

China's Economic Strategy and Challenges in Central Asia

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Abstract

Central Asia, the champion of the strategic significance has several dimensions, a land locked territory which is filled with natural resources. Also the globe's most dynamic continent is Eurasia, the territory of the five largest economies and big spenders of military. Due to this, the location of Central Asia appeared a strategic hub. Now in the present era, China's strategy is massive economic development, peace and stability. China's great concern in this region due to its geo-strategic location, as well as geopolitical significance. This article presents the strategic and economic significance of the region, also it shed light on the challenges that exists between China and Central Asia. It presents Central Asia's concerns in China and why China is so keen in economic participation in this region.

Key Words: China, Central Asia, Economic, Strategic, Energy, Caspian Sea, Xinjiang, Challenges

Introduction

Landlocked region of Central Asia, is situated at the Heart of Eurasia that is Europe and Asia. In terms of historical connotations, it is displayed; region was comprised of a vast land, that initiated from Siberian southern part and moves towards Iran, Pakistan as well as Afghanistan. It also includes previous Soviet Central Asia, Caspian Sea, parts of inner China, Xinjiang province of China, Inner Mongolia as well as parts of Tibet. By historic connotation, it was called as Turkestan. Analysts are of the view that the borders of Central Asia cannot be exactly described in terms of cultural and ethnical means. Mixture of population with multiple ethnic groups. Like as Kazakhstan there is a mix population of Kazakhs and Russians. (Fatima & Zafar, 2014).

China is located to the eastern side of the Central Asian Republics (CARs), being a single-party communist state in terms of a quick growing economy. To the northern side, China borders Mongolia and Siberia, while towards the east is the Korean island as well as Japanese islands. However, on the west side is the Central and Southern Asia, and on the south is the Southeast Asia. Perhaps, China is also famous for its ancient civilization, rich in art, religion as well as science. People's Republic of China (PRC) was established with termination regarding antagonism of Chinese Civil War in October 1, 1949, under the regime of Mao Zedong.

Continuously, China experiences problems in terms of socioeconomic actions for example as the Great Leap Forward in the late 1950s as well as in the 1960s due to

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that of the Cultural Revolution that created the social and economic condition in a huge disorganization. Meanwhile, in the late 1970s reform-era activities, placed the Chinese economy and military power on the escalating equality with other major global powers. At that moment, the main agenda in terms of People's Republic of China (PRC) was development as well as modernization of four basic fields, such as industrial sector, technology, science, national defense as well as agricultural aspect.

Deng Xiaoping, who became the major political leader of the post-Mao China, in the late 1970s, focused on market-oriented economy extension. As an outcome, by the year 2000, the economic output strengthened four times, and the living standards of the Chinese population was vitally boosting, but political defeat by means of its citizens still left unchanged.

Map of Central Asia



Source:

https://www.google.com.pk/search?q=map+of+central+Asia&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj73tHum53VAhXMOY8KHV8xB2sQ_AUIBigB&biw=1366&bih=613#imgrc=73_iTbUyxIR9hM:

Geographical and Geopolitical Importance of Central Asia

Central Asia covers total area of 4,003,400 square kilometers, that has very less populated region in the globe (Abdulhamidova, 2009). In 1991, collapse of the Soviet

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Union fall into pieces the large Central Asia land into the five states namely, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. It is according to Kurecic, who estimated the entire population of the Central Asia in almost million 60 while five states having entire area of approximately four million square kilometers. (Fatima & Zafar, 2014).

Previously, Central Asian region was resided at the crossroads of the famous Great Silk Road-a vital trade path connecting Asia with Europe. In the past long before the start of the Christian era, Central Asia was the meeting area of peoples as well cultures. The region being the traditional point of trading crossroad of polished lands and fascinating cities, that has been the award for the winners from the ancient times. Although for long centuries, this region suffered from the different external invasions as well as conquests (Abdulhamidova, 2009).

Borders Share with the Major Powers

Its boundary line shares with major powers like on the northern area shares with Russia, at the eastern side it connects China. However, it shares border with Iran on the southern side and Afghanistan. Some of the trans-regional powers like USA and Turkey, are also pursuing their strategies in region in order to attain their interests. Its geopolitical significance extended due to the closeness of Central Asia towards the powers of the region as well as participation of the world actors (Fatima & Zafar, 2014).

The geography of the region notify that Russia, China and countries nearer to Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran are those states that Central Asia shares borders with these, that are suffering from the instability as well as of war on terrorism. Moreover, the total area of Kazakhstan is million 2.7 square kilometers, the biggest region's all five states. Tajikistan, being the smallest Central Asian states that has an area of 143,100 square kilometer.

Caspian Sea

Caspian Sea said to be as Central Asian region part. Caspian Sea meets the eastern side of the region. Caspian Sea having vast resources of energy reserves. It has escalated the status from the strategic aspects of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, that are owing the parts of the Caspian Basin. Today, oil and gas reserves of Caspian Sea and Central Asia has become a great need in terms of the economies of the world. Significant is that for gaining advantages from these resources there must be a development of the linkage between geo-strategy towards the geo-economy. Thus the energy strategy regarding this region rely on multiple existing policies (Fatima & Zafar, 2014).World Reports of Business Reports says (most recently) "the Central Asian Republics have proved to have natural gas reserves of over 6.7 trillion cubic

meters", "their confirmed oil reserves are estimated at over 60 billion barrels of oil", with few estimated accessing "200 billion barrels". However, "most of its energy wealth remains, largely, unexplored" (Duarte, 2013).

The conflict in terms of resources also in strategic sea-routes made within state ties in the Caspian Sea however also where many Central Asian states are candidates for the natural resources regarding Caspian Sea Basin, such as Iran, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Russia are vital. However, regarding the Caspian Sea Basin's natural reserves, China has no such claim, it appeared being a main strong consumer of these resources, also it is making macro-level investment. The natural richness of the region usually set off contenting race among its prospective consumers, those struggling for biggest brick, inclusive that of the monopoly control.

Richness of Caspian Sea Region

However, huge and massive unexplored hydrocarbon reserves of the Caspian Sea region enables it globe's bitterness or desire. However, proven natural gas resources of the region lonely are much than 236 trillion cubic feet. Entire oil reserves of the region might access more than 60 billion barrels, it is evaluated are higher than 200 billion barrels. Region generating oil barrels 870,000 on daily basis in 1995, escalated to 4.5 million barrels on daily basis by 2010, having 5% in terms of world's entire production of oil (Niazi, 2006). By geographical connotation, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan Uzbekistan, Tajikistan enabled the eastern portion of the Caspian Sea basin, under that lie oil resources, antagonist regarding Saudi Arabia as well as the richest resources of natural gas in the world.

China is gravely interested in hydrocarbon resources of Caspian Sea and also announced an intention regarding Arabian Sea pipeline, viewing importing oil and gas by supertanker. Moreover, gateway of China towards Central Asia is Xinjiang. (only Muslim majority area) Also there account 40% of trade between Xinjiang with Central Asian republics of the entire trade linking China and Central Asia. With Kazakhstan, Xinjiang's trade solely almost US\$3.3 billion in 2004, that is 73% in terms of the trade with Kazakhstan. Xinjiang is critical from the China's futuristic prospective regarding its massiveness, geographic closeness with Central Asia, also is gigantic resources. Alone Tarim Basin with proven resources having more than tons billion one regarding crude oil also natural gas billion 59 cubic meters (BCM). Annually, such oil fields looking for providing 50 million tons of crude by 2010 (Niazi, 2006).

Trade Route

By means of the trading purpose, in the old times, the significance of the region appeared from the two aspects. Firstly, was the world's largest trade path, between

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China, the Middle East also Europe. At 15th century end the state of affairs vanished by means of opening of the Europeans of the sea route towards Asia around Africa and afterwards Suez Canal. It might never happen again as an element of world importance providing the dimensions of modern transport of goods by ship and presenting insecurities in terms of the land route.

Warrior Nomads

Another vital source of importance regarding Central Asia's potentiality is to manufacture the returning signs of soldier's nomads, at the moment when mountain bowmen were beneficial soldiers in the large plain of the Heartland. Perhaps, this appeared unrelated from the time of discovering of bullets and guns for much more than four centuries before. Truly, the last time, those establishments in Central Asia were really vital for the vast globe was while early 16th century when Central Asian political leader Babur occupied India. While analysis of the current importance of the Central Asia is drawn, the resembling or equidistant is drawn among Russian-British Great Game of the 19th century as well as the present geopolitical competition of the powers that began since the USSR demise. However, major difference between the New Great Game is that of the major powers engagement including Central Asian states in order to focus that which would decide the future of the region.

Energy Reserves

Vitality, oil and gas are the huge resources in the region. Analysts noted that this region being second largest in terms of energy resources, wealthy in multicolored metals such as silver, gold, uranium, magnesium due to these, strengthen the geopolitical significance of the Central Asia. Global players as well as the powers of the region are making efforts to get hold of these energy resources also pursuing their strategies for move ahead by means of interests. It has been expressed by the several geological experts that are of the view that the region consist of great capability by means of energy as well as natural resources. By comparing it with the Middle Eastern energy reservoirs, the oil as well as gas resources of Central Asia might be little in quantity yet they are much than sufficient fulfill the great powers compulsive desire for energy substantial time era.

Security

In terms of the border security, the border between China and the Central Asian states extends more than 3,000 kilometers. Since 1994 China has concerned with the border security as one party, region's states as the other side. In the beginning, China had few other interests in the region. The security aspect connected to the significance of Central Asia is its damaged capacity in case the land of resources becomes the distributor of weapons of mass destruction, drugs, terrorists and conventional

weapons. As Central Asia being rich in vast resources of uranium, also the infrastructure to manufacture uranium-238, perhaps at the times of economic distress, they might focus selling uranium in order to pay for their imports, that might have a serious indication in terms of the global security. The need for the finance for the production of basic necessities and encourage fighting against opposing groups that operate local Afghan warriors in order to export drugs towards Europe, which is the central transit route to which lies via Central Asia. Likewise geographical location of the Central Asia between Afghanistan and Caucasus might provide to regional insecurity, due to that fact it has become the transport corridor between Chechen and Afghan fighters (Irnazarov, 2005).

Combating Terrorism

In the start of the 1997, terrorism appeared as a major concern for China as compared to border security. Problems, tensions were at a highest peak in Xinjiang as indication for an independent “East Turkestan” state emerged. However, the Central Asian States does not have the capability to battle unstable factors on their own. They appeared as a matter of cooperation between regimes as the danger of terrorism became difficult to ignore, from 1009 to 2001, over 162 people lost their lives and 440 people were injured by that actions of the supporters regarding East Turkistan movement. Although China’s regime hid much of these facts during the 1990s, it switched or shifted its attitude after the 9/11 attacks in the USA and started to cooperate much fully with Central Asia, also Russia and China to combat terrorism in the region.

Commercial and Strategic

In terms of commercial significance of the region, one cannot ignored due to the fact that it has a vast capability to emerge as a crucial global market. The Central Asian region is rapidly emerging a main territory of competition not only between the regional states Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey but also between the large three such as China, Russia and the US. The high competition for energy at the global level has surely promoted rivalries of strategic in region due to major powers utilizing as a strategic commodity also supplying to the market at the global level as a tool for gaining objectives and aims of holding strategies of the international system.

Central Asia’s Interest in China

In case of the constant objectives of the states of Central Asia policy towards China is as follows:

- Secure themselves regarding China’s expansionism, the major area is the border issue, that is limiting and hold out against territorial claims of China.

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- Establish by means of a controlled way both economic as well as political and co-operation started by China. Simultaneously, cooperation is dimension that extends each states and regimes in terms of at home also at the international slab, while permitting them get away from appearing dependent on China.
- Profits Increase regarding economy and infrastructure cooperation alongwith China example for transforming Central Asia into a communicator rope regarding China's products that are exported towards Europe as well as the states of the Middle East (Jarosiewicz & Strachota 2013).

China's Arrival into Region

Officially, USSR after demise, the involvement of China in this region begin instantly. In 1991, 27th December, China being first states recognize the new five independent states Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan just after week, from January 2nd to 6th, 1992 China officially developed diplomatic ties with the successor states. But rather the well-known geopolitical importance of Central Asia and energy resources, at the initial stage, China appeared shy and unsure in engaging in this region.

Actually, China "develop the West" project, huge economic establishment in Xinjiang was mainly activated in this aspect also. While visit of Li Ping's tour, the accord was signed by China with Kazakhstan in terms of division of their united border, during this tour to other states of the region also provide effective and fruit-bearing consequences. For instance, China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) oil firm which is owned by China meet accord with Turkmen Ministry of Petroleum for constructing construct gas channel cross-border towards China conduit greatly promoted by the President of Turkmenistan named as Saparmurat Niyazov.

However, the project planned to cost approximately billion \$US12 as observed viability analysis mutually carried out through CNPC, in 1996 Mitsubishi also Exxon. Treaties supplying Chinese leadership were also signed with all the concerned states.

Other dimensions motivate Beijing's entry into the region included desire to lower the sea lines interaction reliance for transportation of oil. By means of the conflict or a terrorist attack, can smoothly damaged, struggling for Beijing's supply of energy vitally at the endangered Malacca Straits. Larger Kashagan oil field that was the invention of Kazakhstan, was another factor enabled the leadership of China view to Caspian and Central Asia. Oil field, situated in Caspian Sea (northern part) evaluated biggest in the globe, declared biggest discovery of oil in the globe in the anywhere in the previous twenty years.

Three Dimensions Central Asian Hug for China

It is argued that Central Asian states' first enclose or hug of China appeared from the following three dimensions, Firstly, because of the landlocked locations of the region, there was a dire requirement of new passages towards the sea and attain port-reach on east-seashore of China. Secondly, Russian authority in the Central Asia limited the chances possible for the Central Asian states. Hence, Central Asia welcomed the involvement of China or other player with more opportunities for them. Thirdly, in 1996, Taliban regime came into power activated threat of radical Islamism extending via huge region, and this grows the readiness and desires of regional states for beginning security cooperation with Russia as well as China.

Factors: Strategy of China Regarding Central Asia

Importantly, the strategy of China in Central Asia emerged to be driven by the four factors,

- Firstly, instead of growing military and economic influence and the most stable and peaceful security atmosphere in centuries, Beijing is swallowed by insecurity and the objectives of making sure domestic stability and safeguarding national unity. Especially, China is concerned with remarkable internal unrest among the ethnic minorities, for example the Uighurs of Xinjiang, who is living in distributed population, comparatively remote, economically underdeveloped and strategically most vital areas. China focused that it is paying a serious internal effort in opposition to terrorism, separatism, and extremism which is called as the three evils.
- Secondly, China is more concerned to maintain peace, predictability as well as non-religious regimes in Central Asia. However, greatest terror for China is connection among domestic issues and external menacing mainly Uighur Diaspora that scattered across national borders.
- A third operator is to escalate the Chinese influence in Central Asia and by that means restrict the domination of other powers. A key instrument for China is the SCO an organization that formed in 2001 to address nontraditional security terror, such as terrorism, that now includes China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. With prominent role of Shanghai Cooperation Organization Beijing has sought to generate a stable joined arrangement that control or checks Russian influence and checks the domination of the external powers like United States of America.
- The fourth factor operating that China wants to promote its economic interest in Central Asia and expand energy security. China is a growing important trader partner with the states of the region, and by 2010, emerges to be better and superior than Russia as Central Asia top trader. Also China has expanded its ability to bring out energy resources via building pipeline oil from

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Kazakhstan (completed in 2006) and from Turkmenistan pipeline of natural gas , that was completed in 2009 (Berkley, Ratner, &Scobell, 2014).

China's Whole Grand Strategy

Hence, the main aim of China's whole grand strategy could be summarized in only one sentence: in order to protect and form political, economic and security setting, which is good for China focusing its economic, political, as well as social establishment. However, the power of economy is a type of authority which China emphasized much its entire policy in comparing hard power that is military and the soft power that is ideational ones.

Ultimately, the most invisible for long duration instrument of economy of China pricking is described from the China's particular establishment path was labeled as "Beijing's Consensus" in 2004. Joshua Cooper Ramo, named the term and indicated that China today not just discoverer rather also initiating its model exporting that resides by means of main three aspects such as realistic devotion to creation and frequent experiments, uphold and much on equal basis distributed economic development and both political and economic influence through the state and non-state external actors.

Strategic Competition in a Rough Territory

China is Against the US permanent Existence

China is against the US permanent existence in Central Asia. Due to the many reasons that are concerned with the economic as well as geopolitical significance towards China, the administrators of China desires to exclude or at least lessen the American hold in the region. Moreover, analysts belong to China are assured that the US forces would not go back either Afghanistan or Central Asia any time immediate. They are of the view that Americans are fully concerned in order to make sure about US interests in the Caspian oil business in terms of its opening of its great involvement. In running after these interests, the America has make efforts to increase its ties with the Central Asia since the mid-1990s, by working with great efforts to take the place of Russia as the most vital supplier of weapons and companion in military coordination.

By means of the decision for including in the Central Asian pipeline competition, China was able to sufficiently extend its political existence and power in the region, meanwhile it also protect new supplies of energy. However, the Chinese leaders committed about this decision just after the Western influence in the region that had become quite clear and it was apparent that Russia was not able to organize its former footing there. Hence this decision opens up a strong connection between China's foreign policy as well as its energy policy. Yet before China could fulfill both in terms

of policy goals as well as large investments.

In fact, while before 2001, the US had already again used economic force in order to secure Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan from cooperating with China in terms energy issues. Such discoveries have substantially extended since the end of the battle in Afghanistan territory. It cannot be denied, since the movement of military actions by means of US forces towards Central Asia in 2001, the global race resources of energy in the region of Caspian also become aggressive. Thus, the analysts belong to China also observed that the existence of American troops in Central Asia as a main restriction on the country's reach towards Central Asian oil.

Furthermore, in terms of the traditional military sense, China could not be threatened by the states of Central Asia, they could influence situations within China in a great manner. This capability stems from the demographic likeness between Central Asian states and Xinjiang, as significant numbers of all ethnic groups of the region resided in every Central Asian states also in Xinjiang. In the occurrence of the war in Afghanistan and because of the ongoing instability there, Chinese analysts are very much tensed that civil war could re-appear in Afghanistan and weaken the Central Asian governments, that would have an influence on the security of western area of China.

Security Problem Regarding Xinjiang Province and China's Fear

China's analysts observed that the deployment of American troops, that are standing just a few hundred kilometers from Xinjiang's boundary line, that includes much old security problem regarding Western area of China.

The America has formed a security connection in Southeast Asia comprised of bilateral reach accords with Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines, Brunei, and Malaysia that permits the American entrance to their ports, airfields, restore facilities as well as military training grounds in terms for aid, tools and training of military staff. Additionally, the unsolved issue of Taiwan alongwith 47,000 American troops in Japan whereas 37,000 forces in South Korea and with the residence of American forces in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, China is afraid that it has already appeared a mission of American encirclement. Moreover, Chinese researchers doubt that in specifically, recent American efforts in order to increase military collaboration with India are focused at the soft self-possession of China. The development of permanent American bases in Central Asia dangers China from the back, where it feels most endangered. While America is really making efforts to get control of minorities in Xinjiang. Also US Congress is helping financially Uygur organizations, inclusive the Uygur regime in banishment.

Hence these groups could smoothly be used to activate US-sponsored rising as in

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Ukraine, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan, that were observed with much disturbance in Beijing. However, by establishing existence of military on western side of China, placing America herself in quite beneficial status future strategic deal with the Chinese government.

Though, American containment of China does not request many Asian countries. Moreover, rather its military participation in Afghanistan, the extent of US influence in Asia is substantially smaller than it was its highness twenty-five years ago, reason being that East Asian and South Asian countries have developed vitally powerful, wealthy, and usually much stable. Analysts are of the view that Asian states rapidly placed their economic and political attention towards China. It is concluded that if pressurized to choose between America and China, these states might not take the option that US policy makers believe they would make. Hence, US efforts to build a balancing position in opposition to China might be fruitless.

Moreover, at the international and regional levels, hierarchies can be divided. In terms of Asia's much development, it would be specifically vital as to if America would permit China to reassure its previous position higher the Asian regional ranking. Asia being the most vital economic region for decades to appear, the authoritative power in this area of the globe would also apply sizeable international influence. Consequently, it cannot be presumed that America would leave itself in terms of the Chinese supremacy of Asia.

In reality, believing from the efforts of America in Asia, particularly in Central Asia, it can be concluded that the America is ready to head off China's progress or rise. As moving up globalization hold together Asian communities and economies in a complicated and interdependent ways, its former geographic subcontinents such as Southeast Asia, Central Asia, South Asia as well as neighboring Oceania, are not far useful cognitive build for moving or differentiating the large procedure influencing the entire region. The establishments in East China exert influence Xinjiang and eventually Central Asia and the other way round. If China's domestic improves stand or if there is vital social disturbance, it would be resulted in the form of an adversary impact for the entire Asia. While the first two decades of the 21st century, China's government would be challenged to arrange a level of public goods to the population in order to improve the people's standard of life. The leadership issues regarding, thus, would also escalate come up with the duty of China's neighbors. Perhaps, in case of their joint defeat, the large disturbing situation inside China would outcome and could hopefully spill over China's borders, and damaging the regional system. However, during China rapidly involves in regional matters, more than ever previously, the region and also the world beyond have a main contribution in the progress of China's domestic establishment and reforms. After independence, the observed weakening situation of the Central Asian states enabled the region appear ripe for influential both by the much powerful states that are bordered by the region as

well as those players or the external states that used to take interest.

Central Asia is in a State of Motion

Today, still Central Asia is in a state of motion. As the region can be observed where there is a need of a new balance of power. The analysts Andrews-Speed and Vinogradov are of the view that even in the absence of sizeable energy resources, the former Central Asian Soviet republics, would have established into the battlefield in order to compete for external interests focusing to attain their domination. Hence China has had a great intention to make great involvement in the Central Asian matters yet without the possibility of oil supplies from this region due to the China's concerns in terms of the stability of Xinjiang.

Important is that it cannot be denied that China's development in terms of economic involvement in Central Asia is going with by escalating political domination. Strategic aspects were although being part of China's goals and objectives when it decided to get inclusive in the region. In terms of the previous years, China has attained some aims regarding its policy towards Central Asia. The question is focused that whether China would be able to play its present role in the upcoming of aggressive competition by means of energy reserves and proceeding with American interference in both the economic as well as political matters of the region. Even today, China connected with both internal as well as external stability would prevent was as a way of gaining its strategy goals and objectives in Central Asia (Handke, 2006).

Central Asia as viewed by China--- Key Challenges

Xinjiang and Stability Issues

The issue of Xinjiang has been the first challenge for China in ties with Central Asia ever since 1991. For many centuries, this part as been underdeveloped. Beijing has had comparatively weak hold over it. Moreover, it has been troubled by separatism focused on the religious as well as ethnic individuality of its settlers (especially Uyghurs who are Muslims).All this has enabled Xinjiang strongly in danger to the serious threats presented by an unstable Central Asia.

There was also a grave threat in which Central Asia either unintentionally, because of being unable to control the condition willingly, if by itself or inspired by Russia, would give a logical base for Uyghur separatists.By means of the objective means of the presence of this threat inclusive the escalating hostility showed by Uyghurs to Beijing in terms of national, democratic and religious motives, the resistance of a powerful Uyghur diaspora in Central Asia, the restricted capacity of Central Asian states to hold their national territories as well as borders, and also in a broader area, issues and conflicts within the individual states in the region.

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From the past two decades, Beijing has comparatively progressively dealt with the issue presented by this province appointing a mixture of the use of force, demographic techniques (encouraging the agreement of the Han Chinese in the province, hence weakening the ethnic dominance of Uyghrus) and vast economic involvement. Moreover, Central Asia still remains a hypothetical danger because of somewhat high level of instability there and the nearby Afghanistan. In this latter perspective, the danger is "militant Islam", that Afghanistan is still a main zone of and also movements that find place of safety or home in Afghanistan, namely the radical Uyghur corporations such as the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) as well as the Turkestan Islamic Party (TIP), linked to the radical Central Asian organizations functioning in Afghanistan, that is the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) and the Islamic Jihad Union (IJU).

The Geopolitical Competitors

The demise of the USSR and the appearance of the new states in Central Asia invited China the chance to radically improve its position in the region in terms of its dealings with Russia. However, Moscow officially put out from the region, and a real buffer was produced between China and Russia, leaving Beijing for more space for activities. Though China temporarily utilized Russia's weakness or deficiency as a chance to higher the issue of border management with the regional successors to the USSR in the 1990s, it despite inclined not to openly weaken or erode Russia's objectives in order to maintain political as well as military dominance in the region, partially because of looking it as a major stabilizing element there.

The weakening position of Russia and the reality that Central Asia was bringing up to foreign contacts also involved the require to challenge new rivals. The actors or the players are interested in the region, have been Turkey being presenting a strong threat to China, since it has been playing the card of the community regarding Turkic peoples, while on the part of Iran (possibly add fuel or burning up Islam in the region) and Pakistan (though this state is the ally of China it has actively particularly in Afghanistan, assisted Muslim radicals and used them in terms of its political games) and India.

Moreover, it emerge to be that, additionally to Russia, the major challenge China needed to deal with was the United States of America, the champion or the conqueror of the Cold War and the unquestionable world leader in the 1990s. The efficient but not specifically effective developing of economic interest and the transferring models begin by the USA in the 1990s in Central Asia in 2001, in the perspective of the global war on terrorism and the working in Afghanistan emerged into a US military existence in Central Asia. In terms of boosting geopolitical rivalry, the US existence was viewed by China as proceeding with encircling by US military bases and as possibly pulling of Central Asia into the orbit of America political power.

The American political attempts in some areas Washington is specifically interested in, specially the wish to rebuild the residing socio-political systems is also viewed as a danger by Beijing. From China's perspective, this means destabilization in the states around it, and provides rise to guess of encouraging political unrest (for instance, the colour revolutions or even the Arab Spring) and of intentionally or not generating dangers (the case of escalating Islamic radicalism in Afghanistan, commencing with the support provided to the Mujahideen in the 1980s as an outcome finally in the appearance of al-Qaeda, in terms of the rise of radical groupings while the Enduring Freedom and ISAF workings after 2001. In terms of the China-Russia ties in Central Asia had been mainly managing and Washington's activities had been on the rise, the America became the main security challenge for China, gain on Russia and other minor players.

Economy

For China's point of view, Central Asia has above all been a market encouraging the economic growth of Xinjiang in terms of China's products and also for years this has been the most real and solid aspect of economic cooperation. Similarly, China was making mind itself to enter the oil and gas market in the region particularly in Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, that was looking for to ensure fuel supplies in terms of China's economy. Apart from what has been hence far the most vital fossil fuel import pathways, the land links with Central Asia are viewed as safer, also the maritime routes moving from the Persian Gulf in terms of the case of crisis that can be smoothly blocked by the America or India, or incapacitate because of the possible issues in the Straits of Malacca. The partners from Central Asia are weak, and hence much willing to cooperate and less keen in order to use the gas weapons than Russia. Additionally, in terms of the fossil fuel supplier, Central Asia appear huge transit potential for China, it possibly represents a linkage for the Chinese market to Europe and the Middle East (the numerous alterations of a new Silk Road), Afghanistan and the seaports (Pakistani and Iranian) by the Arabian Sea, and also in the Persian Gulf. In consequence of the rapid growth in the Chinese economic existence in Central Asia, there is an increasing need to safeguard Chinese interests in the region, that also means the preservation of China's political interests. (Jarosiewicz&Strachota 2013).

China as viewed by Central Asian states -----Key Challenges

Concerns

The approach the states of Central Asia consider to China is focused by the aspect of foreignness and threat. The nations whose statehood is not but well-developed, goes through domestic issues, originated from USSR and entire host of fears and problems connected to their eastern neighbour. China has been viewed as anciently expansionist authority entering the era of further development. It is beneficial to note that the

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China's transformation model in comparison to attractiveness with Western, Turkish and Muslim creativity and changes of all these implemented across what was not so long ago a territory of Soviet influence, that has not engaged or attracted so much interest.

Apart from this, very realistic concerns have been highlighted by China's border declares, Beijing's cruel policy towards Uyghurs and the danger that China could interfere with the domestic or internal matters of Central Asian states. An in depth basis for such concerns produces from the state and nation-building procedure and the establishing nationalism in Central Asian communities that go with them and was strengthen because of the alarmist and anti-China's tone emerged in Russian media, that has vitally high-flown the views in Central Asia.

Opportunities

In terms of the concerns, ties with China brought opportunities for encouraging to Central Asia from Beijing, diplomatic ties were developed speedily hence giving credit to the newly independent states in the region, making economic growth and lessening the results of the crisis the demise of the USSR had brought about (specifically at the social level, holding to the "suit case trade" typical of the 1990s.)The growing escalating scale of China's economic existence in the region, vitally added to the fascinations of China as a main economic companion for Central Asia. The reality that China (unlike USA and Russia) showed its lack of interest in terms of its domestic strategy solutions by means of each Central Asian states emerged out to be a chief positive factor in ties with China (mainly in the first decade of the 21st century).Hence China appeared as an element that has indirectly been stabilizing the internal condition and de facto strengthening the regimes working in Central Asia.

China in terms of the regional geopolitical games

Russia has been the main aspect in terms of the global politics for Central Asia. This approach is focused on the ancient cultural, political and economic ties, the perspective that this is a state that guarantees fundamental durability of the regional sequence and the awareness of Russian strength of will to keep going or maintain Central Asia within its area of power via the use of its strong political, military and social tools in the region. In ties between Central Asia and China, Russia desires to be the financier and examiner of the policies acquired by the region's states. One main dimension of this approach is the influence or domination of the Collective Security Treaty Organization. (presiding over by Russia) in the zone of regional security and the importance of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization as the main stage for political bonds between Central Asia and China. Though Russia still has a very strong political status in the region, it has been continuously weakened by the attempts or

efforts of China and the USA, while developing cooperation with Russia's rivals or competitors is a substantial factor expanding the position of the Central Asian states.

Although the region being rich in oil and gas reserves hence, it also presents a multiple uncommon difficulties and issues in exploitation of oil and gas, transportation of energy reserves as well as development of infrastructure. First, is that there are logistical constraints or limitations. The region lacks infrastructure growth with very limited railways and highways. Second, there will remain continuing doubts in terms of the availability of actual oil and gas resources in the region. Third, the unstable ties and external agendas among the Central Asian states slow down the possibilities of exploitation, energy supply and transit routes. Fourth, there are natural complexities such as deserts and barren lands in the region, recurring ice in the north of the Caspian, vast differences in depth at sea, and obvious earthquake hustle and bustle across the region. (Jarosiewicz & Strachota, 2013).

Conclusion

From the above discussion, it is concluded that in the current era the strategic significance of Central Asia is substantial and China's main concern is regional integration and desires to appear as being the top on the economic stage. China is making viable efforts to make stronger ties with all the states of Central Asia. For progressive economic development in order to get hold of its resources, she wants to become economic hegemon in the international system. China is using defensive strategies for peace and stability and in order to become economic giant with the other competitive players. China being is in great need for fulfilling its energy satisfaction from this region, also being a major trade partner of this region. China is making remarkable efforts for its trade relations with the states of this region for its national interest.

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