systems in context of belt and road initiative China's economic managers and their diplomats are working hand and gloves, clubbed under Communist Leadership. They look very flexible in dealing with immediate or short-term conflicts, but they look affirm and inflexible with their ultimate or strategic plans on the subject.

India is also trying to portray as a regional giant and a global leader since last few decades despite of the fact that two third of its population lives in poverty and sectarian suffocation even today. It

[89] Abdenur, Adriana Erthal. 2013. China and the BRICS Development Bank: Legitimacy and Multilateralism in South-South Cooperation. Institute of Development Studies (IDS) Bulletin 45(4): 85–101
[90] An, Gang. 2015. Blossoming Partnerships: China Seeks to Create a Global Network of Partners. Beijing Review. January 26. Accessed 7 December 2015 http://www.bjreview.com.cn/world/txt/2015-01/26/content_665299.htm
[91] Lampton, David M. 2008. The Three Faces of Chinese Power: Might, Money and Minds. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

proclaimed and demanded for permanent membership of United Nation Security Council to get the right of Veto and to be the member of Nuclear Suppliers Group. China continues to desist India of its global aspirations because of host of reasons. In the First Place India and China have continuous conflicts over Aksai Chin, Arunachal Pradesh, Depsang Plains, Tibet Plateau, Dalai Lama, Doklam (China Refers it as Donglong) Shikam and Kalapani. There are still disagreements between the two giants with regards to 7000 KM of international border. Resultantly, the probabilities of getting along are rare. The First decade after the partition of Subcontinent in 1947 seems important as it defined foundation of geo strategic alliances in the long run. During the First Afro Asian Nation Conference that was held in Bandung, Indonesia in 1955, the way Mr. Nehru Treated Chinese Prime Minister Chu on Li is worth looking at. Nehru expressed great excitement and pride in introducing Zhou to other participating country heads as if India[92] was mentor and introducer of China into the group of developing nations. Interestingly, towards the end of the Conference it is again worthwhile to observe that Zhou commented to a group

Of journalists that he had never met as conceited man as Nehru. It was during the same conference that China developed strategic understanding with Pakistan, and which laid the foundation for one of the most befitting association between two diverse nations Pakistan and China and which remains intact.

[92] Manjari Chatterjee Miller

India did realize later that they need to develop stronger relations with china to coexist. Their think tanks came up with various philosophies to bridge ties and relations with China. Even the Chindia Doctrine or the Himalayan Consensus have not been able to do much despite of the fact that India

and China tried restructuring their relations after Rajiv Gandhi's visit to Beijing in 1988. Chain of five agreements for deescalating Sino India Tensions were signed between 1993 and 2013. Chinese Foreign Minister also expressed that for both China and India progress was only possible if they develop better relations with each other[93].

Secondly, Indra Gandhi adopted the policy of closed-door economy for almost ten years and or "Eat India Buy India Live India". It aimed at banning imports and achieving self-sufficiency.

[93] The Chinese Foreign Minister, Yang Jiechi on 9th Aug, 2008 while delivering a speech on China India Relationship expressed that 'Without close and cordial relations between India and China, there can be no prosperous development in both countries, no harmony and rejuvenation of Asia, and no peace and progress of the world'. www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjdt/zyjh/t512134.htm. Also, see Ministry of foreign affairs of the PRC "A shared vision for the 21st Century of the PRC & the Republic of India" www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjdt/2649/t399545.htm

Indian Economy did get a boost. However, China and Western Countries became uneasy as they were deprived of world second largest consumer market. They had to increase their sales to the countries they were aligned with during this time including Pakistan. Here it is pertinent to mention that economic relations also help to build political relations and alliances. The ten-year socio-economic gap between India and China also strengthened anti-Indian feels in Beijing which was striving to outgrow Chinese economy. The fact that both China and India have huge consumer markets make them a competitor of each other and varied form of frictions in the same context are regularly experienced by the analysts.

Russia China India – Triumvirate needs to be analyzed as well. All three serve as balancer against each other at regional level and become supportive to each other at Global level while dealing with matters of Mutual Interest especially with United States and west. Russia China and India are continuously engaged in a proxy war of regional influences. 60% of arms and ammunition of Russia are purchased by Indians. In 2018 Russian President Vladimir Putin met Indian Prime Minister Mr. Modi during his two-day visit to India initiating some new business deals between India and Russia on defense, trade, and space technology. S-400 Triumph missile system from Russia worth US$5.8 billion raised alarms in New York and in Beijing. The Congress in United States immediately passed Sanctions Act, empowering US President to levy sanctions against countries who shall purchase arms from Russia, Iran, and North Korea. Russia for Instance is emerging through new strategy of Building Regional Influence –First. It is getting closer to China and is not ready to disengage from India. Putin seems to be very dynamic in international relations. He is certainly trying to revive the Russian influence at par with the days of cold war. In 2018 during Vostok 18 he invited China in a joint military exercise in which 300000 troops from Russia and China participated. This Year Pakistan and India are joining the Tsentr-2019 military exercise

besides China on 16th September 2019 with 128,000 troops, 20,000 pieces of military equipment, 600 aircraft and 15 ships involved. Four Strongest Armies of Asia together in a Military Exercise would surely send alarms in US. It seems Eurasian Powers are gathering to do away with the economic and technological supremacy of the west.

On One Belt One Road Russia became facilitator and partner to China while India continued resisting the Idea especially when the BRI initiative was launched between Kashgar and Gawadar.

The CPEC is being threat to Indian Influence in the region.

Since the launch of OBOR China and Russia came closer and India is not very comfortable about it. Similarly, Pakistan is getting more cemented support from China on every Issue and this is also disturbing New Delhi. There seems to be a host of new great games in Eurasia.

Strategic Partners are switching or changing their ally's and alliances.

The only thing that is physical and visible is the Belt and Road Initiatives of China gradually taking over economic vacuums of various regions. Even US has been forced to switch sides after CPEC and they are trying to build bonds with New Delhi.

Indian Ocean, Gawadar & Eurasia

South China Sea and the Chinese increasing influence in the Indian Ocean is yet another major point of conflict between India and China even the BRI that connects China with Chittagong Passing through Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and Burma is of great concern for India. They feel engulfed from all sides by China. The way India tried managing Chinese outgrowth or BRI projects, it became one reason for China's dismay over New Delhi. India has also tried to become military partner with Vietnam gaining space in South China Sea for Indian Navy. Joint Naval

Exercises with United States and Vietnam in Indian Ocean and then in South China Sea are a point of concern for China.

In March 2018, the United States formally altered the name of its Pacific Command to the Indo-Pacific Command, with their defense secretary James Mattis emphasizing that America's Strategic focus not only the South China Sea but its link and extension into Indian Ocean as well. Ashok Sajanhar, head of Indian Institute of Global Studies expressed loud and clear that with such a change of US strategy India has got greater prominence in the region and China would surely not be happy. This is just another exhibit of a multipolar world where one must follow a policy of multi-alignments rather than a policy of non-alignment. Modi's meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Wuhan, with Putin in Sochi, India's participation in the 2+2 dialogue with the US, and its S-400 defense systems deal with Russia are emblematic of this multi polarity.

Russia and India are believers of Multi Polar world. Chinese are silent on the subject. Americans still consider themselves as the Unipolar Torch Bearer.

One Belt One Road and then CPEC as part of it are considered as a New Great Game by China aimed at becoming most powerful country of the world. India and WE seems aligned to intervene.

One place where this alliance can really disturb, or impact China is the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean. Some of the think tanks have begun expressing that the next war between India and China will not be fought along McMahan Line but deep in the Indian and Pacific Ocean. India is boosting its naval power. The Sino Indian Naval War may be an illusion for many. It is indeed not unconceivable. Even China should not consider themselves too far ahead in naval supremacy against India. They may not be able to steamroll India in a naval war with ease. China has settled its border disputes with most of its neighbors less India. Col. Wu Qian, from Chinese Military

warned Indians not to "push their luck" in the Doklam dispute because Indian Army may find it easier to shake a mountain than to shake the People Liberation Army. In this game of power China planned two corridors towards East one linking China through South China Sea with Malaysia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Thailand, Bangladesh, India and then Persian Gulf and the other was the land route passing by Nepal, through Bhutan, Myanmar, Burma and Bangladesh. As far as South China Sea was concerned China declared it as undisputed part of China where Beijing had the rights to make the rules and others are expected to obey. India picking up from Chinese Claims adopted a similar foreign policy narrative also somewhat like Monroe Doctrine, regarding Indian Ocean as part of India.

Indians look distrustfully at China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative, which aims to build infrastructure and aid economic development along Eurasia's historic silk roads, land, and sea. But this distrust is not at all helping them because China continues to build its corridors in east and west of India, through sprawling waters, glaciated mountains, wild deserts, uneven plateaus, and barren patches. They are building new ports and economic zones all along these corridors. Courting new agreements with nations and states that are passing through these corridors.

Just in South China Sea and the Indian Ocean they established their administrative and security facilities on ports in Malaysia, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. For instance, Beijing negotiated to sign in a 99-year lease of the Sri Lankan seaport of Hambantota which meant Chinese Naval Base in the Indian Ocean. Interestingly as part of One Belt One Road Initiative they already have one naval military base on the port of Djibouti which is itself the extreme west of the Indian Ocean. With Gawadar as part of CPEC in the North West of Indian Ocean China will have

complete Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea accessible to its naval fleets? According to analysts[94] by 2020 India would be able to acquire around 17 Fully Equipped attack sub marines whereas Chinese Navy will have around 73 striking a ratio of 1:4 which is very serious and alarming

situation for India. China will have 30 DDGs against 8 of India (DDG is a naval carrier shot gun also interpreted as destroyer of delivered guided missiles) and 92 Frigates and corvettes against 32 of India in 2020. With such comparisons they seem rightly concerned on the China's new great game through CPEC or Naval Corridor. The five ports of Chittagong, Bangladesh, Hambantota, Sri Lanka, Gwadar, Pakistan, Marao, Maldives and Djibouti, Djibouti are already being partially or significantly managed by Chinese Administrators. However, Gawadar, Pakistan is one port that would value most to China because it provides shortest reach to the Indian Ocean, the Arabian Peninsula and even the African Markets. In response to such increased influences India began holding more frequent naval exercises countries that were already opposing China's outgrowth. Japan, Australia, Singapore, and United States joined India near straits of Malacca and close to

[94] James R. Holmes is the J.C. Wylie chair of maritime strategy at the U.S. Naval War College and co-author of Red Star over the Pacific: China's Rise and the Challenge to U.S. Maritime Strategy. The views voiced here are his alone.

Coco Islands in Andaman Islands. Such naval joint ventures and build ups have also been criticized by China and pronounced them as a tactics to contain Chinese Efforts to boost regional economic cooperation.

In addition to this The Japan India Strategic and Global Partnership Agreement that was signed in 2006 has concreted their bonds further thus enabling a new charter for handier collaboration between the two in coming years. Such collaborations are still not voiced openly by India because they also understand that Japan has their own conferred interest in the region to strike balance of Power against China. Indeed, when we look at bigger picture India seems to be moving in four different corners to spread its own influence in the region i.e. America, Australia, and Japan and to some extent even China. One of the analysts has defined it as quadrilateral "axis of democracies" by India. Sniffing Indian Feels and Plans Australian Government publically announced that they would not join any anti-Chinese military exercise or venture. China sought to block a loan from the Asian Development Bank to India as the loan included funding for Arunachal Pradesh, which China claims as 'South Tibet'. More recently, India boycotted China's Belt and Road Forum on the grounds that one of the main projects under this initiative (the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) traverses the disputed territory of Kashmir. This has created a 'nested security dilemma', whereby core grievances (such as the territorial dispute) 'spill over' into areas beyond the confines of the bilateral relationship.

Third parties have also come to drive tensions in the bilateral relationship, such as China's deepening relations with countries around India's periphery and India's improving relations with countries that have traditionally maintained adversarial relations with China, such as Japan and Vietnam. Notably, the rapprochement in the India-US relationship, particularly following the conclusion of the civilian nuclear agreement, is regarded by some analysts as a turning point in the

Sino-Indian relationship (as China came to see India in more ominous terms). Subsequently, perceived efforts by the United States to contain China's rise as part of its strategic 'pivot' or rebalance towards the Indo-Pacific under the Obama Administration (of which engagement with India was a crucial component) exacerbated these concerns.

The expression "The New Great Game" was pronounced more significantly after 1990 in the Eurasian Context by some Journalist. It meant a renewed geo-political attention to Central Asia by western nations built on the mineral riches of the region after the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

An article was published in the New York Times[95] in 1997 which further highlighted the emerging new great games in Asia. They commented that Central Asia specially the region in and around Caspian Sea with its oil resources has become a point of attention for the western nations who are likely to make it another Persian Gulf by partnering with Russia and other influencers of the region to pave way for their own gas and oil pipelines.

Yet another Journalist Lutz Kleveman clearly pointed out that New Great Games in Central Asia are aimed at the exploration of mineral wealth and other economic activities in the region. American military movement in the region unlike other western nations in his opinion was more for anti-terrorism motives then economy but Lutz had to face lot of skeptics on this point of view. Eric Walberg[96] argued that access to the mineral riches of the region and the security of the oil and gas related pipelines was a defining factor.

Many others disagree. Ajay observed that most of the central Asian states are least interested in any new great game and they are focused more onto maintaining their own economic independence

[95] New York Time Article by the Editor 1997
[96] Golshanpazhooh, Mahmoud Reza (22 October 2011), Review: Post Modern Imperialism: Geopolitics and the Great Games by Eric Walberg, Iran Review website, retrieved 22 August 2012

rather to become party with any regional or global giant[97] on any pretext. Central Asian states indeed are not going to be pawns in any geopolitical game or to be more exact the so-called "New Great Game of Eurasian Region". It is a misnomer that never eventuated. However, there is no doubt that with rise and spread plans of China many regional and global powers have become much more active and interactive in the region. Even Russia has transformed itself from a local player to regional player by tactfully engrossing into various other regions of Eurasia through alliances and or influences. Interestingly Central Asian states are accommodating Russia and China more because of historic connections. This entails likely conflict of interest between western powers like United States, European Union, and the East i.e. China and Russia. In 2001 China established the Shanghai Cooperation Organization which converged large number of regional players at one point – Economic Relations[98]. The Belt and Road Initiative has exposed geo-political motives of various other regional and cross regional players besides china. Out of all the six land corridors CPEC is the only Belt and Road Initiative by China that is completely between China and Pakistan. For all other routes as carved stakes of more countries are involved. Which means involvement of more countries in the continuity and success of those belts. It may be challenging for China to ensure continuity of those projects on equi-beneficial economic terms while managing access through those passages. However, CPEC shall be serving as the most rewarding initiative out of all. As we compare CPEC with all the other Belt and Road Initiatives of China in the Eurasian Context it seems that this 2700 KM of passage can be most easily managed as China has to deal with only one country Pakistan in managing the road. Secondly, there have been lot of border conflicts and political disputes that Chinese Administration must tackle with on

[97] Ajay Patnaik (2016). Central Asia: Geopolitics, Security and Stability. Taylor & Francis Group. pp. 28–29. ISBN 9781317266402.
[98] Brobst, Peter John (2005), The Future of The Great Game (Series on International, Political, and Economic History), University of Akron Press, p. 199, ISBN 9781931968102

all other economic belts and roads. Challenges on China Pakistan Economic Corridor are of different nature as compared to those in other regions of the world.

The New Eurasia Land Bridge Economic Corridor that connects Lanzhou in China with Brest in Europe passing through Russia, Belarus and then eastern European States even accessing Madrid in Spain.

The China-Central Asia-West Asia Economic Corridor is also one important corridor in Eurasia but the fact remains when compared to CPEC both the above corridors are passing through number of states and each country has its own political, legal and economic implications.

One Belt, One Road' (OBOR) initiative is a Eurasian centered venture which is quite different from the twentieth-century Eurasians. It is aimed at initiating a new comprehensive integrationist schema to the strategic landscape of Europe.

There seems to be a global side of it as well. US-led Euro-Atlantic's and the emerging Eurasians are two geo-political schools of thought. Euro-Atlantic's upholds security as the fundamental objective whereas Eurasians prioritizes development over security. Consequently, this research contends that, if executed successfully, China's One Belt One Road can encounter Euro-Atlantic's as the long-held normative paradigm of interstate relations.

Even Russia has been strong advocate Eurasians. It has been following the Eurasian Economic Union besides partnering with China on their One Belt, One Road initiatives across Central Asia since 2010. So much so they even engaged themselves with Pakistan to explore opportunities along CPEC with a special emphasis on Gwadar to have workable entry into warm waters of Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean. They have been holding largest grounds within Eurasia for Centuries however the fall of Soviet Union diminished their geopolitical role in Eurasia for some time. Now under Putin they began regaining their regional influence. For them Eurasian Context can be of great advantage because as compared to United States they have the advantage of owning a greater ground than holding it from far off. They surely wish to create an exclusive sphere of influence in Eurasia. China, in parallel wishes to expand economic influence not only within Eurasia but also into other parts of the world. For Russia even today, America is bigger adversary and they surely blame them for the fall of Soviet Union. Resultantly, they do not mind partnering with China to reduce US influences from the Eurasia. While they do so they also are closely watching over US-Pakistan Relations which had become deeper during Russo Afghan war.

CPEC is not just another corridor that has begun impacting Pakistan Socio-Politically but it is serving as initiation of an era of transformation in the Eurasian Context. China and Russia are together increasing their influence in the Region aimed at reducing US Interventions. Pakistan has served as frontline state for United States on many fronts during various regimes and has been a very accommodative and to some extent submissive ally. China Pakistan Economic Corridor has begun becoming a source of US Disengagement from Pakistan. Even in the Eurasian Context this can be a very intricate in the Eurasian context. During Russo Afghan War Pakistan has already played a role of front-line state for United States in dislodging Soviet Imperialism. Earlier when the Cold War started Pakistan's Prime Minister Liaqat Ali Khan declined going to Moscow but visited Washington which turned to be an err in history. So much so Pakistan was sandwiched between Soviet Union and United States by 1962 and the U2 Crisis brought Pakistan into a difficult situation. Ayyub Khan had to endorse this criticality in his book, "Friends not Masters".

This would be third time in history when Eurasian Context coupled with Great Games would impact Pakistan. CPEC has begun making Pakistan once again, "a front-line state" in the global war of economies with China and its allies on one side and America and its supporting countries on the other side. Though Pakistan is trying hard to maintain an equilibrium between two distinct superpowers one engaging Pakistan for International Security concerns and the other capitalizing on Pakistan Geo Strategic placement for the good of its economy.

India and CPEC in Eurasian Context

It is not only Russia, China and United States who are indulged in Eurasian Great Games. India, Arab World, Iran, Israel and to some extent Europe seems equally involved. CPEC has raised concerns and alarms in New Delhi. India being world second most populated country and a nuclear state is one big regional giant. They have been closely aligned and working with Russians for

decades and were uneasy with American support to Pakistan. The Akhand Bharat philosophy which entails making India spread east and west its geographical borders is at very ebb of every plan and move they make. For them containing Pakistan is much more important than feeding their own population. They had been entrenched in border conflicts with China and Nepal in the north and developed serious issues with Siri Lanka over Tamil Nadu. With Pakistan they continue to be at daggers drawn. Right from the outset in 1947 they maintained a policy of non-alignment by accepting the invitations both from United States and the Union of Socialist Soviet Russia. Even during those days both superpowers felt India was playing smart. In the Eurasian context India has been entering into multi-dimensional and multi-faceted agreements with central Asian republics, Arab world, Afghanistan, Iran and even China. Especially India has captured lot of political space in Gulf and the Arab world through trade and human resource. In Afghanistan they have an army of diplomats and fleet of consulates watching over the Indian interest. According to economic times Eastern Europe had also received 30% more Indians in 2018 as compared to previous years. Socio Cultural Impacts leading to political support groups in these regions.

It is important here to understand the concept of socio-political influence.

India is a perfect case study.

It engages countries by building Indian Human Resource in other countries and then following them through cultural support programs. The more the human resource grows in numbers in various countries more quickly they can generate political influence.

In 2019 India imposed curfew in Occupied Kashmir immediately after abrogation of article 370 and article 35A of Indian Constitution which had kept Kashmir under special status where mainland Indians could not buy property. It was indeed a violation of human rights and to the

resolution 39 of the United Nations dated Jan, 20th 1948 which warranted peaceful resolution to the Kashmir dispute through a three-member commission (one each to be nominated by India and Pakistan and third member to be nominated by the two members of the commission). And resolution 47 that increased members of the United Nation Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) from two to five.

Indian subjugation of Kashmir in Oct 2019 was taken very seriously by majority (81) UN members who voted against Indian handling of Kashmiris but all in vain. On the other hand, Mr. Narinder Moodi Indian Prime Minister was receiving the United Arab Emirates' highest civilian honor from Sheikh Zayed of United Arab Emirate. Though lot of hue and cry was observed from various humanitarian organizations and some of the Muslim states. India is 3rd largest consumer of Crude oil produced by UAE. 27% of UAE Population that is over 2 million from India whereas Pakistanis are just around 12.5%. A Beirut based human right advocate and activist Mr. Samah Hadid concluded after this episode that Human Rights have been discarded in favor of economic aspirations. Moodi was once banned in United States because of alleged human right violation in Indian Gujrat a decade ago but despite all that dark history United States receiving him and honored him at 'Howdy Modi' mega-event in Houston, Texas on September 22, 2019. We cannot ignore it because it was capitalizing on socio-political influence so was the case in UAE when he was receiving highest civilian award of UAE from Sheikh Zayed bin al Nahayan.

India had been trying to isolate Pakistan in the wake of unjustified terror blames.

Their ultimate desire to be regional giant and then the permanent member of United Nation Security Counsel remains intact.

CPEC is serving as a blow to their regional spread.

It is pertinent to note that since fall of USSR into Russia Indian submissions to Russia have also been reduced. Is India considering Post-Soviet Russia diminished in regional power hierarchy? Or is India considering itself superior to Russia? Whatever the case may be India is re-defining its regional posture. Its only China India expect to compete with. CPEC and not only CPEC the economic corridor from Kunming China to Myanmar and Bangladesh together have engulfed Indian mainland with Chinese all around.

Pakistan poses greatest resistance to Indian Hegamonistic aspirations in the Eurasia. Demographically it is almost five times smaller than India, but it serves as wall between mainland Eurasia and India.

CPEC in Pakistan is like pitching a Chinese fence on this wall between Mainland Eurasia and India. In case India wishes to continue strengthening its role as an important state within Eurasia they must do away all the differences with Pakistan. Making best use of China Pakistan Economic Corridor opportunity and build their own headways through this corridor into central Asia and even the Arabian Peninsula.

Eurasian Geopolitical Outlook - Post CPEC

The third and fourth decade of twenty first century will be reshaping geo-political affinities across globe. Though developing world will continue to play their part but the China's Belt and Road Initiative Paradigm will play pivotal role in realignment of geopolitical alignments hereafter. It would transform into the single most significant geo strategic move of the 21st Century.

Carl Schmitt in his famous essay on 'land and sea 'observes that world power structure will surely be affected by every underlying change of a given larger spatial order. The word "spatial" fits well on Belt and Road Initiative of China which has created a new impulse in the power structure of

Eurasia which has further begun causing some immediate as well as long term effects on global order. Indo Pacific is a term used as counter strategy to Eurasia.

Belt and Road Initiative of China is quickly spreading into every nook and corner of the Eurasian Region from Portugal in the West to Japan in the East and including the Glaciated North of Russia and Countries around equator in the south of Asia. Mackinder's evocative stratagem that he who rules Eurasia shall rule the world is being manifested. Since the start of BRI the geopolitical interaction between various stake holders in the region have increased and proactive while conducting international relations.

Zbigniew Brzezinski observes that Geopolitics has become the principal notion to drive and perceive current efforts in influencing global world order. Ultimately, Eurasia seems to have become the chessboard on which the melee for global preeminence continues to be played". By 2018 some two decades later, Eurasia appeared to be a center of new geopolitical great games. Coalescing into each other South East Asia, Central Asian Region, Europe, Arabian Peninsula, Persian Gulf, and/or the Middle East are now evolving as an increasingly coherent strategic groups shadowed by the reminiscence of the Cold War and the emerging 21st Century

Interestingly, all these regions lie in Eurasia and all the economic corridors as planned by China also swirl around these regions.

Apart from global powers likes United States, China, and Russia many regional giants also continue to play significant role in exerting their influences on geo-political developments in these regions. Socio-Political order is also changing into new form, shape, or size. Competitive and sometimes confrontational power rivalries are becoming common. India, Turkey, Iran, and Saudi

Arabia are playing a significant role. Some backed by west, some supported by eastern block and few operating independently.

OBOR in Eurasia is set to engage more than fifty states which is a big challenge to manage. Diverse societies with different cultural and social values getting into the lure of economic development through Belt and Road connectivity is bringing out totally new avenues of social cohesion.

It may be termed as new Eurasian Order like the new world order.

United States had occupied lot of geo-political influence in Eurasia during last few decades specially in post-Soviet-Afghan war but with OBOR on the roads of continuity, China is almost ready to replace America in most of the Eurasian Region first through socio-economic investment and then partnering contracts. White House seems concerned. By 2019, most of the belt and road efforts had been on the verge of completion. Even CPEC is moving ahead at much faster pace than was stipulated by some critics. Eurasian people have developed much more acceptability for China then America. After 1979 Americans continued to have their physical presence in some of the Asian states on one or the other pretext. Starting from Afghan war followed by Kuwait crisis, 9/11, Iraq, and or support to Saudi Arabia US did not move out of core of Asia. As the economic corridors have begun to appear, shape and size and China seems like moving too and for across Eurasian Region United States seems more concerned. US China trade war has already started with Trump doing away with Chinese goods and China reciprocating with similar actions. In the South China Sea United States is playing the role of the back-master. A new world order has started appearing and new cold war initiated. The alliance politics, economic competition, military buildups, and the strategic repositioning also pacing up. Perhaps, the trade war is one among other manifestations of a serious, unavoidable structural competition.

However, considering the colossal investments made by China, skeptics also portray huge financial risks for China in the ventures associated with OBOR. Investment in Pakistan on CPEC was the securest. Most of the Belts pass through three or more countries. Disassociation with anyone may impact all others. Success of all these projects also depend upon cross national and international interest rates and tariffs which may be used by any third party to desist or unplug one or more BRI Projects.

Conspicuously, the IMF has cautioned China that its economy is contingent on too much debt. The massive boom in reedit would carry a probability of an economic predicament. The economic growth rate, cheap availability of credit, and low interest rates earlier helped China in getting foreign investments but since the initiation of BRIs Chinese companies are more involved in spending outside China and the monetary reserves within China have begun melting or diminishing in size. This has led to another concern. The foreign investors have also reduced their business within China. It may even become difficult for the communist leaders to allocate large amount of money for the projects after some time. On the other hand, America is carefully pouring out her investments. Even International Interest rates are largely given by American dictates. China's may be in difficult situation to deal with such financial influence by United States on the interest rates. It can devaluate the Yuan to neutralize the tariff prices but must keep the Yuan's worth also somehow steady if it wants to continue to determine it as an alternative international reserve currency. Irrespective of the fact that China US rivalry is more of political nature, but they would surely not indulge into any physical bout. Most expectantly they shall play various economic stunts against each other to out class the adversary. Such stunts may impact the corridors to a meager level. Russians, Turks, and Iranian have already started accommodating Chinese Corridors and ventures because all of them have steered the wheels of business within their countries and

attributed to the reduction in US influence across Asia. Such accommodations in Eurasia is also leading to societal cohesion amongst Chinese people and the people from these three countries. This phenomenon is serving as the precedence for other belts including the CPEC. It may be geopolitical in attire or outlook, but it has socio-political dimension as well. China is getting a "Buy-in" across other regions not only from the governments but also from the masses because of the infrastructural, energy, technological investments apart from adding to the employment opportunities.

America entered into a tri nation trade agreement "NAFTA" negotiated between the united states, Canada, and Mexico for free-trade agreements with non-market economies which directly desist China to engage in other regions. It was more of an ideological than purely economic notion. Such attempts were made to protect American economies. Canadian arrest of a Huawei C-level executive also triggered alarms in Beijing. This action was considered personal and unacceptable by Chinese Communist Party. China also arrested some Canadian and United States citizens. Situation become worst and travel warnings were issued both to Chinese, Canadians, and Americans to avoid travelling to the adversary states. Eventually, one of the Chinese judges sentenced a Canadian citizen to death on drug trafficking charges after his previous fifteen-year prison sentence. The diplomatic relations between Ottawa and Beijing were at their worst after this. This may be expanding of the hostage diplomacy across board. Such volatility is an outcome from the politics for economic survival.

Eurasia contains 70% of the world's population, 75% of energy resources, and 70% of Gross domestic product[99] and as China continues to proceed with its economic leaps the significance of Eurasia as a separate entity is further pronounced.

In 2019 Chinese President Xi expressed that world is likely to change in coming years. He reiterated that China must prepare for all types of international challenges from the war of economy to an actual war between superpowers. His focus was more on the emerging role of the People's Liberation Army. He advised them to chalk out strategies and plans to take on actual war scenarios. Newly appointed and Acting Defense Secretary for the united states of America, Shanahan on the other side while briefing his own defense team explicitly warned united states and the pentagon to memorize, "China, China, China". Though he also mentioned Russia in his speech as one big adversary to the interests of United States. At the same time Moreover, Lieutenant General retired Ben Hodges who was also former commander of the United states army Europe predicted war with China in one and half decade while speaking to a Security Forum at Warsaw Poland.

The environment has begun changing across the world, but the epicenter remains Eurasia. China and America have emerged as key instruments of change. Pakistan has served as facilitator for both these superpowers during various stages of her existence. In the Eurasian context the geopolitical alliances are shifting to a great degree. Turkey, Russia, and Iran have already developed more bonding towards China but good or bad they have the advantage that they were never too close to United States either. Pakistan is a different story. Getting away and out of American influence will trigger more unease in Washington against Pakistan.

[99] Wade Shepherd (21 Oct 2016) "Eurasia: The World's Largest Market Emerges" Forbes, Asia Page

Even the military alignments are taking new courses. American Military getting aligned to Indian Army and the joint exercises have caused concerns in Islamabad. In Oct 2018, the US proclaimed their withdrawal from the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty which covered both conventional and the nuclear weapon systems. The end of this treaty will allow repositioning of nuclear missiles by the signatories and it also reflect changing military stance. The situation is quite disrupting, however according to analysts there are likely very less chances that any of the world superpower will use nukes again after the tragedy of Hiroshima. Cold war or even active war, the strategies shall be evolved and used to dislodge economic assets, reserves, infra structure and resources of each other's. Having discussed this one can conveniently say that China is getting to greater risks. They are building on infrastructure and assets much beyond their own geographical boundaries and all her investment shall turn into assets. Protecting those assets would require some sort of military moves or cover. Either these investments must be protected by the countries where the corridors are being laid or in other case china must plan its own protections.

The first protection as observed is through difficult but congenial to China long term trade agreements. Just for Gwadar Port investment China has been given surety plus lease of land for almost half a century by Pakistan. The second protective layer to protect Chinese investments across belt and road corridors is through additional allocation of defense and military resources by the country seeking Chinese investment. Yet at another level, China is also moving some of its military bases, deep sea naval ships along the belts and corridors identified as part of OBOR.

As they do so, countries and states on such routes form apprehensions. Chinese government continue to express their commitments that all such moves are only for protecting their assets and investments and they have nothing to do with the political, social or governance freedom of states. There is also an increased volume of activity across globe but specifically in the areas where belt

and road initiatives are launched such that in the outer space, the high seas, and even in the cyberspace. US President Trump challenged to maintain American dominance in outer space in 2018 with revitalized plans and signed National Defense Authorization Act for the Fiscal Year 2018-19 restoring United States space command authority by the end of year. On the other hand, just in first few months of 2019 China launched first-ever landing on the far side of the moon and Russia joined in by sending humanoid robots to space as crew member for spreading the spears of artificial intelligence. All these are competitive emancipations from the OBOR and BRI initiatives. Commanding outer space would enable a country to hack into adversaries' systems. It would help a country to gain business, military, or intelligence advantages. Since 2017, some of the other states like Japan, Singapore, Canada, Pakistan, India, and France have also started considering artificial intelligence as part of national strategy.

By 2019 technology experts and industrialist across world have begun realigning their strategic goals keeping in view the transformation at hand under Chinese Belt and road initiatives. General Motors announced to launch driverless taxi service, Bai Du, a Chinese Giant is working to introduce self-driving busses, Singapore aiming at flying taxis with the help of Germans and WeMo is likely to spread its Robot axis to the new cities and the towns. All such changes in transport industry are likely to strengthen Chinese cross continental trade concept and would turn the world into one big global market.

Eurasia is connecting more after the Chinese economic spread out. India that has rarely participated in investment beyond its geographical boundaries has begun moving out. They may not be interested to compete with China, but they surely have uneasy feeling about Pakistan outgrowing through Chinese investment. Development of a port in Gwadar which is now serving as back up and alternate port for Pakistan is too difficult to absorb -Fact. Indian government immediately

moved into Iran and committed to invest huge among of money to turn Iranian port of Chahbahar as replica of Gawadar to de-signify Gwadar. They declared Chahbahar as another opportunity for inter-regional connectivity between South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East. Interestingly India anchored a geo-political meet titled India Central Asia Dialogues with foreign ministers Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, India, and Kazakhstan. The purpose was to collate on rebuilding Afghanistan and invite them to join Chahbahar project. However, in the Eurasian context all these countries have already been linked with China with one of its Belt and Road Initiative. All those who participated in this meet were also member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) which had surely more benefits to offer so the outcome of such dialogues was not as solicited.

Ukrainian Precedence

In Dec 2017, Kiev and Beijing officially announced and signed off an agreement to jointly build and construct the new Silk Roads as part of the China's BRI. Ukrainian Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman on the occasion expressed to further strengthen relations with China in the field of education, culture, power sector and in academia. This was reflection of the fact that apart from economic reaps the Chinese investments in other regions of the world would also carry socio-cultural and political impact as well. For instance, since disintegration of Soviet Union, Ukraine and Russia are at daggers drawn. Under such circumstances support to Ukraine through such initiative by China would strengthen Ukraine in terms of national power. Chinese vice Prime Minister Ma Kai during his visit emphasized on the need of peaceful and economically prosperous Ukraine. Just because of her friction with Russia the Chinese passage through Ukraine carried security concerns as well. Within Ukraine situation has been less stable with political governments combatting with marshal law. It is almost similar scenario as was of Pakistan. India in friction,

local resistance from BLA against CPEC and while BRI was being initiated there was military chief ruling the country. However, China did not bother about such challenges because they were aiming at greater gains. Ukraine could have harvested monetary benefits, provided the North Stream two gas pipeline project between Russia and Europe was to pass through Ukraine. But due to uneasy relations between Russia and Ukraine the line was bypassed and moved through Baltic Sea. This project not only negated transit revenues for Ukraine but also placed US gas supply to Europe from America at risk. Geo politically Germany and America are also getting into friction over this project. Irrespective of who gets what the geopolitical alignments are surely impacted by such mega infrastructural projects. Specially those which strip some country from existing fiscal benefits or takes. With reduction of business opportunities or space for United States the Eurasiazation theory is further strengthening. China is also managing to anchor a seventeen-nation forum since 2012, for the cooperation between China Central Asian and Eastern European states called as 16+1 whose secretariat is in Beijing. However, in 2016 when the one of the prime German robotics brand *KUKA* was overtaken by a China some of the top European brands started to feel unsafe. Most of the European Union states are dealing with China as one very important strategic economic partner but they also become suspicious at times and try to maintain a certain level of parity.

Extension of CPEC beyond Gwadar

Out of all Eurasian economic corridors the CPEC seems to be much more vital as it provides a shorter route to Arab world, countries along the Indian Ocean, Africa and even Europe through Suez Canal. The Red Sea serve as bridge between three continents opening into Mediterranean. Gwadar port on CPEC serve as the epicenter between many routes and passages. It can be termed as the most significant flash point of Eurasia in coming years. China and Russia also realize the

importance of this part and they have also acquired a foothold in the region. Chinese navy began setting up patrols near the Gulfs of Aden and Oman and to counter China, India is bolstering its tactical partnership with Oman. Especially, New Delhi stroke a deal with the Sultanate of Oman to serve as operating partners of the Dump port of Oman. This part is strategically vital as it is located just south west of the Arabian Sea and North West of Indian Ocean and it can monitor all trade activities taking course in the Arabian Sea or the Indian Ocean. Oman has entered joint military exercises with India apart from partnering in a satellite launch. All these efforts are being done to decrease the Chinese outgrow and her ever increasing influence in the Eurasia. Interestingly, countries like United Arab Emirates and the Saudi Arabia also began investing in the ports of the region to secure their military and economic foot holds. All these geopolitical developments are outcome of Chinese investment ventures. They involved themselves in the ports of Eritrea, Somalia, and Djibouti. On the other hand, Turkey and Qatar became more active in Sudan and Somalia. China is advancing to get into not only Arab markets but also to central African markets. India under great consciousness decided to build and invest in Chahbahar Port in Iran. The global China US clash remains the major organizing principle also in this region. India is trying her level best to play the role of an infiltrator or the intruder on Chinese spread apart from United States.

Economic developments

Eurasian connectivity through Chinese road and rail networks has further been strengthened too much higher degree than ever before. With travelling time reduced between many regions and far furlong areas due to such infrastructural inputs the trade and the business activities across Eurasia have increased in quantum, volume, and size. Intra Continental lines for gas and oil transportation are creating head way for cordiality and economic cooperation. Tourism industry has reached new

boom. Traveling to central Asia and other parts of the region is multiplying fiscal earnings of many countries which were ignored earlier. Exchange of technology and raw material has begun taking course. More exploration activities are being created. Even due to CPEC in the areas of Baluchistan where access to raw material a problem was, we have more accessibility for exploration and movement of hi-tech machinery. Generation of funds through AIIB is also providing support to development projects across region. China itself has become competitor with some of the finest brands of the world. This competition has led to more innovations and articulations in terms of technology and cost of products. Transit revenues is helping some of the economically weaker countries to improve their financial standing. There is a ripple effect. Chinese banks are being considered as the alternate to IMF or the World Bank loans. IMF or the World Bank had been only providing hard cash that too on very intricate return arrests. China through its economic corridor is bringing in not only capital for investment but they are also providing technology and infrastructure apart from industrialization. All these steps are helping countries to improve their employment ratio. Furthermore, hundreds of projects through these corridors are operating on BOT principle i.e. built operate and transfer. After running those industries and plants for some time like a half a decade or decade China will hand them over to local government's resultant the countries will have better earnings from them as well. Large number of trades [acts have been signed and in some cases these pacts are helping to build better relations between the countries.

Militarization of the maritime commons

Ongoing attention should be to the maritime commons in Asia. Whereas Asian nation can still build up its maritime management within the Indian Ocean, the South Chinese Sea (SCS) remains the foremost essential maritime space to look at in 2019. Among applicant states relations between China and particularly Vietnam should be determined as Vietnam includes a robust interest to drill

for oil and gas in its Exclusive Economic Zone that China denies. Meanwhile, within the half-moon of 2019, successive spherical of negotiations between China and Association of Southeast Asian Nations on the Code of Conduct (COC) within the South China ocean is regular with Vietnam to be expected the foremost outspoken competition of Chinese claims, probably to be fastidiously supported by Malaysia whereas the Philippine stance can probably to be additional neutral. Given the volatility in US-Chinese relations China may be reluctant to indicate a too tight perspective on the official arena whereas it would increase bilateral lobbying in addressing internal divergence inside ASEAN. Avoiding to coincidentally alienate the bulk of ASEN member states whereas causative to an indoor consolidation may be additional vital to China than short-run success in COC negotiations that is anyway exhausting to attain. Therefore, negotiations on the COC, that are not expected to conclude this year however earliest in 2020, may not turn out too comprehensive outcomes within the returning spherical anyway.

Besides Vietnam-China relations, the collision of Chinese and Western advancements within the SCS is especially risk-prone. The U.S.A. ARIA foresees U.S.A. support for Association of Southeast Asian Nations to adopt a code of conduct within the SCS also because the conduct of joint maritime trainings and freedom of navigation operations within the Indo-Pacific region. In August this year, all association states can hold, for the primary time, a joint maritime exercise with the United States. Moreover, the United States and its allies, particularly Japan and therefore the United Kingdom, can conduct joint armed service exercises and freedom of navigation operations (FONOPS). FONOPS in refusal of China's sweeping sovereignty claims within the SCS, that square measure often conducted close to Chinese-claimed options within the Spratly and Parcel Islands, square measure among the presently most contentious problems within the SCS Theater. China presses to stop them and has recently once more vulnerable to ram U.S. Navy destroyers in

response. When a USA destroyer encountered an advancing ship around a Chinese-claimed feature within the Spratly Islands last September, a collision of the 2 ships was narrowly avoided. When a recent transit people destroyer USS Campbell this Gregorian calendar month, Chinese state media displayed the readying of the PLA's advanced DF-26 anti-ship missile on mobile launchers as a response. There are, however, still measures taken to reciprocally avoid unwarranted chain reactions. This month, USA chief of military service operations Adm. Richardson participated in an exceedingly risk reduction dialogue together with his set up counterpart Vice Adm. Shen Jindong and leaders of the Central credential in China. Still, the SCS remains a possible flashpoint in 2019, over the East China Ocean when China-Japan relations have relaxed within the last half of last year.

Taiwan & Tibet

An attainable reason for step-up in US-Chinese relations stay Chinese claims to respect its sovereignty over Taiwan and Xizang. Each square measure suffering from recent North American country legislation, the North American country "Reciprocal Access to Xizang Act" from Dec 2018 and also the "Taiwan Travel Act" that was created law earlier last year. Taiwan particularly are one in every of the foremost crucial flashpoints globally. For the primary time, the Council on Foreign Relations' Centre for Preventive Action, as an example, has hierarchic Taiwan as a hotspot to look at in its 2019 interference Priorities Survey. Taiwan-related tensions square measure expected to grow against the background of each US-China tensions similarly because the 2020 presidential elections in Taiwan. At the start of 2019, matters are therefore serious that an additional deterioration leading even to a significant conflict appears attainable. After the govt. of Taiwanese President Tsai Ingo-wen has maintained Associate in nursing unprecedentedly daring pro-independence stance towards China throughout 2018, tensions may rise to a dangerous level

this year. In her New Year's address, the President conferred China "four musts" to be ascertained for a "healthy and normal" relationship between capital of Red China and Taipei. With a frankness inaudible before, she proclaimed that China "must face the fact of the existence of the Republic of China (Taiwan); it should respect the commitment of the twenty-three million individuals of Taiwan to freedom and democracy; it should handle cross-strait variations peacefully, on a basis of equality; and it should be governments or government-authorized agencies that interact in negotiations." "These 'four musts'", that the President, "are the foremost basic and crucial foundations which will confirm whether or not cross-strait relations develop during a positive direction." concerning twenty four hours later, President Xi Jinping, marking the "40th day of remembrance of the Chinese Mainland's Message to Compatriots in Taiwan", named unification of China and Taiwan as "the nice trend of history" and as a vital a part of his China Dream of national rejuvenation. Deed no space to debate Taiwan's standing, he maintained the promise of a "one country, two systems" framework for unification whereas, at constant time, reserving the military possibility of AN 'Anschluss' by force. whereas Xi's speech remained within the line of former announcements, President Tsai whose party received a powerful blow in recent native elections, was astonishingly outspoken in her resolute rejection of the "one country, two systems" framework. Further adding to the volatility of cross-straits relations is US support for Taiwan. The deputy head of the Chinese Academy of Military Sciences exemplified the chance of AN step-up once mental imagery AN invasion of Taiwan shortly when President Tsai's speech. expressly calculative with a supposed yank concern of casualties the flag officer contemplated that, just in case the US armed service fleet "dares to prevent in Taiwan", to sink one or 2 US craft carriers which might price the lives of 5000 to ten.000 servicemen. Whereas these developments area unit hardly signal any reason for optimism, the politics calculus is, once more, intimately interlinking with domestic politics. The maximum amount as a step-up up to AN armed encounter or perhaps

invasion is feasible in 2019, an amendment in government may quickly relax tensions. Yet, legislative, and presidential elections area unit solely due in 2020 and far would possibly happen throughout the year, particularly if the current pace of decay in US-Sino relations is preserved. Given this, a military step-up associated with the Taiwan issue may unravel over the course of a brief time.

North Korea

Another potential flashpoint that would become essential once more is that the Korean Peninsula. Once the comfort in relations between Washington and capital of North Korea in 2018, not a lot of discernible progress on the removal of nuclear weapons by North-Korea has manifested. This year, President Trump can have to be compelled to follow au courant the matter, which is able to not be supported within the probable case that relations between the U.S.A. and China square measure worsening. In his year address, Kim Erica Jong world organization has displayed some deferent notions towards Washington although he appeared a lot of compliant in others. Noteworthy, however, he has not solely visited President Xi in Beijing however also visit Russian President Statesman presently will with a second summit with President Trump to be set. Less volatile than the South-China Ocean and the Taiwan issue, the Korean Peninsula may become a lot of essential once more this year. Chinese Belt and road initiatives is likely to become corner stone for the geo polarization of the complete Eurasia. The Middle East is already in shambles whereas the Caucasus and the Central Asian states do not have national power enough to spread the wings of their influence into power politics of Asia. Ultimately there are hardly few countries that would extend their spheres of influence or try partnering with any regional or global giant. These countries include Turkey, Iran, Egypt, India, Israel, and Saudi Arabia. Each one of them has

a different partner from among the global powers by their sides. But the unanimity of United States in the Asia is squashed by Chinese leap.

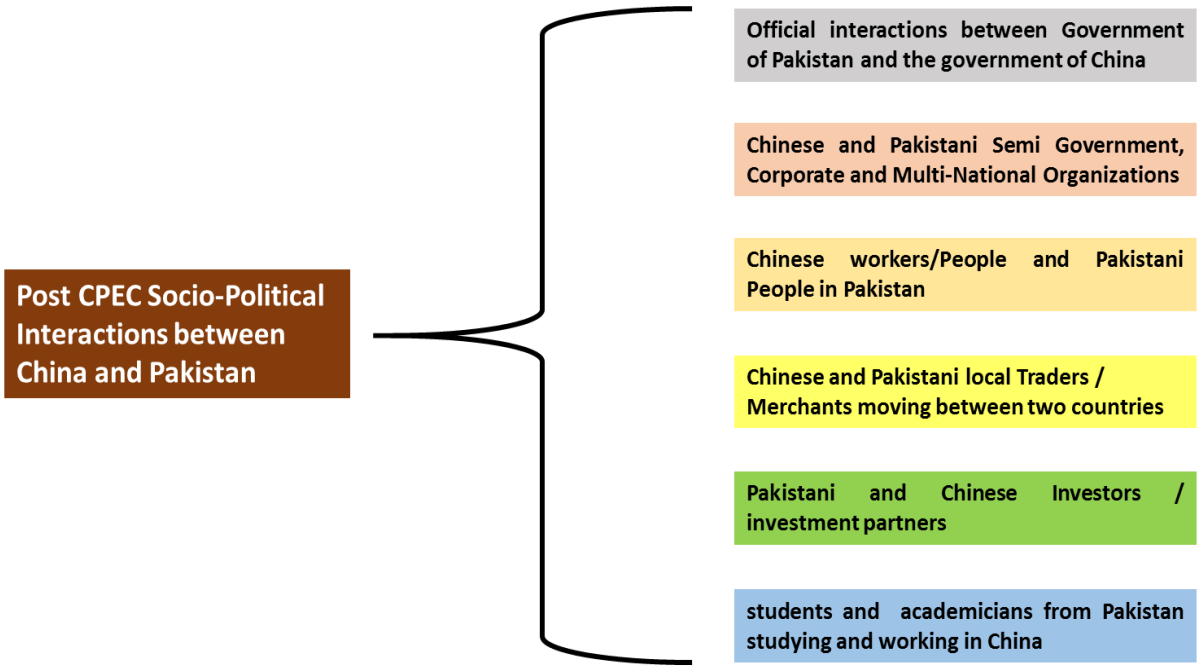
Conclusively, the geopolitical transformations in Eurasia are linked to Chinese spread. Each of the OBOR Project - one belt one road initiatives by China may have its own significance and influence but CPEC surpasses all. It has brought Russia and China into economic alliance, India, and China into yet another era of cold war and has also reshaped influences in the Indian Ocean.

Chapter Six

Socio Political Impacts of CPEC

Prescribed as "Game Changer" China Pakistan Economic Corridor is raising concerns amidst nationalist Pakistani's who consider Chinese influence as a threat to socio political independence of the region, specifically Pakistan.

However impervious plans within this corridor, have begun engaging a larger group of socio-political elements all over Pakistan. The interaction between Pakistani society and Chinese Nationals can be distinguished into six segments



With every passing year since last one decade the interaction between China and Pakistan is increasing on many fronts. Local population on the route of the corridor has proactively started participating in the venture through various means of direct and indirect involvement. Large number of local workers have been engaged by Chinese Companies working for projects associated with the corridor. There are large number of Chinese workers and their aides being observed in every sphere of life in and around CPEC marked areas. Their numbers in Pakistan

have risen from 3500 to over 60000 between 2007 and till 2018. China had expressed that by the time CPEC would be at its full pace and swing there would be approx. 400000 Chinese workers working in Pakistan. Furthermore, the number of students going to China for various academic and business purposes have also increased between 2006 from an estimated 1000 people every year to over 10000 people in 2018. We can easily infer from these statistics that there is a continuous increase in interaction between Chinese and Pakistanis. This interaction initially appeared more to be time bound and more limited to workplaces but some of the Chinese have begun settling down out of Industrial Camps. Apart from Chinese involvement in mega projects and ventures, some Chinese have begun establishing shops, small businesses, and saloons in various cities across Pakistan.

This increase in interaction apparently relate to economic activities however one cannot ignore socio-cultural implications. Where revival of Pakistan's economy is evident CPEC has begun redirecting socio political moves within Pakistan as well as at the regional level.

The Political friction between the Provinces and the Federation

The debates in the parliament and the legislative assemblies of the provinces involving the local notables, technocrats, researchers, political groups, religious parties, and the businessmen is increasing day by day on various elements of the corridor. At occasions, these debates turn into frictions and then conflicts amongst various stakes. There is also an air of dissent and unease between Federation and Provinces, post CPEC. It has been very challenging task for Islamabad and all the previous governments in there to facilitate smooth and peaceful execution of CPEC. Even the present government immediately after assuming power in July 2018 elections began encouraging reassessment of the situation with regards to CPEC. Debates were organized to ascertain various risk and opportunities associated with this project. Consultation done with

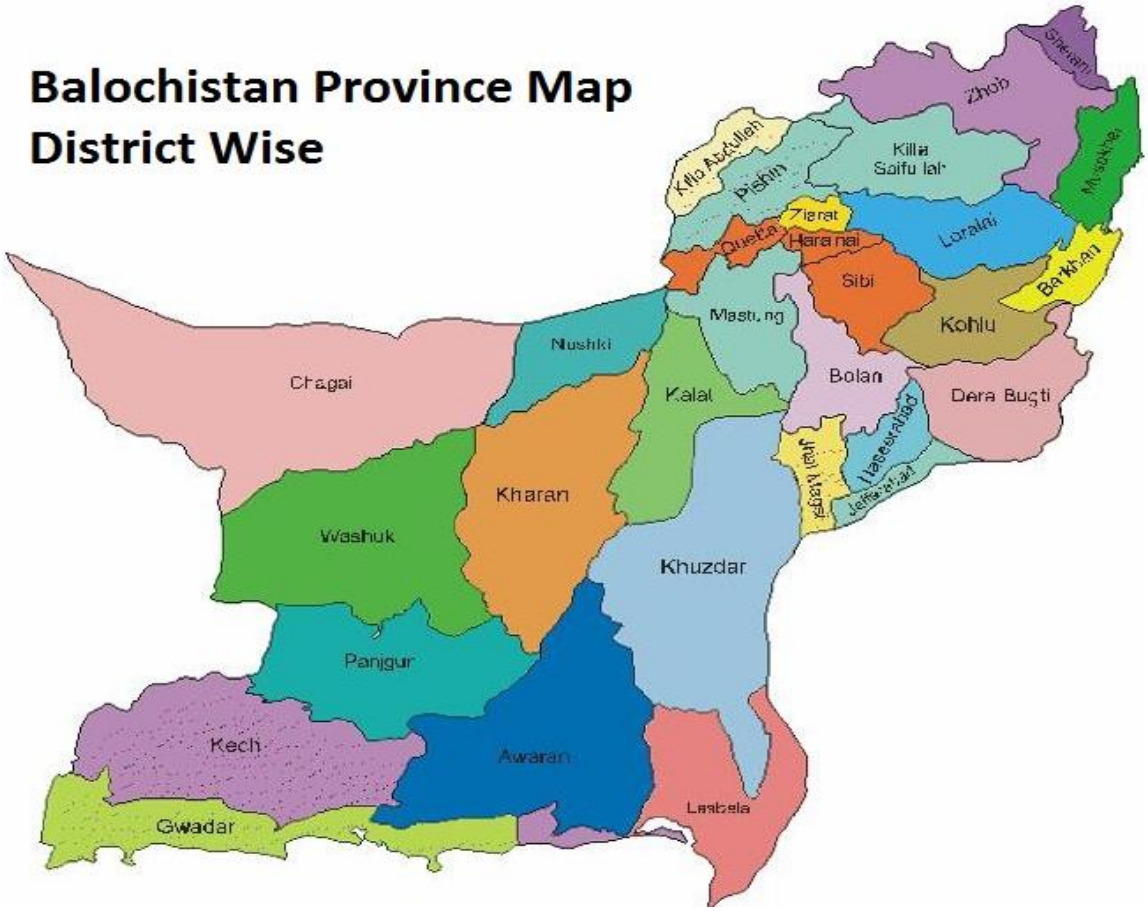
business leaders, representatives of the affected local communities, the civil society and even the opposition benches of the Parliament. China has been very careful and calculative in managing CPEC in Pakistan. The project encompasses capital investments, loans, partnership consortiums and grants worth $ 60 billion. The route itself is 2700 km long. Emancipating from the shores of the Arabian Sea at Gawadar in deserted and less populated but largest province of Baluchistan the corridor entails building up of fastest roads linking some of the major towns while linking with Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa before passing through northern mountains at Khanjerab and acceding into Chinese South Western Region of Xin Xiang and then culminating at Beijing, China. Initially the political groups of the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province raised their voice against CPEC Plans as the route did not benefit the old North West Frontier Province of Pakistan. After lot of debates and discussions the plan was articulated and augmented with some additional trade zones in Haripur, Abbottabad, Mardan and Nowshera that were to be linked with the main corridor. Baluchistan had its own apprehensions. A committee was set up by the provincial assembly in Dec 2018 of the provincial cabinet which proclaimed that there was very slow progress on all projects associated with the western part of the economic corridor and even the overall part of CPEC investment allocated for Baluchistan was diminutive. 5.5 billion USD investment plans were marked for Baluchistan out of total investment of 62 Billion US Dollars which was just 9% of the total. The committee expressed that even out of this committed amount of 5.5 Billion USD just 1 billion were spent within Baluchistan by fall 2018. This was spending Infect in four years team and more significantly even out of this invested amount $200m were spent on 1320 MW Hub Coal power plant near Karachi. By 2018 Baluchistan had developed a capacity of 2395 MW from within Baluchistan but still had a shortfall of around 700 MW. Many in Baluchistan considered it as slow and low injection of electricity into Baluchistan despite large number of mega power projects across Pakistan in the garb of CPEC. Quetta Mass Transit worth $912m and PAT feeder

to Quetta water project worth 40 billion PKR are still in the pipeline. Their feasibilities under discussions and the cost still not inclusive of some overheads like land, compensations, displacements, and resettlements. Through PAT feeder project, the water will be pumped up to an elevation of 6,000 feet across 280 kilometers to reach Quetta capitalizing on nine different pumping stations on the pipeline. The Baloch political leaders had reservations on the Hashab-Baima-Sohrab section of the road as well because it was shown as part of the western route despite part of being common alignment. Due to such declaration Baluchistan had to provide major chunk of funds for these projects out of the provincial pools which was in acceptable. There can be more reasons added to the friction between the federal governments in Pakistan with provincial government, however despite such political discomforts the process of arbitration, negotiation and dialogue is taking its course. Incidentally, this is taming the political behavior of the various stakes in the country. For decades there have been cold silence on many issues between various stakes. Especially between the tribal chiefs and nationalist political wings of Baluchistan and the center. However, one of the big impacts CPEC is making is the unleashing of this silence and outbreak of discussion and debate. The magnum of investment by China is so much that pace of executing CPEC is also fast. The dialogues and debates cannot last long. Resultantly all the participants of CPEC those investing, contributing in it, partnering, working on it and even those being affected or under impact are all becoming more proactive and interactive with each other. A new political habit is on its way which is to conclude through various tools of conflict resolutions instead of lingering to radical ideologies and socio-psychological constraints for long.

Socio Cultural Implications in Baluchistan

As we look at the corridor inside Pakistan there are various forms of socio cultural and political influences at each sub geographical zone all along the corridor. With an estimated investment plan

of 7.1 billion $ CPEC aims at opening an avenue of opportunities for the people of Baluchistan. This is second largest share within initially committed investment of $ 46 billion. Surely the region in general and Port of Gwadar particularly is considered as the linchpin of this project. The federal governments in Islamabad continue to pronounce their commitment in making CPEC a platform for developing the province and discourse various socio-economic deprivations of Baluchistan. The long-term benefits of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor entails transforming Baluchistan into yet another economic Hub of Pakistan. Unfortunately, since inception of Pakistan and despite rich mineral reserves Baluchistan could not contribute much too economic gains of Pakistan. Indirectly and exponentially it impacted on development of Baluchistan itself. The tough terrains and the extreme weather conditions also impeded the pace of the development. The tribal system influenced by racial divides kept people meddling with each other in never ending conflicts and skirmishes. Linguistically the locals in Baluchistan speak more than dozen languages and dialects whereas the population consists of around 46 Baloch tribes the major ones include the Marri, Mengal, Bugti, Jamali, Bizenjo and Rind and roughly 70 tribal chiefs. Each having his own circle of influence but Marri, bugtis and mengals having greater spread in this regard. For CPEC Baluchistan is a Challenge in itself. Cost of security increased and even Pakistan Army had to further allocate secluded resources to manage the security risks in Baluchistan.

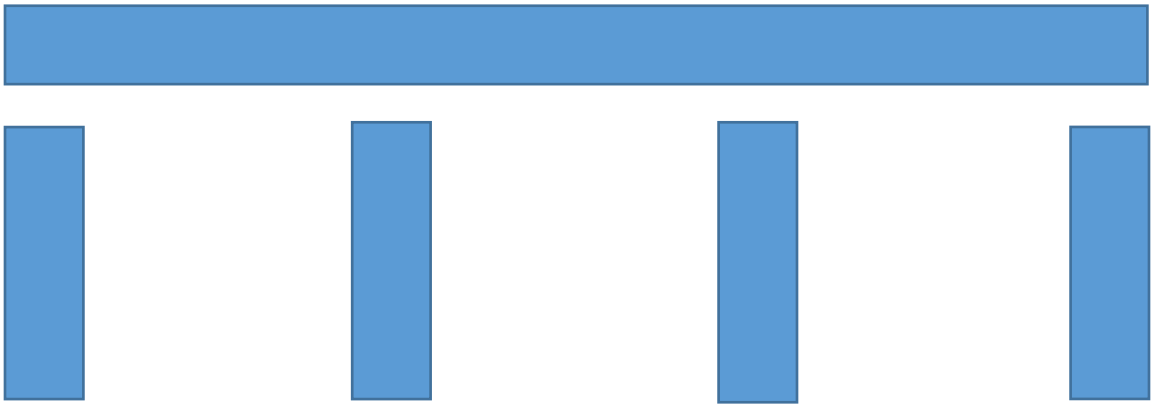


Divided amongst 30 Districts, Some Baloch nationalists' leaders posed opposition to CPEC because they feared such developments in Baluchistan would eventually lead to loss of control over Balochistan's natural resources by the locals[100]. Some of the extremist nationalists pronounce it as a conspiracy to facilitate immigration of people from ex-Baloch origin in the province. Even Gawadar itself is a big concern for Baloch people. Despite of the fact that Gawadar has generated thousands of the Jobs for poor people of Baluchistan largely in worker category. Former Chief minister and the leading political figure of Balochistan's Sardar Akhter Mengal expressed his concerns that issuance of resident cards to the inhabitants of Gawadar in Baluchistan will create difficulties for the Baloch people in future to participate in the economic activity in Gawadar.

[100] Taneja, Pradeep (2 February 2016). "TROUBLE AHEAD: THE CHINA-PAKISTAN-INDIA TRIANGLE". Australian Institute of International Affairs. Retrieved 14 May 2016.

Though it has been done purely due to security reasons but still a larger group from Baluchistan considers that handing over operational and management control of Gawadar to Chinese Companies and the incorporation of the resident card would deny ethnic Baloch people entry into the city. The federal government also announced its intention to construct a world class professional training institute with the named Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute of Gwadar worth 943 million rupees. It would aim at imparting professional education and skills to residents to train them to operate machinery at the port. Burzine Wag Hmar, a member of the Centre for the Study of Pakistan, SOAS, University of London, observed that CPEC projects may not benefit the native Baloch population rather they may further cause more human rights violations in the province. The director of the Asia Research Centre at London School of Economics, Athar Hussain, also expressed apprehensions that the CPEC was likely to bring more development in the regions that are already developed instead of neglected and poor areas. But all these concerns aside, the difficult topography of Turbot with a population of over 0.2 million people has been carved through with faster network of roads in the garb of this venture. So was the case with western district of Panjgur having population size of 0.35 million people. Immediately after the work started in these regions the price of land along the CPEC went sky high. Economic activity paced up. People who originally belonged to these areas and had abandoned their mother land, settling into more advanced cities of Karachi, Sokar, Quetta, Rahim Yar Khan and Dera Ghazi Khan have begun returned to their hometowns aspiring to hunt on the business opportunities within CPEC. It is surely boosting the economic activity. It is pertinent to observe that many such families had good exposure in other parts of the country allowing them to jell well with other races. Unlike those who clung to deserts and dunes of Balochistan's and who continued living in deprivation and poverty these immigrants are also becoming source of paradigm shifts.

Other than these opportunist Baloch people even those who have been hired by Chinese or Pakistani Investors to work on CPEC development projects are also playing a significant role in bridging the gap of localism and nationalism. China has its own influence and impacts. The Businessmen operating in the immediate west of Baluchistan i.e. those in Afghanistan, Iran, Oman, and Emirates have begun moving in directly or indirectly to get hold of economic opportunities. The journey from extremism to moderate society has begun in Balochistan's. Indeed, CPEC is a game changer. It is linking up a massive sweep of regional markets from China to Asia to the Middle East and to further ahead in Europe and Africa. Interestingly CPEC can be considered a venture fostering on four pillars for Pakistan



The four pillars of China Pakistan Economic Corridor include energy infrastructure, industrial development, Gawadar and Baluchistan. Some of the industrial zones would include major cities such that Quetta, Uthal, Hub Gwadar, Khuzdar and Dera Murad Jamali. The proposed mineral economic processing zones will also be set up in

- Khuzdar for Chromite and antimony
- Chaghi for Chromite
- Qila Saifullah for antimony and chromite

- Saindak for gold and silver
- Reko Diq for gold
- Qalat for iron ore
- Lasbela for manganese
- Gwadar for oil refinery
- Muslim Bagh for chromite

With Baluchistan in focus Gawadar will serve as an anchor bolt for CPEC. Large number of development projects and plans are underway. Around 2282 Acres /923 Hectares of the land in Gawadar has been declared as free trade zone under the umbrella of Gwadar Port Authority through a lease agreement signed during the visit of Chinese President in Apr 2015. It was a project worth Rs 6.499 billion. China Overseas Ports Holding Company along with its subsidiary Gwadar Free Zone Company will administer. In phase one of the same between 2015 till 2020 Gawadar Free Trade Zone is being populated with a commercial logistics center, an exhibition hall, and some industries from local resources such as livestock and fisheries. The Phase two of the same project planned between 2020 and 2025 includes the expansion and development of some manufacturing and process units along with incorporation of an Industrial park. In Phase three between 2025 to 2030 the free trade zone industries shall be expected to spread in volume, scale, and capacities. For Baluchistan, this free trade zone will contribute in multiple ways. It would engage large number of human resources from Baluchistan apart from generating exploration opportunities for the local investors deep inside the untapped deserts. Now only 16 feet narrow access is provided to pass into main port area congesting the transportation of trucks and the trawlers. The port does not have dedicated wide highway to cater to the transporting requirements.

A four-lane expressway with provision of a 30-meter-wide railway track and embankments for six lanes some 19-kilometer-long is already under construction and would resolve the problem. The new Gwadar airport has also started its operations in July 2018 built on about 4000 acres. The CPEC's primary route through Baluchistan is called the western route also known as M-8. It is the shortest route to Kashgar. Starting from Gwadar, it would pass through Turbot, Panjgur, Nag, Baima, Sorab, Qalat, Quetta, Qila Saifullah and Hob in Baluchistan to reach Dera Ismail Khan in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and then would head towards Hassan Abdel before reaching Islamabad. Nearly 556 kilometers in Baluchistan out of the 870 kilometers this road is completed. Now it has been kept as four lane road however provision to extend it into six lanes is also in the pipeline. The federal government in Pakistan and even the Chinese managers of the corridors are showing great flexibility to adjust to demands of the local masses especially when it comes to siting industrial zones. Socio economic activities are gearing up in volume and pace. Local people have begun setting up restaurants, fuel pumps, workshops, washing facilities, hotels, shops, and houses all along the completed portions of the western route of the CPEC. Cement Industry, Bricks Kilns, Mining industry, construction industry and power sector have already started off. Even marble and granite plants are coming up. Oil Companies are spreading out their storage facilities to cater for the increasing demands and spreads.

Militarization

This Corridor is of high defense significance for Pakistan as well. Strength of a country is directly proportional to the depth its geography provides from any external infiltration or attack. Unfortunately, Pakistan is confronted with an adversary who has the maximum border with Pakistan and its strategic defense depth against her is less. Under such circumstances CPEC serve as one big layer of defense for national security of Pakistan. The corridor has enhanced the mobility

of Pakistan's armed forces from one part of the corridor to the other. Furthermore, the fast track communication link with China has further strengthened Pakistan China Military bonds. Gawadar itself has augmented Pakistan's Naval Strength. These are greater gains for Pakistan Army because in the garb of CPEC they have developed many new military establishments, bases, and transmittal points. The friction between the political governors of Pakistan and those in uniform have also reduced because their inter-dependability on each other has increased. The layout of CPEC has also been planned in a way to further enhance security and military controls even in few of the difficult terrains and socially secluded integrities. Surely the Corridor runs through one of the most vital geo strategic locations of the world likely to serve as Trade Bridge between China, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. Irrespective of the fact that it will generate thousands of business opportunities, activities, jobs, and revenue worth of billions of dollars skeptics continue to express rise of the influence of Pakistan Army in government offices and democratic establishments. CPEC has further enhanced the role of Pakistan Army. It may be an economic leap of China, but it is helping Pakistan Army to clear off the extremist elements and western influences from Pakistan. Even the deterrence against India has increased in size, quantum, and shape. With such outcomes, it seems apart CPEC has a military dimension as well. The 'String of Pearls' Theory, also indicates that the China Pakistan Economic Corridor should not be taken in isolation as an economic venture. Rather as part of greater global game it relates to increasing China's influence as global power. Americans had a similar agenda in the form of 'Pivot to Asia', which aimed at countering China especially in Asia-Pacific. In 2013 London based strategy think tank The Chatham House published a report in which they drew attention of Chinese rise in the Asian Pacific region as a threat to American allies like Singapore, India, Indonesia, and Japan. Its termed China as a dragon that was spreading its wings to influence complete region. United States continue to pose as a big brother and a balancer in the region. China is linking the CPEC with the sea route of

Indian Ocean in the form of Gawadar as the potential refueling port and naval rest point. Pakistani military is also gaining strength with China as partner in the sea as well. Interestingly few years before formal announcement of CPEC one of the military analysts from Pakistan Army Brigadier Riaz Ahmed Toro presented a classified research paper in 1997 on the role of Pakistan Army in building the nation which focused on exploring a wide array of road networks across country as a tool of improving security controls and facilitating the civilian administration in development projects. Few years later CPEC appeared as the transformation of this research. Pakistan Army was first to welcome, and they even announced formation of a separate army division for extending security cover to the plan. With CPEC in place Chinese dependency on Malacca route shall also be reduced significantly. For decades, the USPACOM (United States Pacific Command) was in charge in the Asia Pacific and even in the Indian Ocean through regular naval presence and military exercises. The fact that Chinese military shall achieve another access point through CPEC into Indian ocean apart from their added controls all along Malacca route indicates that in years to come American Military might in the region is likely to reduce. In parallel CPEC has also provided an opportunity to Pakistan Army in reshaping their role within their own geographic frontiers. Where establishment of cantonments and military bases or camps generates sense of security for many, it also makes local feudalists, landlords and tribal chiefs lose their power within their localities. The likely risks of local resentment, external disruptions, political dismay, and public confrontations lead to security concerns. Pakistan Army had to delegate special division size force to manage the security of CPEC, National Highway authority was also increased in its strength along with Frontier Works Organization. Pakistan Navy multiplied its resources in Gawadar, Omari and Pansy. Pakistan Air Force took charge of Jacobabad, incorporated one of the largest Air Force Base between Karachi and Hyderabad and began improving their military bases in Short, Kamra and Sargodha. CPEC is helping Pakistan on many foots and fronts. Where such militarization on

the route of CPEC is making security controls more impacting. There are slight turbulences amongst local Sardar and feudal who continue to provoke negative vibes against CPEC amongst masses. Though majority of Pakistani consider CPEC as positive yet some factions of society especially in the tribal belts somehow stay at unease. CPEC has also brought military close to the politicians and the democratic government in Pakistan. So much so since the start of the project there have been four governments that came in power in Pakistan starting from Musharraf, followed by Zardari, Nawaz and now Imran Khan. All those who were at unease with each other but CPEC served as point of affinity amongst all of them. Pakistan Army served to be in limelight as it is considered as the corner stone for the success of CPEC.

Beliefs, Ethnicity, Rites and Taboos

China and Chinese are mostly influence by Confucius, Communist Practices, Buddhism though majority of Chinese are moderate and believe more in being atheist than Buddhist. Still their cultural values, appetites, moral values, language, taboos, rites, and customs are totally different from Pakistani's. As the interaction is building up between local Pakistanis and the Chinese workers various socio-cultural problems are coming to limelight. As a practice some Chinese companies bring in jailed criminals as workers in their labor camps whose moral values are at low. Fights and scuffles have become regular feature in many companies working in Pakistan with such labor camps. Use of forbidden foods by Chinese is common and the Pakistani Workers working in Chinese companies often face difficulties in managing the cohesion.in Dec 2018 it was reported that Chinese men have been trapping Pakistani Girls through money and false religious conversions to engage them in the bonds of matrimony and then take them to China for human trafficking and brothel houses. These incidents were reported in Lahore and Islamabad and necessary police investigations are underway with more than dozen Chinese under arrest. In one

of the power plants in Punjab where a Chinese Management tried influencing prayer timings a huge mob of Muslim workers gathered against Chinese Management and a situation of unrest was observed for long. The issue was resolved after lot of uneasy feelings between Chinese management and the workers through arbitration by the state. But such issues are getting onto the nerves of both parties. It is difficult to comment if there is or there can be a religious side to CPEC story but optically it seems mostly an economic venture aimed at increasing the share of China in global markets leading to an enhanced strategic might of Beijing in the world. Even within China they have begun reducing religious influences in national matters. While dealing with Uyghur, they adopted the socio-psychological training programs at mass level instead of opting for the forceful genocide. This is how China portrays Uyghur but surely it had been geographically part of China for almost over two hundred years so we cannot compare Uyghur with any other part of the world where China is entering as trader or merchant. One interesting outcome likely to happen in post CPEC scenario is the increased interaction of Chinese Muslims with Pakistani Muslims. Such an access would further strengthen Islam in China apart from some anti-Islamic cultural transformations in Pakistan. Due to dishonesty, corruption and bribery Pakistani society has suffered a lot in past. The capitalism and democratic institutions are often questioned by the common people. Communism provides less space to individualism, corruption, feudalists, or religious extremists. With such ideologies if China will even try to shift its focus from trade to social or political dominance the clash of civilizations is bound to happen which will be devastating.

Between linguistic bars and barriers

Where Persian, Pushto, Brahe, Hindi, Arabic, Urdu, Sindhi, and Bengali are all interrelated languages spoken in South Asian Region, Chinese is a totally from a different family of languages.

Language serve as an impediment and a barrier between Chinese People and Pakistanis while they live or work together. Surely it creates an inherent gulf and despite all those slogans of Pak Cheen Dosti social cohesions is a big challenge. Even if we go by two nation theory of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan and or Llama Iqbal we need to be very clear that China and Pakistan can enter into some interim or time barred economic venture / project but social integration between these two nations is going to be unnatural. Resultantly there would be much difficult and challenging times ahead. Learning Chinese is not easy though China is launching various strategies and plans to educate more and more Pakistanis – Chinese Language.

Impact on cottage industry

It is interesting to note that China is the largest country by population and to feed its population it had to devise various socio-economic strategies. One of which was to teach Chinese self-sufficiency, arty-crafting, technical skills etcetera. Lot of Chinese operate small scale businesses and are very good at it. They manufacture day to day household items at much cheaper cost of production. Chinese products are fast spreading in the world. Where CPEC will serve as the route for spreading Chinese Goods. The cities and the towns enrooted are likely to spread as the extended spaces for their cottage industry. Lot of Chinese have begun acquiring shops and spaces in Pakistan to build their businesses. Socially it is quizzical. Where this be opportunity for Pakistani workers, it needs to be assessed as losing business opportunity for local Pakistani low wage investors. Pakistan own and inherited cottage industry is likely to suffer, and the Chinese Cottage Industry and the Chinese Products are likely to outgrow in numbers. China is good with garments and textiles, toys, food processing, decorative households, footwear, and consumer electronics. Heavy industries include aircraft manufacturing, armaments, machine building, iron and steel, coal, chemical fertilizers, autos petroleum and cement. Pakistan has volume vacuum for further growth

of all these products specially bearing the fact that we are having abundance natural and mineral resources along with human capital but mostly untapped because of lack of capital investments, cost of exploration and lack of industrial technology. One of the likely impacts is on the skill sets of our people and on the technological improvement across Pakistan. Just for instance the coal had been in abundance in Pakistan but for the first time in its seven decades of existence Pakistan has begun using its coal for generation of electricity. Even the wind corridors remained untapped but with Chinese companies entering Pakistan the country has started producing electricity through wind and sun thus reducing the electricity prices slowly. The fear of China taking over Pakistani markets has also led to refinement in local business processes and managements by Pakistani Businessmen. Infect competing with a world class economy would not be an easy task but then there is no doubt that the society in Pakistan will turn into better businessmen in post CPEC market spread. Large number of Chinese products were common in Pakistan however during last one decade more and more products are pouring in.

Loosing freedom of choice

In most of the contracts signed between Chinese Companies and local consortiums it is interesting to observe that an emphasis has been locked by the Chinese Investors that only Chinese Products shall be used. This results in loss of the freedom to choose. So much so that the ceramic tiles that are manufactured in Pakistan as well are supposed to be brought from China which is further adding to the cost. It appears that the money being invested in Pakistan is not in cash but in Kind. This is intricate. The problem is not with regards to one-time purchase or incorporation. Post-delivery repairs are not possible without long term service or replacements agreements. In this way Chinese products shall continue to be sold in Pakistan. Optically we seem like gaining but as the

time passes, we may lose on our Gross Domestic Products. On a positive note Pakistanis would be able to learn the art of reducing on cost of production and new ways to manufacture end products.

Local uprisings supported by regional propaganda groups

Baloch nationalists and underground organizations have been opposed the CPEC from the beginning, on the grounds that it would turn the Baloch people into a minority in their own province. They threatened attacks on any CPEC project anywhere in Baluchistan. During the tenure of Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf, who led Pakistan from 1999 to 2008, Baloch insurgents killed Chinese engineers and workers in the province. One of the incidents took place in Gwadar, where in May 2004, militants killed three Chinese engineers. The engineers had been driving to work. When they slowed down to pass over a speed bump, a terrorist in a nearby car detonated the barrier with a remote control. In recent years, violence had waned. There were no new projects, and the city seemed to have settled into its own rhythm. But following the CPEC announcement, according to the News International, a Pakistani English daily, and Pakistan deployed a total of 17,177 security personnel from the Army and other security forces to ensure the security of Chinese nationals[101]. In the years since, Gwadar has become something of a military cantonment. Army, police, and other law enforcers mill about. Gwadar has become something of a military cantonment. Army, police, and other law enforcers mill about. And locals traveling around Gwadar face routine checks at security checkpoints. The policing has done little to deter attacks. On April 18, when 15 to 20 Baloch insurgents dressed in military uniforms forms forced 14 passengers off a public bus and shot them, one by one. Most of victims were from the Pakistan Navy and Coast Guards, whom Baloch insurgents view as an occupying force. Then, on May 11,

[101] K. Mumtaz, The Middle East in a Flux: How Should Pakistan Respond?" Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad, vol. 18, pp. 136-156, 2015

2018 the Pearl Continental in the heart of Gwadar came under fire. Situated on a promontory overlooking the port and the Arabian Sea, the hotel is mammoth and a favorite of foreign dignitaries. Security there is intense, and since it is near Gwadar port area there are already plenty of military personnel in the area. Three armed attackers from the Baluchistan Liberation Army's Majid Brigade nevertheless managed to breach the defenses and open fire on people inside. According to officials, five individuals—four hotel employees, including three security guards, and a navy officer—lost their lives. The Pearl Continental attack bodes ill for Chinese investment in Baluchistan. Before this month, it was hard to imagine that Baloch insurgents would be capable of carrying out the attack in the center of Gwadar, even with the local support. But now any sense of security has been undermined. Established in 2011, the Majid Brigade, a suicide attack squad within the Baluchistan Liberation Army (BLA), is reportedly named after Abdul Majid Baloch, who attempted to assassinate then-Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto in 1974 in Baluchistan. In 1973, Bhutto had ordered a military operation against the Baloch because Baloch insurgents had vowed war against the state of Pakistan after Islamabad had dismissed the democratically elected National Awaji Party government in Baluchistan in February 1973. The operation triggered a major insurgency in Baluchistan that lasted until 1977. Majid was killed by security forces before he could carry out his plan against Bhutto. The Majid Brigade has focused on attacking Chinese nationals and Chinese-funded projects. In the first several years after the BLA was formed in 2000, it mostly waged attacks on national security forces, state infrastructure, and Punjabi settlers. In more recent years, under Aslam Baloch, who died in Kandahar in December 2018, the Majid Brigade has focused on Chinese nationals and Chinese-funded projects. Such attacks seemed more likely to provoke media attention. He tapped his oldest son, Rehana Baloch, for a suicide attack on Chinese engineers in Disbanding, a city in Baluchistan, last August. The attack resulted in minor injuries for the engineers. He also oversaw an attack on the Chinese consulate in Karachi a

few months later. Two police officials and two visa applicants were killed. As these incidents suggest, the Majid Brigade is gaining momentum. And it is joined by new groups, such as the Baloch Raja Acajou Sanger, an alliance of Baloch separatist groups specifically focused on attacking CPEC projects. From the beginning, the Baloch have been pushed to the wall. They have never been treated as equal citizens of Pakistan, nor have they been given equal constitutional, economic, and political opportunities. Therefore, some Baloch protest peacefully, some do nothing, and some have taken up arms against the state. These waves of terrorism kept army and agencies on their toes. Social security issues were on rise in the first few years of CPEC but as the time moved on the controls were improved and now there seems to be an improved situation.

Hazera Community in Baluchistan

As the CPEC was rolled down workers stormed in various Chinese companies from across the country. However, some of the insurgent groups and Baloch nationalists believed no one from other parts of the country be engaged for working in Baluchistan on CPEC. They launched kidnappings, killings of the workers from up country north as warning and later went down to terrorist attacks on buses and trains as well. Even in Quetta Hazera community has been living since half a century but they were under threat resultantly mass protests by them were also held. Pashtun Baloch's and the Brahe Baloch's were at daggers drawn with each other.

Improved Opportunities for education, awareness, and jobs

In developing economies, road networks improve means of transportation which enhances socio-cultural and economic status such as community access to basic facilities like education, health,

employment, and economic opportunity[102]. Sotho, and Horn (2007) argue that road improvements would enhance access to education, health care, markets, and other public service facilities in the surrounding areas of economic corridors[103]. In this regard with development of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Pakistani student will have better education opportunities in the universities of China and this factor is directly associated with improving and enhancing the literacy rate of the population of Pakistan. Furthermore, the level of poverty will also be decreased significantly with the new and modern job opportunities[104]. According the available data and previous studies conducted on the similar projects, it can be said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor is directly associated with improving the job opportunities for the population. Also, it will also help in providing the opportunities for better lifestyle and education for the population of Pakistan[105] . The level of poverty is higher in Pakistan as compared to other countries of the world and this issue poses a serious threat to the socio-economic development of the country. China Pakistan Economic Corridor can be regarded as an important and essential step in the development of the community and population of Pakistan. The route for the export of fruit will also be open with the development of China Pakistan Economic Corridor and this will help the farmers to improve the quality of their produce and contribute to the economic welfare. CPEC can also be regarded as a step toward the modernization of the agriculture system of Pakistan as the technological advancement in this field will be adopted by the locals[106]. The production and profit

[102] S. O. Wolf, An unequal equation? CPEC development and Pakistan's political mind-set, IndraStra Global, vol. 9, 2016
[103] S. K. Phyrum, V. Sothy, and K. S. Horn, Social, and economic impacts of GMS Southern Economic Corridor on Cambodia, Research and Learning Resource Center of the Mekong Institute, 2007
[104] D. Bhattacharjee, China-Pakistan economic corridor (CPEC), Indian council of world affairs, Issue brief No. 13, India, 2015
[105] M. Aqeel, Impact of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), BBA, Dept. Bus. Manage. Analytics., Arcada Univ. Appl. Sci. Univ. Helsinki, Finland, 2016
[106] W. Ali, L. Gang, and M. Raza, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: Current Developments and Future Prospect for Regional Integration, International Journal of Research (IJR), vol. 3, pp. 210-222, 2016

of the agricultural produce will be enhanced significantly by the development, initiation, and completion of this project[107]. Aside from social trade, the general population to individuals contact can be an awesome hotspot for crossing over any barrier of errors between the general population of Baluchistan and different parts of Pakistan. Subsequently, the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) can be an awesome project in advancing national trustworthiness. People in Baluchistan who are included in criminal or aggressor exercises are generally the ones who are jobless, uneducated, and scarcely locate their living.

Unemployment Rate reducing

In 1986 Pakistan's unemployed rate was close to 3.04% though at that time Pakistan had been flooded with the influx of Afghan refugees however there was surely some consistency in the economy and US Aid was also pouring in for supporting anti-Soviet forces in Afghanistan. In Jun 2003, the unemployment in Pakistan had reached record high up to 8.27 % because the economy was undergoing fiscal deadlocks and setbacks. Pakistan Bureau of Statistics reported that Pakistan's Population reached 212.82 million people in Jun 2018 but there is regular downward trend in unemployment percentage which has come down to 5.79 during that year. Even the participation rate of our labor force had also increased to 53.43 % by Dec 2019. All these are indicators of an increased economic activity and opportunity. The foreign investments have begun to pour in. especially in the energy and power sector the employees have almost doubled due to dozens of new plants that came in. this is a positive social impact of China Pakistan Economic Corridor. Most of the Chinese c0omapnies are also sending their newly hired engineers and

[107] D. Bhattacharjee, China-Pakistan economic corridor (CPEC), Indian council of world affairs, Issue brief No. 13, India, 2015

employees to China for getting firsthand training on their technologies and processes which is further improving the professionalism of Pakistani workers.

Chapter Seven
Conclusion

Socio Political Impact of CPEC is increasing in pace because of economic transformations and activities in various areas surrounding the corridor. Initiated from power and energy sector CPEC investments began spreading out after 2015 into diverse sectors. From local to national and then regional level the China Pakistan Economic corridor has intensified socio-economic activity all around its periphery. Initially it appeared to be need of China for quicker access to warm waters and South Asian markets. Progressively many other stake holders have begun to draw socio-economic and, in some cases, political benefits from the venture. One of the important questions that came up during the research process is the impact of CPEC on the economy of Pakistan with a focus on issues like unemployment, tax collection, gross domestic products, per capita income, energy consumption and technological development. Qualitative research was done to further explore the prospects in this regard. Exhaustive interviews of different business community are done.

It is inferred that CPEC will not only advantageous for both Pakistan and China, but all neighboring countries in the region shall reap socio-political and socio-economic benefits from this economic leap

To substantiate these discoveries, interviewee's data is examined in the light of semantic analysis approach. The research illustrates that, the progress along the corridor will generate employment prospects that will raise the income level of a common man while growth in the business opportunities in Pakistan will progressively add on the GDP earnings.

It is also concluded that China Pakistan Economic Venture does not pose any threat to the sovereignty of Pakistan. Icing on the cake[108], both China and Pakistan are having a time-tested friendship with each other.

This journey of formal friendship that started in 1950's turned into a greater unison after CPEC. Socio Political stability of a country surely and is reciprocal to the strength of its economy and pace of development which are also dependent upon energy resources. There is no doubt that

[108]Irshad, Muhammad Saqib & Xin, Qi & Arshad, Hamza. One Belt and One Road: Does China-Pakistan Economic Corridor benefit for Pakistan's Economy?. Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development. Vol 6. (2015). pp. 200-207.

energy crises[109] of Pakistan is already resolved now and it is the first proven positive outcome of the venture. The oil imports and transportation to China have become far easier, faster, and economical[110]. Economic Think Tanks in Pakistan have begun considering CPEC as the Game Changer[111] for the struggling economy and Pakistan. Debates on debts and tax relaxations besides, there is still ample room for steering the wheels of economic activity[112] in Pakistan. Concerns do exist amongst some segments of Pakistani society that China may put Pakistan into situation like that of Venezuela or Sri Lanka[113] in case of failure to pay back on such huge investments. But the case of Pakistan is totally different from that of Venezuela or Sri Lanka. It is not just CPEC. There are many other mutual aspirations that serve as unbreakable bond of association between China and Pakistan. For instance, China considers India as an impediment to its strife for regional or global supremacy, so they expect Pakistan to continuously engage India on its western borders. On the other hand, Pakistan also expects China to be playing role of a big brother in the regional context to desist Indian hegemony. China cannot afford to give open field to United States in the geography of Pakistan which is also fundamental to CPEC ideology. CPEC is not just about funds or loans. It is an investment in terms of technology, infrastructure, roads, transportation, energy, and even socio-political edifice of Pakistan. All of these shall go a long way in promoting economy of Pakistan. Even public and private investments[114] within Pakistan have also increased too much greater level then it was ever in the history of Pakistan.

While we get to socio political gains or losses in the CPEC for the region or for Pakistan in specific, exploring economic reaps from the venture is equally important.

The First Phase of CPEC is still not completed and exact data, quantitative summaries, statistical inferences, and financial closure reports for most of the projects are still not locked or circulated. Therefore, the part of the research is more focused on the paradigms, perceptions, and inferences

[109] Ashraf, Sajjad. 2015. China Pakistan Economic Corridor. *Institute of South Asian Studies* 364:1–4.
[110] Shue, Jiu Biing, and Tanmoy Kundu. 2017. Forecasting time-varying logistics distribution flows in the One Belt-One Road strategic context. *Transportation Research Part E* 117: 5–22.
[111] Abid, Masaraat, and Ayesha Ashfaq. 2015. CPEC: Challenges and opportunities for Pakistan. *Journal of Pakistan Vision* 16: 142–69.
[112] Ramachandran, Sudha. 2015. China-Pakistan economic corridor: Road to riches? *China Brief* 15: 1–4.
[113] Quora. 2017. *What Would Be the Impact of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) on Pakistan's Economy in the Short-Term and the Long-Run?* Mountain View
[114] Ibrar, Muhammad, Jianining Mi, Muhammad Rafiq, and Liaqat Ali. 2019. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: Ensuring Pakistan' s Economic Benefits. *Khazar Journal of Humanities & Social Sciences* 22: 38–51.

of the business community of Pakistan. At the end of the day the Pakistani business community will be one biggest stake holder within CPEC and, they would be the direct or indirect beneficiaries from the venture.

Leximancer software has been used to assess perceptions of the business community through semantic analogy. It is almost the comparable style as is used to distinguish influential notions and ideologies in project governance research[115].

Several Interviews were conducted from various segments of the business communities to collect their perceptions, experiences, and inclinations on various aspects of CPEC. More prominently its impact on social wellbeing, economic impacts, employment opportunities, per capita income, economic freedom, and business connectivity at regional level. In this part of research an effort has been made to understand how business community and industrialists in the region take CPEC. Focused and targeted interviews were done from some of the experienced and focal professionals within various sectors of business and industry largely online amidst COVID restrains.

Attempt was made to cover all those sectors that seems to have been impacted more by CPEC. Questionnaire was developed focusing on diversity of each sector but ultimately focused on the impact as perceived by the professionals from within that sector. Optically the real stake holders of CPEC would be those, who are going to be impacted most by this venture. Communicating with them was easier on social media or professional websites like LinkedIn, however despite having a focused targeted sample it was not easy getting response from them in one go. Following is the summary of overall research effort

S/N	Sector	Sample Size	Responses Received	Positive Respondents[116]	Negative Respondents[117]
1	Education Sector	50	37	34	3
2	Construction & Real Estate	50	26	24	2
3	Hi Tech Industries,	50	35	31	4
4	Energy & Power	50	42	39	3
5	Agriculture	50	21	15	6

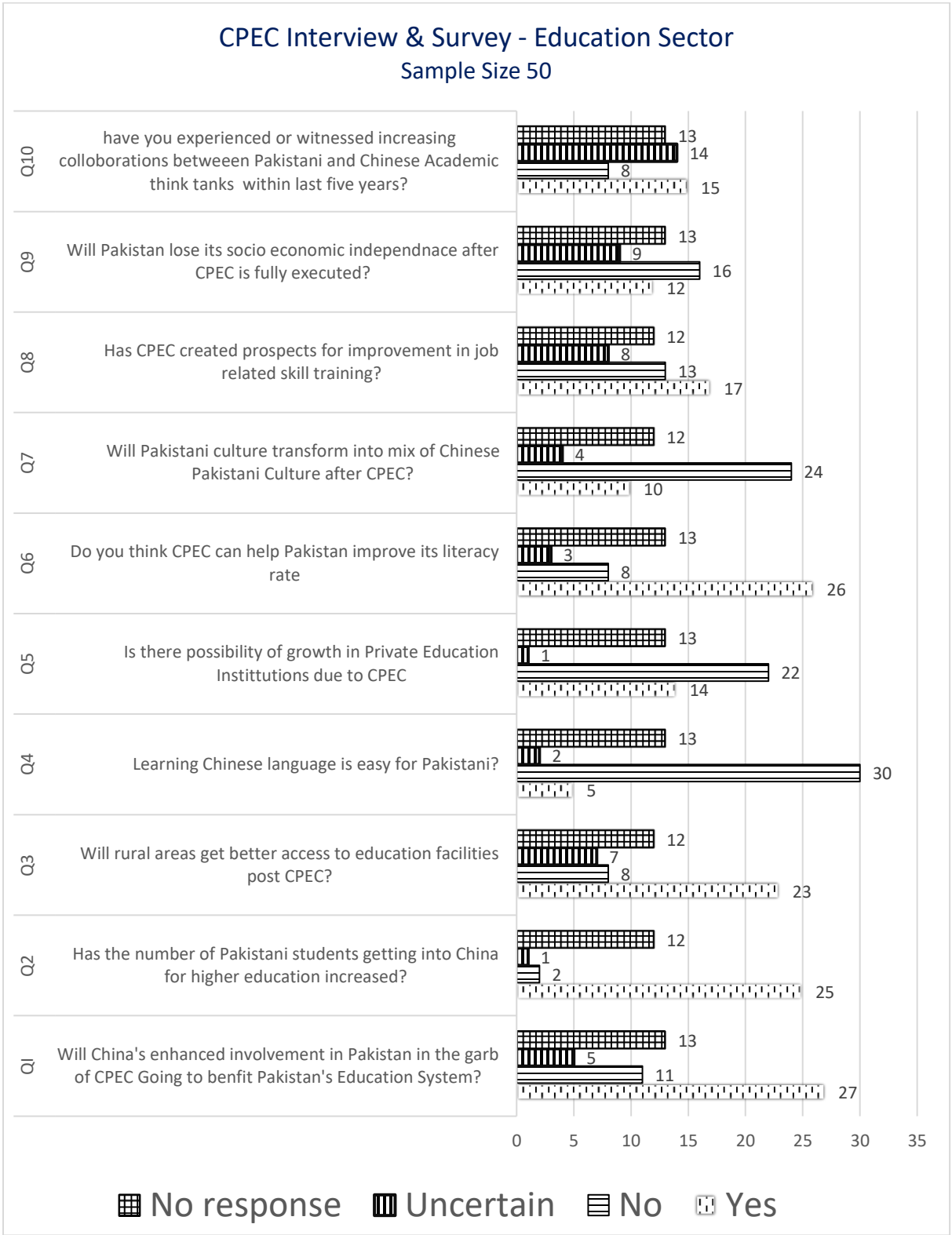
[115] Biesenthal, Christopher, and Ralf Wilden. 2014. ScienceDirect Multi-level project governance: Trends and opportunities. *JPMA* 32: 1291–308.

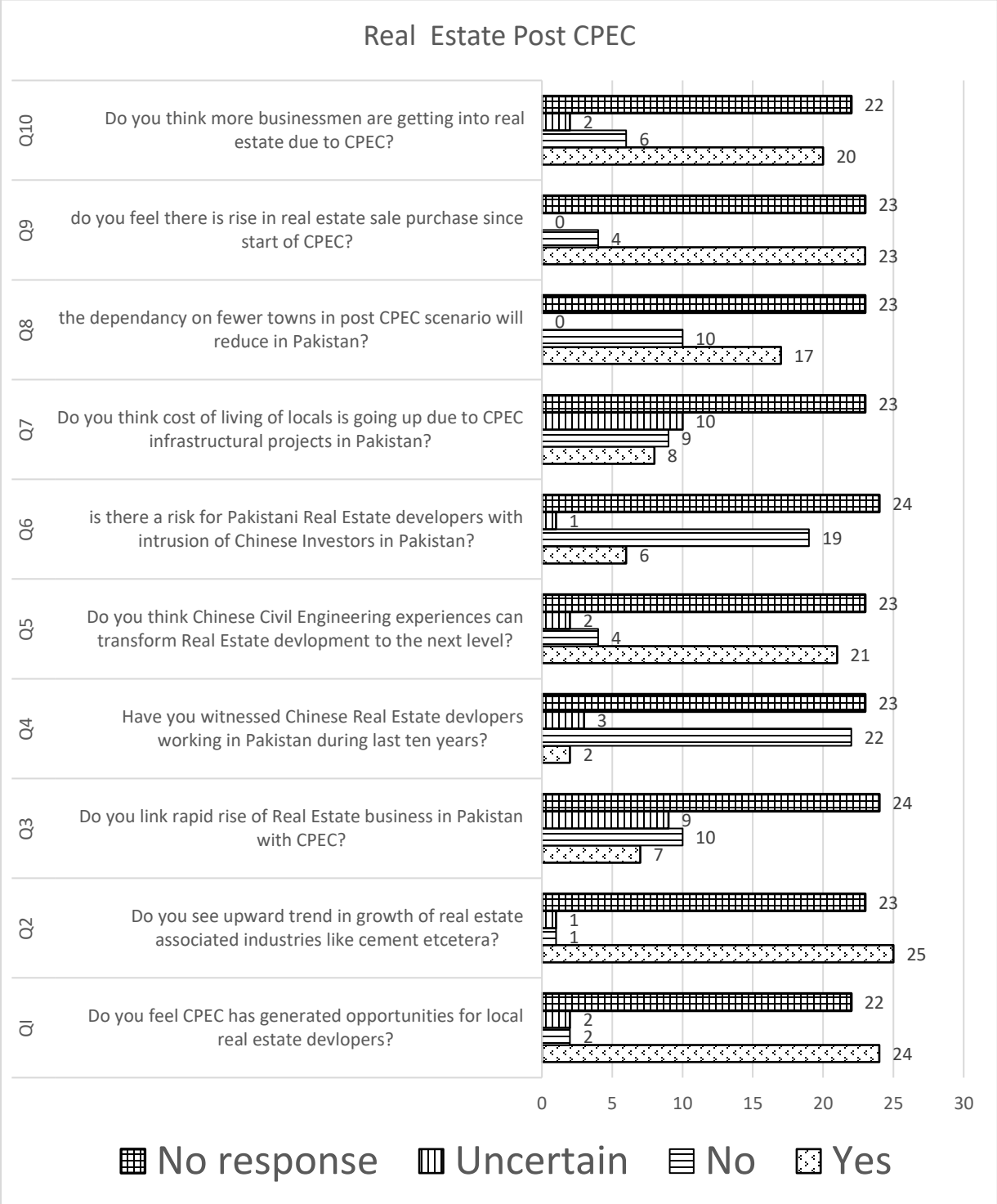
[116] Those who expressed CPEC as Game Changer and expected greater prospects for it in long run.

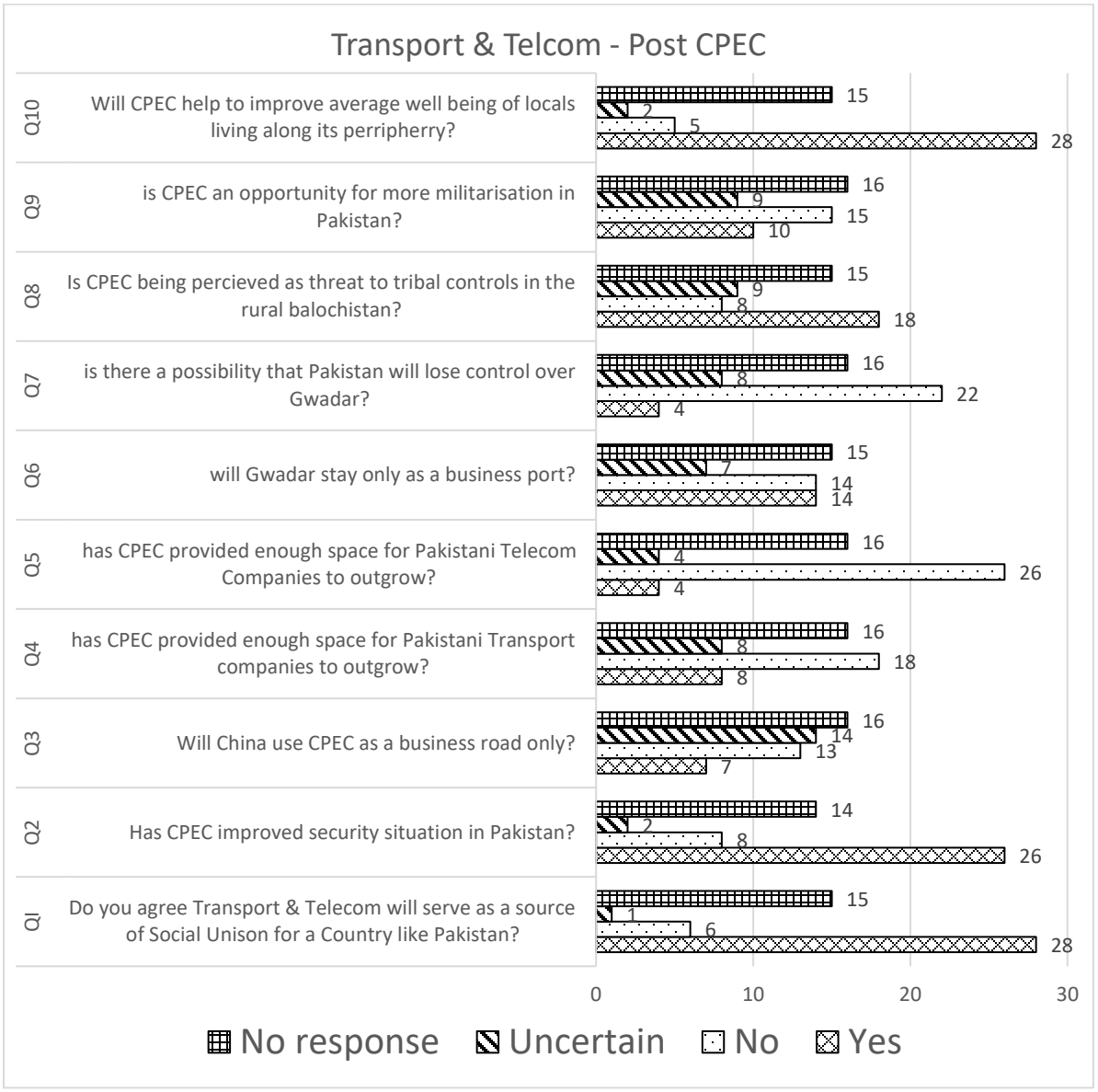
[117] Those who expressed CPEC as threat to Pakistan's economy or integrity or freedom

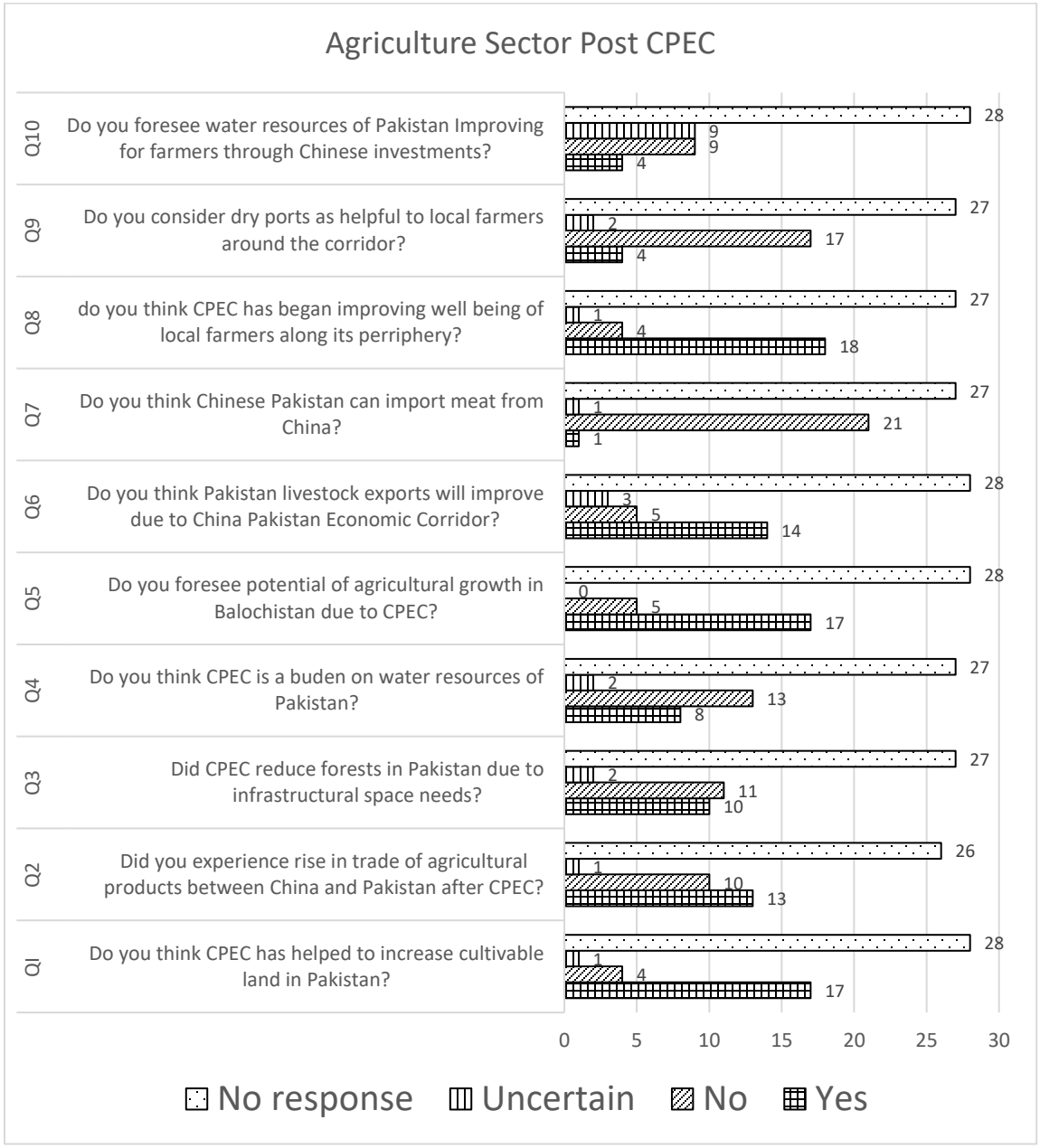
6	Transport & Telecom	50	29	27	2
	Total	300	190	170	20

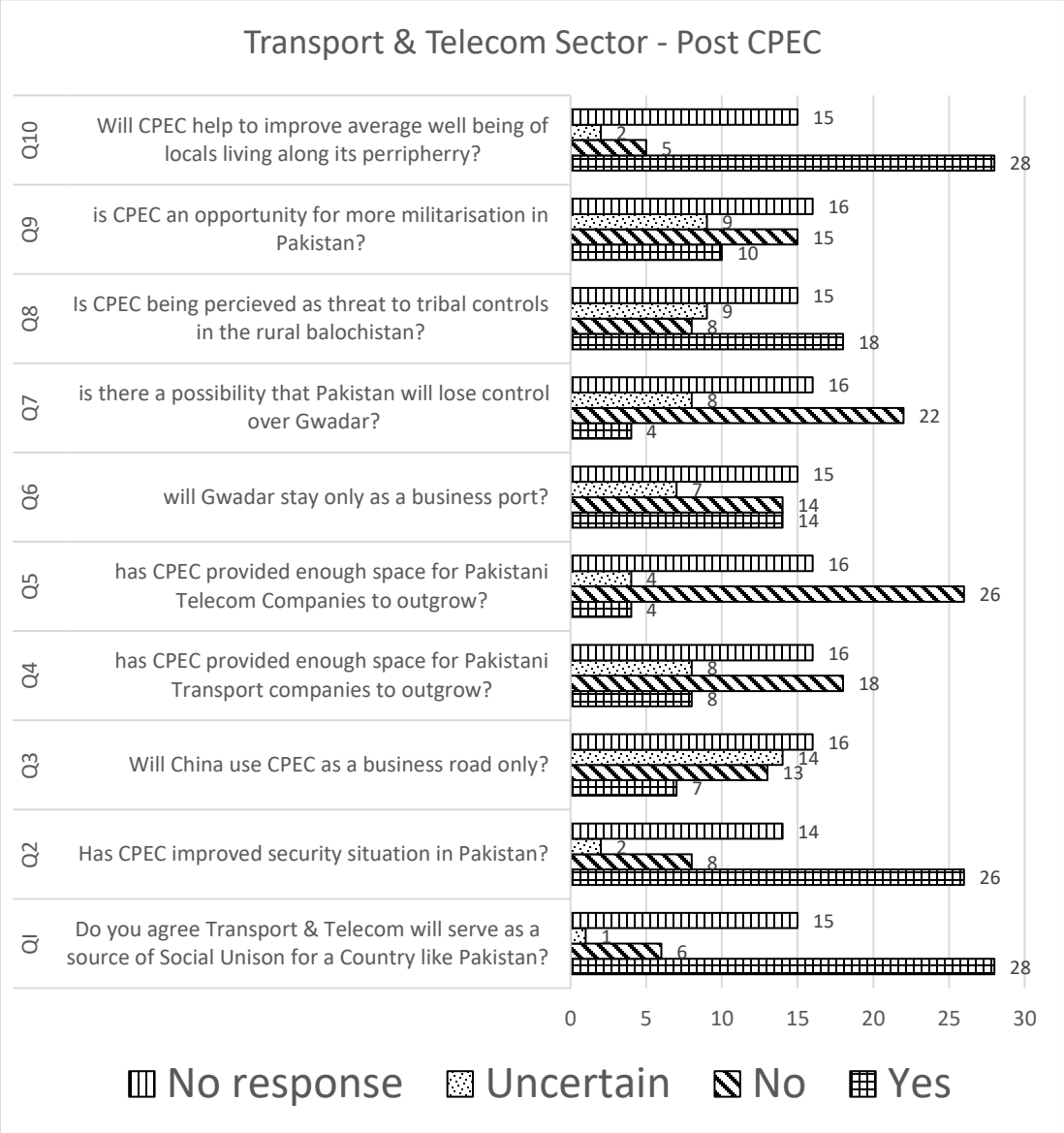
Below graphs depict result of targeted interviews conducted through focused interactive sessions online and or questionnaires, for an audience of 50 each sector. Out of 300 expected respondents 64% responded to the interviews/questionnaire.89% of those who responded considered CPEC as game changer and positive for Pakistan. They emphasized that not only economically but socio politically Pakistan has achieved more stability after the launch of CPEC and this socio-political stability in the region is likely to grow further. Only 11% of the targeted audience from the Sectorial Think Tanks expressed some apprehensions about Chinese intent.

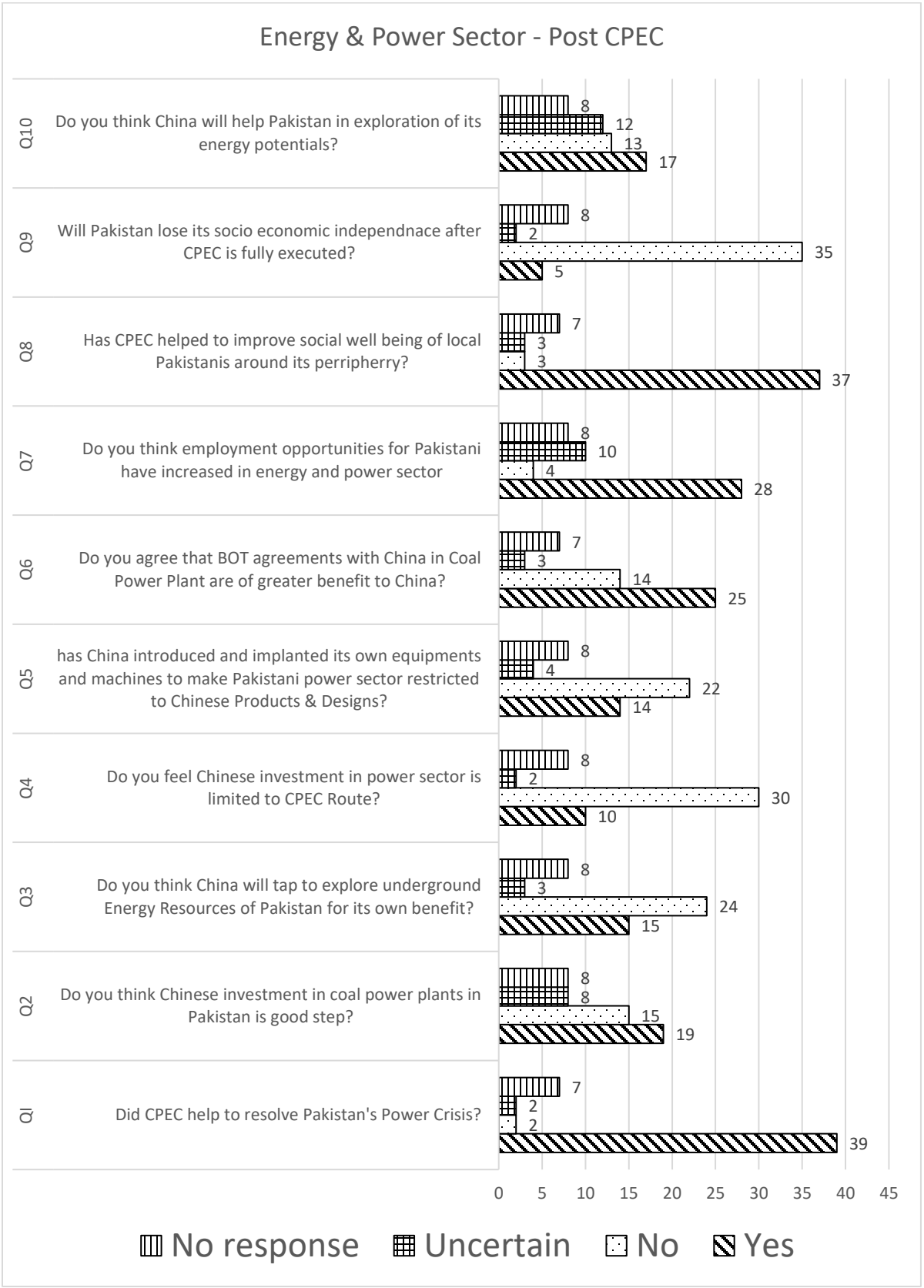

CPEC Interview & Survey - Education Sector
Sample Size 50
Q10
have you experienced or witnessed increasing colloborations betweeen Pakistani and Chinese Academic think tanks within last five years?
13
14
8
15
Q9
Will Pakistan lose its socio economic independnace after CPEC is fully executed?
13
9
16
12
Q8
Has CPEC created prospects for improvement in job related skill training?
12
8
13
17
Q7
Will Pakistani culture transform into mix of Chinese Pakistani Culture after CPEC?
12
4
24
10
Q6
Do you think CPEC can help Pakistan improve its literacy rate
13
3
8
26
Q5
Is there possibility of growth in Private Education Instittutions due to CPEC
13
1
22
14
Q4
Learning Chinese language is easy for Pakistani?
13
2
30
5
Q3
Will rural areas get better access to education facilities post CPEC?
12
7
8
23
Q2
Has the number of Pakistani students getting into China for higher education increased?
12
1
2
25
QI
Will China's enhanced involvement in Pakistan in the garb of CPEC Going to benfit Pakistan's Education System?
13
5
11
27
0
5
10
15
20
25
30
35
No response
Uncertain
No
Yes

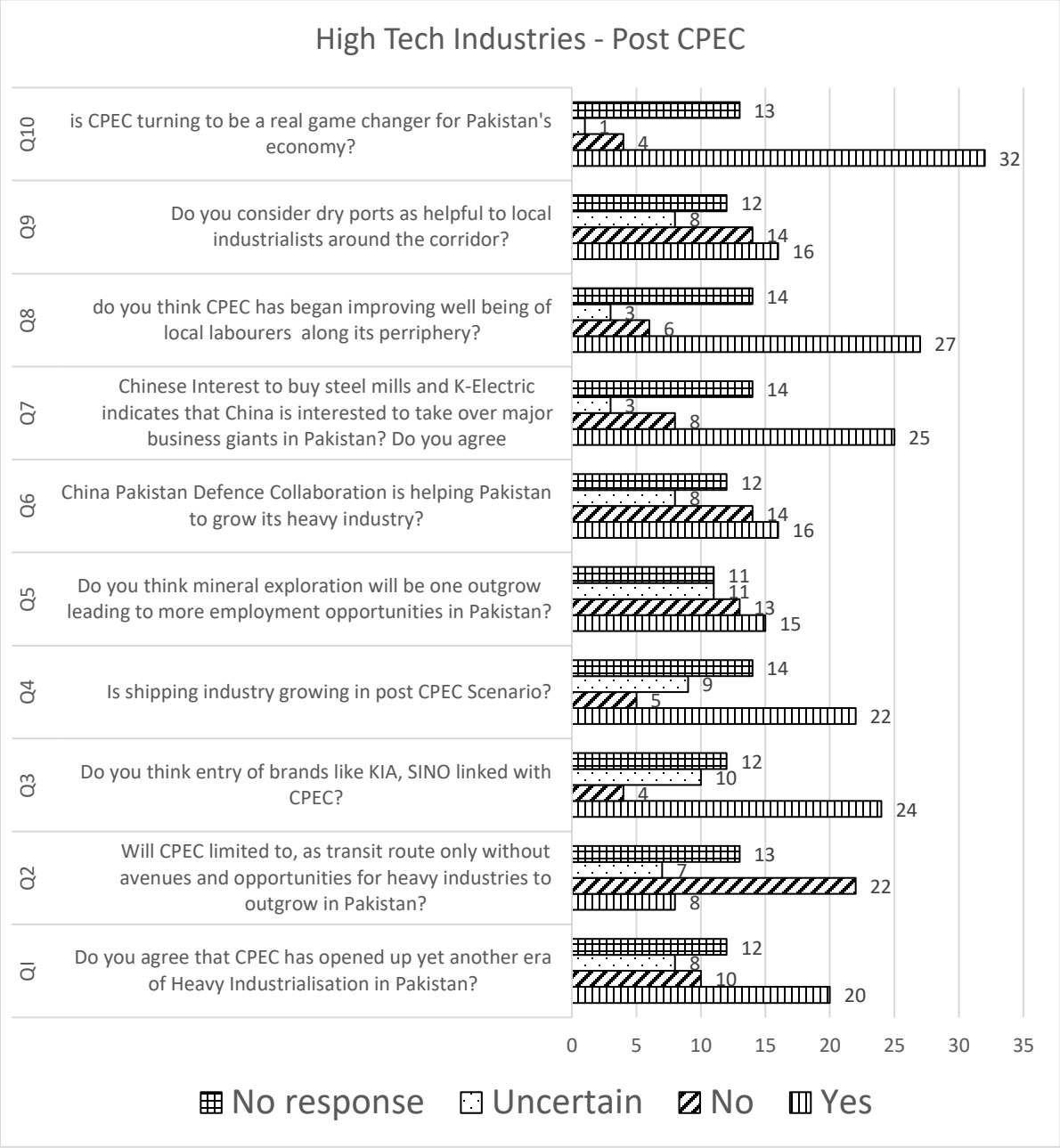

Real Estate Post CPEC
Q10
Do you think more businessmen are getting into real estate due to CPEC?
22
2
6
20
Q9
do you feel there is rise in real estate sale purchase since start of CPEC?
23
0
4
23
Q8
the dependancy on fewer towns in post CPEC scenario will reduce in Pakistan?
23
0
10
17
Q7
Do you think cost of living of locals is going up due to CPEC infrastructural projects in Pakistan?
23
10
9
8
Q6
is there a risk for Pakistani Real Estate developers with intrusion of Chinese Investors in Pakistan?
24
1
19
6
Q5
Do you think Chinese Civil Engineering experiences can transform Real Estate devlopment to the next level?
23
2
4
21
Q4
Have you witnessed Chinese Real Estate devlopers working in Pakistan during last ten years?
23
3
22
2
Q3
Do you link rapid rise of Real Estate business in Pakistan with CPEC?
24
9
10
7
Q2
Do you see upward trend in growth of real estate associated industries like cement etcetera?
23
1
1
25
QI
Do you feel CPEC has generated opportunities for local real estate devlopers?
22
2
2
24
0
5
10
15
20
25
30
No response
Uncertain
No
Yes


Transport & Telcom - Post CPEC
Q10
Will CPEC help to improve average well being of locals living along its perripherry?
15
2
5
28
Q9
is CPEC an opportunity for more militarisation in Pakistan?
16
9
15
10
Q8
Is CPEC being percieved as threat to tribal controls in the rural balochistan?
15
9
8
18
Q7
is there a possibility that Pakistan will lose control over Gwadar?
16
8
22
4
Q6
will Gwadar stay only as a business port?
15
7
14
14
Q5
has CPEC provided enough space for Pakistani Telecom Companies to outgrow?
16
4
26
4
Q4
has CPEC provided enough space for Pakistani Transport companies to outgrow?
16
8
18
8
Q3
Will China use CPEC as a business road only?
16
14
13
7
Q2
Has CPEC improved security situation in Pakistan?
14
2
8
26
QI
Do you agree Transport & Telecom will serve as a source of Social Unison for a Country like Pakistan?
15
1
6
28
0
10
20
30
No response
Uncertain
No
Yes


Agriculture Sector Post CPEC
Q10
Do you foresee water resources of Pakistan Improving for farmers through Chinese investments?
28
9
9
4
Q9
Do you consider dry ports as helpful to local farmers around the corridor?
27
2
17
4
Q8
do you think CPEC has began improving well being of local farmers along its perriphery?
27
1
4
18
Q7
Do you think Chinese Pakistan can import meat from China?
27
1
21
1
Q6
Do you think Pakistan livestock exports will improve due to China Pakistan Economic Corridor?
28
3
5
14
Q5
Do you foresee potential of agricultural growth in Balochistan due to CPEC?
28
0
5
17
Q4
Do you think CPEC is a buden on water resources of Pakistan?
27
2
13
8
Q3
Did CPEC reduce forests in Pakistan due to infrastructural space needs?
27
2
11
10
Q2
Did you experience rise in trade of agricultural products between China and Pakistan after CPEC?
26
1
10
13
QI
Do you think CPEC has helped to increase cultivable land in Pakistan?
28
1
4
17
0
5
10
15
20
25
30
No response
Uncertain
No
Yes


Transport & Telecom Sector - Post CPEC
Q10
Will CPEC help to improve average well being of locals living along its perripherry?
15
2
5
28
Q9
is CPEC an opportunity for more militarisation in Pakistan?
16
9
15
10
Q8
Is CPEC being percieved as threat to tribal controls in the rural balochistan?
15
9
8
18
Q7
is there a possibility that Pakistan will lose control over Gwadar?
16
8
22
4
Q6
will Gwadar stay only as a business port?
15
7
14
14
Q5
has CPEC provided enough space for Pakistani Telecom Companies to outgrow?
16
1
4
26
4
Q4
has CPEC provided enough space for Pakistani Transport companies to outgrow?
16
8
18
8
Q3
Will China use CPEC as a business road only?
16
14
13
7
Q2
Has CPEC improved security situation in Pakistan?
14
1
2
8
26
QI
Do you agree Transport & Telecom will serve as a source of Social Unison for a Country like Pakistan?
15
1
6
28
0
5
10
15
20
25
30
No response
Uncertain
No
Yes


Energy & Power Sector - Post CPEC
Q10
Do you think China will help Pakistan in exploration of its energy potentials?
8
12
13
17
Q9
Will Pakistan lose its socio economic independnace after CPEC is fully executed?
8
2
35
5
Q8
Has CPEC helped to improve social well being of local Pakistanis around its perripherry?
7
3
3
37
Q7
Do you think employment opportunities for Pakistani have increased in energy and power sector
8
10
4
28
Q6
Do you agree that BOT agreements with China in Coal Power Plant are of greater benefit to China?
7
3
14
25
Q5
has China introduced and implanted its own equipments and machines to make Pakistani power sector restricted to Chinese Products & Designs?
8
4
22
14
Q4
Do you feel Chinese investment in power sector is limited to CPEC Route?
8
2
30
10
Q3
Do you think China will tap to explore underground Energy Resources of Pakistan for its own benefit?
8
3
24
15
Q2
Do you think Chinese investment in coal power plants in Pakistan is good step?
8
8
15
19
QI
Did CPEC help to resolve Pakistan's Power Crisis?
7
2
2
39
0
5
10
15
20
25
30
35
40
45
No response
Uncertain
No
Yes



Most respondents forecast that CPEC will have a positive effect on Pakistan's economy specially the employment opportunities, per capita income, gross domestic product, socio political stability leading to more business activity and more foreign direct investments. CPEC would turn into a regional trade corridor which is likely to connect many other regions of the world. More specifically India, Afghanistan, Iran, Gulf Countries and even Russia has already shown their interests in connecting themselves with China Pakistan economic corridor. Though China's own

focus remains around reducing its business transition time between its manufacturers and the world markets where it expects to sell its products. There should not be any doubt that Pakistan will also establish more and more business opportunities and industries all around CPEC especially where dry ports, water resources and mineral resources exist. The quality of local people is also likely to be improved and the literacy rates are also likely to outgrow. The entry of Korean brands like KIA is just one example in the same context. According to ministry of finance there is a mark increase in toll tax collections since the inception of CPEC in Pakistan. Rating of Pakistan has also improved in terms of confidence foreign investors have in any country. Most respondents agreed that Pakistan will not lose its ideological and socio-political freedom because of CPEC. To support their paradigm respondents gave following justifications.

- It is not just CPEC and Pakistan – OBOR has been rolled out in many other regions and impacting to influence one single region or country would put China's overall OBOR plan at risks.
- Being an age old strategic and close ally China do not require to negatively influence Pakistan to keep her by its side rather the trust between them is often quoted as higher than Himalayas
- Chinese culture and social lifestyle are completely and totally different from that of Pakistan and influencing Pakistan without having room for social amalgamation or coherence is impossible.
- CPEC was launched almost a decade ago and despite of extensive projects and Chinese work force all over in Pakistan there has been no signs whatsoever of Chinese, trying to over influence or take over certain industry or an area

Pakistan is on the verge of transformation. The country that had to continuously stay under the influences of west, the IMF and the United States due to its weak economy has found an opportunity to stand on its own feet in the form of China Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Critics still insist that this would be yet another era of influences from the north and China will make Pakistan weaker financially due to difficult financial terms and agreements related to CPEC. It is argued that paying back the price of 62-billion-dollar investment would not be easy for Pakistan and they will be further engulfed in yet another form of subjugation. But contrary to this

the Chinese investment in CPEC is in the form of infrastructural development, capacity enhancement, energy sector projects, enriching internal security and organizational growth. China's global rise seems imminent. And it has already begun challenging the western global order. China quite diligently rolled down one belt one road initiative while keeping a firm hold on the policy of mutual benefit and non-interference. Even the countries that joined hands with China adopted the same doctrine.

Pakistan has also understood a new dimension of diplomacy. Mutual benefit and non-interferences help state to grow economically and even politically strong. Chinese belt and road initiatives involves an investment of almost one trillion US Dollars which surely generates alarm in every nook and corner of the world. It is hard to digest that these BRIs do not have hind side purpose as well. China Pakistan Economic Corridor has totally changed the power politics in the region. Socio political impact follows suit.

About ten years ago Pakistan was almost under the complete influence of United States. India was suffocating Pakistan within the region by partying with Afghanistan and Iran. The security situation inside Pakistan was almost at its worse. However, with every passing day in the post CPEC Scenario Pakistan is transforming into a new state. CPEC seems like fresh air for Pakistan. With multi-dimensional development projects, the wheels of economy and industry have begun to see new horizons. Its strategic significance underlay within the historical interests of both nations. China had been looking for decades for an access to the warm waters of Arabian Sea and CPEC served as a lifeline for them. The infrastructural investments became fundamental to the ever growing economic and social problems in the south west Chinese provinces of Yunnan and Xinjiang. They attempted first at India for a trade space for Collaboration. Li Keqiang the Prime minister of China was quite ambitious but India preferred Japan as more important ally than China.

Pakistan accommodated the preposition with warmth and the result was Chinese declaration to[118] invest.

The socio political and economic interests of establishment in Pakistan and geo strategic, economic, and national pursuits of the Chinese government concurred. Subsequently CPEC unleashed. CPEC served as source of administrative strength of the federation, Islamabad. Today high visible presence of state can be easily noted. Public and private sector collaboration has never been such tremendous before both in China as well as Pakistan.

Today it's eventuated that State and infrastructure must be closely entwined together for nation building or directing a country towards the roads of prosperity. Manu Go swami has argued that infrastructure was a tool for the colonial bruisers for aligning local Indians in their strategic gains[119]. Dimitris Dalakoglou also examined Albania – Greece Cross border highway through the lens of socio-political impact concluded that the need for infrastructural investments lead to socio political collaboration between various regions and ultimately help to increase regional connectivity's specially when such needs merge with immediate neighbor's[120]. Morten Alex Pedersen also went into detailed study to validate that Russian infrastructural investments always aimed at socialist modernity[121]. In northern Peru, roads helped in rapid modernization and deep routed socio-political associations amongst population with diverse backgrounds[122]. Same has been happening in Pakistan nation building efforts were always more productive and beneficial

[118] Small A (2015) China-Pakistan axis: Asia's new geopolitics. Oxford University, Press, New York
[119] Goswami M (2004) Producing India: From colonial economy to national space. University of Chicago Press, Chicago
[120] Dalakoglou D (2010) The road: An ethnography of the Albanian-Greek cross border Motorway. America Ethnologist, 37(1)
[121] Larkin B (2013) The politics and poetics of infrastructure. Annu Rev Anthropol 42:327–343. www.annualreviews.org
[122] Knox H, Harvey P (2012) The enchantments of infrastructure. Mobilities, vol. 7, No. 4, pp. 521–536, (November 2012)

when they were coupled with economic ventures and or infrastructural plans. Even during the first decade after independence Pakistani governments focused more on infrastructural development plans with apperception that they shall lead socio-political and regional influences. With very less financial pitch INS it was difficult to go for mega projects yet after 1962 such projects became phenomenally more important. The third world countries were mostly under economic disorder and for them using infrastructural development for nation building was not easy[123].

Some of the countries like South Korea, Japan, and China had successfully grasped hold of government writ by transforming through diversity from adversity. However, Pakistan was unable to do much. Ayyub Khan employed green revolution and five-year plans to turn the wheels of economy but could not conclude well. Post-colonial state like Pakistan had to depend more on World Bank and the IMF for decades who only offered money with very captivating return schemes. Such investments did more harm than good t Pakistan. CPEC is however different, as it carries direct foreign investments in infrastructural development which was almost an abandoned chapter in Pakistan. Even the technology is pouring in from China and across world. CPEC has begun helping Pakistan to overcome its backwardness, the power sector has relived from collapsing, the regional connectivity spreading out, transport alternatives and facilities enhancing in volume and size, industrialization taking new leaps and ultimately socio-economic activity leading to socio -political transformation is on. This time the projects are not just physically appearing but hundreds of them have already began contributing the economy of Pakistan.

[123] Anwar NH (2015) Infrastructure redux: Crisis, progress in industrial Pakistan and beyond. Palgrave Macmillan, London

Table Conclusive Overview of CPEC

CPEC Projects	Phase I Short Term Before 2020	Phase II Medium Term 2020-2030	Phase III Long Term Beyond 2030
Energy Sector	• 10400 MW of early harvest Power Generation Projects • 4000 of Transmission Lines	• 17045 MW of actively promoted projects • Gawadar Nawab shah 42" and 700 KM Gas Pipeline	• Dubai-Gwadar-Urumqi Oil Pipeline for 3600 KM
Roads and Infra structure	• KKH Thakot-Raikot N 35 remaining portion 136 Km • Up gradation of D.I. Khan Yarik - Zhob, N-50 Phase-I (210 km) • Rail Sector Expansion and reconstruction of existing Line ML-1 • Khuzdar-Basima Road N-30 (110 km) KKH Phase II (Thakot - Havelian Sect) • Havelian Dry port (450 M. Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units) • Capacity Development of Pakistan Railways • Lahore Mass Transit • Peshawar Mass Transit • Rawalpindi-Islamabad Mass Transit	• 3000 kms of Highways • 1872 kms of Railways • Karachi Mass Transit • Quetta Mass Transit	• 4000 km of link roads connecting various towns within Pakistan with CPEC and the regional connectivity with Kabul, Tehran, Istanbul, and Central Asian Republics • TAPI Gas pipeline • 7000 Kms of new and upgraded railway networks
Industry	• Rashakai Economic Zone, M-1, Nowshera • 1530 acres China Special Economic Zone Dhabeji	• Steel mill at Gwadar • Steel Mill at Chiniot • Development of Industrial Park on	• 39 Economic Zones • 21Mineral Processing Units

	• Bostan Industrial Zone • Llama Iqbal Industrial City (M3), Faisalabad • ICT Model Industrial Zone, Islamabad	Pakistan Steel Mills Land at Port Qasim near Karachi • Special Economic Zone at Mirpur, AJK • Mohmand Marble City • Moqpondass SEZ Gilgit-Baltistan	
Other Projects Gwadar	• USD 1.5 Billion Dollars for upgrading Gawadar Port • Fiber Optic Cable Network between Islamabad and Kashgar	• Fiber Optic cable along Coastal Highway to connect Gwadar with Karachi • Gawadar International Airport • Gawadar City Master Plans	• Gawadar industrial Park • Gawadar Real Estate and Housing Projects

Political Impact

Due to ethnic tensions, poverty, and illiteracy political situation in Pakistan has remained grim leading to infightings and disagreements among factions. Luckily, most of political factions support the CPEC, a rare consensus in the country's history (Ahmad& Mi, 2017). Political stability and security are key factors for success of CPEC. Both nations have inward securities, and particularly Pakistan is confronting the brunt of the fanaticism and psychological oppression. From Xinjiang to Baluchistan there are many insurgent groups with diverse interests and backgrounds but disrupting CPEC has become their common goal. The involvement of foreign actors cannot be ruled out as well who fish in the troubled waters. To ensure the security of the worker, Pakistan military has made an additional force to ensure the security of CPEC. The genuine security threats are furthermore emanating from the border areas of Afghanistan, which provide a safe hideout for

the militant outfits anti-Chinese and anti-Pakistan motives. These hideouts play a crucial role in disrupting the progress of the CPEC projects (Qureshi, 2015). Many other issues need focus in assessing CPEC with apolitical eye regarding Pakistan. CPEC is a sound and safe investment of China with 95% surety of security as per Pakistan Navy's support for the security of the project by creating Taskforce-88(Shahzad K. & Khan F.Z., 2017). This security measure may attract foreign relations to higher nodes of joint collaborations and serving each other to their friendship to advanced level. Successful CPEC may help to control India's proxy war against Pakistan in Afghan terrains and borderline areas (Ostomy, 1977). As strong politico-economic relation in lieu of the CPEC and trade agreements with the least burden of tariff and taxes may lead to peace in the region. These politico-economic relations will settle down if strong footings would be available to political notches inside and outside the state. If looking on the internal side of the state, Strong political settlement and united strength may lead to settling down interprovincial prejudices and issues of rights' fight. As CPEC with unique infrastructural features is touching all provinces and serving them equally with industrial parks and projects with a road network passing through all provinces in three routes i.e. eastern, central, and western (CPEC Government Official, 2019). Peace in Balochistan's remains a key challenge to date. The insurgents there have resorted to violent tactics and have attacked key installations of gas fields, transportation, and Chinese specialists were mercilessly killed only to communicate that Baloch people are aggrieved and want their due share. They are bent upon subverting the project. By acclimating with hardships in the path of CPEC and with political unity trust deficit alleviation can be done with the country and on the global stage too. As political harmony not only within the stakeholders but with all participating countries, either directly or indirectly, may increase the worth and efficiency of the project with better trust-building efforts (Zelikow, 1994).

Economic Assessment

CPEC embodies the extreme danger to neighboring countries in the area, particularly India. The gulf countries especial U.A.E also feel threatened in terms of economy as the CPEC Assessment of Social Political and Economic Dimensions of CPEC: An Integrated Approach and the Gwadar appear to offer more cost-effective routes and facilities snatching the Share of U.A.E ports. (Malik, 2019). Even though India and Iran have likewise started the new Iranian port of Chabahar in a bid to counter the Gwadar port, Iran has acted rationally has recommended that both Chahbahar and Gwadar will supplement one another. India contributed the Chahbahar port intensely yet stays still unsure with just two billets at Chahbahar, while Iran has just welcomed China and Pakistan to take an interest too. Chahbahar additionally expects to give simple access to landlocked Afghanistan and Central Asia for vitality imports originating from the Gulf milieu just to the more expanded region. China has shown various concerns regarding the overall environment including the power sector crisis in Pakistan, law enforcement issues, law and order situation, and the evaluation, disbursement and utilization of funds mechanisms pertaining to the energy generation projects of China Pakistan Economic Corridor. The seaports, roads, and Freeway share another incredible accomplishment of CPEC. The venture will improve Pakistan's foundation association with all sub-areas in Asia, between Europe Asia and Africa well-ordered and will complete all speculation and exchange hindrances for the production of a sound business condition inside the area and in every related country. After the completion of the venture, Pakistan will wind up modernized and will spread out the business sectors for the fabricated item. The financial and work development rate will grow consequently. The CPEC and the development time frame from 2014 to 2030 have incorporated association with the Chinese One Belt One Road, and an expansion of Chinese proposed 21st century Silk Road activity. The CPEC ventures have been separated into three

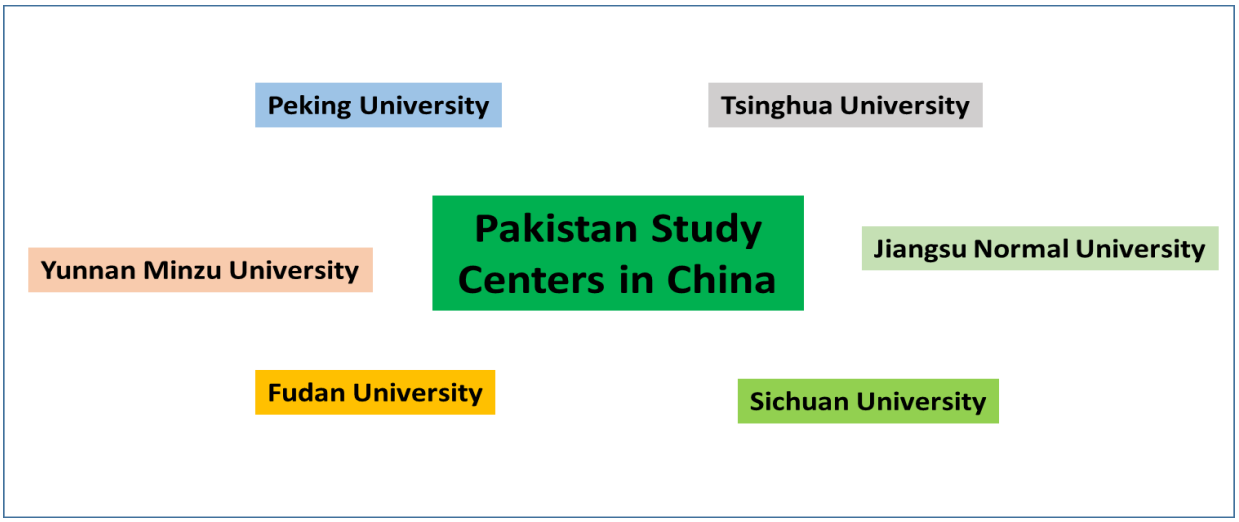
stages: The Short-term venture is assessed to be finished till 2017; a Mid-term venture by 2025; Long term venture 2030. The satisfactory quality workforce is likewise tasked on trial to keep up a high level of magnificence and on-time completion of the CPEC project. The nature of work power can assume a key job, which relies upon preparation, instruction, physical make-up, and wellbeing, work quality must be reckoning Pakistan as the tenth biggest nation work drive but the management of workforce yet needs advancement for proper benefits. A special focus and result oriented investment on the human capital with appropriate trainings and skill development will obviously leave a positive impact on the overall project-results. Development of many industrial parks along with the route of the CPEC may attract foreign investors for secured and productive investment (DAWN, 2019). Energy projects under CPEC may add 10,320 MW to the energy sector by 2025 (CPEC Government Official, 2019). With a lot of energy, mining, industrial and infrastructural projects a lot of employment opportunities will be created to reduce unemployment ratio of not only labor but educated class too which is dilemma of the time in Pakistan. The issue of employing local labors in the projects has been creating much debate over the benefits of CPEC. Many writers and commentators have contended that the project is giving employment to China and not to the much deserving poor Pakistani population. There should be a clear policy outlined about the ratio of employment. Local people must be given priority in recruiting employs for CPEC related projects.

Socio-cultural Assessment

Having gone through the socio political and strategic dynamics of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor it is inferred that the China Pakistan Interaction under this mega venture will surely bring phenomenal impact on Pakistani society. Socially China and Pakistan are two different people. If it is up to construction and infrastructural development part, there would be surely less concerns

and issues. However, if there is a large influx of Chinese people, merchants, and investors, it can cause socio cultural conflicts (IPS, 2019). Cultures of both countries are completely contradicting with regards to religion. It also implies that while dwelling more on the corridor both countries must clearly understand that socio-cultural bonding is equally important in joint economic ventures of this magnum. socio cultural similitudes have been playing key role in strengthening regional alliances. "Social" is the consequence of interactions in a society while the most shared type of relationship is cooperation. Culture implies the way people live in a society and it includes elements such as beliefs, customs, taboos, rites, ideas, languages, traditions, knowledge, buildings, and technology commonly shared, achieved or followed in a particular social group. Most of the world inter links culture with social and separating them wholly is quite impossible. Cultural changes are never easy and can become source of social stratification. With CPEC in place China and Pakistan both need to understand delicacy of the subject matter. There can be socio cultural ties and agreements, but transformation of ideologies must be avoided. Heralded as a 'game changer' for Pakistan's social and cultural development, CPEC will impact Pakistani society in coming years. Apart from development, infrastructural and industrial projects, China is also bringing in various socio-cultural plans to deal with socio-cultural risks in the future. The purpose is to make Pakistan and Pakistanis understand the Chinese societal ways and practices and to also understand those that exist in Pakistan. Such efforts aim at finding areas of further cohesion and bonding. Inauguration of a Pak-China Friendship Centre in the federal capital of Pakistan by Chinese prime minister's visit in December 2010 was one such effort.

Even in China there are four full fledge Pakistan Study centers operating to coach and educate Chinese on Pakistan before they start working here in Pakistan.



The provincial Government of Sindh in September 2011 publicly announced that they would start teaching Chinese language in their middle schools as compulsory subject by 2013. A fund worth Rs. 625 million was also allocated for the same purpose in 2012. Earlier an MOU was signed between China and Pakistan to establish a Pakistan-China University of Engineering, Science and Technology in Aug 2008. This is how Pak-China socio-cultural cooperation progressed during initial years of CPEC. So much so 2015 was declared as the year of friendly exchanges. Confucius Institutes have been flooded into Pakistan in almost every important city, town, and university. NUML, GIK, Punjab University, Karachi University, Sargodha University, Hanban Confucius Institute in Islamabad, and many others continue to impart training to Pakistani students and businessmen on Chinese culture and language. The result is that lot more Pakistanis are now gaining access to Chinese universities and there is mass social integration that can be witnessed during last few years. Such interactive exchange of social programs will further pave way for more cooperative business plans and opportunities provided both Chinese and Pakistani professionals avoid religious conflicts. This can surely lead to many more mini business deals and projects at grass root level. Thousands of Pakistanis have been engaged as Chinese language teachers and the Chinese Cultural Centers and Confucius institutes are making endeavors to create a fleet of

Chinese language teachers from within Pakistan. there is no doubt that China has existed as one important race in word history for thousands of centuries and they are socially knit into much stronger unity however during last one hundred years the world has witnessed a secluded China moving out but before doing so they socially transformed their own people from non-secular to secularist mindset through a process of social moderation. Nationalism was given preference over ethnicity. Today 47% Chinese consider themselves atheist who do not believe in any religion and yet another 30% consider themselves non-religious if not atheist which makes it easier for an average Chinese to avoid conflict with other races of the world. During last five years since its launch there have been continuous progress on the corridor with phenomenal increase in interaction between Chinese and Pakistani people, but no major social conflict has yet been observed probably because of confined interactions. However, there is a possibility that as Chinese population attempts to move out and spread out within Pakistan some frictions may be observed. Further research may be imperative to ascertain the dimensions of such spread. China is progressively launching various other programs to proactively deal with all such apprehension. English News Channel on CCTV and incorporation of an International Documentary Channel, the launch of Pakistan China Friendship FM 98 Channel in China and the Joint National Research Center in Pakistan are few steps on the same lines. Even healthcare, education, and provision of basic amenities to the people of Pakistan especially those living in far furlong areas was not easy for decades. CPEC is not only linking China with Pakistan but there is a volume increase in social outreach and integration within Pakistan. Sothy, and Horn (2007) rightly expressed that an improvement in road networks and means of communications would enhance living standards, education opportunities, healthcare facilities, market linkages and many other public service amenities/facilities in the areas that will surround the belt and road initiatives of China. Pakistani students have already begun reaping academic benefits out of the opportunity by getting to the

Chinese universities in great numbers. This will also enhance the competency levels and literacy rate of Pakistan. In addition, poverty is equally linked with social opportunities and educational outreach. The downward trends have already started to appear. The corridor can be regarded as a vital and significant step in the progress of the society and the population of Pakistan. China is far ahead of Pakistan even in agriculture sector especially because they must feed much larger population than any other country of the world. China developed its agriculture sector on modern lines in late fifties during last century and resultantly learnt the art of yielding more from lesser space and resources through scientific articulations. Pakistan is already blessed with much congenial and supportive ecology for further enriching its agricultural produce. The Corridor is passing by areas which are less cultivated or in some cases barren. The interaction between local farmers and Chinese people is also paving way for improving agricultural and farming practices in Pakistan. Such interactions will also cause social integration between rural Chinese people and rural society of Pakistan as well. Indeed, the corridor can also be regarded as a step toward the modernization of the Pakistan's agriculture system. The people of Baluchistan as society would reap maximum benefit out of CPEC. They have been considering Islamabad as less focused in their development. The cost of development in Baluchistan due to difficult terrains and climate has always been high. Crafting roads through Baluchistan was never easy. Exploration is expensive. The federation of Pakistan despite all their good intentions had not been able to do much in Baluchistan in the past. With CPEC in place and the road networks being built by technologically and financially advance China, all the above concerns seems to be diminishing. The Baloch tribes have begun participating in various development projects associated with CPEC resultantly their focus from skepticism, critic politics is moving towards social and economic activity which has its own positive impact overall on the society. The roads will further bridge the gulfs between races. More and more people from across Pakistan are getting into business activities

associated with CPEC. The security situation within Pakistan as it was about a decade ago has improved after the CPEC. This opportunity will ultimately lead to the development of strong relations with other countries and boost the process of business and export. The current route of agriculture export is through Dubai which increases the cost of the trade. The Chinese appetite for fruits and vegetables can be regarded as insatiable and with the help of CPEC this demand will be fulfilled through local transporters and exporters of Pakistan. The water and irrigation system of Pakistan will be improved with the help of advanced technologies and machines designed by the Chinese researchers

China has the greatest skeptical populace; while our way of life has severe religious qualities, standard, and more. The CPEC will not just give a way to the transfer of merchandise and different materials but also exchange of social traditions, dialects, and convictions in addition to other things. People to people contact would rise. The Silk Road in the obsolete world prompted the transmission of Manichaeism, Christianity, Buddhism, and Islam. Buddhism itself touched Chinese borders through the Silk Road. The explorers experienced diverse religions and afterward conveyed them back to their very own local grounds. Differing social orders were shaped all through Eurasia. The present time Silk Road is the recovery of the old Silk Route. In the meantime, the positive part of the coordinated efforts could be the fast-approaching transmission of information and new advancements which is unquestionably a wellspring of advancement and development. Between social correspondence results in expanded business, innovative development, and participation. Chinese have gained extraordinary progress and development in a previous couple of years. Henceforth, they remain as the best case for us (Malik, 2019). English Chinese language would further lessen the worth of Urdu language in Pakistan as people are eager to learn Chinese to have goof trade and bilateral ties for progress in economic and political sectors.

CPEC master plan also has the aim to broadcast Chinese productions to Pakistani channels or with an extra channel in Urdu dubbing in Pakistan to have a true cultural impact on the ordinary public (Malik, 2019). Furthermore, inter-cultural marriages would be promoted as many advertisement commercials shows such ideas and wholehearted welcome in societies. Everything has two impacts either positive or negative so CPEC may results in both sides as per assessment as there is no harm in adopting worth habits and advancement of neighboring cultures (Niazi, 2017). Pakistani and Chinese culture contradicts sharply in food habits as there is a strong notion of halal and haram food in Pakistan absent in Chinese society. In terms of market enhancement and tourism promotion Pakistan economy will further strengthen. We as a nation-state need to comprehend the way that advancement lies in embracing and saving one's very own way of life instead of falling prey to the impact of other social qualities which are in opposition to that of theirs while picking just the helpful practices. As on the other view, there is a risk to our hundreds of years of old protected culture. We are the watchmen and protectors of our own way of life (Ahmad & Mi, 2017).

CPEC is bound to create massive positive impacts on various dimensions of Pakistani society. The project is seen as a win-win scenario indicated by Sun Weidong the Ambassador of China in Pakistan, while he was discussing the CPEC that the project will be inclusive benefitting common people. He further declared that CPEC is not constrained to only a street rather it will a network of motorways and railways. It will improve the living standard, trade, banking, industry, and economy in the country which in turn will put an end to political instability that has impeded development. The energy crisis has plagued the industry and business in Pakistan which will also be solved as Projects with Chinese help would begin delivering power by 2017 and maximum by the end of 2025. It is worth noting that owing to the volatile security situation, and the involvement

of rival powers in subverting the CPEC Pakistan army should be given some extra space till the project is completed. There is a need of wise understanding of the project with an eagle eye to save Pakistan's economy with the support of all-weather-friend China.

While it is too early to assess if CPEC can deliver the economic gains Islamabad promises, the project risks inflaming longstanding tensions between the center and smaller federal units and within provinces over inequitable economic development and resource distribution. Less-developed federal units such as Baluchistan and Sindh contend that the corridor's route, infrastructure, and industrial projects will mostly benefit Punjab, already the country's wealthiest and politically powerful province. Yet, even in Punjab, locals could forcibly resist the state's acquisition of land for CPEC's agricultural projects.

CPEC's Long-Term Plan (2017-2030) was formulated by the center with little input from local leaders, business, or civil society actors.

In Baluchistan, CPEC is exacerbating existing grievances among a population whose perceptions of exploitation and neglect by the center, together with authorities' suppression of dissent, have long fueled an insurgency. The province will receive no direct financial benefits from Gwadar port, a key CPEC project, which means local anger at Islamabad is likely to intensify. Instead of developing a sleepy fishing village into a bustling commercial hub as pledged by Islamabad and Beijing, the project is producing a heavily militarized zone, displacing locals, and depriving them of economic lifelines. In Sindh's Tharparkar district, coal based CPEC power projects are not only damaging the environment but are also displacing locals from their homes and could destroy livelihoods.

Many of these problems stem from opaque policy formulation, and the failure to heed regional and local concerns. CPEC's Long-Term Plan (2017-2030) was formulated by the center with little input from local leaders, business, or civil society actors. It was not disclosed until December 2017 – and then only in broad strokes – after the rollout of some major elements had already begun. From the project's entry point, Gwadar, to its exit point, in Gilgit-Baltistan, the state's response to local dissent and alienation has been an overbearing security presence, marked by army checkpoints, intimidation and harassment of local residents, and crackdowns on anti-CPEC protest.

Perceived geopolitical gains could also take precedence over economic ones. Pakistan's military establishment views a deeper economic relationship with China, even if tilted in Beijing's favor, as a counterpoint to rising U.S. diplomatic and economic pressure to end support to Afghanistan- and India-oriented militant proxies. But as it expands its economic footprint in the country, Beijing, too, seems increasingly concerned about the threats posed by such proxies to its national and regional security interests. Moreover, unequal gains, combined with perceptions that CPEC projects undermine the economic, social, and political interests of key stakeholders, could aggravate anti-Chinese sentiment within Pakistan. There already have been several attacks on Pakistanis employed in CPEC projects. Islamabad should ensure that CPEC's directions and priorities address the country's economic and political interests, including by taking the following steps:

Build political consensus on the project's direction, including by fostering debates in the national and provincial legislatures, to ensure that there are equitable gains for all provinces; and stop arrests, harassment, and other coercion of critics.

Consult economists, chambers of commerce, the Pakistan Business Council, trade associations and other business community stakeholders, and incorporate measures to address their concerns in a new framework for CPEC special economic zones and development projects.

Hire local labor and ensure that CPEC projects apply labor protections and practices.

Consult extensively with local communities about the potential costs and benefits of major development projects and devise an appropriate compensation and resettlement plan for all those displaced, including not just formal landowners but also those with the informal land ownership common across Pakistan. If needed, parliament should consider relevant reforms to the 1894 Land Acquisition Act.

Beijing and Chinese firms should: Consult and engage the full spectrum of Pakistani stakeholders, from competing elites to the grassroots, as CPEC projects are identified and/or implemented, and priorities job creation for locals. Conduct comprehensive risk and political analysis of CPEC projects to ensure that benefits are shared equitably between competing interests. Complement such efforts with effective and extensive communication with Pakistani stakeholders at the local, regional, and national levels, to illustrate common interests.

For all the risks and challenges, CPEC offers an opportunity to upgrade Pakistan's aging and dysfunctional infrastructure and revive a flagging economy. But to deliver on these promises, both Islamabad and Beijing need to implement it with considerably more sensitivity and consultation than they have displayed thus far, with provinces and the communities most affected given a greater voice in shaping CPEC projects. Locals need to see dividends; benefits that overwhelmingly flow to outsiders would aggravate social and political divides, fueling tension and potentially conflict. As Pakistan's democratic transition approaches another milestone, with a

second consecutive elected government completing a full term, its successor should seize the opportunities of a fresh mandate, shape public debate on CPEC and adopt related policies that put the well-being of Pakistani citizens at their core.

Key Insights

Socio Political Impact of CPEC on Pakistan and the South Asian Region can be summarized as under:

- Pakistan is becoming more dependent and adaptive to China than another country of the world so much, so it has become less dependent on its own initiatives, end products, designers, infra-structural engineering, and human resources.
- The employment of labor and frontline workers has improved but the unemployment of technocrats, engineers, hi-tech professionals is increasing as Chinese companies bring supervisory and managerial staff from China and only engage Pakistani Labor for the low order jobs.
- The Conflicts at grass root level between Chinese Companies and local population have begun translating into socio-political impacts. The local tribal chiefs continue to demand share or pose resistance to Chinese investment projects. The cost of security has also increased, and Pakistani government had to increase its defense budgets and expenses to deal with security of CPEC.
- Chinese conduct with workers working on CPEC Projects is also at times questioned by labor unions and social activists specially bearing the fact that most of the labor is kept in low quality provisions and clear disparity between handling/management of Chinese

Workers and Local Workers can be observed. This alone is building an uneasy feeling amongst masses about China Pakistan Friendship manifestation.

- Pakistan Afghanistan relations have been influenced due to the cross-border interventions by local population on both sides of the Durand Line for centuries however post 9/11 an extra effort went into streamline administrative controls from Kabul and Islamabad around Durand Line. China Pakistan Economic Corridor further helped in strengthening the Durand line to build security of the roads and communication networks of the project. Consequently, the interference in Pakistani Tribal Areas and western region from Afghanistan appears to have been reduced.

- Intra City Connectivity and mobility between various areas of Pakistan has also enhanced due to CPEC leading to speedy transportation of raw materials from far furling areas to industrial outfits. Furthermore, the establishment of dry ports, industrial estates and a viability of power has begun improving business activity and lifestyles of many rural areas of Pakistan.

- China for centuries stayed as an isolated territory and Chinese people had lesser opportunities to socialize with people of other races. Belt and Road initiative has led to increased interaction of Chinese government and people with people and governments of other regions of the world. Such interactions have paved way to better understanding between China and the rest of the world. China is now being considered as one important investor by most of the underdeveloped as well as developing nations. With such impressions, China is getting more socio-political space across many regions.

- The fact that majority of Chinese people have turned into atheists make them more adaptable to all other religions and faith. They do not carry any religious extremism within themselves which makes it easier for them to adjust in any other society. However, we cannot ignore the fact that Chinese are extremely patriotic when it comes to Chinese nationalism. Whatever, little misunderstandings one observes in and around belt and roads initiatives of China are largely related to contractual misinterpretations, social rites, nationalism and or individual conducts. As a government and as nation China is conducting itself in much matured, diplomatic, and strategic manner.

- Opportunities allowing Pakistani students to study in China have increased, the number of Pakistani's familiar with Chinese language, Traditions, conduct and way of working. Such social mixing up has further paved way to multi-dimensional connectivity between Chinese and Pakistani people. In long run this may turn into social amalgamation of the two cultures.

- The US influence in south Asia especially Pakistan is rapidly diminishing. White House has already shown its concern. China remains steadfast with CPEC and continue to support Pakistan on every front.

Analysis

- Having gone through available sources of information, data and research analysis it is obvious that CPEC is not just an economic venture but a new great game of China in the garb Belt and Road Initiative aimed at progressively influencing the world economy and then world political order. Just for instance world Health organization which for decades was funded, supported, and manipulated by United States has quite recently been declared

as Tout of China by US President Donald Trump. It's beginning of a new era. Transformation of power politics from west to east. Even capitalism shall transform into another shape and form something short of socialism and communism. Politics of economy is more prominent than ever before. China appears to be an economic giant after all these belt and road initiatives. Each having its own socio political and economic dynamics but CPEC is likely to serve as an anchor bolt to Chinese influence in most if not all Eurasian Region. It has provided China not only faster and securer access to the warm waters of Indian Ocean but an engulfing connectivity between Chinese Ports extending from South China Sea to the Port Sudan in the Horn of Africa. The phrase, "String of Pearls" theory is widely accepted nowadays which confirms that China is spreading its economic influence into every nook and corner of the world. Underline purpose may be to reap further economic strength but to protect its investments and ventures, China requires political alignment and influence in the partnering countries. Resultantly, it is beyond question, that China's One Belt One Road even if it must be CPEC is limited to economic gain. CPEC has provided China more space in South Asia than ever before. The US influences have begun diminishing. Socio-Politically China is merging more rapidly with the new worlds around China Pakistan Economic Corridor.

- As far as economic prospects for Pakistan are concerned, CPEC has helped Pakistan return from the one of the worst powers and industrial crisis. More than 10000 MW of power have been added to national grids through CPEC energy investments for one decade leading to re-energization of Pakistani industry. Pakistan was about to get into the clutches of default and bankrupt and had little chance to recover or rebuild. China Pakistan Economic Corridor has turned as blessing in disguise for Islamabad. major economic reaps from CPEC are

- greater availability of Power to run the wheels of industry
- Improved accessibility to far furlong and difficult terrains, generating easy connectivity between manufacturers and buyers, enhancing business activities in every nook and corner of Pakistan
- Enhanced opportunities for explorers, geo-economists, and industrialist to reach out to the raw materials and mineral resources
- Gawadar as an alternate to Karachi has been one major reap of CPEC
- There seems to be competition of cost, quality, and brand between Chinese Manufacturers and some of the Pakistani Manufacturer. Such competition is also opening avenues for the exchange of technology and diverse business models between the two countries. "Perfect Competition" has started taking course with many Pakistani Industrialists trying to desist Chinese Products by improving their Cost of Production.

- One of the questions that we expected to answer was with regards to the effect of CPEC on US-Pakistan Relationship. As explored and deliberated it is hard to digest but Pakistan has begun moving out of Washington influence. United States had never been as unhappy as it is today with Pakistan especially because of the CPEC allowances. Increased Chinese presence and involvement in Pakistan is being strategic threat to US interests in the region by US Think Tanks. Most of them have loudly expressed their concerns on this venture. The shift towards India is also evident. United States is trying to retain its relations with Islamabad, specially bearing the fact that they have begun moving out of Afghanistan and expect Pakistan to serve as their watch dog against Anti American elements in Afghanistan. Security had been a top reason for US Administration to lodge operations in South Asia which helped them for decades to keep their presence in the region. The connection

between local Afghans and Pakistani Tribes was bone of contention between the two for ages. United States had continuously been involved in such cross-border concerns sometimes as mediator and at others as an influencer. With fortification of Durand Line between Af-Pak security issues have diminished in size and quantum to a great degree. Even the tribal areas of Pakistan have begun becoming peaceful and less retaliative. China needed security for the corridor, and they joined hands with Pakistan Army in ensuring this through every possible mean and support. It was never to the tactical advantage of United States who had been getting into Pakistan more frequently before CPEC. In nutshell CPEC has begun an era of transition, with America losing her influence in Pakistan and China expecting to be a replacement. This also came up like another Research Question during research.

- It is very difficult to answer if China is replacing America in Pakistan? Despite all Pak China Friendship Slogans, we have observed a dark side of this relationships. Americans by ethnicity can be more associated with Pakistan. They are largely Jews or Christians and both religions have been inherited from the preaching's of Prophets of Islam. Ignoring all misinterpretations or misunderstandings Muslims also believe in Jesus and David peace be upon them so do Americans. There is slight ethnic homogeneity between the two races. However Chinese socio-cultural habitat is much difficult to absorb by a common man of Pakistan. Their eating habits, appetites, social taboos, rites, beliefs, social and practices are much different from those living in the Indus valley. Americans never involved themselves into large scale human resource mobilization in Pakistan. However Chinese workers and even businessmen are growing in great numbers in Pakistan. Though most of them have been working under the strict control of Chinese government but quite handsome number of Chinese have started living independently and operating private businesses as well.

There is social and cultural blending taking course. But as discussed earlier, number of conflicts and societal rifts have been reported between the Chinese and Pakistani people in Pakistan. The crimes related to illegal marriages and then human trafficking besides tactful thefts from ATM machines created an air of unease between the two races. China shall be able to influence business and market space in Pakistan. However, exploration of raw material, may not be very easy. China to get permanent living space in Pakistan is also very difficult. They have begun replacing America only as an influencer and that role shall further improve. However, any other plan or idea would turn into a misadventure as socio-politically both countries are opposite to each other.

- CPEC has not only triggered US Pakistan or Indo Pak Relations into another level of unease but the prospects of Iran-Pakistan-India Gas Line Project in Post CPEC Scenario have also become questionable. Iran for a brief period became friendlier with India especially after Prime Minister of India Narinder Lal Moodi announced to invest in Chahbahar Port for balancing or reducing the Gwadar impact in the Indian Ocean. However, since India lodged immoral subjugation attempt on Kashmiri population and started discriminating its Muslim population, the Iranian government backed off. Pakistan continues to have normal relations with Iran though America had been trying to isolate Iran since last few decades and is expecting Pakistan to do the same. At occasions there have been extreme difficult times for Pakistani foreign office to maintain good relations with Iran especially due to Saudi-Yemen Conflict in which Iran backed Hodi's and due to US-Iran animosity. So much so that the gas pipeline project which was to help Pakistan recover from the problems being faced by her due to diminishing gas reserves, also went into quagmire. If this gas pipeline projects are successfully concluded the relations between Iran Pakistan and India are likely to improve. US has been out rightly opposing this mega project because with this project

Iran is expected to have good economic returns and the US sanctions on Iran shall lose their strength. With such apprehensions US is opposing the project. China however has already rolled out major chunk of investments. Gwadar already transformed into much bigger industrial port. It is likely to serve as China's most important energy tap point from the same gas pipeline. In a year or two the Pakistan Iran gas pipeline project will surely start. The least is that the connection shall be till Gwadar or within Baluchistan. From security point of view this may increase interaction and affiliation between the Baloch separatist and Iranian Baloch's which may lead to certain security concerns after 2030 but it is quite skeptical now.

- One of the proposed questions during synopsis was if Pakistan will be able to improve its Relations with Afghanistan in post CPEC Scenario. The answer is, yes. China has also increased its involvement in infrastructural rebuild of Afghanistan. Some of the other OBORs as we have identified in earlier chapters are passing from North and West of Afghanistan. Resultantly, Afghanistan is likely to become a bridge and an interconnection between at least three belt and Road initiatives. This shall not take long. The sooner it happens, the greater socio-political unison shall be experienced by Central Asia including Pakistan in the South East. With several diplomatic offices and cultural meet points India had been trying to retain a phenomenal influence in Afghanistan but that is likely to turn into history or past. Afghanistan needs China and Pakistan much more than it needs India keeping in view its geo-political and socio-economical needs. Since the inception of Durand line in 1893 Afghan governors have been attempting to have passage and access to the Arabian Sea and then Indian Ocean. China Pakistan Economic Corridor appears to be the solution. Being an international trade passage under strict security watch, it is about to be connected to link roads with Kabul and trade interaction between Afghanistan and

Pakistan is likely to increase. Such economic dependencies are referred as source of socio-economic cohesion. This can also be termed as politics of economy. Afghanistan and Pakistan shall strengthen their relations in post CPEC Scenario.

- Yet another research question is related to the significance of Chabahar as a Counter to Gwadar. Indians are adamant that Chahbahar must be developed and managed by India to generate economic and strategic deterrence to Gwadar. However, Iran would never allow Chahbahar to get into Indian hands completely or even partially because it would put its own security at risk. Secondly, Iran due to economic sanctions do need foreign investments and partnerships. But the government in Tehran does not allow any compromise over geo-political freedom of its people and land. India is progressively trying to improve its military buildup in Chahbahar but the administration of Chahbahar remains with Iran and they have also begun desisting Indian military from Chahbahar and have started restricting them to economic an infrastructural business ventures only, especially after Kashmir crisis.
- Finally, we also have an answer to the question on socio-political impact of CPEC on the freedom of Pakistani people and government. China did not launch CPEC alone, there are five other Economic Corridors and all corridors spread out into complete of Eurasian Region. One bad move in one economic corridor will send waves of socio-political alarm to more than sixty countries linked through these corridors. Trying to infiltrate into socio political freedom of any region would do no good to China and they surely understand this. The Chinese premier has mentioned at number of occasions earlier mentioned that all the Belt and Roads Initiatives by China are only for the good of people and humanity and to generate more business opportunities for the world. China is also serving as balancer in the post-cold war world against United States. It moved out from secluded existence to the world of togetherness. Economic ventures and investment of this magnum are carefully

executed without indulging into conflicts. Chinese are progressively moving ahead in all Belt and Road Initiatives and ensuring that none of the partnering countries get disengaged in terms of assistance, support, or accommodative attitude. CPEC is no less. Pakistan and China have good relations since decades and despite some secluded unease on CPEC there has never been some big issue. Four different governments have been changed since the start of CPEC and each government represented a different school of thought but each one of them supported the CPEC. Possibility of Pakistan losing its geopolitical or socio-economic freedom due to CPEC is meager. CPEC is most important of all BRIs as it reduces China's accessibility to Africa and Arabian Peninsula to few days instead of many weeks. Strategically it has helped China to generate Gwadar as the Buffer Port to link both ends of Indian Ocean. With all these phenomenon's CPEC is likely to become lifeline of Chinese Business in South Asia, Indian Ocean, Arabia, and Africa. The economic benefit to China is of much more significance. They surely will not involve into domestic politics or interfere with the socio-political freedom of the people of Pakistan or its government.

Keeping in view all facts as inferred from the research the hypothesis that,

"China Pakistan Economic Corridor is not just an economic venture but a new great game of China, to disengage the United States from Pakistan and implant socio-political and economic influence over Pakistan, initially and then also in South Asian Region". stands, **REJECTED**.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- "A Silk Road for the 21st century: Freight rail linking China and Germany officially begins operations". Shangaiist.com. 2011 Retrieved 2014 (Source: National Geographic concise Atlas of the world 2012)
- Ahmad Shayeq Qassem (2016) Published by Routledge Afghanistan's Political Stability: A Dream Unrealized
- Ajay Patnaik (2016). Central Asia: Geopolitics, Security and Stability. Taylor & Francis Group. pp. 28–29. ISBN 9781317266402.
- Anurag Ram Chandran, Why Afghanistan Should Join CPEC? Trilateral cooperation between Afghanistan, China, and Pakistan on the Belt and Road would benefit all three states, The Diplomat, 2017
- Arduino, Alessandro, Mingjiang Li and Kalyan M. Kemburi, (2015) China-Central Asia: A New Economic, Security, and Logistic Network. In China's Power and Asian Security, Oxon: Routledge
- Arlen Clemens, (2018) "China Pakistan Economic Corridor Needs a Counter Strategy of India" Alpha Editions,
- Asif Hussain, David Fisher and Stephen Espiner (2017), Transport Infrastructure and Social Inclusion: A Case Study of Tourism in the Region of Gilgit-Baltistan, Social Inclusion (ISSN: 2183–2803) Vol. 5, Issue 4, Faculty of Environment, Society and Design, Lincoln University
- Ayesha Siddiqa, (2016) "Military, Inc. Inside Pakistan's Military Economy" ISBN-13: 978-0745399010, Pluto Press; 2nd Edition,
- B. M. Jain, South Asia Conundrum: The Great Power Gambit Rowman & Littlefield, 2019
- B. R. Deepak (2001) India-China Relations in the First Half of the 20th Century, APH Publishers

- Banyan, (2019) “Massive Chinese investment is a boon for Pakistan, but the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project carries risks” Asia Page, The Economist,
- Bergsten, C. Fred. (2007) China and Economic Integration in East Asia. In the China Balance Sheet 2007 and Beyond, eds. C. Fred Bergsten and Eve Cary, Washington, DC: Center for Strategic and International Studies and The Peterson Institute for International Economics
- Bill Gertz (2013) The China Threat: How the People's Republic Targets America Kindle Edition, Regnery Publishers.
- Brobst, Peter John (2005), The Future of The Great Game (Series on International, Political, and Economic History), University of Akron Press, p. 199, ISBN 9781931968102
- "Burdened economy: 'Pakistan has spent $200b on Afghan refugees'". The Express Tribune. 26 Oct 2013. Retrieved 30 Jun 2019.
- Christopher Len (2015) China's 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Initiative, Energy Security and SLOC Access Maritime Affairs: Journal of the National Maritime Foundation of India, Volume 11, Issue 1 Published online Taylor, and Francis
- Curran, Enda (2016)"China's Marshall Plan". Bloomberg. China's ambition to revive an ancient trading
- David Butz and Nancy Cook (2017) “The Epistemological and Ethical Value of Auto photography for Mobility’s Research in Transcultural Contexts” Studies in Social Justice Volume 11, Issue 2, Brock University, Canada
- Devin T. Hagerty, (2005) South Asia in World Politics, Rowman & Littlefield
- Erdman, H. L. (17 December 2007). The Swatantra Party and Indian Conservatism. Cambridge University Press. ISBN 9780521049801.

- Feng Wang, Sept 30, 2010, China's Population Destiny: The Looming Crisis,
- Foot, Rosemary. (2013) U.S.-China Interactions in Global Governance and International Organizations. In Tangled Titans: The United States and China, ed. David Shambaugh, Plymouth, UK: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers.
- François Bougon, "Inside the Mind of Xi Jinping" Oxford University Press, (2018)
- Golshanpazhooh, Mahmoud Reza (2011), Review: Post Modern Imperialism: Geopolitics and the Great Games by Eric Walberg, Iran Review
- Gries, Peter Hays. (2006) Identity and Conflict in Sino-American Relations. In New Directions in the Study of China's Foreign Policy, eds. Alistair Iain Johnston and Robert S. Ross, California: Stanford University Press.
- Gurtov, Mel. (2010) Changing Perspectives and Policies. In China, the Developing World, and the New Global Dynamic, eds. Lowell Dittmer and George T. Yu, Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers
- Hafeez Ullah Khan, Regional Security Threats to CPEC – A Strategic overview by published in the Journal of research Society of Pakistan, Vol 56, Issue No I, 2019
- Henry R. Nau, Deepa M. Ollapally, (2012) Worldviews of Aspiring Powers: Domestic Foreign Policy Debates in China, India, Iran, Japan, & Russia, OUP
- Herbert S. Yee, (2011) Publishers Routledge, China's Rise – Threat or Opportunities
- Hermann Kreutzmann (1991) The Karakoram Highway, The Impact of Road Construction on Mountain, Societies, Modem Asian Studies (Journal), Centre for Development Studies Geographical Institute, Free University of Berlin Printed in Great Britain.

- Hermann Kreutzmann (1991) The Karakoram Highway, The Impact of Road Construction on Mountain, Societies, Modem Asian Studies (Journal), Centre for Development Studies Geographical Institute, Free University of Berlin Printed in Great Britain.
- "Hauling New Treasure along the Silk Road". NYT. 2013 Retrieved 2014.
- "Independence Day: We are Pakistanis now, say Afghans". Express Tribune. 15 Aug 2011. Retrieved 16 Nov2011.
- Jagannath P. Panda, (2019) Foreseeing India-China Relations: The 'compromised Context' of Rapprochement East-West Center,
- Jay L. Batongbacal, Elliot Brennan, Tetsuo Kotani, Evan A. Laksmana, Joseph Chinyong Liow, Hunter Marston, Rory Medcalf, Sylvia Mishra, C. Raja Mohan, Prashanth Parameswaran, Tran Truong Thuy, Ha Anh Tuan, (2018) Asia's Quest for Balance: China's rise & balancing in the Indo-Pacific, Rowman & Littlefield,
- Jiti S. Bajwa (2002) Modernization of the PLA: Gauging Its Latent Future Potential, Lancer Publishers,
- K. Arif, (1984) “China Pakistan Relations, 1947-1980” Vanguard Books,
- Kiani, Khaleeq (2016). "With a new Chinese loan, CPEC is now worth $62bn". Dawn. Archived from the original on 30 Sept 2016. Retrieved 19 Nov 2016.
- Kugelman, Michael (9 Jul 2015). "Pakistan's Other National Struggle: It’s Energy Crisis". The Wall Street Journal. Retrieved 11 Dec 2015.
- Kugelman, Michael (9 Jul 2015). "Pakistan's Other National Struggle: It’s Energy Crisis". The Wall Street Journal. Retrieved 11 Dec 2015.
- Lampton, David M. (2008) The Three Faces of Chinese Power: Might, Money and Minds. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

- Len C. (2015) China's 21st Century Maritime Silk Road initiative, energy, security and SLOC access. Maritime Affairs, The Journal of the National Maritime Foundation of India, 11 (1),
- Li Xing, (2018) Mapping China's 'One Belt One Road' Initiative, Springer,
- Lowell Dittmer and George T. Yu, Boulder (2010) China's Rise, Global Identity, and the Developing World. In China, the Developing World, and the New Global Dynamic, eds., CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers
- Luttwak, Edward, (2012) The Rise of China vs. the Logic of Strategy, Cambridge, The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press,
- Mahnaz Z. Ispahani Roads and Rivals: The Political Uses of Access in the Borderlands of Asia, First ed. Cornell University Press (1989)
- Martin Hart-Landsberg, (2018) A critical look at China's One Belt, One Road initiative
- Melissa Conley Tyler, Rhea Matthews, Emma Brockhurst, Think Tank Diplomacy, BRILL, 2017
- Michael Kugelman, (2009) Robert M. Hathaway, Powering Pakistan: Meeting Pakistan's Energy Needs in the 21st Century by Oxford University Press,
- Mohan Malik, (2011) "China and India: Great Power Rivals" First Forum Press,
- Morgan Clemens (2015) The Maritime Silk Road & PLA, A paper for China as a "Maritime Power" Conference CNA Conference Facility, Arlington, Virginia
- Mu, Xuequan. 2014. China Willing to Play Constructive Role in Afghan Reconstruction: PM. Dec 16. Accessed 7 Dec 2015 http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2014-12/16/c_127306705.htm
- Norton, (2004) The Nine Eleven Commission Report: Final Report of the NCTA Upon the US, National Commission on Terrorist Attacks,

- Peter Frankopan, (2016) The Silk Roads: A New History of the World, Bloomsbury Publishing Plc
- Philippe Le Corre and Alain Sepulcher, (2016) China's Offensive in Europe, Brookings Institution Press
- Priscilla Galloway, Dawn Hunter, (2009) Adventures on the Ancient Silk Road, Annick Press,
- Pushpa Adhikārī, (2012) China, Threat in South Asia, Lancer Publishers,
- Quo Dan Taninecz, (2017). The China Pakistan Economic Corridor, Indicator of Chinese Strategic Energy goals and a Challenge to the Open Procurement Status, Miller Jackson School, university of Washington,
- Raja Menon, "A Mountain Strike Corps is Not the only Option," Hindu (29 Jul 2013).
- Robert D. Kaplan, Monsoon: The Indian Ocean & the Future of American Power, New York: Random House, 2010,
- Robert J. McMahon, (1994) "The Cold War on the Periphery: The United States, India, and Pakistan" Columbia University Press,
- Robert Wirsing, War or Peace on the Line of Control? The India-Pakistan dispute over Kashmir turns fifty, IBRU,
- Sajjad Shaukat (2010) US vs Islamic Militants, Invisible Balance of Power: Dangerous Shift in International Relations
- Sarah Siddiq Aneel, (2017) CPEC: Macro and Micro Economic Dividends for Pakistan and the Region, Islamabad Policy Research Institute,
- Shah, Saeed. "Big Chinese-Pakistani Project Tries to Overcome Jihadists, Droughts and Doubts". The Wall Street Journal. ISSN 0099-9660. Retrieved 2016

- Siegfried O. Wolf, (2019) “The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor of the Belt and Road Initiative: Concept, Context and Assessment” Springer,
- Siegfried O. Wolf, (2019) “The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor of the Belt and Road Initiative: Concept, Context and Assessment” Springer,
- Siegfried O. Wolf, (2019) The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor of the Belt and Road Initiative: Concept, Context and Assessment, Springer,
- Sukumar, Arun Mohan (2017), The Wire (India) On Marshall Plan
- Sumana Bandyopadhyay, André Torre, Paulo Casaca, Tomaz Dentinho (2017), “Regional Cooperation in South Asia: Socio-economic, Spatial, Ecological and Institutional Aspects” Springer, ISBN: 3319567470, 9783319567471
- Swaine, M. D. (2014) Chinese views & commentary on periphery diplomacy (China Leadership Monitor No. 44) Retrieved from http://www.hoover.org/
- Taneja, Pradeep (2016). "Trouble Ahead: The China-Pakistan-India Triangle". Australian Institute of International Affairs.
- Tang Mengsheng (2019) Past five years of CPEC in Review, The Express Tribune, Business Page
- Umair Jamal, "Why Is Pakistan Expelling Afghan Refugees?” The Diplomat. Retrieved 2017
- Wang Linggui, Zhao Jianglin, (2019) “The Belt and Road Initiative in The Global Context, World Scientific Publishing Company,
- Willem Frederik Eekelen, Willem Frederik van Eekelen, Indian Foreign Policy and the Border Dispute with China Springer 2013,
- Xinru Lu, The Silk Road in World History, Oxford University Press, (2010)

- "Yu'Xin'Ou Railway: The New Silk Road?" Open to Export posted by UK Trade & Investment. 2013 Archived from the original on 2014 Retrieved 2014.
- Zhang Ming, quoted by Michael G. Gallagher, "Future Indian-South-Korean Ties: Can Seoul Use India to Balance China?" Korean Journal of Defense Analysis, (Mar 2010)

Acknowledgement

There can be nothing I have done without the blessing of **my Creator, my Lord, All Mighty Allah,** and I Thank Allah for granting me strength, knowledge, perseverance, resolve and wisdom to complete such a lifetime achievement task. I would like to extend my deepest thanks to **Professor Dr Syed Ibrahim Shah Bukhari** and **Dr Tanweer Khalid** who had been mentoring and guiding us since last one decade in the field of Political Science and International Relations. I am also thankful to all team members of Preston University, Karachi, **Vice Chancellor Dr Tahir Rajput, Deputy Registrar Nisho Siddiqui, Dr Tunio, Dr Umair, Miss Mahvish, and Mr Hassan** who have all been part of this research journey. I also acknowledge my friends and family who at times suffered from my absence in some of their very precious moments because I was not available.

About the Author

Dr. Zahid Faqir is a distinguished scholar and policy analyst with a PhD in International Relations. His academic work focuses on regional development, global trade dynamics, and the strategic implications of transnational infrastructure projects. With years of research experience and participation in high-level national and international forums, Dr. Faqir has emerged as a leading voice on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). His insightful analysis highlights the socio-political and economic impact of CPEC on South Asia, particularly its role in reshaping regional alliances and development priorities. In ***CPEC and its Socio – Political Impact on South Asia***, Dr. Faqir blends theoretical depth with empirical research to offer a comprehensive perspective valuable to academics, policymakers, and strategic thinkers alike.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project under China's Belt and Road Initiative, is reshaping the political, economic, and social landscape of South Asia. As a massive transnational infrastructure network, CPEC promises connectivity, economic uplift, and regional integration—but it also stirs complex questions about sovereignty, governance, security, and strategic alignment. This book delves into how CPEC is influencing national priorities, political discourse, and public perception across countries in the region. Drawing on case studies, policy analysis, and regional perspectives, this volume explores the multifaceted consequences of CPEC on South Asia's socio-political fabric. From the shifting alliances between major powers to the impact on local communities and internal political dynamics, the book offers a critical and timely examination of one of the 21st century's most ambitious geopolitical ventures. Ideal for scholars, policymakers, and informed readers, it unpacks both the promises and the perils of connectivity in an evolving regional order.

Published by Wah Academia (SMC-PVT) Ltd, CB-458, Lane 9, Nishtar Road, Lalazar, Wah Cantt. Tel: (92)301 5071112.
email: info@wahacademia.com
https://org.wahacademia.com/

© Copyright 2025
Muhammad Zahid Faqir