

CHINA'S ONE BELT ONE ROAD INITIATIVE: TOWARDS MUTUAL PEACE & DEVELOPMENT

Abstract:

China's One Belt One Road Initiative is a global economic interconnectivity project that connects the countries through seaports, economic corridors, roads, railways, canals, bridges, gas and oil pipelines etc. In 2013, the initiative is firstly proposed by China's president Xi Jinping. The major objective of the initiative is to build a peaceful, cooperative and interdependent world for promoting mutual economic development and social prosperity. The certain western and Asian countries says that China's growing economic influence and rise particularly through the initiative is not peaceful. These countries are U.S., Japan and India which considers China as a rising threat for their interests and influence. China is promoting through this initiative a mutual economic development and social prosperity along with the values of common peace, cooperation and interdependence. It is empowering the developing countries of the Asian region by promoting economic development to them. On Road initiative, China is connecting the entire Asian region by linking the seaport infrastructures through sea-lanes, economic corridors and roads and railways network. Under the sidelines of the initiative, China is financing and constructing various development projects in each Asian country that have a seaport. These development projects are the establishment of free-trade economic zones, energy development projects of gas, oil and electricity, construction projects of roads, railways and pipelines and many other social development projects. The paper examines China's progressive role for mutual development particularly in Muara Port, Brunei and Sihanoukville Port, Cambodia.

Keywords: One Belt and One Road Initiative, peace and Development, Muara Port of Brunei and Sikanoukville Port of Cambodia.

* Aasia Khatoon Khattak , A PhD Scholar, International Relations & Political Science, International Islamic University Islamabad.

** Iram Khalid, Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Punjab, Lahore Pakistan.

Introduction

China's One Belt and One Road Initiative has been proposed in 2013 by the President Xi Jinping during his visit to the Central-Asia and the South-East Asia countries. The initiative is the renovation of Old Silk Route that had been built during the Han Dynasty in (206BC- 220AD) in order to promote trade of silk and other economic commodities to other regional markets of the world. In the 21st Century, China is revitalizing the Old Silk Road to get back the old glory of splendor past when it was an economic power of the Asian region. It desires to achieve the dream' that has been set by its national leader Deng Xiaoping in 1970s to establish China as one the most developed and industrial country of the world. It wants to establish economic development to build a developed, prosperous and peaceful Chinese society. The main objective of One Belt and One Road Initiative is to expand trade and economic market of China throughout the rest of the world in order to build a peaceful prosperous Chinese society and to fulfill the growing energy needs of the country. China is promoting through this initiative the values of mutual peace, cooperation, development, trust, respect, and interdependence among the countries and regions by building connectivity through seaports, economic corridors, roads, railways, and pipelines etc. It has laid the foundation of One Belt and One Road initiative on the principles of mutual peace and cooperation, win-win benefits, mutual respect to each other sovereignty and territorial integrity and mutual non-interference on each other political and sovereign matters.

The significance of China's active role through One Belt and One Road initiative in the Asian region for peace and development cannot be ignored. China is connecting the Asian region includes Brunei, Singapore, Myanmar, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Sri-Lanka, Nepal, Maldives, India, Pakistan and Sudan on One Road Initiative through seaports, economic corridors and gas and oil pipelines etc. China under the sidelines of the initiative is financing and constructing free-trade economic zones and many energy development projects in these countries. Its growing economic developments and influence in these countries of Asia, resultantly promoting mutual peace, development, cooperation and interdependence among the countries. It is promoting economic development to the poor and developing countries of Asia and empowering them by building their economies developed. Its growing economic influence in the region is posing a great security threat for the influence and interests of U.S., Japan and India. The policy makers and scholars of these countries say that China is a growing threat for their sovereignty and to the world peace. In response, China titling these claims as propaganda against its peaceful rise particularly through One Belt and One Road Initiative. The main objective of the initiative is to establish China as a developed, prosperous and peaceful society. In result, it is promoting development and prosperity to the rest of the world. It is building a peaceful world of mutual cooperation, interdependence and integration. It is establishing a multipolar world by promoting development to other countries. It is engaging the countries in mutual cooperation and interdependence. It is building new trends of harmony and peace.

To bring out that One Belt and One Road Initiative is promoting development, peace and progress and it is not for seeking hegemony, the paper describes by using the analytical-descriptive approach, the China's policy aims, ambitions and objectives on the entire One Road Initiative and by particularly focusing on the Muara Port of Brunei and Sihanoukville Port of Cambodia. China is building new world of peace and cooperation with new trends of interdependence and integration. In conclusion, the paper elaborates the implications of the initiative on peace of Asian region and of the world.

China's Policy Aims & Ambitions on Maritime Silk Road

China's One Belt and One Road Initiative is consisted of two routes or branches; one is sea route that is known as Maritime Silk Road or One Road Initiative and the second is a land-route that is known as One Belt Road that connects China's western part with the regions of the Central-Asia, the Middle-East, Africa and Europe through roads, railway and oil and gas pipelines projects. The Maritime Silk Road Initiative or One Road route is filled with the consecutive connectivity of seaports that are located in East-Asia, South-East Asia, South-Asia and Africa. The connectivity of the seaports begins from the seaports that are located in the South-China Sea includes Fujian seaport, Xin Gang seaport, Qingdao seaport, Shanghai seaport, Ningbo seaport and Hong-Kong Seaport of China. These seaports are getting connectivity on the One Road initiative with other seaports of the Asian regions. Hong-Kong seaport and Ningbo seaports are the main ports that provides broader connectivity to the southern part of China with other regional seaports includes Muara seaport Brunei, Sihanoukville port of Cambodia, Khaukpyu port of Myanmar, Chittagong port of Bangladesh and Hambantota port of Sri-Lanka, Maldives port, Gwadar port of Pakistan, and Sudan seaport. It initiative enters into Mediterranean Sea where it finally connects to Economic belt at Venice, Italy (Jia, 2015).

The entire structure of the One Belt and One Road Initiative is constructed of seaports, roads, railways, bridges, canals, gas and oil pipelines, dry-ports, free-trade economic and industrial zones etc. The initiative is an extensive and broader economic interconnectivity project that interconnects far-distance regions of Asia, the Central-Asia, the Middle-East and Europe with each other through seaports, economic corridors and land-routes. China is promoting economic development particularly to the developing countries of Asia and African region. It is building a peaceful world of mutual cooperation and interdependence. It is changing the current trends of power-influence and disorder with the trends of mutual peace, integration and economic development. This initiative is open for participation of states, state actors, non-state actors and individuals (Ministry of Foreign Affairs China, 2015; China Business Daily, 2015).

In 2015, more than 70 countries and organizations has expressed their support and willingness to join One Belt and One Road Initiative. Only 34 countries and organizations has signed agreements with China on development of the initiative. The broadness of this initiative is increasing rapidly. The countries priorities are now focusing towards economic development and social prosperity. China's plays a significant role in empowering these countries and in building a multipolar world of mutual interdependence (Shaohui, 2016).

China is empowering the Asian countries by providing them financial, technical and technological assistance in the development of heavy infrastructures and other energy development projects includes seaports, economic corridors, roads, railways, bridges, gas and oil pipelines, education institutions, industries, and free-trade economic zones etc. It is establishing these developments in countries includes Brunei, Cambodia, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri-Lanka, Maldives, India, Pakistan and the rest of the countries of other regions. In result, it is expanding its trade market along with developing the economies of other countries. It is integrating the world in global trends of mutual peace and interdependence. It is establishing a new zone of economic power particularly in poor and developing countries of Asia. It is reducing the developing gap of North and South. It is building a balanced world of mutual cooperation (Huaxia, 2015; China Daily News, 2015).

Under One Belt and One Road Initiative, in 2015 China has established two major financial institutions in Asian region namely the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the New Silk Road Fund in order to provide financial assistance to the countries for the development of infrastructures of seaports and of other development projects. These institutions are fully operated now. The member countries are financing these banks by providing funds to it for common development of the countries. In 2015, China has pledged to give \$ 40 billion dollars as fund to New Silk Road Fund that facilitates the developing countries in construction of heavy development projects in the rest of the world (Vr, 2015).

In One Belt and One Road Initiative, among the countries the mutual trade, social development, cooperation and interdependence is increasing. China is promoting extensive mutual trade, development benefits and cooperation throughout the regions. It is expanding industrial, trade and technological capacity of the countries. It has signed agreements with 20 countries on development of industrialization capacity (Xinhuanet Newspaper, 2016; Xinhuanet News, 2016). Under the initiative, China's trade with other countries has reached to above 1 trillion US dollars. Its direct investment in 49 countries has reached to 15 billion dollars with annual growth of 18 percent. These countries investment in China has surpassed to 8.2 billion dollars that constitutes 25 percent.

China has signed agreements with 20 countries to increase the production capacity of the countries in various fields. It has in joint cooperation with these countries has set-up 46 overseas economic cooperation zones in 17 countries. Its investment in these projects has reached to above 14 billion dollars that has created job opportunities for 60,000 locals (Shaohui, 2016; Huaxia, 2015).

China is moving to establish a free-trade agreement throughout One Belt and One Road initiative that covers 65 countries across Asia, the Central-Asia, the Middle-East, Africa and Europe. The initiative covers 4.4 billion population with 4 percent world GDP. It is promoting free-trade from country to country that integrating and strengthening the economic development of the rest of the world. China is expanding its trade volume and foreign investment that in result removing poverty, unemployment from Chinese society and in other countries and making it peaceful and prosperous (Kanthadai, 2016).

China is building a peaceful, cooperative and interdependent world that works without power influence and discrimination. It has laid foundations of One Belt and One Road Initiative on five principles of peaceful co-existence includes mutual respect for each other sovereignty, territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, mutual non-interference in each other internal matters, equality, mutual benefit and peaceful co-existence. The initiative is promoting mutual benefit, cooperation and interests. It is establishing a peaceful world of mutual cooperation (English CN, 2015).

Muara port and Guangxi-Brunei Economic Corridor

China has cordial bilateral relations with Brunei. On Maritime Silk Road, Brunei is significant because of having a Seaport of Muara. Both countries have recently pledged to connect Muara Seaport with Guangxi province of China through Qinzhou Seaport of Beijing. Guangxi is located in the South-Central part of China which is economically backward area comparatively to its South-Eastern part that has sea access through seaports in South-China Sea. After connecting to Maritime Silk Road, now this province is becoming a great trade-hub which is currently connected with 32 maritime countries (Chinadaily.com, 2015; xinhuanet.com, 2015; English.news.cn, 2015). In past (before its connectivity on Maritime Silk Road) the trade volume of this province was 5.53 billion that is now reached to 50.67 billion yuan (English.news.cn, 2015). Guangxi province is further connected through roads and railway links to the western part of the country that is economically remote and backward area of China. Brunei through economic interconnectivity to Guangxi province will contribute a significant share in the development of economy of the economically backward areas of Central and Western China.

China is financing the construction of Guangxi-Brunei economic corridor in Brunei that will interlink Muara Seaport with the rest of the far-reaching areas of the Brunei country. The construction of this corridor is under-process. Chinese construction companies are working on the construction of this project. China is developing this corridor to make smooth transaction of trade throughout the Brunei. This corridor will provide more job and business opportunities to the poor people of Darussalam. It will alleviate the poverty and unemployment problem there. Besides developing the poor economic and social sectors of Brunei, China meets an economic market for export-import of production goods. China recently expanded its cooperation in agricultural and food production sectors. After Maritime Silk Road connectivity, both countries' cooperation will be enhanced more in fisheries, agricultural and technological sectors. The shipping services of Brunei will get better and improved.

Besides economic significance, Brunei contains strategic importance for China as it is situated in the Pacific region where U.S. has military bases in Australia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines and has a military partnership with Singapore. Washington is increasingly enhancing its militarization in the region that mainly goes against China and it is also establishing its economic influence through Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) of twelve countries. China is not a part of this partnership.

China through One Road connectivity with Brunei, desires to create its economic influence in the pacific to develop a peaceful world. It might in future expands One Road connectivity to other countries of the region includes Indonesia, Australia through corridors and seaports projects. Though it seems not possible along with threatening challenges from U.S., but the world political trends are changing and now the countries primary priorities are being tilted towards economic development.

At present, China has cooperative economic, social and military relations with U.S. which also poses great threatening challenge for its peaceful rise by militarizing the Asian region under its 'Asia to pivot policy'. It has cooperative relations with Japan and India along with border issues and regional competition. China has cooperative economic and social relations even with the countries where U.S. military bases are established includes Australia, Indonesia etc. Though China's rise has created two mutual trends in the same time among countries that are cooperation and competition (Chinadaily.com, 2015; xinhuanet.com, 2015; English.news.cn, 2015; China focus, 2015).

Brunei is a member of Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and of TPP as well. It has a close cooperative relations with China in fields of economic, social and military. U.S. is cooperating with Brunei in energy, health, business, and military sectors. Washington is exerting its influence in ASEAN through Brunei by urging to promote English language instructions in countries, supports trade, education opportunities, and people to people connections. Though, China is moving to establish its economic influence through One Road by bringing the policy of common prosperity and common development. China is empowering the Brunei economically and socially by technological, financial and other services aid. It truly supports the development of a developing country (China foreign office, 2013; Factsheet, 2015).

Sihanoukville Seaport, Cambodia

On One Road, China and Cambodia have pledged to build an economic cooperation by connecting Hong-Kong Seaport with Sihanoukville Seaport of Cambodia. It is a deep water Seaport that is located at Peah Sihanouk province of Cambodia that is adjacent to the Indian Ocean (Lum, 2013). Cambodia has constructed this port in cooperation with Japan (pas.gov, 2015). It is one of the largest seaports of Cambodia that covers 125 hectares area. This port is facilitating trade transaction of Cambodia with other countries of the world through naval, container and cruise ships (Sihanoukville.com, 2015). Currently, Inter-governmental Coordination Committee of China and Cambodia are in close talks on seaports' infrastructure connectivity to find more ways of cooperation and development (fmprc.gov.cn, 2015).

China and Cambodia relations are based on mutual friendly cooperation that covers all political, strategic and economic sectors and interests. Currently, Beijing is playing a significant role in economic development of Cambodia by funding and constructing roads, railway links, heavy industrial infrastructures, and heavy hydroelectric power projects. Besides this, its cooperation with Cambodia has remained in public health sector, irrigation works, and disaster relief and in other sectors. It is transferring the use of new and advanced technology in building the

new infrastructure of Cambodia that are facilitating and increasing Cambodia's trade links and trade magnitude. Both states being within ASEAN and on bilateral bases are in coordination and cooperation on many regional and global issues of their common interests. China is one of the major foreign investors of Cambodia (Burgos & Ear, 2010). China, under economic agreement of 2013, has provided \$500 million soft loans and \$ 48 million grants to Cambodia for making a smooth development of its projects (Lum, 2013).

Under Maritime Silk Road connectivity cooperation, China is financing and constructing many infrastructure and energy development projects in Cambodia (fmprc.gov.cn, 2015). It is financing and constructing railway and roads network that begins from Sihanoukville Seaport and connects other areas of Cambodia. This connectivity will expand the trade throughout Cambodia that resultantly increases job opportunities for the Cambodian people (pas.gov.kh, 2015). China is constructing railway link from Phnom Penh to Ho Chi Minh City. It is financing and constructing the roads infrastructures to establish economic connectivity to towns and far-away other areas. Chinese companies are building highways, dams, energy projects, railway lines there. China is financing by providing loans and funds to these projects (Minglong, 2010; Chinadialouge.net, 2013).

China is also constructing high speed 400 km long railway line in \$7 billion dollars in Cambodia. This railway line will run from Cambodia to Laos. It is constructing the infrastructure of steel mill at Preah Vihear Province of Cambodia. It is constructing a railway line that connects the Sihanoukville seaport to the Preah Vihear steel Mill (Chinadialouge.net, 2013). On railway line, eleven railway stations will be constructed and about 3,192 meter long railway bridge will be built for constructing more ports. This railway line could be used for multi-purposes as for supply steel, industrial and agriculture good and for travelling. This project will give a great boost to Cambodian economy and would provide extensive job opportunities to people (Mesa & Lewis, 2013). This project is likely to be completed in 2016. The entire connectivity of seaport to the steel mill will possibly facilitate Cambodia in trade supply of iron to other parts of country and to the outside world (Chinadialouge.net, 2013).

China is constructing hydroelectric dam project at Mekong River of Cambodia. It will overcome unemployment issue in Cambodia (Burgos & Ear, 2010). It has yet established three dams in Cambodia and few more are under construction. These constructed dams are now facilitating and transferring electricity to the rural areas of Cambodia that were deprived from electricity and some were receiving low electricity power. China is building many irrigation projects in Cambodia. It has developed first oil refinery in Kampot province of Cambodia (Pant, 2012).

China besides economic development projects, is heavily spending on Cambodia's military. It has signed many cooperation military pacts with Cambodia in order to develop its military. Under the military agreement of 2012 to 2013, China has spent about \$ 17 million dollars on military training and medical facilities to Cambodian military. It has provided loans, trucks, helicopters, aircraft, uniforms and training to the Cambodian Armed Forces (Lum, 2013). China is providing funds to the human rights development in Cambodia (Chinadialouge.net, 2013).

On One Road initiative through Sihanoukville Seaport, China meets a market for selling of its exports. Mutual economic relations would be increased more. Job opportunities are increased for the Chinese people by developing various infrastructure and energy projects in Cambodia (Laursen, 2015).

China's growing investment and supportive cooperation in Cambodia is eliminating poverty and unemployment from it (Cambodia) and it is raising the living standard of its people (Lum, 2013). Cambodia is one of the poorest countries of the world where one-third population is living on less than one dollar per day. Thus, China's economic development in Cambodia is a great advantage for the poor people of it (bbc.com, 2015).

China by developing economic, military and social cooperation is increasing its political and economic influence in Cambodia (Chinadialouge.net, 2013). Cambodia is strategically significant for China as in future China might establish connectivity between Sihanoukville seaport to its Kunming city of Yunnan province or to other cities through corridor similarly as China has made China-Pakistan economic corridor connectivity to its western part (Lum, 2013).

Cambodia is the South-East Asian ally of China. It is one of China's strong friends that supports Beijing initiatives and policy stances. In July 2012 ASEAN summit, Cambodia has supported China on South-China Sea dispute but it did remain fail to create a unified stand over the dispute. China is the largest trading partner, aid-donor and investor in Cambodia. In 2011, China has invested \$ 1.2 billion in Cambodia that was eight-time larger investment which was pledged by U.S. In 2012, China has granted \$500 million loans to it (Higgins, 2012; Washington post, 2013; Marshall & Thul, 2013). China is the largest military aid donor of Cambodia. In November 2015, both countries get agreed to boost their military ties. China is assisting Cambodia in military training, in construction of military academies, in military exchanges and services. China has delivered "man portable surface to air missile System (MANPADS) to it (Parameswaran, 2015).

Fears & Concerns

At present, China has friendly cooperative relations with the rest of the world even with the countries that are opposing its rise and considers it as a threat to their sovereignty and to the world peace. These countries are particularly U.S., Japan and India that make a common idea that China's rise is not peaceful (Borah, 2016). These countries are commonly using the term of "String of Pearls" that means China through this broader economic interconnectivity initiative of One Belt and One Road is becoming the world's most powerful economic power and it intends to deploy naval and military forces on these seaports that could become a threat to their sovereignty. In these countries' view, China is seeking hegemony (Baker, 2015).

A Chinese Scholar Hu Shi Sheng has said on String of pearls term "The term "strategy" with China's Seaports is first time used by Pentagon (U.S.) in 1996. The term is only used by the foreigners and by the westerns. It was also propagated that China is building seaports to curtail India. But these Seaports are for commercial purposes. China has a non-alignment policy. The maritime Silk

Road is connected with each other, not possible for hegemony, but will integrate and benefit all.”¹

In 2015, China has established its first naval base in Djibouti in order to protect its trade from piracy attack and to provide security to the seaport infrastructure on One Road initiative. China's talks are continued on deployment of its naval forces on seaports on the One Road for security of trade and seaports infrastructures in Indian Ocean and the Strait of Malacca and for the maintenance and refurbishment of the ships. China's government says it is not seeking hegemony by deploying naval forces on the seaports but in order to establish the smooth function of the Initiative and safe transaction of trade (Aronson, 2015). It is said by Chinese scholars that U.S. and its particular ally countries Japan and India are propagating against China's peaceful rise by saying that it is militarizing the Asian region. In actual facts, China is not building military alliances on other countries territory. It is not building military alliances to build military bases (Yao, 2015). It is U.S. that have military bases in the western pacific and in entire Asian region. Its major military bases are located in Guam, Diego Garcia and Okinawa. In Japan, it has 109 military bases, 89 bases in South-Korea and few bases are located in Thailand and Philippines. Since from last 70 years, U.S. has been militarizing the Asian region. It has 325,000 military personal in Asia and Africa. It has 97000 military personal in Asia, 40,258 in South-Korea, 40,045 in Japan, 491 in Diego Garcia, about 100 in Philippines, 113 in Thailand, 195 in Singapore, 200 in Australia and 16,600 afloat in ships and aircraft carriers. U.S. is posing real threat to regional and world peace (Leng, 2016). Dr. Fazal-ur-Rehman has said U.S. don't want that China expands its influence to other parts of the region. In containment of China, it is very important for the western countries especially U.S. and its allies to create some kind of opposition.²

China's global economic rise is a major concern for U.S. because it is currently the major dominant economic and military power of the world (Aljazeera, 2014). U.S. sees China's growing economic influence as a threat to its industrial growth and economic market influence particularly from Beijing's growing presence in the Asian region that is filled with natural resources and provides a market place for western countries' commodities sale (Ahmed, 2016). China, as a second largest global economic power, is speedily exerting its economic influence by connecting the rest of the world in a common chain of economic connectivity of One Belt and One Road Initiative. It through this project establishing a vast market place for the sale of its production items and for importing natural resources to fulfil the growing consumption of industrial needs. It is developing the mutual relations of cooperation and interdependence among the countries which expresses Beijing is not seeking power to create global hegemony. It is promoting win-win mutual benefits and development to other countries (South China Morning Post, 2016).

China is creating new zones of power by providing financial support, technical assistance in development of infrastructure and energy projects to the developing countries particularly of the Asian region (Catanzaro, Qi & Han, 2015). Beijing

¹ Dr. Hu She sheng Interview with Author on 27 May, 2014.

² Dr. Fazal-ur-Rehman Interview with Author on March 3rd, 2015.

always opposed the discriminatory policy of West towards the third world countries of Asia by paying unbalanced payment of imports, not sharing technological development (Shengnan, 2015) and by providing heavy loans and debts on high credit rates from IMF and the World Bank. These loans have brought more poverty and social challenges to these developing countries (May, 2015). China always remained against the widening gap of North and South. On One Belt and One Road initiative, it wants to build a balanced, equal and just world of peace and development (Shengnan, 2015).

China through the Maritime initiative is promoting the core values of neoliberalism approach of mutual peace, cooperation and interdependence in order to build a peace and developed multipolar world. It brings a shift in existing world order with its new world order of Chinese characteristics of mutual peace and development (Catanzaro, Qi & Han, 2015). Though, China is not accepting that its moves are for a change in global world order but the rest of the world scholars and policy makers are agreed that the changing new world order is actually threatens the U.S. (Nabili, 2016).

In order to disrupt the China's growing economic rise, U.S. has launched "Asia to pivot policy" that considers as containment policy mainly being followed against China. Under this policy, Washington is increasingly building military alliances, deploying more military forces in its military bases, and providing military aids and loans particularly to Asian countries to strengthen their military relations and alliances. U.S. is militarizing the Asian region mainly against the growing economic influence of China to balance its power (Xu, 2016). It has a military alliance and military partnerships with Burma, Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia, India and Japan. It has 109 military bases in Japan and 89 military bases in South-Korea. It has deployed 97000 military personal in Asia, 40, 258 in South-Korea, 40,045 in Japan, 491 in Diego Garcia, about 100 in Philippines, 113 in Thailand, 195 in Singapore, 200 in Australia, 16,600 submerged in ships and air-craft carriers (Leng, 2016). U.S. is trying to disrupt the peaceful rise of China by provoking the South-China Sea disputed countries to raise their voice for their rights in South-China Sea area against Beijing. Recently, Philippines on provocation of U.S. and Japan took the disputed matter to the International Court of Justice (Turkish Weekly, 2015, Turkish Weekly Journal, 2015).

U.S. in order to get equal benefits in Asia has proposed the New Silk Road Project as an alternative of China's One Belt and One Road initiative. It has initiated this project to overcome the growing economic influence of China. This initiative will pass through Asia, South East Asia and East Asia by passing through Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Japan, Korea, and Pacific Ocean and finally it ends by intersecting U.S. This road will not connect China (Chinadialouge.net, 2013; Standish, 2014).

In spite of these disrupting policies of U.S. towards China, Washington has cooperative economic and social relations with Beijing. Both countries' mutual trade in 2013 was reached to \$562 billion. In the same year, the U.S. foreign direct investment stock in Beijing was \$ 61 million. China is the third largest export market for U.S. commodities. In July 2014, China's president Xi Jinping had paid visit to U.S. and both countries concluded mutual cooperation to promote economy, trade investment, global cooperation and international trade. China is

facing major challenges mainly from the U.S. as super-powers always putting checks on rising threats to their status of the world most powerful and hegemonic state. The two trends of cooperation and competition are currently existing in bilateral relations of China and U.S. that moves to build a peaceful multipolar world. Washington could not disrupt China's peaceful rise at expense of rest of the world development and social prosperity (Fact Sheet, 2015; Turkish Weekly Net, 2015; NY times, 2015).

India is the largest regional competitor of China (Aljazeera Newspaper, 2016). Both countries have a border dispute on Aurancheel Pradesh area and both have fought war in 1962 on same border issue (Bo, 2014). India is worried on China's building Seaports initiative particular in its surrounding periphery countries includes Myanmar, Bangladesh, Sri-Lanka, Maldives and Pakistan. After China's growing influence it is losing its political influence and competition in the Asian region (China Daily Mail News, 2014). Its policy makers and scholars argue that China's presence in Indian Ocean poses a security threat to India's sovereignty. They call it the "encircling policy of China" towards it that limiting India's second strike capability in case of foreign attack over its sovereignty (The Dawn, 2013; China Daily Newspaper, 2008). With these claims, India is increasingly building trade, social and Maritime Silk Road cooperation with China. It gets connected on Maritime Silk Road through its Kolkata Seaport to China's Kunming city. India is agreed to construct Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar economic corridor (BCIM) that will connect its Kolkata Seaport to Kunming city by passing through Bangladesh and Myanmar (Yang, 2014).

Mutual relations of both countries are currently filled with trends of cooperation and competition. India is competing China in trade and military development and in bilateral relations with regional countries because it doesn't want to lose its regional influence over the periphery countries of Asia and its old regional status of most powerful and developed country of Asia (China Daily US CN, 2016).

China is the second largest trading partner of India (China Daily Cn, 2016). Their trade volume is reached to USD 70.59 billion with 7.9 percent ratio each year (India times, 2015). Both exchanges high-level and other official levels visits which are sign of both countries cooperative relations (Shanshan, 2015). China has urged India to find out peaceful solution of border dispute through negotiation. India is apparently agreed on this proposal but delaying the solution process. Though currently both countries are economically cooperating and peaceful in their bilateral relation with each other (Hui, 2016). The actual fears of India are that growing economic cooperation and influence of China is shifting the decades old economic and political influence of India over the developing countries of Asia (China Daily Mail News, 2014).

India has a non-aligned policy. By developing cooperative relations with U.S., it is increasingly developing its weapons and military technology and advancement (Joshi, 2015). Similarly, it is building extensive cooperative relations with China in order to gain economic advantages and benefits at Maritime Silk Road. Being as a largest regional economy, India has a policy to keep balanced approach towards all countries in order to get maximum benefits to fulfil its dream to become one of the most developed country of the Asian region. India is using propaganda tactics

against China, when it says its economic rise, seaports construction and deployment of naval forces poses a threat for its sovereignty, in order to build a deterrent and threatening atmosphere against China's peaceful growing cooperation to prevent Asian countries to develop more cooperation with Beijing (India Times, 2015).

China's towards peaceful rise and development

China being as a nation is a peaceful and peace-loving country. It has centuries old civilization that contains core values of peace and development. It has a long history of peace and self-defense. During the dynastic rule when it was one of a glorious economic and naval global power with multi- conflicting civilizations, it did never remain an expansionist and aggressive power though it had a power to conquer the world. It even did not conquer the periphery countries of the Asian region (China Daily US, 2011). China had sent its naval imperial envoy Zhang Qian to about thirty-two different regional areas but it did never make war attack on any country or empire though it was possible (China Culture, 2003). Its policies had been centered with peace since very earlier. Its policies' main priority was economic development rather to subjugate others sovereignty in order to get more power by occupying land-area and natural resources. China had made a difference from other colonial western powers includes Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch, Russians, France and the Britain on bases of having a policy of peace and defense. It had fought wars always in self-defense but it did never conduct an attack on other's sovereignty (Ministry of Foreign Affairs China, 2015; China.org.cn, 2013).

He Bin, a Chinese Journalist in Pakistan has said, "Trace back to history, Great Britain, first Super Power of modern history, brought Colonist to the rest of world. U.S. and USSR, two super powers of contemporary history, brought Wars to the world. China, carrying out peaceful diplomatic policy and guided by "Five Principles of Peaceful coexistence", will bring out more elements of Peace and development to the World. Because we trust the main theme of the world now is Peace and Development."³

After China's Independence in 1949, the great national leaders of China namely Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping has laid the foundations of China's policy on anti-imperialist, anti-aggressive, peace, development, respect for other sovereignty, non-interference and friendly cooperative relations (Communist Party of China, 2010). Mao Zedong has said on July 14th 1956 that China dislikes imperialism. Imperialism prevents the way of peace and development (Zedong, 1956).

Deng Xiaoping has said in a speech on October 1st 1984 that China opposes hegemony and aggression. China would always expand and establish diplomatic, economic and cultural relations with other countries on the Five Principles of peaceful Coexistence that are mutual respect for each other sovereignty and

³ He Bin Interview with the Author on February 2nd, 2015.

territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, mutual non-interference in each other affairs, equality and cooperation for mutual benefit, and peaceful co-existence (Xiaoping, 1984). The key values of China's national policy that has been set by these great national leaders are leading China towards peace and development. These leaders' defined principles, are still being followed as primary values of today's China's national and foreign policy (English News, 2015). China's President Xi Jinping has said while addressing to the 18th CPC Central Committee that China policy is following the current world political trend of mutual interdependence and cooperation. Its policy core objective is to make economic, political, social and strategic development through mutual cooperation and peace. China desires to develop peaceful global environment in order to promote peace and development throughout the world (Jinping, 2014; 271-273).

China has laid the foundations of One Belt and One Road Initiative on the principles of mutual cooperation, win-win benefits, mutual respect for each other territorial integrity and sovereignty and mutual non-interference that it has extracted from the core values of its national policy. China is a peaceful and non-aligned country. The main policy goal of its initiative is to establish a developed and peaceful society. It through One Road Initiative promotes mutual peace, cooperation, trust, development, interdependence and integration to the rest of the world. It promotes development to other countries and developing a new zone of power in the Asian region. In result, new cultures and new interactions are developing that promotes social stability, harmony and peace among the various nations and countries (Ministry of Foreign Affairs China, 2015).

China dislikes the discriminatory policies of the developed countries towards the third world developing countries. It is in support of promoting equal development and social prosperity to all the countries. It is not encouraging the power influencing anarchy system. China plays a significant role to deal with regional and international issues that are relevant to the development and peace of the developing countries. It during UN Climate Change Conference that held in 2015 has contributed 20 billion yuan (3 billion US dollar) for the development of the climate security in the developing countries. During the conference, China has urged the western developed countries to share their technological knowledge with the developing countries and the countries should reject the narrow mind mentality that believes there is Zero-sum game. All countries should contribute with mutual cooperation for their responsibilities for win-win cooperation. China is not keeping suppressive policies for the developing countries. It through its cooperative policies desires to develop a world of mutual peace, cooperation, and interdependence (Takçı, 2015).'

China's growing economic influence and cooperation in the Asian region is a primary concern of U.S. which is the present global power of the world. U.S. considers China's growing economic development as a threat for its interests and influence. It is under its 'Asia to pivot' policy is militarizing particularly the Asian region by deploying military forces, arms and ammunitions and military alliances. It is encouraging Japan which is its close military ally to raise the South-China Sea dispute to disrupt the growing China's peaceful rise and economic development.

In response to these provocations, China did not establish a military alliance and military base against any of these countries rather it has urged the both countries U.S. and Japan in a mild warning that these should not militarize the region. China's policy comparatively to U.S. and Japan are moving towards mutual peace and gains (Turkish Weekly, 2015). China respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other countries. It believes on mutual respect for each other sovereignty and on mutual non-interference policy that prevents wars and conflicts among the countries. China's peace policy is centuries old that has been delivered from its civilization of harmony (Ministry of Foreign Affairs China, 2015; English News, 2015). China will never choose to go into a conflict or a war in response to U.S. and Japan provocation at the expense of peace and prosperity of its citizens that gave a lot of sacrifices to build today's country and nation (English News, 2015).

Pakistan's ex-Ambassador to China Akram Zaki has said "China's peaceful development is they want to share, they want the prosperity of other countries. They do not want to develop on the expense of other countries. Most countries developed through colonial exploitation, they are developed through hard-work. They want to share and they encourage other people to join the hard-work. It depends on America, Chinese will not cause provocation. But Chinese will resist provocation. America is trying to create problems for China in far-east. They are encouraging Japan and India. But they are trying to divert that. They don't want a conflict. Conflict is no-body's interest. They developed a new philosophy in a great type of relations among the nations."⁴

Conclusion

China is peaceful country and it wants to promote peace and development. It did never remain a colonial and an aggressive power. It sets its national policy base on five principles of peaceful co-existence that includes the values of mutual non-interference and mutual respect to each other sovereignty and territorial integrity etc. Its One Belt One Road Initiative is based on the same principles of peace, mutual cooperation and win-win benefits. Under the sidelines of the Initiative, it is promoting economic development and technological advancement to other countries particularly it is empowering the developing countries of Asia. It is enhancing mutual cooperation and interdependence among the countries. It is reducing the development gap between the developing and developed countries by providing the facilities of finance, technology, trade and labor to construct interconnectivity infrastructures and energy development projects. It is building a multipolar world with new trends of peace and cooperation. The major challenges to China's peaceful development on One Belt One Road initiative are the provocative policies of U.S. and its ally countries includes Japan etc., that are towards militarizing the Asian region and to raise the conflict on South-China Sea. China in response requires to remain stable over its peaceful and development policies. It should increase its investment and financial support for the development of education and poverty in other countries. It is strengthening its

⁴ Akram Zaki Interview with Author on August 20th, 2015.

security by promoting interdependence on the initiative towards other countries and making its security, a security of the rest of the world.

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