

## **CPEC – A Flagship of New Silk Road: Perceptions of ‘Sinophilia’ and ‘Sinophobia’ in Pakistan\***

**Syed Raghav Ali and Ishtiaq Ahmed Chaudhri**

### **Abstract**

The present research explores the perceptions of opinion leaders of Pakistan about Sinophilia and Sinophobia under regional dynamics of New Silk Road (NSR) within the contexts of Regional Integration and Regional Security Complex Theory for political, social and security aspects of CPEC. A survey from 400 opinion leaders; Educationists, Journalists, Bureaucrats and Security Personnel, in Lahore, Capital City of Punjab, Pakistan was conducted to detect the perceptions. Existing knowledge about the project (IV), demographics of respondents were measured. Positive political impact on Pakistan and China, Positive and Negative social impacts of CPEC on Pakistan (MO), and Positive impacts of CPEC on Pakistan and China were tested. ANOVA and Linear Regression Analysis were applied. PLS-SEM was also applied to test the proposed model. The study found the influential impacts of existing knowledge, political and social impacts on security matters related to CPEC for both Pakistan and China under NSR.

**Keywords:** New Silk Road; CPEC; Pak-China Relations; Opinion Leaders; Perceptions

### **Introduction**

NSR has become signature policy of China (Clover & Hornby 2015) that was initiated by Xi Jinping, President of China, on September 7, 2013, then deliberations have been echoed in multi dimensions. These deliberations focused political, economic, trade, and cultural circles in the direction of of policy harmonization, road connectivity, money flow and mutual consideration between different parties (Zuokui, 2015) in technological transformation, legislation, adjustment of social norms, and security matters on international, national and regional level.

The NSR is personified into One Belt One Road. It has three masts; first, mushrooming financial enhancement for creating new horizons through means of infrastructure, second, establishing new bonds among China and other countries, third,

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\* The article is based on the deductions from PhD dissertation by the author titled “New Silk Road: Evolving Regional Dynamics with Special Focus on Pak-China Relations” at peace and conflict studies department, NDU Islamabad.

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getting attention to Asia (Nazarko et al., 2016). Chinese President Xi Jinping signed MOU of CPEC in the framework of “1+4” cooperation mode on his visit to Pakistan in April 2015. Pakistan and China took CPEC as essential both countries especially for Gawadar, Energy, Transport Infrastructure and Industrial Cooperation. The CPEC became somewhat functional on 13 November 2016 when Chinese cargo of 250 containers was transported overland from Xinjiang to Gwadar Port for consignment to other countries of the world (Nazarko et al., 2016).

In spite of all these economic activities related to CPEC under NSR Initiative, some security matters are also related to this project, especially all those concerns which India is pinpointing on construction of CPEC route in Gilgit-Baltistan incision to Kashmir and construction of naval base on Gawadar port will have Chinese submarines in Arabian, a constant threat to Indian expansion in future. In hanging out this, the new silkroad and the construction of CPEC raised some questions in Pakistan, According to Ali (2016), the sense of scarcity is prevailing in province Baluchistan on CPEC project.

The construction phase of the project may face various security challenges. Also, the CPEC project has infrastructure routes that pass-through areas undergoing conflict and civil war. Therefore, Pakistan’s government has also requested to ensure the security of Pakistani and Chinese nationals deployed on the construction (Hassan, 2016).

Under NSR, it is planned that CPEC would pass through Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa KPK connected with Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). Balochistan and FATA may pose security threats because of their politically deviant perspectives (Masood, Farooq & Hussain, 2016).

Hence, internal major challenges in the path of successful completion of this project include political instability and security issues (Zubedi et al., 2018).

Since the announcement of CPEC under NSR from Kashgar to Gawadar in Pakistan, a euphoric wave of debates is going on in and out of country discussing the different dimensions of this project. The friends of Pakistan are happy, whereas, foes are planning to sabotage this project and they are proliferating the negative propaganda against this project in Pakistan and abroad. In Pakistan, they also are highlighting security concerns within the country and abroad. Especially towards India that has much concerns about this project. Her involvement to damage this very project has been verified by many covert missions and it was also highlighted by several open forums. The involvement of Indian secret agency Raw in harming the project and

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Indian Prime Minister’s open statements and agitation to Chinese high ups about this project is not a secret now. Therefore, it imperative to study CPEC with different aspects and detect the perceptions in opinion leaders of Pakistan because opinion leaders not only form the opinion of masses but also alter the perception into new direction. It will be helpful to determine the future direction on CPEC.

Acharya (2018) defines Regional Integration constitutes of several regional cores or regional world. As Herz indicates, ‘the term “region” in fact originates from the idea of rule, as in revere, command, and we shall be looking into regions as the locus for the production of norms, public policy, and dispute mechanisms as a result of the choices by governing elites in the countries that form the region’ (Nolte, 2016). According to Buzan (2011), regions and regionalism have developed the essential entities of today’s world politics.

Van Langenhove (2011) also endorses the concept of Regional Integration, as he defines it as the cooperation between states. Under this cooperation states remove economic barriers, building institutions and regulations for delivery of public goods, and present the unified region with some level of control. He believes that this state of art provides three variabilities of RI, a single market, a provider of services, and an international actor with a certain notch of influence in world affairs.

Barry Buzan is pioneer to address the concept of Regional Security as an issue (Stone, 2009). Buzan articulates that national security of any country cannot be understood without the understanding of international patterns of security interdependence in which national security is personified. According to him, national security is interactive phenomenon, one influences the other (Buzan, 2018).

In his analysis of regional security and how it affects, Buzan offers several interesting and important concepts. The first is “amity and enmity among states” (Buzan, 2008). In other words, it can be explained as relationships between states that can represent a spectrum from friendship or alliances to those marked by fear.

In the context of Buzan’s concept of amity/enmity, it necessary to understand China’s position in neighboring countries especially in Pakistan. This perception already exists in central Asian countries towards china’s expansion in the region. To somehow, they wish to get mutual ties on economic cooperation with China but they have waves of fears in their masses as well in administration about the expansion of China in the region. How China will strengthen its existence in bordering countries is going to depend partially on the tactics and insolences of these states themselves.

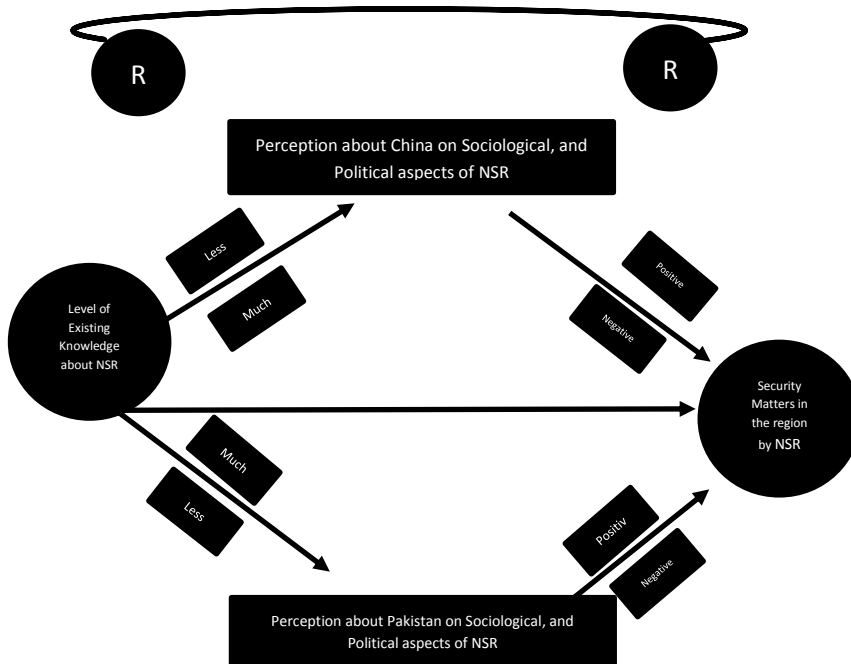
The neighboring states are at once desirous of the growing Chinese presence, wanting to take advantage of its economic dynamism and geostrategic influence, but also fearful of its potential demographic and cultural clout (Peyrouse, 2016).

In the light of above discussion, the present research focuses, whether opinion leaders of Pakistan have the perceptions that the CPEC under NSR provide mutual political interest of both countries, and is it a provider of service and policies on mutual grounds in political scenario for both Pakistan and China?

The Regional Security Complex Theory by Buzan linked the security to the social and cultural aspects of the states. For future success of CPEC deeply depends on the perception of people in Pakistan. This study provides the grounds for policy makers to construct the future policy on CPEC while understanding the true picture of the perceptions of opinion leaders in political, social and security matters.

The proposed model of the research Fig.1 represents that the study is conducted under the theoretical frameworks of Regional Integration (RI) and Regional Security Complex (RSC).

*Figure 1. Proposed Model of Study*



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The study explores the regional dynamics of the NSR with special focus on Pak-China Relations, while getting the perceptions of opinion leaders based on their previous knowledge about CPEC under the New Silk Road in Sociological, and Political aspects. The study also explores whether the perceptions about China towards CPEC under the NSR have similarities and dissimilarity and in which direction these similarities and dissimilarities are cultivating the security matters in the minds of Pakistani people. Therefore, it is essential to understand the waves of Sinophilia and Sinophobia in Pakistan to construct the policies in future with special reference to Pak-China relations under CPEC. The present research determines the perceptions of opinion leaders about Sinophilia and Sinophobia in Pakistan in sociological, political, and security matters. The present research is an attempt to answer the following questions;

- RS1** To what extent opinion leaders in Pakistan have the positive political perception about CPEC under News Silk Road for Pakistan and China varied in the security matters of China and Pakistan related to the said project?
- RS2** To what extent people having the Positive/Negative perception about CPEC under News Silk Road for Pakistan varied in the security matters of China and Pakistan related to CPEC?

### **Methods**

The survey method was applied in the present research to investigate the existing knowledge of the opinion leaders about CPEC under the NSR and their perceptions about sociological, political and security aspects of CPEC under the NSR. The opinion leaders in the capital city of Punjab, Lahore were the population of the study. The reasons for selection of Lahore city are several as compared to any other city of Pakistan. First, it is a cosmopolitan city, people settled in Lahore belong to all over the Punjab. The survey was conducted from the different opinion leaders of the society; university teachers, politicians, bureaucrats and security officials working in Lahore. To understand the level of their understanding towards CPEC under the NSR Road for regional integration and security matters. While doing so, researcher applied culture sampling techniques to select 100 respondents from each category. Sample size was consisted of 400 respondents of all four segments of population; university teachers, politicians, bureaucrats and security officials. The existing knowledge of the respondents about CPEC under the New Silk Road was concerned as Independent Variables in this research.

The perception about CPEC under the NSR and Demographics of respondent were taken as moderating variables of the research. The security matters related to CPEC under the New Silk Road in the region was taken as dependent variables. The Questionnaire was designed having three parts; a) demographic information, b) knowledge about CPEC under NSR, and c) perception about CPEC under the NSR on Sociological, and Political, and Security matters (See Appendix). In part 'a' respondent was asked to mention his/her name, age, gender, age, hometown, province and profession. Later the name, hometown, gender and province were not taken to check the influence on perceptions. The part 'b' four questions were asked to check their existing level about NSR. The part 'c' related to get the perception of respondent on CPEC under NSR, the researcher designed, Political Positive Scale For China (Seven Items, Mean =44.11, SD =11.50, Cronbach Alpha=.829), Political Positive Scale For Pakistan (Seven Items, Mean =39.50, SD =11.42, Cronbach Alpha =.812) , Sociological Positive Scale for Pakistan (Seven Items 7, Mean = 38.86, SD =11.27, Cronbach Alpha =.724), Sociological Negative Scale for Pakistan (Seven Items, Mean =33.97, SD =11.26, Cronbach Alpha=.713) , and Security Positive Scale for China (Seven Items, Mean =42.60, SD=12.25, Cronbach Alpha=.817), Security Positive Scale for Pakistan (Seven Items, Mean =42.50, SD= 11.79, Cronbach Alpha=.806), (See Appendix). ANOVA with Tukey test, and Regression Analysis were used for analyzing the Data. PLS-SEM was also applied to predict the appropriate model for policy makers to design future policy on CPEC under the New Silk Road in the light of Regional Dynamics with Special Focus on Pak-China Relations.

### 3.0 Results and Discussion

**Table 1**

*Profession of Opinion Leaders and Perceptions on CPEC about Pak-China Security*

		N	Mean	SD	SE	95% CI for M		Min	Max
						L B	U B		
Security_Positive_China	Civil Servant	100	44.3300	14.78742	1.47874	41.3959	47.2641	4.00	70.00
	Educationist	100	43.3300	11.01978	1.10198	41.1434	45.5166	15.00	70.00
	Security (Police)	100	37.0400	8.99037	.89904	35.2561	38.8239	14.00	56.00
	Journalist	100	45.7000	11.83344	1.18334	43.3520	48.0480	11.00	70.00
	Total	400	42.6000	12.25665	.61283	41.3952	43.8048	4.00	70.00
Security_Positive_Pakistan	Civil Servant	100	43.7500	14.04853	1.40485	40.9625	46.5375	5.00	70.00
	Educationist	100	42.9100	9.85664	.98566	40.9542	44.8658	21.00	70.00
	Security (Police)	100	37.9400	8.77648	.87765	36.1986	39.6814	19.00	56.00
	Journalist	100	45.4100	12.54253	1.25425	42.9213	47.8987	10.00	70.00
	Total	400	42.5025	11.78929	.58946	41.3437	43.6613	5.00	70.00

**ANOVA**

		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Security_Positive_China	Between Groups	4404.940	3	1468.313	10.470	.000
	Within Groups	55535.060	396	140.240		
	Total	59940.000	399			
Security_Positive_Pakistan	Between Groups	3099.227	3	1033.076	7.814	.000
	Within Groups	52356.770	396	132.214		
	Total	55455.998	399			

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Tukey							
DV	(I) Profession	(J) Profession	M D (I-J)	S E	Sig.	95% C I	
						L B	U B
Security_Positive_China	Civil Servant	Educationist	1.00000	1.67475	.933	-3.3208	5.3208
		Security (Police)	7.29000*	1.67475	.000	2.9692	11.6108
		Journalist	-1.37000	1.67475	.846	-5.6908	2.9508
	Educationist	Civil Servant	-1.00000	1.67475	.933	-5.3208	3.3208
		Security (Police)	6.29000*	1.67475	.001	1.9692	10.6108
		Journalist	-2.37000	1.67475	.491	-6.6908	1.9508
	Security (Police)	Civil Servant	-7.29000*	1.67475	.000	-11.6108	-2.9692
		Educationist	-6.29000*	1.67475	.001	-10.6108	-1.9692
		Journalist	-8.66000*	1.67475	.000	-12.9808	-4.3392
	Journalist	Civil Servant	1.37000	1.67475	.846	-2.9508	5.6908
		Educationist	2.37000	1.67475	.491	-1.9508	6.6908
		Security (Police)	8.66000*	1.67475	.000	4.3392	12.9808
Civil Servant	Educationist	.84000	1.62612	.955	-3.3554	5.0354	
	Security (Police)	5.81000*	1.62612	.002	1.6146	10.0054	
	Journalist	-1.66000	1.62612	.737	-5.8554	2.5354	
Security_Positive_Pakistan	Educationist	Civil Servant	-.84000	1.62612	.955	-5.0354	3.3554
		Security (Police)	4.97000*	1.62612	.013	.7746	9.1654
		Journalist	-2.50000	1.62612	.416	-6.6954	1.6954
	Security (Police)	Civil Servant	-5.81000*	1.62612	.002	-10.0054	-1.6146
		Educationist	-4.97000*	1.62612	.013	-9.1654	-.7746
		Journalist	-7.47000*	1.62612	.000	-11.6654	-3.2746
Journalist	Civil Servant	1.66000	1.62612	.737	-2.5354	5.8554	
	Educationist	2.50000	1.62612	.416	-1.6954	6.6954	
		Security (Police)	7.47000*	1.62612	.000	3.2746	11.6654



Table 1 reports that opinion leaders had statistically significant difference  $p < .5$  due to their profession on the perception of positive penetration in security matters for China within the region due to CPEC under New Silk Road,  $F(3,396) = 10.470$ ,  $p = .000$ . The actual difference between the groups was .13 which showed the medium effect of profession. Tukey test indicated that the mean score of security personnel was different from Civil Servants (Mean Difference (MD) =  $-7.29000^*$ ,  $SO = 1.67475$ ), Educationist (MD =  $-6.29000^*$ ,  $SO = 1.67475$ ) and Journalists (MD =  $-8.66000^*$ ,  $SO = 1.67475$ ). The security personnel had less positive perception of China as compared to other professionals due to CPEC which has been constructed on the New Silk Road Project. The present research observed the same trend on the positive perception of CPEC for Pakistan,  $F(3,396) = 7.814$ ,  $p = .000$ . But the actual difference between the groups was .05 which showed the small effect on the perception towards security matters on CPEC under NSR. The security personnel had less positive perception as compared to Civil Servants (MD =  $-5.81000^*$ ,  $SO = 1.62612$ ), Educationists (MD =  $-4.97000$ ,  $SO = -4.97000$ ), and Journalists (MD =  $-7.47000^*$ ,  $SO = 1.62612$ ).

**Table 2**  
*Discussion of Opinion Leaders and Perceptions about Pak-China Security*

		N	M	SD	SE	95% CI for M		Min	Max
						LB	U B		
Security_Positive_China	We Regularly have discussion on CPEC	47	36.3404	12.17138	1.77538	32.7668	39.9141	11.00	70.00
	We Often have discussion on CPEC	193	41.9275	11.91965	.85800	40.2352	43.6198	9.00	70.00
	We Rarely have discussion on CPEC	110	45.9273	12.00589	1.14472	43.6585	48.1961	12.00	70.00
	We don't have discussion on CPEC	50	43.7600	11.88475	1.68076	40.3824	47.1376	4.00	67.00
	Total	400	42.6000	12.25665	.61283	41.3952	43.8048	4.00	70.00
Security_Positive_Pakistan	We Regularly have discussion on CPEC	47	38.0851	11.32874	1.65247	34.7589	41.4114	10.00	70.00
	We Often have discussion on CPEC	193	42.2902	11.48272	.82654	40.6599	43.9204	5.00	70.00
	We Rarely have discussion on CPEC	110	44.0273	12.14549	1.15803	41.7321	46.3224	12.00	70.00
	We don't have discussion on CPEC	50	44.1200	11.81946	1.67152	40.7609	47.4791	21.00	70.00
	Total	400	42.5025	11.78929	.58946	41.3437	43.6613	5.00	70.00

#### ANOVA

	S of Sqs.	df	M Sq.	F	Sig.
Security_Positive_China	3213.924	3	1071.308	7.479	.000
	56726.076	396	143.248		
	59940.000	399			
Security_Positive_Pakistan	1312.388	3	437.463	3.200	.023
	54143.609	396	136.726		
	55455.998	399			

<b>Tukey</b>							
<b>D V</b>	<b>(I) Q4</b>	<b>(J) Q4</b>	<b>MD (I-J)</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>Sig.</b>	<b>95% C I</b>	
						<b>L B</b>	<b>U B</b>
Security_Positive_China	We Regularly have discussion on CPEC	We Often have discussion on CPEC	-5.58704*	1.94680	.022	-10.6097	-.5643
		We Rarely have discussion on CPEC	-9.58685*	2.08568	.000	-14.9679	-4.2058
		We don't have discussion on CPEC	-7.41957*	2.43162	.013	-13.6931	-1.1461
	We Often have discussion on CPEC	We Regularly have discussion on CPEC	5.58704*	1.94680	.022	.5643	10.6097
		We Rarely have discussion on CPEC	-3.99981*	1.42985	.028	-7.6888	-.3108
		We don't have discussion on CPEC	-1.83254	1.89925	.769	-6.7326	3.0675
	We Rarely have discussion on CPEC	We Regularly have discussion on CPEC	9.58685*	2.08568	.000	4.2058	14.9679
		We Often have discussion on CPEC	3.99981*	1.42985	.028	.3108	7.6888
		We don't have discussion on CPEC	2.16727	2.04137	.713	-3.0994	7.4340
	We don't have discussion on CPEC	We Regularly have discussion on CPEC	7.41957*	2.43162	.013	1.1461	13.6931
		We Often have discussion on CPEC	1.83254	1.89925	.769	-3.0675	6.7326
		We Rarely have discussion on CPEC	-2.16727	2.04137	.713	-7.4340	3.0994
We Regularly have discussion on CPEC	We Often have discussion on CPEC	-4.20505	1.90197	.122	-9.1121	.7020	
	We Rarely have discussion on CPEC	-5.94217*	2.03765	.020	-11.1993	-.6851	
	We don't have discussion on CPEC	-6.03489	2.37563	.055	-12.1639	.0942	
Security_Positive_Pakistan	We Often have discussion on CPEC	We Regularly have discussion on CPEC	4.20505	1.90197	.122	-.7020	9.1121
		We Rarely have discussion on CPEC	-1.73712	1.39692	.600	-5.3411	1.8669
		We don't have discussion on CPEC	-1.82984	1.85552	.757	-6.6170	2.9573
We Rarely have discussion on CPEC	We Regularly have discussion on CPEC	5.94217*	2.03765	.020	.6851	11.1993	
	We Often have discussion on CPEC	1.73712	1.39692	.600	-1.8669	5.3411	
	We don't have discussion on CPEC	-.09273	1.99437	1.000	-5.2381	5.0527	
We don't have discussion on CPEC	We Regularly have discussion on CPEC	6.03489	2.37563	.055	-.0942	12.1639	
	We Often have discussion on CPEC	1.82984	1.85552	.757	-2.9573	6.6170	
	We Rarely have discussion on CPEC	.09273	1.99437	1.000	-5.0527	5.2381	

It is reported by the table 2 that the opinion leaders of the society had significant differences of perceptions about positive impression of New Silk Road for security matters of China in the region due to their level of discussion on CPEC,  $F = (3, 396) = 7.479$ ,  $p = .000$ . Those opinion leaders who discussed that project on regular basis, had less positive perception of China's security matters due to New Silk Road as compared to those who discussed that project often ( $MD = -5.58704^*$ ,  $SO = 1.94680$ ), Rarely discussed ( $MD = -9.586685^*$ ,  $SO = 2.08568$ ), and 'don't discussed ( $MD = -7.41957^*$ ,  $SO = 2.43162$ ). The actual difference of means was .05 which

shows the small effect. The table also reports that the opinion leaders had also significant difference of perceptions about positive image of New Silk Road for security matters of Pakistan in the region due to their level of discussion on CPEC,  $F = (3, 396) = 3.200$ ,  $p = .023$ . The actual difference of the means between the groups was .02 which sowed the small effect on the differences. Those who discussed that project regular had difference of opinion from those who had discussed it rarely (MD = -5.94217\*, SO = 2.03765). They had less positive impression of security matters related to New Silk Road under CPEC for Pakistan as compared to those who discussed that project rarely.

**Table 3**  
*Contributing Political Factors and Perceptions about China’s Security*

Model	R	R Sq	Adj R S	SE of the Esti	Change Statistics				
					R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change
1	.229 <sup>a</sup>	.053	.036	12.03601	.053	3.109	7	392	.003
2	.567 <sup>b</sup>	.322	.306	10.20788	.269	77.490	2	390	.000

a. Predictors: (Constant), Q4, Profession, Gender, Age, Q2, Q3, Q1  
b. Predictors: (Constant), Q4, Profession, Gender, Age, Q2, Q3, Q1, Political\_Positive\_China, Political\_Positive\_Pakistan

Model		UC		SC	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	32.288	4.765		6.776	.000
	Age	-.457	.963	-.024	-.475	.635
	Gender	2.759	1.761	.080	1.566	.118
	Profession	.001	.547	.000	.001	.999
	Q1	-1.318	1.008	-.073	-1.307	.192
	Q2	.669	.384	.091	1.741	.083
	Q3	-.202	.581	-.019	-.348	.728
	Q4	2.887	.838	.201	3.447	.001
2	(Constant)	10.959	4.463		2.456	.014
	Age	-.752	.817	-.040	-.920	.358
	Gender	1.232	1.499	.036	.822	.412
	Profession	.849	.469	.078	1.809	.071
	Q1	-.045	.868	-.002	-.052	.959
	Q2	.612	.326	.084	1.878	.061
	Q3	-.218	.496	-.020	-.439	.661
	Q4	.642	.733	.045	.876	.382
	Political_Positive_China	.180	.056	.168	3.186	.002
	Political_Positive_Pakistan	.462	.058	.430	7.986	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Security\_Positive\_China

The table 3 reports that the demographic variables and existing knowledge of the opinion leaders in Pakistan about New Silk road contributed 5.3% variance in the perception about positive security matters of New Silk road for China in the region,  $F (7, 392) = 3.109$ ,  $p = .003$ . The significant contributor was level of discussion on CPEC under New Silk Road recorded ( $\beta = .201$ ,  $p < .05$ ). On the second step,

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researcher tested the influence of politically positive impact of New Silk Road for China and Pakistan altogether. They both indicators recorded additional 26.9% variance in the perception about News Silk Road  $F(9, 399) = 80.599, p = .000$ , political positive image for China on Positive Security image for China recorded ( $\beta = .168, p < .05$ ), and political Positive image for Pakistan recorded on positive security image of China recoded ( $\beta = .430, p < .05$ ).

**Table 4**

### *Contributing Sociological Factors and Perceptions about China’s Security*

Model	R	R Sq.	Adj. R Sq.	SE of the Esti	Change Statistics				
					R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change
1	.229 <sup>a</sup>	.053	.036	12.03601	.053	3.109	7	392	.003
2	.298 <sup>b</sup>	.089	.068	11.83384	.036	7.754	2	390	.000

a. Predictors: (Constant), Q4, Profession, Gender, Age, Q2, Q3, Q1

b. Predictors: (Constant), Q4, Profession, Gender, Age, Q2, Q3, Q1, Sociological\_Positive\_Pakistan, Sociological\_Negative\_Pakistan

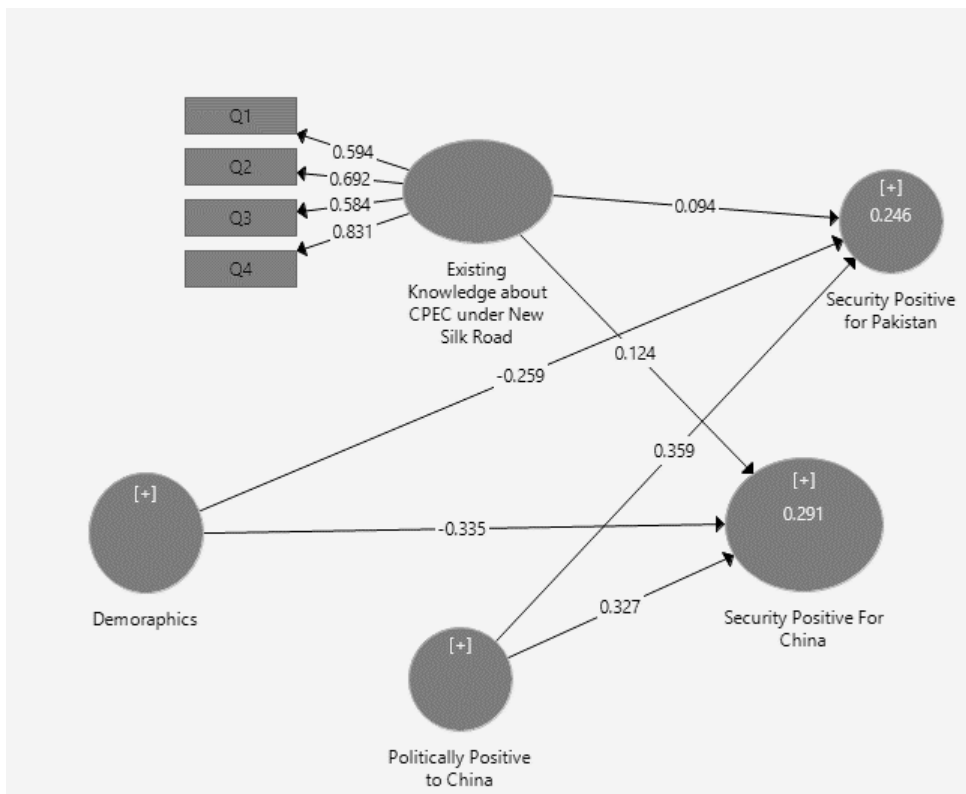
Model		U C		SC	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error			
1	(Constant)	32.288	4.765		6.776	.000
	Age	-.457	.963	-.024	-.475	.635
	Gender	2.759	1.761	.080	1.566	.118
	Profession	.001	.547	.000	.001	.999
	Q1	-1.318	1.008	-.073	-1.307	.192
	Q2	.669	.384	.091	1.741	.083
	Q3	-.202	.581	-.019	-.348	.728
	Q4	2.887	.838	.201	3.447	.001
2	(Constant)	22.767	5.281		4.311	.000
	Age	-.328	.954	-.017	-.344	.731
	Gender	2.828	1.735	.082	1.631	.104
	Profession	-.008	.539	-.001	-.015	.988
	Q1	-1.050	.995	-.058	-1.056	.292
	Q2	.836	.380	.114	2.198	.029
	Q3	-.293	.583	-.027	-.503	.615
	Q4	2.609	.835	.182	3.126	.002
	Sociological_Positive_Pakistan	.124	.059	.114	2.117	.035
	Sociological_Negative_Pakistan	.126	.059	.115	2.116	.035

a. Dependent Variable: Security\_Positive\_China

The table 4 reports that the demographic variables and existing knowledge about New Silk road contributed 5.3% variance in the perception about positive security matters of New Silk road for China in the region,  $F(7, 392) = 3.109, p = .003$ . The significant contributor was level of discussion on CPEC under New Silk Road recorded ( $\beta = .201, p < .05$ ). On the second step, researcher tested the influence of sociologically positive

and negative impact of New Silk Road for Pakistan on CPEC under NSR. They both indicators recorded additional 3.6% variance in the perception about News Silk Road  $F(9, 399) = 10.854, p = .000$ , sociologically positive image for Pakistan on Positive Security image for China recorded ( $\beta = .114, p < .05$ ), and sociologically negative Image for Pakistan on Positive security image for China recorded ( $\beta = .115, p < .05$ ). It shows that the opinion leaders had sociologically negative image of New Silk Road considered little bit more positive security measures for Pakistan within the context of CPEC. The level of discussion on that project also contributed in the variation of the perception of the opinion leaders in Pakistan ( $\Delta\beta = .182, p < .05$ ).

Figure 1

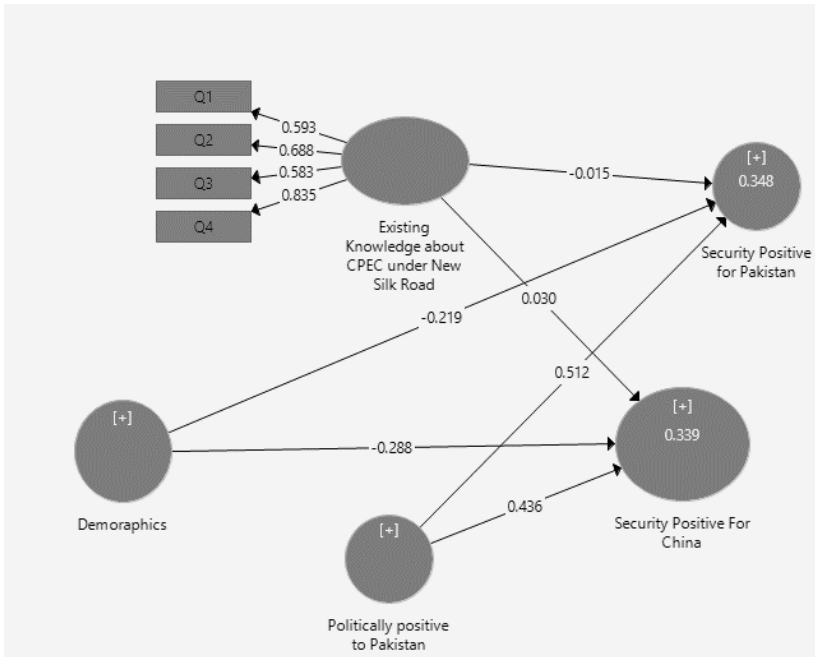


The figure 1 shows that politically positive image of New Silk Road to China contributed more to security positive for Pakistan under CPEC  $\beta = 0.359$  as compared to security positive for China  $\beta = 0.327$ . But the demographic variables and existing knowledge of the opinion leaders of Pakistan from the fields of education, journalism, security, and bureaucracy had set greater position of China in Security matters (R

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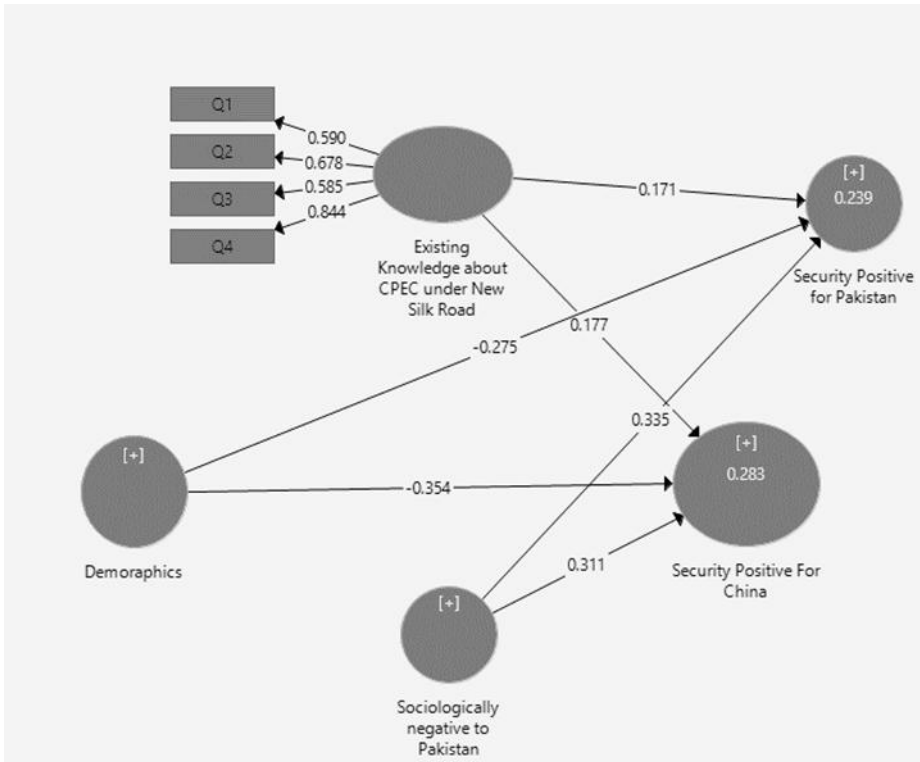
Sq.= 0.291) as compared to security position of Pakistan (R Sq. =0.246. The figure also depicts that in the outer loading factors of existing knowledge of the opinion leaders, the level of discussion (Q4) was the significant contributor as compared to other outer loading factors of level of existing knowledge about New Silk Road.

**Figure 2**



The figure 2 depicts that politically positive image of New Silk Road to Pakistan attributed more to security positive for Pakistan under CPEC  $\beta = 0.512$  as compared to security positive for China  $\beta = 0.436$ . The demographic variables and existing knowledge of the opinion leaders of Pakistan from the fields of education, journalism, security, and bureaucracy had added up greater position of Pakistan in Security matters (R Sq. = 0.348) as compared to security position of China (R Sq. =0.339. The figure also shows that in the outer loading factors of existing knowledge of the opinion leaders, the level of discussion (Q4) was the significant contributor ( $\beta = 0.835$ ) as compared to other outer loading factors of level of existing knowledge about New Silk Road.

Figure 3

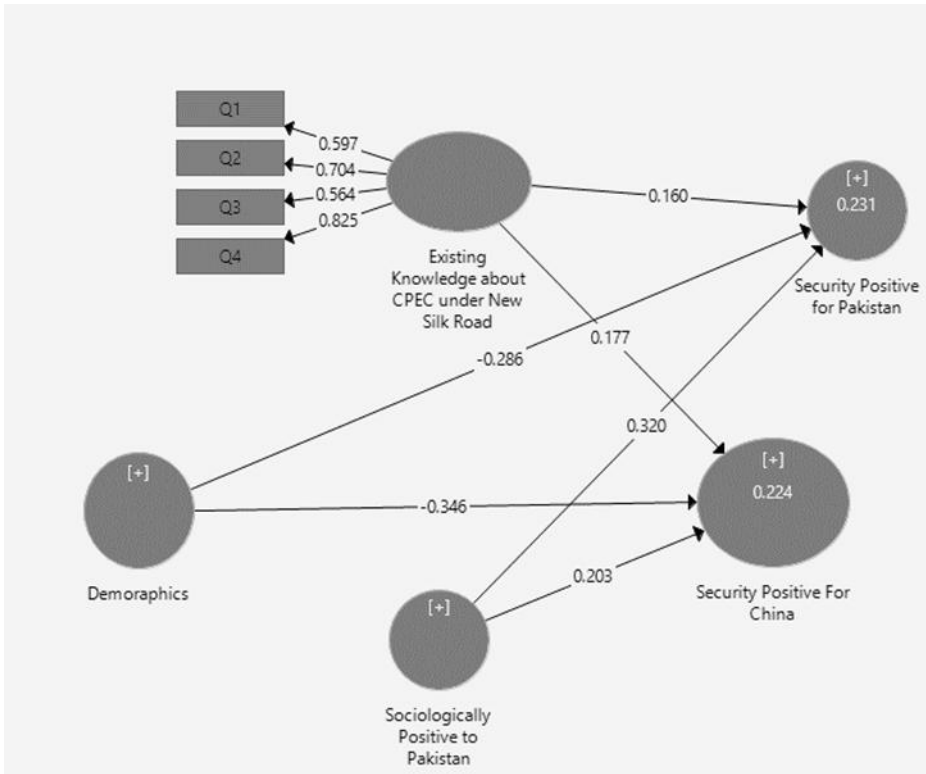


The figure 3 depicts that sociologically Negative image of New Silk Road to Pakistan attributed more to security positive for Pakistan under CPEC  $\beta = 0.335$  as compared to security positive for China  $\beta = 0.311$ . The demographic variables and existing knowledge of the opinion leaders of Pakistan from the fields of education, journalism, security, and bureaucracy had added up greater position of Pakistan in Security matters (R Sq.= 0.239) as compared to security position of China (R Sq. =0.283). The figure also depicts that those considered sociologically negative impacts of CPEC on Pakistani society attributed less security impact of CPEC for Pakistan as compared to China. The figure also shows that in the outer loading factors of existing knowledge of the opinion leaders, the level of discussion (Q4) was the significant contributor ( $\beta = 0.835$ ) as compared to other outer loading factors of level of existing knowledge about New Silk Road.



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**Figure 4**



The figure 4 depicts that sociologically Positive image of New Silk Road to Pakistan attributed more to security positive for Pakistan under CPEC  $\beta = 0.320$  as compared to security positive for China  $\beta = 0.201$ . The demographic variables and existing knowledge of the opinion leaders of Pakistan from the fields of education, journalism, security, and bureaucracy had added up greater position of Pakistan in Security matters (R Sq.= 0.231) as compared to security position of China (R Sq. =0.224). The figure also shows that in the outer loading factors of existing knowledge of the opinion leaders, the level of discussion (Q4) was the significant contributor ( $\beta = 0.825$ ) as compared to other outer loading factors of level of existing knowledge about New Silk Road. The figure also clears that those considered CPEC created positive sociological factors under New Silk road in the adjacent areas had considered less security matters secured for China under that projects.

### **Conclusion**

The research concluded the different levels of perception existed due to different professions of opinion leaders of Pakistan on CPEC under News Silk Road towards Security matters of Pakistan and China within the fabric of Sinophilia and Sinophobia. The opinion leaders related to security (police) in Pakistan had low positive image as compared to opinion leaders related to education, journalism and bureaucracy on security matters for CPEC under New Silk Road.

The opinion leaders who discussed that project regularly rated low level of security purposes of CPEC for Pakistan and China as compared to those who discussed this project rarely. The discussion on CPEC and Political Impact of CPEC for both China and Pakistan were the most contributed factors into security matters for both countries. The proposed model was verified that as compared to the perception of sociological positive, the perception of sociological negative impact of CPEC on Pakistani society rated less security protection of Pakistan as compared to China due to CPEC.

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