

Sino-Pak Relations in the Region Influenced by Major Powers:

By

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Abstract:

The Sino Pak relationship had always been predominated by great powers, USA, Soviet Union, United Kingdom and the growing regional economy India, which had always pressurized Pakistan to keep China beyond South Asia and Indian Ocean. The mutual understanding has always been above the change of Geo-Political Scenario Developed in the World that could not affect mutual geostrategic interests, since we share a common rival and threat. After the fragmentation of Soviet Union, the Chinese government took initiative for strengthening economic ties stabilize relations with New Delhi. Change in Afghanistan brought China closer to Pakistan as the Sinkiang Autonomous Region, a Muslim Majority Province flexing muscles for sovereign Muslim State, that seemingly will remain a gigantic potential challenge eventually take effect from Taliban uprising.

Chinese's noninterference policy is much-loved by Islamabad. In the wake of Indian belligerence persuaded Pakistan that China holds a polestar position in foreign policy contours and a trustworthy strategic partner. The American foreign policy to leave Afghan people at the mercy of none, after 1991, caused a big vacuum to fill up, which stemmed an unending lengthy civil war by the local warlords aiming at Kabul. There is an urgent need for American foreign policy makers, to reassess their South Asia policy. American romanticism with India led the NATO failure in the fight with Afghans another Blunder on the part of US. Chinese Development of the Gwadar Seaport a free economic zone, which has reached to the warm waters of Indian Ocean, as their potential competitor of the 21 Century USSR, the role of US is being performed by China.

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Introduction:

Sino-Pak relations take their roots ever since the inception of Pakistan in 1947 and after the Chinese Cultural Revolution in 1949 it has gained more impetus (LIM, 2015). The two countries have stayed as Iron Brothers by the western analysts according to their mutual understanding and need in the time of test. China trusts us as equal ally friend on the other hand the America and West think another way, the change in international political situation our role and position is changed. The Chinese preference and huge investment also is good omen. The equilibrium is retained in the region by China not America, in providing Pak the Fighter Planes and other Military hardware. Pakistani provided diplomatic channels that Henry Kissinger did the secret visits to China and ultimately China had succeeded in securing her Permanent membership in United Nation Security Council with flourishing relations with USA (Kissinger, 2011-2012). The neighboring Communist Super Power of Eurasia initially displayed great interest in Pakistan, but very soon, both the powers had differences developed after the Cultural Revolution (Malik, 1994). The Sino Soviet Split appeared in the 1953 Summit Conference in Beijing and the Chinese Leaders cold welcome ignited a cold war within the Communist bloc mainly because of deviation from Karl Marx Ideology (Li, 01-Mar-2013). The Western powers, including United States in particular, wanted Pakistan to be in its sphere of influence to keep distant from the Red Giant, having very little to do with Pakistan and China relations in that early era but after the demise of USSR and rise of Chinese economic power in current situation as the Sino Pak relations have been flourishing, the Western powers including USA and India having fears in this regard. "Pakistan is China's Israel" (General Xiong Guangkai). This statement obviously indicates the gravity and depth of the two nation's mutual understanding as the Israel is enjoying in the Middle East by the United States of America. The Communist party of China visions a pipeline of oil from Pakistani city Gwadar to China and to the Chinese coastal cities to further facilitate the East Asian nations and her interest to the Islamic World through Pakistani Good Offices and expanding her economy (Small, 2015).

Besides all the factors the key players in international affairs, that had been dependent on their defense industry always tried to create an atmosphere of bitterness between the neighboring countries to get an opportunity of their weaponries sale out, to the belligerent states as we see in the case of India and Pakistan where one bloc supported Pakistan while other strengthened India in the war in 1965 (Ray, 2011). Contrary to this

Indian Leader Jawher Lal Nehru was against the India going militarizing as he said that if we have to fight Pakistan we fight them with our lathis (Sticks). There is no military solution to the core issues of Indo Pak but the political dialogues. The Arms race in the world could not at all lead to a peaceful earth rather an alarm for the poor nations who have been spending their taxes on the military equipment which expire after twenty or thirty years and again to spend money to overhaul them. By the year 1990 at the end of cold war the total cost of the defense budget of America was \$3.7 trillion that would be enough for re-buying everything in America except the Land, one of every sixteen person was engaged in defense industry, Pentagon cannot cut its spending on defense it because that would result in thousands of millions jobs losses. (Eugene R. Wittkopf, 2008)

To keep Pakistan away from the Chinese influence also marks that the main weapon exporting powers want to engage Pakistan in buying their costly military hardware instead of going to search in cheap Chinese weapons, Missiles Technology preserve stability in the South Asia, this change in policy of Pakistan is not liked by the United States of America as the Trump administration has been busy in making good relations with India, in the area where Pakistan has reservation as like in Afghanistan (Price, 2016). Countering the Indian foreign office statement over reservations on C-PEC route which goes through Azad Kashmir a disputed territory, Pakistan Foreign Office Spokesman very politely cleared that China Pakistan Economic Corridor is not only for Pakistan and China but the entire South Asia including India, West Asia can also benefit from this (P K Singh, 2017). China would not sit silently if India makes problems for Chinese firms and investors in Pakistan, Where China has planned to invest initially \$46 billion to make Gwadar Port functional and resolving our energy crisis and build a rail and road to Chinese autonomous region. In case of any misadventure in Sea of China as the American Naval presence there may stop or blockade the entire region which may cause an economic dilemma and this new way out for China energy route help her remain stable, as the annual business in the area is almost \$5trillion which might hit the financial markets hard(Chandran N. , 2017).

The US and India Military agreement may not make her feel endangered in the region where she is engulfed by three sides by China, Pakistan and Myanmar (China ally) all having a disinclination for India. This new episode in Indo US relations may not only harm China Pakistan but it also leaves Russia uncertain, her cold war friend above all her most

of the military equipment is imported from Russia (Praveen K. Chaudhry, 2011). These supplements need to be repaired and overhauled by the Russian technical experts and her air force totally dependent upon the Russia so is her artillery. New agreement would leave India a vessel state of US not an equal to China, which is a thriving economy, New Delhi need to live amicably among her own neighbors like China, Russia, Pakistan, and Central Asian States (Patranobis, 2016). Moreover, their good relations with Pakistan these two huge powers having shared an opponent America in the region making it further firm bond to their interactions. As China the biggest Arms importer from Russia and Chinese Air force to a great extent needs Russian arms to make its air force restructured, Russia edging over USA, after the Soviet Union exporting sophisticated arms to the buyers and at the same time using the same technology for its own military while US sales out dated and used weapons to the purchasers limiting current technology only for its own armed forces. In 1995 America warned Russia and Ukraine on the transfer of sophisticated Missile technology to Beijing. (Anderson, 1997).

The American most recent engagement and testing the new military equipment in Afghanistan raised eyebrows in the region and the simple reason USA and its allies not efficacious in the Afghanistan due to the Indian unnecessary appearance in the war on terror without the troops on the ground. India Pakistan in the region has their own vested interests and a history of wars. The American think tanks could not give well an insight to their leaders in this military interference and its aftermaths. The war on terror had been deviated by India to gain the maximum opportunity to destabilize her traditional rival by supporting the Taliban in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, (FATA) also dispatching trained miscreants in the front line state and a systematic propaganda to change Western opinion. Her desire to carry out surgical strikes in Pakistani Administered Kashmir, by replicating US drones, which has been resented by Pakistan, warned a full-scale war and she would be responsible for igniting a nuclear war in Subcontinent. The American allies under NATO not only fighting a single front in Afghanistan i.e. war on terror and Extremism but they at the same time launched a low level cold war with the Regional powers like Russia, China, Iran and Pakistan. To see this new India US amity China Pakistan got on same page and begin to minimize Indian influence in the area. China assisting the growing economy of Pakistan, the Gwadar Port and C-PEC initiated. Russian envoys also visited Islamabad as the USA started influencing the EX-Soviet Republics, which distract the US attention from the war on extremism (Tanha, 2015). The US withdrawal from Afghanistan is seemingly a unilateral ceasefire from

NATO and Western allies to avoid a long lasting war increasing casualties, and avoid the World calling them for not a finishing war and get justifications (Jetly, 2009).

Methodology:

This is a longitudinal research based on secondary data, which include reviewing of published Books Reports Magazines, Journals of International repute, Newspapers, Internet Websites and International leader's speeches and recorded Interviews of key Political personalities foreign analysts and diplomatic.

Literature Review:

Looking through the History, Pakistan had been in trouble by a hostile neighbor. The Indian National Congress Influenced British Masters, Muslim Populated areas had not been handed over to Pakistan, most obvious of that is Kashmir. Our entire foreign Policy is designed with special context of Kashmir. All the Major Powers have exerted their influence over the Issue of Kashmir. The situation had reached to a no return, after the war of 1971, which justifies, keeping a strong military to balance with India, spending more on her defense (Ashley J. Tellis, 2005-2006). As the only Nuclear Muslim Country Occupies a Geostrategic position, the ambition of China to become the World Naval power accessing the Mideast oil fields. In this regard, we get special attention in the future planning of China to reach out the energy giants of Middle East and targeting at the European markets, vast economic centers of East Asia (Small, The China-Pakistan Axis, Asia's new Geopolitics, 2005). After the withdrawal of Soviet troops, in a vacuum of power all the warlords of Afghanistan started fighting among themselves. Pakistan played her role in her limited resources. Pashtun having a majority in Afghanistan not accepted the government of Persian Speaking Northern Alliance. Religion was the only epicenter acceptable to all, all over the world the sympathizers of Muslim goodwill and Al-Qaida leaders also reached there. Sensing the extremism, the Chinese government communicated its displeasure over the activities nearby her western borders that might influence the Muslim population of the adjacent region. The US turned towards Iraq, left Afghanistan unattended in 2002 and the problems slowly got out of control. (Hammes, 2006). Now leaving Iraq war unfinished again entered Afghanistan, an ally against Soviets turned enemy.

After the Soviet Union Indian suffered, leadership had to search a new friendly Nation, in the unipolar world where Sino Pakistan united

against her. Pakistan and Soviet Union besides having a proxy war a battleground in Afghanistan, also engaged directly to destabilize each other by raising the weaker segments of each country. The enlightened approach of the new Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's disengagement policy in the South Asia resulted in withdrawal of Red Army from Afghanistan. Russia making understanding with USA frozen all the Military assistance to India the American pressure to India through Russia, not to test Nuclear weapons. The Russo-Pak joint Military exercise "Friendship 2016" further fragile the Indian dreams and she was alone in the International affairs (Nikolas K. Gvosdev, 2013). US Suspended military aid to Pakistan under Non Proliferation Policy and imposed military sanctions over her under the Pressler Amendment on 1 October 1990 (Foreign Assistance Act.).

The American victory birthed so many complications one of them that led a US U-turn shifting focus from Pakistan, linking military Assistance by the ratification of the American President each year (Akhtar, 2017). He had to submit a report in the Congress that Pakistan does not possess the Nuclear weapons. This unfriendly posture sowed the seeds of hatred in the mind of people, we struggled to resolve Afghan issue alone and America left South Asian platform unfinished and got engaged in the Middle East issues. Being the only super power America waged a ruthless war against the states that were confrontational to West and were in the Soviet bloc (Dimitrakis, 2013).

The Chinese assistance to Pakistan for its nuclear program is the result of Indian aggressive attitude and a desire for a regional power. After the Sino Indian border confrontation in 1960s China made a policy of soft balancing of the region by making India realize that Pakistan is also a power, although publically rejects all the claims that she is targeting India while equipping Pakistan with M-11 missile , that reacted USA provided Fighter Planes to Taiwan in (Schofield, 2014). Pakistan found a great friend to counter the Indian hegemonic intimidations in the region. (Shahid, 1987).The Central Asian States are making a choice between China and India in the region, having no geographical access to later.

The bitter experience of American seventh fleet not reached to East Pakistan (London, 1974). The Kargil conflict is the upshot of the Indian supremacy and hegemonic approaches and her occupation of Siachen, The Pakistan army had come up with a best strategy to bow India down and vacate the Siachen on Pakistani terms, and however, the civil government shattered the excellent opportunity of reclaiming the areas. Nawaz Sharif

Foreign Diplomacy failed to convince the world and could not dictate the terms to India (Dettman, 2001). The current policy of the Peoples Republic of China towards India is deterrence and low level engagement in shape of promoting Pakistan. The Chinese leadership having a vision of strong Pakistan which is not only necessary for huge Chinese investment but also keep the Islamic radical elements at a distance from the Chinese Muslim entity East Turkistan, she wants a strong and friendly India which must keep America away from their neighborhood and also interested in its interests secured in the region (Fravel, 2011).

The US hunt down of Al-Qaida head in Abbottabad, China was the only Major Power that openly supported the Pakistani establishment, that they had no information about the hideouts in Pakistan. The Chinese affirmation after the Pakistani Premiers visit to China that Pakistan had made massive fatalities in combating terrorism by selecting to stand with international confrontation against the terror therefore her sovereignty independence and national integrity must be respected. It is essential for International community to stand with the People of Pakistan in its efforts in combating the terrorism within the country, which eventually put the State stability at risk; in that case she requires economic assistance and military aid (Pant, 2012). PRC desires to make it sure that Chinese interests are safe in the region by constructing a railway line and a road leading to Gulf. The Chinese oil transportations at present take almost a month to reach the Persian Gulf (Harrison, 2010). When high-speed rail and road links through Gilgit and Baltistan are completed, China will be able to transport cargo from Eastern China to the new Chinese-built Pakistani seaport at Gwadar, Pasni and Ormara, just east of the Gulf, within 48 hours (Bhola, 1986).

Study Area:

The neighbors of Pakistan, South Asia, Muslim Republics of central Asia and the key players in the International Politics. The Soviet Russia, United States and their allies and, China Pakistan all weather friendship and the ongoing China Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Consequence and Discussion:

Soviet Occupation of Afghanistan, Vacating and Consequences:

After the Soviet troops entered in Afghanistan, the situation was normal but very soon the West succeeded in convincing the Muslims and China continued supporting Pakistan over Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

USSR had encircled China from Three Sides, From Kashmir to North Korea, having 4300 KM Border. The downfall of Soviet Russia had been a great blessing for China, providing an opening to the west and the landlocked Central Asian States. According to new plans the government Funneled \$25 billion development of human life and rail and roads in the Xinxiang. After almost a half-decade of no apparent government in Afghanistan, the Taliban came and reached to Kabul held 95% of the land. The 9/11 attacks by Al-Qaida nexus with Taliban, NATO found an excuse to intervene. The US premature Swing in Policy by wedding India against China and leaving Pakistan at that stage is a policy abrupt shift.

However, sharp and visionary the US Policy maker and Diplomats may be, but this is a policy catastrophe at the hands of US foreign policy-makers, they do not read books and analysis made by their own brethren and foreign scholars, political scientists, that they left Afghanistan after the Soviet Withdrawal the US foreign Policy Makers and Diplomats sat and enjoyed the ecstasy of the Soviet disintegration, they had no idea that the terror would be a bigger threat than the State of Soviet Union, totally controlled by the wise politicians as compared to the rogue elements.

The East Turkestan the biggest Chinese populated Muslim autonomous state, the region between the Caspian Sea and Great Wall of China, Siberia, Iran and bordering Afghanistan, Pakistan and Tibet, land of Turkic people, also called the cradle of Islamic Turkish civilization. In the era of Abdul Malik Marwan, the Turkish accepted Islam and after that where ever they went they took the banner of Islam in the world. The unrest in the Turkistan is another reason for Chinese to like Pakistan as we turn a blind eye towards the Chinese and the Uyghur People of Xinxiang for the last seven decades, the Human rights violations are the routine work and forcibly breaking the people fasts at noon by the PLA in the city square, since the formal Chinese Occupation in 1949 named it Xinjian means New Borders. The home of all the Turkish people who hailed their history from here and settled around the world after converting to Muhammadan Faith spread Islam as far they went. This Region is also known as the Kuwait of the central Asia and China its huge oil reserves minerals Above and beyond this the gateway of Central Asia Russia and road to Persian Gulf connecting by Karakorum Highway, China's Window to the West (Alikuzai, 2013).

The Chinese purposefully retain India balanced by Pakistan and focusses on its own growing economy, such as she kept North Korea a constant headache for the region particularly for US and Japan. In South

Asia she almost has encircled India from East West and North by Pakistan, Myanmar and its own border, the proposed Naval Base at Gwadar could help her to counter Indian Naval power, and India would not put her own security at danger in case of blockading Pakistani coastal area as she had done in 1971.

Pakistan's Nuclear Program, Test, Sanctions and the Support of China:

As currently India has positioned her half of military in occupied Kashmir alone, disputed Kashmir question, which resulted in war and hatred in the region, the freedom fighters for Kashmiri and terrorist for India. After withdrawal of British, India being the bigger and resourceful had always been busy in upsetting Pakistan. The creation of Bangladesh left an unrecovered scar in Pakistani peoples mind that India could never be their friend. These were the unbiased reasons forced Pakistan to initiate her Nuclear Program and the Indian atomic tests in 74 at Pokhran accelerated the program to achieve as soon as possible and at that time the West was against the Pakistani Nuclear program and forced France not to transfer the reactor to Pakistan and China helped Pakistan to achieve her objectives to balance the power in South Asia and realize India that Pakistan is not alone and weak. China wanted to contain Indian military expansion, by making Pakistan as equivalent to India for driving her under check for claiming of Tibet, border disputes at Sino-Indian and the 1962 border war. China is now improving her relations with India for economic development. America and West are giving India more preferences as compared to Pakistan and her role in Afghanistan in the war against terrorism.

Pakistan's growing population is worsening the energy crisis and China had a huge Investment in the energy sector, and ongoing projects on fighting Energy shortfall (Rong Wang, 2014). China under the C-PEC development aims at increasing the Pakistan Electric power generation from roughly 16,400 Megawatt to 33,000 Megawatts in 2018, from the 14 construction projects, produce electricity in the future, which is more than the shortfall of 4,500Mw. According to the studies that currently Pakistan has the potentials to produce 60,000 MW of electricity on hydroelectric power Generation bases, the Demands of Energy could be 39000 MW in 2025, report by International Energy Agency (Tiezzi, 2016).

The Pakistani Politicians exploited the energy sector to gain the sympathies of the electorates and blame each other for the crisis; some

went to the extent that in the coming one year they would generate enough energy to eradicate the Power shortage in Pakistan, where the severe climatic conditions can't be handled without producing electricity. Besides this the textiles factories shifting to the Bangladesh, as the government offered them cheap electricity and gas in addition to this 30 European states without taxes. Although Bangladesh has power shortage but they are managing it well and have planned to give better opportunity to investors in textile sector to come and install their plants. (Paul, 2011).

The China Pakistan Economic Corridor and Its Impact on Region:

The Global Politics always takes a new shape as the states and emerging powers of the region gain more strength and have a say in the World Affairs or having a larger influence on turning the International Policies more friendly towards their economic fields. This new economic breakthrough came before the limelight in the year 2015 when the Chinese President paid an official visit to Pakistan (Panda, 2015). Pakistan and China had agreed to continue this contract for a period of 40 years. "The Sino-Pakistan relationship has now moved beyond the 'higher than Himalayas and sweeter than honey' phase. Chinese strategists are openly taking of Pakistan as their nation's only real ally. (PANT, 2016)." Being a nuclear state, emerging as a new regional power at a strategic location necessarily proves a great trust for China. The Huge Investments of China in Pakistan and development of Gwadar Port by creating another energy root in case of any blockade in the China Sea and strait of Malacca, China could also develop the port of Chhabr in Iran but China opted for the Pakistan port for a reason as a strong friend and having no UN restrictions against Pakistan and the common foe at their borders. To counter the Chinese presence in Indian Ocean India also playing her Cards by developing Chhabr overtly seeking an access to Central Asian Markets through Afghanistan (Fazil, 2016). The de facto control of 40% of Afghanistan is in the Hands of Taliban, which pose threats to Indian investments as well as Indian presence; she is required to justify its presence in Afghanistan besides the interfering in the local issues of Pakistan. China and Pakistan had no competition in any ground but the Iran and Indian having mutual clashing interests, which the Persian authority never let, be by-passed as Iran also wants her goods to make their way to central Asian states and India. Pakistan handed over the control of the Gwadar port to Chinese authorities while Iran would never give the control to India, her investments under constant threats because America and Persia uneven relations, while Chinese investments benefit both the Nations and the region in a broad spectrum. The unrest and the

suicidal attacks in Afghanistan can limit the Indian economical brainchild and lead to failure to make herself equal to China. US again sending fresh troops in Afghanistan and training to the Afghan counterterrorism forces but it seem so difficult to achieve so soon. A state like Afghanistan having so many states involved cannot be peaceful and no stability no economic improvement (ALMUKHTAR, 2017) .

Conclusion and Recommendations:

Since 1990 a series of mega events in the region has happened the Soviet invasion and Withdrawal from Afghanistan (25 Dec 1979 – 15 Feb 1989). The nuclear tests by India and Pakistan, The Kargil clash and the US led war on terror after 9/11. We believe both the super powers were defeated by Pakistan and both the Super Powers lost their battle because of alliance and giving India an unjustified role in the war. It's a patent fact that the states maintain their relations through the help of their diplomats, leaders, the vision of the foreign analysts and political scientist's observations regarding the state interests. Since Pakistan and China had been facilitating to each other from the very beginning until now, being an Islamic Ideological State, had never objected the Secularistic and Communist government of China, unlike Soviet Union. Islamabad supported restores the Sino US relations. In the background, the expertise of Henry Kissinger had been in the struggle to reach out to a mutual understanding and contain Soviet Union by China. This was a great achievement, PRC successful in regaining her lost seat in UN Security Council falls under the Pakistani credit. The systematized propaganda against USSR that she had intentions to stretch over Pakistan to Indian Ocean, had not been an appealing rationale, for the Warm waters although she had Caspian Sea Black Sea, Mediterranean and Sea of Japan, all are not frozen. No people can be made fool but fooling a Nation raises questions. Fighting a proxy war for American against Soviet Union was a mistake, the first foreign Minister of Pakistan admitted after almost half century.

Pakistan is residing in an important Geostrategic position having a vast coastal area in the World energy neck, Persian Gulf. The article here under takes that the China Pakistan all time cordial relationships needs to be growing and no other Nation be given space in between, to disrupt the positive development in the region which is in the greater interest of both the Countries.

It is commendable that both countries are required to bring into focus, their regions that had been unnoticed. Politicians at home required being intelligent in tackling the International Affairs, show vigilance in dealing with the friends and foes (Haqqani., 2013). Human resource in the country need to be well managed by the vibrant educational policy, Pakistan foreign policy needs to be explicitly understood by the world, it is mandatory to politely reject the pressure of the powers to compromise its own greater interests. A prerequisite for Pakistani Politicians to revamp their Political Institutions, and the government necessarily take serious steps in formulating and understanding foreign policy, keeping in mind the greater National Interests. An effective mechanism needs to be redesigned in the arena of education, redefine the value of people polls, required to be deliberated at all stages, Madrsas, Schools', Colleges and Universities.

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