

China's Foreign Policy towards Pakistan 2012-2020

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“No one should expect us (China) to swallow the bitter fruit that is harmful to our sovereignty, security or development interests”¹.

(Xi Jinping)

ABSTRACT

Xi Jinping is one of the strongest presidents Socialist China ever has seen. He revolutionized the country's foreign policy soon after he ascended to the President's Office. He revised China's foreign policy towards South Asia including Pakistan. During the 20th century, China adopted a principled policy of non-intervention in the internal affairs of Pakistan. However, Jinping's rise brought an end to the said policy. This research paper focuses on exploring and analyzing the changes brought by Xi Jinping in the Foreign Policy of China towards Pakistan along with the pros and cons related to the changed foreign policy approach.

Key Words: China, IRP, Pakistan, PRC, Xi Jinping, Foreign Policy, CPEC

Introduction

People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (IRP) share a border and have strong bilateral relations. The countries were founded with a gap of two years i.e., Pakistan in 1947 and the PRC in 1949. They established bilateral ties in 1951 which scarcely faced any setback afterward. Although both countries were established on different rather opposite ideologies one being established in the name of Islam and the other on the basis of the Socialist ideals, the countries never involved in any ideological war against each other. Now China and Pakistan are considered strong allies and ‘all-weather friends’ of each other.

China's foreign policy towards Pakistan remained friendly and cooperative which convinced the Pakistani establishment to never spoil ties with the East Asian giant. Abdul Sattar argues in his book *Pakistan's foreign policy: 1947-2009 (2010)* that Mao Zedong adopted too cooperative policy approach to deal with Pakistan that the Pakistani policymakers got strong reasons to consider China a reliable ally (Sattar, 2010). For instance, the Mao Zedong regime gave some territory in Gilgit Baltistan back to Pakistan even after both countries had demarcated the international boundary. It was a goodwill gesture of Chairman

¹ NPR Cookie Consent and Choices. (2021). Retrieved 8 April 2021, from <https://www.npr.org/sections/the-two-way/2017/08/01/540841716/xi-jinping-china-wont-swallow-the-bitter-fruit-of-attacks-on-its-interests>

Roquyya Khatoon

Mao which boosted trust between Pakistan and China. Thereafter, China always supported Pakistan economically, politically, logistically, and diplomatically.

Like his predecessors, Xi Jinping also claimed to adopted a friendly policy to deal with Pakistan however his foreign policy approach raised many eyebrows. Previously, China had adopted a principled policy of non-intervention in the internal matters of Pakistan. According to Hamid Khan, the Pakistani policymakers were not as confident about anyone's friendship as they were about China's because of the supportive foreign policy of China towards Pakistan (Khan, 2005). It is not the case that Xi Jinping terrorized Pakistani policymakers rather he received Nishan-e-Pakistan, the highest civilian award of the country, from the government of Pakistan for boosting Sino-Pak friendship and converting it into strategic and economic cooperation; China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was the most prominent feature of Jinping's foreign policy towards Pakistan.

The CPEC gave confidence to the Pakistani establishment and the people to fight against the major crises however it also raised questions over the sovereignty of the South Asian Muslim country. Issues appeared when China's involvement increased in Pakistan's internal affairs after the rise of Xi Jinping in China. This research paper is an attempt to explore the changes in Jinping-led China's foreign policy towards Pakistan and analyze the regional implications of the change.

Jinping-led China's foreign policy is not in conformity with the 20th-century foreign policy towards Pakistan. Previously, China adopted a principle policy of non-intervention in the internal matters of Pakistan however Xi Jinping has reformed his policy to deal with the countries of South Asia including Pakistan. Jinping-led China does not hesitate to intervene in the internal affairs of Pakistan if it is necessary for China's so-called "core interests". China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has facilitated China to pursue its interest in Pakistan. China also has some justifications to defend its intervention like the poor governance of Pakistan and the threat of the US-India strategic partnership. It is an important change to be analyzed because it has put the sovereignty of Pakistan at stake.

Literature Review

The researcher reviewed a large number of research papers published relevant to this research. A literature review is an important part of research for it shows if the research topic is worthy to be researched and if any research has been done on the selected topic. The researcher reviewed journals and books to collect information and to assess her hypothesis that Jinping-led China's foreign policy is different from the East Asian country's foreign policy of the 20th century. The available literature suggests that the change in the policy was caused by the changed circumstances not only in China but also in South Asia.

China's Foreign Policy towards Pakistan before Xi Jinping

China always adopted such policies to deal with Pakistan which would increase trust and cooperation between China and Pakistan. Andrew Small argued that Mao Zedong did not want Pakistan to be afraid of Socialist China. Therefore, he carved out China's foreign policy towards Pakistan in such a way that the Pakistani establishment considered China a great friend (Small, 2015). This was the reason that the Pakistani government made it clear before the United States that Pakistan's membership of the South East Asian Treaty Organization (SEATO) should not be considered a move against China rather India. Mao gave much importance to Pakistani leaders that Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was the last foreign leader greeted by Chairman Mao while the latter was on his deathbed (Raza, 1997). The same approach was adopted by Mao's successors who simply supported Pakistan on every front whether it is defense or economy. The researcher found that almost all the writers agreed that China and Pakistan had great bilateral relations in the 20th century based on mutual trust and respect. China never tries to involve in the internal matters of Pakistan nor the Chinese leaders try to convince Pakistani leaders to adopt certain policies. Sattar, (2010) noted on page 64 of his book *Pakistan's Foreign Policy 1947-2009: A Concise History (2010)*:

“A unique characteristic of China's policy toward Pakistan was to observe implicit respect for Pakistan's sovereignty. The Chinese leaders did not even proffer unsolicited advice. During exchanges of views with their Pakistani counterparts, they would describe their own experiences and let Pakistanis draw the conclusion if they so wished” (Sattar, 2010).

Abdul Sattar has served Pakistan as a Foreign Minister and his words are valuable. His statement reveals that China had a great policy to deal with Pakistan as an equally respectable friend.

Change in China's Foreign Policy

Reviewed literature reveals that China's foreign policy changed towards Pakistan at the turn of the century. Zaki (2014) argued that Sino-Pak relations were destined to face changes with time. According to Zaki, China's rise brought an end to the Western hegemony in the world and the concentration of power shifted from the West to the East in the 21st century. Zaki (2014) also argued that China's foreign policy changed dramatically after the first decade of the contemporary century passed. Zhang (2016) wrote a valuable account on the foreign policy of China. He acknowledged that China's foreign policy changed in the 21st century drastically. The important segment of Zhang's argumentation was that he told his readers not to be surprised by the changing behavior of China in the current era rather the world needs to understand the Chinese perspective and should be willing to adjust with it because China's rise is inevitable (Zhang, 2016). Zhang argued that China's foreign policy was not changed towards a particular country rather it changed towards every country and the most important cause was the rise of China in the

Roquyya Khatoon

contemporary century. Zhang (2016) explained how China punished France, Germany, and other European countries for inviting Dalai Lama, a Buddhist religious leader of the Tibet region who is declared a terrorist by the Chinese authorities, and he is also wanted in many cases in China (Zhang, 2016).

Change in China's Foreign Policy towards Pakistan

China started reviewing its foreign policy towards Pakistan to tackle the threats to its "core interests". Core interests is a term used in China to explain what are the preferred factors which Chinese leaders consider while drawing out the national policies (Zeng, Xiao, & Breslin, 2015). During the 20th century, China's core interests included territorial integrity and sovereignty. However, the area of China's core interests is dynamic and it changes over time. The change in China's foreign policy can be seen in the Lal Masjid Operation in July 2007. Small (2010) argued that it was China's pressure over the Pakistani government which led to the operation at a famous mosque in the capital city of the country. "Chinese *massage workers* were kidnapped" and the Chinese government forced the Pakistani counterparts to deal with the Mullah Abdul Aziz brigade, holders of Lal Masjid, with iron hands (Small, 2010). It was the first noticeable interference by China in the internal affairs of Pakistan. It was the era of Hu Jintao in China and Xi Jinping was stretching his muscles to become the supreme leader of his country. Frankel (2011) wrote a journal explaining the potential causes of changing the foreign policy of China towards South Asian countries including Pakistan. He argued that China became more conscious about its interests in South Asia and the Indian Ocean when its economic performance improved and it surpassed Japan as the second-largest economy to the end of the first decade of the 21st century. According to Frankel, India's rivalry made China apprehensive about its rise as a Global Super Power: "Submerged tensions between India and China have pushed to the surface, revealing a deep and wide strategic rivalry over several security-related issues in the Asia-Pacific area" (Frankel, 2011). Such circumstances convinced China to change its policy of non-intervention and show a willingness to manipulate the policies of other countries if it was necessary for the security of China's national interest.

Jinping-led China's Foreign Policy towards Pakistan

A large quantity of literature is available explaining Jinping's foreign policy towards Pakistan and other countries of South Asia. Ferdinand (2016) wrote a comprehensive journal about Xi Jinping's foreign policy. In his article *Westward ho—the China dream and 'one belt, one road* (2016) argued that change in China's foreign policy was ignited by the "China dream". China dream is a term used by the Chinese to express their dream of prosperity and development. It is somehow similar to the famous "American Dream", according to the Chinese. However, the Western writers argue that the China dream refers to the emergence

China's Foreign Policy towards Pakistan 2012-2020

of China as a global superpower. Nevertheless, Jinping was perhaps the most discussed Chinese leader by researchers and scholars. The most celebrated thing about Jinping's policies was his One Belt One Road (OBOR), also called Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Ferdinand claimed that the BRI was a plan of Xi Jinping to increase the influence of China on the whole world. Rahman & Shurong (2017) argued that Pakistan was pivotal for China to increase its influence in the region that is why Jinping decided to manipulate Pakistan's policies to have an active presence in South Asia. Iqbal (2018) did not acknowledge that China was trying to compromise Pakistan's status as a sovereign state. Rather, he argued that Jinping was awarded Pakistan's highest civil award for his contributions to enhance Sino-Pak cooperation through China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Khan (2019) agreed with Iqbal (2018) on this point of argument and he added that it was a propagandist approach to consider that Jinping had any ill intentions behind CPEC. Poh & Li (2017) were of the view that Xi Jinping had revolutionized China's foreign policy and China would not hesitate to interfere internal matters of any country (including Pakistan) if it was important for China's national interest.

Gap in Research

Many researchers have produced research papers arguing that China has changed its foreign policy under Xi Jinping however almost none of the researchers could explain the actual motives behind the changed foreign policy. Also, the available pieces of research could not explain whether China's changed foreign policy was harmful to other countries or otherwise. The researcher found a geographic change in the narrative of the researchers. For instance, Chinese and Pakistani writers almost disagreed with the thought that China was interfering in the internal matters of other countries including Pakistan. On the other hand, Indian and Western writers argued that China was interfering in the internal affairs of other countries in a criminal way. For instance, Khan (2019) simply disregarded any arguments telling that China was interested in colonizing other countries through debt trap. Abid & Ashfaq (2015) presented similar arguments saying that China was just helping Pakistan through CPEC and US-India was trying to sabotage the Sino-Pak relationship and cooperation. On the other hand, Small (2015) argued that China was establishing an active physical presence in Pakistan to counter India in the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean. In this paper, the researcher will explore and analyze if China under Xi Jinping changed its foreign policy towards Pakistan. the researcher will also attempt to explore and analyze the potential factors which might have encouraged Xi Jinping to revise the foreign policy of China drastically. Apart from that, the researcher will attempt to bridge the gap between Pakistani and foreign researchers who have produced pieces of research presenting opposite arguments.

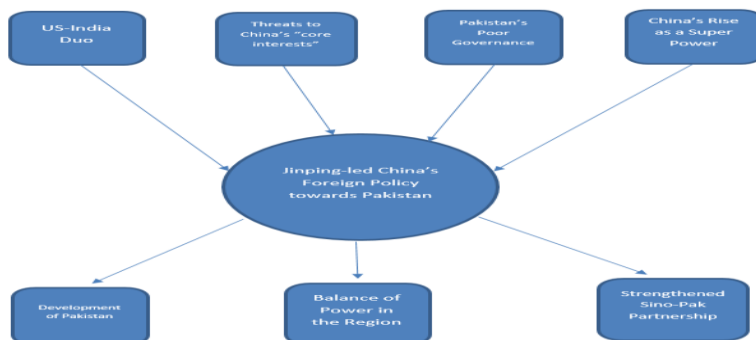
Methodology and Framework

Research Methodology

The methodology is an important part of research that justifies the credibility of a research paper. If a researcher uses a reliable methodology, the research becomes a credible one. In this paper, the researcher will use qualitative research methodology to complete the study. Denzin and Lincoln (2005) define qualitative research in the following words: “Qualitative research is multimethod in focus, involving an interpretative, naturalistic approach to its subject matter. This means that qualitative researchers study things in their natural settings” (Denzin, & Lincoln, 2005). The researcher has planned to study Xi Jinping’s foreign policy towards Pakistan. Journals, news articles, and official statements will be assessed to analyze the policy.

Framework

Political Realism theory guides this study which implies that Jinping’s foreign policy is guided by China’s “core interests”. The said theory “emphasizes the role of the nation-state and makes a broad assumption that all nation-states are motivated by national interests, or, at best, national interests disguised as moral concerns” (Spegele, 1996). China’s national interests are termed as its “core interests”. The researcher has a view that Jinping is just trying to protect the national interest of his country in this way or that way; this is what the theory suggests. The conceptual framework of this research implies that Jinping’s particular foreign policy towards Pakistan was influenced by four major factors: US-India strategic partnership, Threats to Chinese trade, Pakistan’s poor governance, and China’s rise as a global power. Further, the framework suggests that China’s current foreign policy should be assessed by the results that it has produced. The following picture shows the conceptual framework of this study.



(Figure 1: Conceptual Framework drawn by the Researcher)

China's Foreign Policy towards Pakistan 2012-2020

The following discussion is based on all the points of the conceptual framework described in Figure 1.

China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is considered the most prominent facet of Jinping's foreign policy towards Pakistan. CPEC is a network of energy and infrastructure projects started by China in Pakistan to make this South Asian Muslim country a suitable host of international economic activities and a reliable corridor for international trade. Soon after his rise as the President of China, Jinping announced to open a trade route titled One Belt One Road (OBOR) through the five continents of the old world. CPEC was announced as the flagship project of the OBOR. Initially, \$46 billion were allocated for investment in Pakistan which was increased to \$62 in a few years. It means that Jinping wanted Pakistan to stay confident about China's supportive policies towards Pakistan. The following discussion revolves around CPEC and its significance.

Projects Under CPEC

CPEC is not a single project rather a network of projects spread all over Pakistan. Precisely, CPEC is a trade corridor that starts from Khunjerab Pass (at the Sino-Pak border) and ends in Gwadar Port of Pakistan. A network of roads and railway tracks spreading all over the country makes the movement of goods and logistics easier. It also connects China's Xinxiang province with the Arabian Sea. CPEC is comprised of four major kinds of projects.

Energy Projects

When Xi Jinping announced that China would start trade through Pakistan, the latter was facing a severe energy crisis that would make it impossible for any project to get completed. Load-shedding of power was such a major issue for Pakistan that the PMLN won the general elections of 2013 by adding the issue into its election manifesto. Therefore, China decided to address Pakistan's most important issue of the time (The Nation, 2013). For this purpose, \$32 billion of the total investment was designated to start energy projects in Pakistan. According to the official website of the Ministry of Planning, at least 23 different energy projects were started by China in Pakistan (Ministry of Planning, 2021). The projects included Sahiwal 2x660MW Coal-fired Power Plants in Punjab, 2x660MW Coal-fired Power Plants at Port Qasim Karachi, Quaid-e-Azam 1000MW Solar Park (Bahawalpur), HUBCO Coal Power Project, Hub in Balochistan, and nineteen others. The projects included hydro, coal, and solar power projects. These projects were so influential that Pakistan addressed its issue of load-shedding by 2017-2019 (Abid, & Ashfaq, 2015).

Roquyya Khatoon

Infrastructure Projects

The poor infrastructure of Pakistan was another important hindrance in the easier transport of goods through the country. Therefore, China allocated around \$20 billion for the construction of new roads, highways, and railway tracks in Pakistan. Khuzdar-Basima Road N-30, Peshawar-Karachi Motorway (Multan-Sukkur Section), Expansion and reconstruction of existing Line ML-1, and some other similar projects were started in this regard (Ministry of Planning, 2021).

Communication Projects

To develop Pakistan's communication system, China also allocated around \$40 million for two important projects. The projects are named as Cross Border Optical Fiber Cable and Pilot Project of Digital Terrestrial Multimedia Broadcast (DTMB). These projects were initiated to ensure that Pakistan's communication system meets the requirements of international communication systems (Ministry of Planning, 2021).

Development of Gwadar Port

Gwadar is the focal point of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). It may be right to say that all the above-mentioned projects were launched to ensure China's easier access to the port of Pakistan. Gwadar port was already under the control of the Chinese government when Xi Jinping rose to power. According to the official website of the Ministry of Planning, around \$700 million were allocated for the development of Gwadar Port. Construction of Breakwaters, Gwadar East-Bay Expressway, New Gwadar International Airport, Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute at Gwadar, and four other projects were launched at Gwadar port to develop the port according to international standards (Ministry of Planning, 2021).

Significance of CPEC for Pakistan

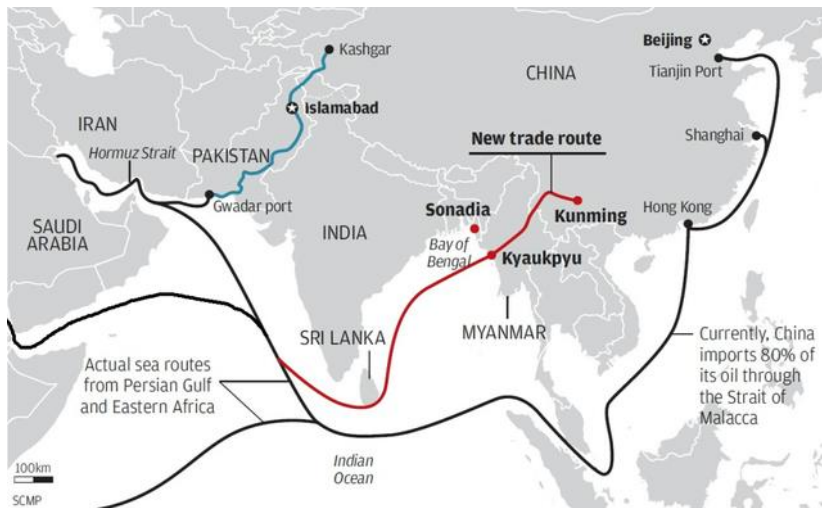
For Pakistan, CPEC brought the largest ever Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the country. Indeed, many countries invested in Pakistan to help its economy however CPEC appeared as a "game-changer" (Malik, 2018). The impact of CPEC can be assessed from the fact that two major issues of Pakistan i.e., terrorism and load-shedding fade away soon after the introduction of CPEC.

CPEC has the potential to make Pakistan a regional hub of economic activities. China has planned to do all its trade with Middle Eastern countries and Africa through Pakistan. It means that Pakistan would become a center for international trade when all the projects under CPEC become operational. Also, China has planned to connect Central Asia with Pakistan through Afghanistan. Hence, Pakistan would provide a way to all those countries which are now

planning to start direct trade with Central Asian countries (Ashraf, Shafiq, & Batool, 2017).

Significance of CPEC for China

CPEC is very important for China because of many reasons like a substitute for trade through the South China Sea, the opportunity to establish a physical presence in the Indian Ocean, and a cheaper trade route. Currently, China is trading through the Strait of Malacca in the South China Sea where it has disputes with regional countries like Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Australia over the possession of the territory. It is called “China’s Malacca Dilemma” (TribuneIndia., 2021). Due to CPEC, China has a reliable substitute for the Strait of Malacca. As the substitute of the said strait, the CPEC route is not only cheaper but also a shorter and safer route to be used for Chinese trade.



(Figure 2: from Steemit.com)

The Figure 2 shows that the route through Pakistan is much shorter by comparing with the route through the South China Sea. The map shows that around 80% of China’s oil passes through the Strait of Malacca which is both costly and risky for the East Asian country. Through Pakistan, China can have an easier and safer movement (Khurshid, Rashid, & Zahid, 2018). Another important feature of the CPEC for China is that it has facilitated China to establish its physical presence in the Indian Ocean to counter India's dominance in the region. Gwadar Port is already administered by China which has helped China to keep an eye on the movement through the Arabian Sea. If Sino-Pak cooperation keeps increasing, China might have its navy patrolling in the Arabian Sea. This is the problem being discussed in this paper that whether China's presence in the Arabian Sea is acceptable for Pakistan or not.

Reasons behind the Changed Foreign Policy of China

China's changed foreign policy (especially under Xi Jinping) towards Pakistan is caused by certain potential reasons. Political Realism insists that the nation-state system cannot be undermined and national leaders never compromise on the national interest of their countries. The Nation-state system focuses on the centrality of nation-states (sovereign countries) rather than on anything else. This system is not against globalization rather it advocates for globalization without compromising anyone's sovereignty. China is currently perhaps the most significant proponent of globalization however it also has clarified that the "core interests" of China will never be compromised at any cost. While talking to the annual conference at Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, Xi Jinping advocated for globalization in the following words: "Openness enables a country to move forward, while seclusion holds it back. In today's world where economic globalization has become an irreversible trend, no country can develop itself by keeping its doors closed" (Chinese Embassy, 2020). These words might look odd from the mouth of a person who is considered the leader of Chinese henchmen however this is what the previous researchers could not comprehend about Jinping's foreign policy approach. Jinping's statements and actions suggest that he is not a 'protectionist' leader who believes in isolating China (Fajgelbaum, et al., 2020). Rather, he acknowledges that China has benefitted from globalization and it should prevail albeit not at the cost of China's national interest. Jinping's particular foreign policy approach cannot be considered a personal choice of Xi Jinping rather it was influenced by the following factors.

China's Rise a Global Power

China improved its economic performance dramatically during the last decade of the 20th century and the first decade of the 21st century. By 2011, China had brought more than 30 million people out of extreme poverty. In 2016, China set another target to lift more than 70 million people out of extreme poverty by 2020 which it successfully achieved in the targeted year (Li, Su, & Liu, 2016). By 2011, China had become the second-largest economy in the world, a status that it holds to date. Now, China has its eyes over the topnotch among the nation-states of the world. Such rapid progress meant that China would need revised policies that can protect its national interest in the changed world order.

US-India Strategic Partnership

Development and prosperity bring happiness however they also bring new challenges like China faced a challenge in the form of the US-India Strategic Partnership. India spoiled its relations with China soon after both countries established bilateral relations. They fought a war in 1962 where India faced a decisive defeat. Since then, India and China could never develop a relationship

China's Foreign Policy towards Pakistan 2012-2020

based on mutual trust and cooperation. Further, both countries are struggling to become regional hegemony. It was almost impossible for India to create serious challenges for China and the challenges which it could create were checkmated by Pakistan. The problem occurred when the United States felt uncomfortable due to the rise of China as a global power. To counter the rise of China, the United States enhanced cooperation with India. The reader might create a question that why China had to revise its foreign policy to deal with Pakistan if it had concerns with India and the USA, not Pakistan? The following discussion might suggest an answer.

Threats to China's Core Interests

Another important factor that might have shaped Jinping's particular foreign policy towards Pakistan the threats which Jinping oversaw to the "core interests" of his country. Jinping's statement quoted at the start of this paper reveals that Jinping has a principled stance to protect China's core interests at any cost. China's core interests include territorial integrity, unquestionable sovereignty, and a developing economy. The alliance of the United States and India against China insisted Xi Jinping adopt a robust foreign policy approach towards South Asia including Pakistan.

Pakistan's Poor Governance

China has always stood by Pakistan in all kinds of circumstances and it helped Pakistan a lot to defend itself against India. Pakistan's deterrence against India would not have been possible without China's support. Pakistan is a nuclear power despite having a fragile economy, thanks to the Chinese role in the development of nuclear weapons (Khan, 2012). It means that China has always considered Pakistan a permanent ally against India. However, Pakistan's poor governance and inability to deal with issues like terrorism, load-shedding, and India's propaganda against the CPEC might have convinced Xi Jinping to enhance China's role in South Asia whether it is at the cost of Pakistan's sovereignty. Had the Pakistani government handled the matters at home independently, Xi Jinping would not have chosen to increase China's role in Pakistan compromises Pakistan's status as a sovereign state.

Potential Impacts of Jinping-led China's Foreign Policy on Pakistan

The researcher believes that a better way to analyze Jinping-led China's foreign policy towards Pakistan is to study the consequences of the policy. The following changes occurred in Pakistan while Jinping was ruling China.

Strengthened Sino-Pak Partnership

Jinping's foreign policy approach towards Pakistan can be criticized for interfering with the internal affairs of Pakistan however none other than Jinping could bring two nations as nearer as they are today. Jinping's proposed CPEC brought fresh air to Pakistan which was exhausted by terrorism, poor economy, poor governance, and load-shedding of power. After the introduction of CPEC, Pakistan addressed almost all the mentioned issues in a few years. Also, the Sino-Pak partnership reached new heights and the Pakistani government decided to award Jinping with *Nishan e Pakistan*, the highest civil award of the country (Talib, et al., 2019).

Development in Pakistan

It might be called an exaggeration of the facts however CPEC just changed the face of Pakistan in a few years. Pakistan of the pre-CPEC era was too fragile a country that life of Pakistanis had become miserable and they do not have left with any strong friends in the world. People of Pakistan were being killed by terrorists on one hand and being labeled as terrorists on the other. India exploited the opportunity to suppress Pakistan before the international community by calling it "Mother of Terrorism" (Amjad, Usman, & Amjad, 2018). Pakistan was so helpless that it could not convince the world about its innocence. It was the arrival of the CPEC that encouraged Pakistan to speak against Indian propaganda and the U.S. pressure to "do more".

All the development which was caused by CPEC just changed the attitude of Pakistan. Terrorism faded away in a few years except for rare attempts made by Indian-sponsored separatists. Pakistan arrested an Indian navy commander Kulbhushan Jadev and proved that it was not Pakistan rather India which sponsored terrorism (Iqbal, 2017). Pakistan's economic growth reached 5.5% in 2016 from 1.33% in 2010 (Gokmenoglu, Amin, & Taspinar, 2015). Such facts insist on the researcher that Jinping-led China's foreign policy has produced beneficial results for Pakistan.

Balance of Power in The Region

Jinping-led China's foreign policy has checkmated US-India strategic partnership by enhancing cooperation and strengthening partnership with Pakistan. the United States and India are worried because of China's increasing influence in the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean. Pakistan Navy does not have enough resources to counter the Indian threat in the Arabian Sea and India can create challenges for China's trade similar to that are in the South China Sea. China's increasing role might be called a challenge for Pakistan but the current circumstances do not suggest any such thing. However, the perception that China has established its presence in Pakistan has made India cautious and reluctant to adopt offensive policies against Pakistan. Hence, a balance of power has emerged in this region.

Recommendations

All the arguments presented in the above discussion suggest that Jinping's changed foreign policy towards Pakistan was caused by certain factors. Also, the policy has not produced any harmful circumstances for Pakistan yet. However, Pakistan still needs to take some precautionary measures to protect its sovereign status. The following steps may be helpful for Pakistan.

Benefit from CPEC Projects

China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has emerged as a historic opportunity for Pakistan. Pakistan must benefit from the projects of CPEC to improve its economy.

Improve Governance

Bad governance can never protect the sovereignty of any country. If Pakistan does not want to become an imperial colony of China, it must improve governance. Pakistan's governance system is an expired British era system where innovation is almost non-existent. The government's servants consider them "Queen's Representatives" (Oberklaid, 2003). Therefore, most of the civil servants do not like to work much. Pakistan's policymakers need to introduce structural reforms to improve the governance in the country.

Try to Minimize Rivalry Especially With Neighbors

CPEC has enabled Pakistan to become a regional hub of economic activities. In such a scenario, Pakistan cannot endure the burden of wars at its borders. If a country is in a state of war, exploiters feel easier to benefit from the chaos. Therefore, Pakistani policymakers must bring an end to rivalry with neighbors like India and Afghanistan.

Conclusion

Xi Jinping appeared as an exceptional Chinese leader in the 21st century. He revolutionized China's policies including China's foreign policy towards Pakistan. This research explores the changes brought by Xi Jinping in the foreign policy of China. One major change in China's changed policy is that Jinping-led China does not hesitate to interfere with the internal matters of other countries if it is necessary for its national interest per se "core interests". Using qualitative research methodology, the researcher studied the case of Chinese foreign policy towards Pakistan especially focusing on Xi Jinping's era. The problem statement of the research insisted that the changed foreign policy must be evaluated whether it is harmful to Pakistan or otherwise. The researcher reviewed a large quantity of

Roquyya Khatoon

literature exploring if any previous researcher focused on this point. None of the researchers evaluated the changed foreign policy of China concerning Pakistan. Therefore, the researcher explored the facts about China's foreign policy to assess the impacts of the policy on Pakistan. The researcher found that China's changing foreign policy did not create any harmful impacts on Pakistan. China's presence at Gwadar Port did not scare Pakistan however India and the United States were too much worried about China's increasing role in South Asia. To date, Xi Jinping's foreign policy has brought Pakistan and China nearer. Nevertheless, Pakistan still needs to improve its governance and should take responsibility rather than depending on China or any other country. Otherwise, Pakistan would always remain vulnerable to foreign invasion.

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China's Foreign Policy towards Pakistan 2012-2020

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Roquyya Khatoon

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