

## **U.S. Indo pacific policy: Response of regional states**

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### **Abstract**

The downfall of American hegemony, the rise of China and India's economic power in the world has drastically increased the significance of Indo-Pacific region. This region has become the center of gravity of world's politics and economy. China as an emerging power is a threat to the U.S. hegemony and for India as well. The research is conducted to know the growing geostrategic and geopolitical importance of Indo-Pacific region for U.S and how it is changing dynamically. The study also shows the role of India in Asia-Pacific region, China's rising power and its status in the changings of geopolitics of Asia Pacific region and U.S. response towards the growing significance of China. In this contemporary era, the world is gradually diverted its attention from Euro Atlantic to Asia-Pacific region due to which Asia Pacific region is going to face enormous challenges, opportunities and threats from regional and extra regional states.

**Keywords:** US, Indo, regional states

### **Introduction**

The part of the world which is near the Western Pacific Ocean is the Asia Pacific (Pacific, 2017). Asia Pacific contains various regions, the arc of Asia-Pacific, including Indian Ocean, central Pacific Ocean and Pacific Rim, ranging from East Africa to Western and Central Pacific and other states that share borders with Pacific Rim and Japan. Asia comprises of wide magnitude and great fraction. Above half of the population of the world live in this region. Asia Pacific region is the greatest source for natural and energy resources, the major contributor in World's economy and trade, and having great deal of alliance with the whole world. Two states of Asia i.e. China and India are growing immensely on economic basis in the world (Rim, 2016). Due to wide proportion, there exists diversity in climate, natural environment, geography, landscape, mountain areas, tropical region to arctic regions and Himalayas ranges to coral reefs. Diversity also exists in cultural traditions, ethno-lingual and historical evolution based on politics and development. The ecosystem is of great significant, including zones of tropical and temperate zones, highest mountain ranges, and deep sea along with predominant marine ecosystem. The geopolitical and geostrategic important of this knowing region is growing since ancient times and now, in the present time, it is considered as to become the center of gravity of world's

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economy (Anonymous, A Long-term Perspective on Environment and Development in the Asia-Pacific Region, 2017).

Asia Pacific region is very significant for the world as it is the fundamental gateway of global economy. Above half of the world's trade is done through this region. The strategic and economic importance is increasing day by day which is why the geopolitical and strategic importance of this region is also changing. It also includes largest militaries of the world. The GDP of this region is \$39 trillion which is 56% of the output of global economy. The amount 56% also shows the trade percentage of U.S. in this region as it is rich in energy sources as well (Anonymous, 2012). Thus, one can clearly see the drastic geo-political and geo-strategical changes in the Asia Pacific region as the world's economy is shifting towards it. Looking at the past few centuries, the "economic-monde" i.e. the center of gravity of Worlds economy has shifted from various region as in the 16th century the economy revolved around Antwerp then the economic center became Amsterdam in the 17th century, moving towards London in 19th century and then towards New York in the 20th century. Now, in the 21st century, the center of gravity of world's economy is predicted to shift from New York to Asia Pacific region. The shift is being called as the era of Asian century, due to the fact that whole world's economy is based upon this region. Because of this the geopolitics and strategy of the region is changing dynamically (Trichet, 2008).

Most of the famous naval geo-strategist had predicted that in future, the era will be of Pacific Age. To put it in words, it was predicted that "the Mediterranean is the ocean of the past, the Atlantic is the ocean of the present and the Pacific is the ocean of the future". Since many known strategist even, Mahan had given his vision that in the 21st century, US should focus on Asia-Pacific region as it is significant for remaining the sole super power of the world. And his theory of sea power explains that the one who rules the sea and Eurasia rules the world. This shows that the growing importance of Asia Pacific has already been predicted. The emerging power i.e. China has shifted its focus in gaining military and economic power in Asia-Pacific region. In the current era of geopolitics of the world, the emerging strategic and economic power lies in Asia-Pacific region. This region is significant because of many factors based on economy, strategic and military power, rich in energy and natural resources and the most important factor is the rise of China and India as emerging power of the world lies in this region. China has the second largest economy of the world along with being second largest beneficiary of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), thus having superiority, economically and militarily over other states of the region. The rise of

## **U.S. Indo pacific policy: Response of regional states**

China as an emerging power and increasing importance of Asia-Pacific region in the world has led US to prioritize its policies towards this region (Khan & Amin, 2014). The geopolitical and geostrategic shifts of power in Asia-Pacific region is one major concern for US at the present time. The significance of this region cannot be denied since the world is totally dependent for economy and trade on this region. Due to which shift in geopolitical power of Asia-Pacific region will influence the whole world's geopolitics. The rise of Asia-Pacific in the 21st century has also become a threat for American hegemony. Because the foreign policy of both US and China will influence world's peace and prosperity. Therefore, Former President Obama has taken drastic steps to secure its hegemonic steps by making long-term partnership and policies towards the states of this region in order to safeguard the national interest of US (Cossa, et al., 2009). The rise of Asia-Pacific has changed the nature of power and policies in the world, most important role of this region is because both China and India (emerging super powers) lies in Asia-Pacific, a revitalized role of Japan, the role of sole super power US and increasing economy and security concerns of this region especially in the Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean (Mayilvaganan, Malhotra, R., & Chauhan, 2014). The increasing significance of Asia-Pacific has some major reasons which are; the trade and economy of more than half of the world is done through this region, the ocean provides the shortest routes from west to east, vice versa and about \$1 trillion of US annual two-way trade exports is carried out through this route. The other important reason is the rise of China, militarily and economically in the region. China's One Belt, One Road (OBOR) policy, Deep Pocket policy and fortified naval forces in Indian Ocean (IO) have shifted the focus of many powerful states, especially US towards this region. Though, China is using soft power influence in the region to become a regional hegemon of Asia. Due to rise in China's power, many regional states are now collaborating with China to protect peace and avoid conflict in the region. Though, US and India, both sees China as a threat to their power regionally and globally. US policies towards Asia-Pacific signifies that they have adopted containment policy for China and engagement policy towards the region. US priority is to contain China in South China Sea and to curtail its influence in Asia-Pacific. The world is now forming diplomatic relation regionally and globally based on multilateral system. This has resulted in increase in regionalism policy even though globalization has already entered the world politics. Regionalism will help Asia-Pacific region to become more powerful in the world such as China is using regionalization policy in Asia-Pacific to become super power and hegemony of the world. To encounter China, US has initiated its rebalancing policy towards China to shift the later to isolation and to gain the lost influence and power in Asia-Pacific (Cossa, et al., 2009).

### **Research Questions**

- What is the role of India in the changing geopolitics of Asia-Pacific region?
- How China's emerging power in Asia-Pacific changing the geopolitics of Asia Pacific region?
- How US will react towards the changing dynamics of Asia-Pacific region?

### **Research Objectives**

- To identify the role of India in the changing geopolitics of Asia-Pacific region.
- To identify China as an emerging power in Asia-Pacific region.
- To analyze the reaction of US towards the changing dynamics of Asia-Pacific region.

### **Rationale**

American hegemony is facing challenges to maintain its hegemony in Asia Pacific region. Center of gravity of the world is dynamically being shifted to Asia-Pacific region from Euro Atlantic. The growing importance of this region is because of China expansion in world's economy, due to its One Belt, One Road (OBOR) policy that connects the Asian region with the Africa, Europe and Central Asia, also connecting the east to the west through shortest oceanic routes. This has resulted in increase in trade, economy and power in Asia-Pacific region. the research shoes that due to the emergence of China as a great economic and military power in the region, not only India's economic power has been threatened but U.S. hegemonic status in the region has also been effected badly. The research also identifies the reaction of U.S. towards the changing geopolitical and geo-strategic dynamic of Asia Pacific region.

### **Research Methodology**

The research has been conducted through qualitative method and through content analysis. The data is collected from secondary sources from national and international books, journals, articles and papers. Descriptive research method has been used as a research design.

### **Theoretical Framework**

Regionalism emerged in post-cold war era, when the world was moving towards globalization. It represents the regional geopolitical map and changes in the region of the world with different models and theories. Regionalism theory gained importance after worldwar 2 and in post-cold war era as the world shifted from bipolar ideological

## **U.S. Indo pacific policy: Response of regional states**

war to bipolar and multipolar economic war. Asia Pacific has made the bipolar regional geopolitical global model to multipolar or tri-polar geopolitical global map. Asia Pacific pan region has various regions due to which it becomes difficult to group regions into regionalism process. States such as Japan, Australia and New Zealand are still lingering on to become part of the region on official terms. In 1940, Asia Pacific region was introduced by Japan's Great East Asia Co-prosperity sphere (GEACPS). At first it only included Southeast Asia and East Asia but after the end of world war 2, Australia and New Zealand were added. And with the end of Cold war era, the whole Asian region and Central Pacific Ocean came under the Asia Pacific pan region in the world. Since it is the Southern side i.e. 'poor' bloc of the world being rich in energy resources and North which is rich in industries, therefore, this region has always faced many difficulties. The regional theory and model is carried out in Asia Pacific for trade, economic and security purposes due to old rivalries of regional states in the whole region. the growth and prosperity of the region has always been at great risk. But if the intra and inter- state regional conflicts gets sorted out, the whole region will become the power hub, imposing threat to all stable powerful states of the world (Rumley, 2005).

### **Literature Review**

Trichet (2008) exclaims that in recent years, Asia Pacific has entered into a phase where regional states can only navigate on major shifts such as geopolitical changes and internal rifts of the states. In order to cope up with these issues and challenges, the regional states of Asia Pacific should be in collaboration with each other to strengthen their alliance for security and economic purposes. The reason for this is the growing importance of Asia Pacific in 21st century. The major role in the growth of geopolitical importance of Asia Pacific is based on two key features i.e. demographically and through economic terms. The first element i.e. demographical significance of this region is that more than 500 million inhabitants live in this region of the world. And two gigantic states, China and India are in this region, 9 largest metropolitan areas out of 20 are situated in this region. It consists of most drastic trade and huge economics of the whole world. Above 40% of the world's GDP renders on Asia Pacific region. This increase in regional economy has resulted in curtailing poverty in many stable states of the region. Some states are emerging as developed and economic stable countries, such as India and China are emerging as the new super power of the World from this region.

According to Anonymous (2012) many states have developed a new proposal to secure and enhance the geopolitical importance of this region. This proposal includes

good relation with other states, based on diplomacy, economic ties and investment on strategic significance and security in order to protect and stabilize Asia for centuries. To reach this approach, every state is making itself more modernize on the bases of security and making friendly alliance with other states. For security purposes, alliance with Japan, South Korea, Philippines, Thailand and Australia is necessary. And to secure and promote economic ties, partnership with economic stable countries at regional scale is very remarkable. Especially with China, because it is an emerging economy in the region, therefore keeping good relation with China will influence the economy of other states as well.

Khasru (2017) says that the geopolitics of Asia Pacific is drastically changing since past few years. Other than economic benefits which have great concern over the security agreements in the region of Asia Pacific. U.S. the sole super power, and emerging super power i.e. China have initiated such projects due to which the security and prosperity of Asia-Pacific is at great risk that who would rule the entire Asia-Pacific region. The consequences of One Belt, One Road (OBOR) initiated by China and the negligence of Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) by American President Trump leads numerous Asian States in regenerating and modernizing their old strategic policies towards the two monster states. Both these states are the taking their chances to make good alliance with Asian States. But now the struggle for U.S. has increased to a great deal because China is offering new projects with its OBOR policy Asian states by building their infra-structure, developing them and investing billions of dollars to improve both countries economy. On the other hand, U.S. is having hard time because of giving ambiguous responsibilities and policies to keep its alliance with its traditional Asian allies. Both states having equal interest in Asian regions would create unstable condition and tense situation in the region. Thus, the future of Asia is at stake between two giant powers as most of the Asian countries are dependent on either of the two states or both states for economic, diplomatic and strategic policies. The policy of U.S President Trump i.e. America First and China's President Xi's policy of Deep Pockets has resulted in disloyalty of Asian allies of U.S. They are shifting their alliance from U.S., are also reshaping their diplomatic and trade relations with U.S and are moving towards China for diplomatic and trade relations. Looking at the broader sense, China's President Xi policy of Deep Pockets have invited many Asian states to work in collaboration with China. One major example is that of Philippines, who have shifted its policy and made its alliance with China regardless of the fact that they have some old conflicts with each other. Now, both states have signed bilateral treaties. China is also giving military aid to Philippines against radical militants. Though, Philippines always thought that the west

## **U.S. Indo pacific policy: Response of regional states**

and U.S. would help them in future but China did the work. Other states such as Malaysia, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand have also made close alliance with China. All of the Asia Pacific states are coming in the influence of China's Belt Road Initiative (BRI) policy, which will result in boosting up their economy and for security purposes. This has resulted in significant changes in ASEAN geopolitics.

Lim (2016) says that at the present time China is also one of the biggest trade ally of Japan. China is using adjustment policy to adjust itself according to other states policies, and to have alliance with many states of Asia, as well as with Japan and Western countries as well. The investment of China in every possible geopolitical important state in Asia Pacific would be beneficial not only for China but also for developing states of Asia. Such as Singapore and other Island have developed good trade and economic ties with China in order to boost up their economy. It can also be done through One Belt, One Road (OBOR) policy in these areas. Yet, China has some conflicts with countries on the coastline of South China Sea and East China Sea but these countries are still developing trade relations with China. Though, this could also be a great risk for any future conflicts. But the policies of China show that its interest is based on having stable external and internal environment along with other states. The domestic challenges faced by Chinese people are also being overcome by them. They are adopting new norms to make strong cultural, social, economic and political situation of the country. Thus, the stability and prosperity of China would geopolitically be very significant for Asia Pacific and the World as well.

Rumley (2005) mentions that in the 21st century, bilateral trading system is moving towards multi-lateral trading system. This system would also help in removing trade barriers and nontariff issues. This could also lead to have free trade agreement (FTA), between the regions to enhance multilateral trade system. But free trade agreement cannot be implemented if the World Trade Organization (WTO) does not work effectively and until the states keep good relations with each other (Schumacher, 2016). Though Asia Pacific is said to be the future trade and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) hub of the world. Since the Asia Pacific is the southern side of the world being rich in energy and natural resources but are not developed, and the other side is the developed and industrial rich side of the world. Thus, giving birth to North-South Conflict in the world once again. But the nature of conflict in the 21st century is based on 'economy' and not actual war, cold war or ideological war. Looking at the broader sense of North South Conflict, the nature of this conflict in the 21st century on geopolitical and geo-economic grounds has evolved to tripolarity from bipolarity. The regions included US, Euro-Africa and the new powerful region i.e. Asia Pacific.

Thus, making regionalization policy effective again. According to the rising power of Asia Pacific, the region will soon become a huge economic source for developing and fragile state. Asia Pacific regionalism policy towards its region is a ray of hope for poor states in boosting up their economy and security within the region. this can also result in conflicting regional states to develop close economic and strategic ties, avoiding any serious threats for each other. It is because if the trade and economy of all states are stable than there could be no armed conflicts in the region. the multilateral global trade initiated by China through One Belt, One Road (OBOR) policy would eventually increase the economy of the region and regional states who are undergoing with this policy. The existing literature signifies that with the growth of Asia Pacific region, the impact of regionalism has become important for all the regional states. it will make this region of the strongest and richest region of the world. OBOR policy connecting the whole Asia Pacific regional states with each other is the highest form of regionalism in the 21st century. The current relation clarifies that China have a great growing role in Asia Pacific. Whereas, India is also emerging as a strong power competing China and Pakistan in balancing power in the region. the focus of this region is mainly within its own region, enhancing “regionalism” policy and balance of power theory. US has also set its engagement towards Asia Pacific to gain control in the region in order to remain the sole super power of the world.

Hanif and Khan (2018) explain that US is using hard core power to engage in the region whereas China is following soft power policy to develop good relations with other regional states. Asia is concerned about US diverted focus from its region which has resulted in loss of US influence over its allies in Asia Pacific region. Former president Obama has mentioned the importance of this region for US and how they will continue to share good relation with the region in all its administrations. But the statement of President Trump and his policy of America First has put Asia into question about their importance to US. The real reason for decline of US in Asia is because of rising power of China in Asia Pacific. US is making sure that Asia Pacific developing states should get equal and enhanced military aid to strengthen its ties in the region and secretly curtail and isolate China. US has focused on having bilateral ties with India and Vietnam. India and US have developed strong bilateral strategic ties. Whereas, US face great challenges in making friendly ties with Vietnam, North Korea and some other Asian states. Another important reason is increase in nuclear weapons by regional states. Most nuclear states of Asia are rival states. India, Pakistan and China are modernizing their nuclear weapons. Iran and Afghanistan has also initiated making of modern nuclear weapons. North Korea has become successful in testing its nuclear weapon. Due to the withdrawal of Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty

## **U.S. Indo pacific policy: Response of regional states**

(ABM), the region itself has become a threat to the world for a new kind of warfare, which is not similar to cold war and actual war. The fourth most important reason is the slowly fading line between unipolarity, bipolarity and multi-polarity or multilateral of the world. In simple words, the unipolarity of US and bipolar or bilateral collaboration of the world is coming to an end.

Jassal and Gahlot (n.d.) exclaims that India's role in Asia Pacific and importance of its geostrategic location is not entirely flourishing the way China is raising in the region. It is because of the rivalries India has with its region and also due to internal conflicts. India is said to be the power balancer of the region, since it is also at the verge of becoming regional hegemon. Also because Pakistan has initiated developing ports and economic ties with China through China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and One Belt, One Road (OBOR) policy, making Pakistan to become an economic hub in the near future which is a big threat to India. If India modernizes its nuclear weapon and Pakistan then would have to modernize their weapon too in order to stand firm against each other. Then the balance of power theory will become inevitable in Asia-Pacific. India also have rivalry with China and other Asian states. Therefore, the Look East policy is helping greatly in enhancing India's states. India has also developed strong bilateral relation with US to build strong policy towards Asia Pacific. Though, India's policy in Asia Pacific is more Southeast Asian and South Asian centric than any other region. Other than this, India is focusing on making strong strategic ties within the region to strengthen its security and economy. The quadrilateral ties being made by US is to protect and secure the stability and balance of power in the region. India has also developed close economic and strategic ties with South Korea. Since Asia Pacific has shifted the main focus of the world towards itself, India in this region is also boosting up their national and international economic and security interest in the region. India is now actively engaging towards Asia Pacific to become the regional hegemon of Asia Pacific. Thus, India's role in Asia Pacific is to gain power, security and strong alliance in the region.

### **Discussion and Analysis**

#### **Asia Pacific- A Neglected Region**

Asia Pacific region in the 21st century has shifted the whole world's attention towards itself. The region has been neglected for so long by the great powers of the world, since it is the region of third world countries or fragile states region. As a matter of fact, this region's geopolitical and strategic importance was neglected this whole time. But in the present time, its political and economic significance has diverted the

world's attention towards itself. No doubt it will soon become the center of gravity of trade, economy, security, peace and prosperity of the world. Asia Pacific region is considered to be extremely valuable because this region is rich in energy and natural resources. It also has great geopolitical and strategic implications on regional and global scale. With increasing importance of Asia Pacific and being rich in energy and resources, the world will eventually divide into two imaginary blocs i.e. North and South. Thus, it can be said that North-South conflict has apparently raised once again dating back to history. But the nature of conflict in this century would be different. Before Cold war, arms conflict and wars occurred between powerful states. After the end of World Wars, the war transformed into cold war, which was basically ideological war but in the 21st century, the world will not be fighting cold war or actual war rather the war will be “economic war”, where states will fight to have largest economies of the world and to have economic influence and trade relations with other states of the world. Asia Pacific has become a new region to have strong hold in the upcoming economic conflict. As this region is facing great challenges from US and other powerful states. US diverted its focus from this region for quite a long time and now due to the emerging power of China, it has become influential in the world. US has now shifted its focus back towards Asia Pacific. The rise of China would mean the downfall of America, shifting of focus and center of gravity from New York to Beijing. In a matter of time, China has developed its economy, military and alliance in Asia Pacific. Because of this US has initiated its engagement policy towards Asia Pacific and have strengthened its bilateral trade and security ties with India, in order to get hold of Asia Pacific region. US is also secretly trying to contain China in South China Sea to rebalance Asia Pacific again. This policy resembles the containment policy used by West to curtail Russia's communism. Rebalancing strategy of US shows that by containing China, US can grow its alliance in Asia Pacific again and can engage properly. To fulfil this purpose, US is now developing trilateral (Japan, India and US) and quadrilateral relations (US, Japan, Australia and India) in Asia Pacific to achieve its interest. US policies also shows that it is giving an option to Asian states of ‘taking sides’ with either US or China, in simple words either to be friends or foes.

### **China's Influence in Asia Pacific Region**

China, on the other hand, has its String of Pearl and One Belt, One Road (OBOR) policy which is a sign of its growing geopolitical and strategic power in the region. In Asia Pacific, China has overtaken Japan. China is also making alliance with other regional states, embedding them in its OBOR policy to have strong regional alliance

## **U.S. Indo pacific policy: Response of regional states**

too. The rise of China in Asia Pacific has disturbed the balance of power of the world. China's policy of Deep Pockets in Asia Pacific shows a long term strategic plan of China in the region, which is a threat to US, India and the whole world.

### **Japan**

Since the geopolitical importance of Asia Pacific region is increasing, Japan is changing its policies towards Asia Pacific region. Japan is shifting its policy because of three factors i.e., economic relations and trade partners, U.S. ties with Japan and Asia and the geopolitical rise of Asia Pacific region (especially China). Japan has started developing new strategic and economic ties with Asian regional states. Japan has also made military ties with US, India and Australia to secure and strengthen its country in the region. The only reason why Japan is regenerating its international and national policy is to get closer to China's rising economy. Japan is increasing its economic ties with Southeast Asia to boost up its economy. Other than this, with the growing military of China in the region. Japan has started making military ties with China's neighboring countries. Japan has initiated joint practice with Philippines navy. It is also moving to make good relations with Vietnam military as well. Other than this, Japan is struggling hard to strategic and political basis to challenge China in the Asia Pacific region by going side by side with China. And to solve South China Sea conflict. Not only this Japan is also making trade relations with China as well in order to better understand its economy and policy in the world.

### **North Korea, South Korea and Australia**

In Asia Pacific region, Korea and Australia share same interest which would make strong ties between them in economic and diplomatic geopolitical purposes. This involves having free trade in Asia Pacific stable regions and strong friendly relations, peace and prosperity in Asia Pacific. The bond between these two countries while having same interest with other states of the region would prove to be very effective for the prosperity of Asia Pacific region. The emergence of China in Asian region which has also effected the foreign policy of the world but the nuclear test done by North Korea has also affected the whole of Asia and even U.S., because the nuclear-armed ballistic missiles could be targeted on South Korea. Japan is also in danger to be hit by North-Korea, and if they succeed in making larger magnitude ballistic missiles, they could also threat U.S. to attack them. Australia has also backed up with U.S. saying that Australia would follow China's idea and it would be better if China taking place of U.S. in Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) because China is now the

biggest trade partner of Australia. But relation with Australia is risky as whose side it is taking because Australia is also a part of quadrilateral relations with US.

### **South Asia**

The South Asian region in Asia Pacific has old rivalries due to which there exist no strong bond between them. One can still hope for friendly relations between Indian and Pakistan. With the rivalries between states of South-Asian region, the co-operation and trade relations between the states is also very low. The trade between South Asian region states is not equal to 5% of trade which these states trades with other countries of the world. In South Asia, the two nuclear states Pakistan and India are always in the state of conflict with each other. The two big countries India and Pakistan is not letting other regions start projects and cooperate with both the countries. The Belt Road Initiative (BRI) and Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Forum for Regional Co-operation (BCIM) is also not flourishing as it should. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and One Belt, One Road (OBOR) is only between China and Pakistan, and then towards other states of Asia Pacific region. The road, in OBOR policy is passing through Kashmir as well, which is a controversial point between India and Pakistan, due to this, India is not participating in this initiative and is having reservations and doubts in BCIM as well. Regardless of this India is making close ties with U.S. in order to use U.S. to pressurize Pakistan at any time possible.

### **India- A Competitor to China**

India has developed its position as one of the core areas in regional process in Asia Pacific. India is one of the states whose status in the region balances or unbalances power within the region due to its growing power. India, along with Asia Pacific states, China, Japan and US is said to be becoming super power of the world. India's growing power is termed as 'balancing power' in Asia. In Asia Pacific Region, India is also emerging as a super power. The rise of India and China in the region has made both states strategic competitors of each other i.e. both states are in a state of war to win and become the regional and global hegemon. However, India is a step back from China, since China's policy of One Belt, One Road (OBOR) and Deep Pockets in Asia is resulting in other states making strong alliance with China. The reason is because China is fulfilling the interest the both states at a time. India has old rivalries with its neighbor making it having loss allies than China. China has sent its forces to build road according to OBOR policy towards and from China's boarder through Bhutan but India is not paying much attention to it. Though, this initiative is

## **U.S. Indo pacific policy: Response of regional states**

strategically very important for India as well. Due to the two big states of Asia having conflicts on the basis of economics, trade and politically, the other countries of South Asia is also facing unstable relations with each other. India's interest is more towards U.S. and Japan. Thus, making an anticipating alliance among Japan-U.S.-India-Vietnam. India has also made strategic defense ties with Israel and Russia for weapons trade as well. Because Pakistan has started developing good ties with Russia and has also joint military exercises together. India has, since adopted engagement policy in Asia Pacific and especially in Southeast Asia, to have strong bilateral relation with this region. India has also strengthened bilateral relations with US to help in containing China and becoming regional hegemon. Since there cannot be two or more super powers of the world, therefore US, India and China pose great threat and challenges to each other in the 21st century. That is why this age is called the "Asia-Pacific Century".

### **U.S. Response to China's Rise**

The rise of Asia Pacific region demands peace, prosperity and security in the region. In this case, U.S. is facing difficulties in providing complete security to the threats and dangers in the region. Due to this, security concerns have significantly increased in Asia Pacific region. Since US has made bilateral ties with many states, therefore, the influence of America in Asia Pacific region has lowered drastically. Another reason in decrease in US influence in Asia is because US have always preferred having strong bilateral relations whereas, the regional states of Asia are now focusing on multilateral relation to boost up their economy and security in the region. America on the other hand is losing its effective and active role of leading this region. One most important factor is US securing and prioritizing its own national interest has led many states to join hands with China's multilateral such as One Belt, One Road (OBOR) policy, which would benefit both countries economy and security in the region. Due to unbalancing power situation in the region, US has adopted new strategies towards Asia. The first is containment policy towards China, to contain it to South China Sea and to isolate the state from making any alliance with other regional state. The rise of China in Asia Pacific is a threat to US hegemony and sole super power of the world. US, thus, have also adopted engagement policy in Asia Pacific to build multilateral trade ties with stable powerful states of the region. US is focusing more on bilateral ties with India to achieve its goals and interests. This process of curtailing China's rising power and engaging towards Asia to gain its lost control is called as "Rebalancing" of Asia Pacific. Both, US and India shares same objectives to isolate China from becoming super power and are thus working on policies to make India the

hegemon of Asia. And U.S. to gain influence and enhance bilateral military ties in the region with India. US is developing friendly and open ties with North Korea to strengthen its position in Asia Pacific. Japan is another important state for US as it is the fundamental block which has helped US to engage in Asia Pacific region. With Japan's strong ties, US strategy is likely to change from bilateralism to having trilateral or quadrilateral ties within Asia Pacific to fulfill its goals. The quadrilateral relation states would be India, Japan, Australia and US. Since Australia is a great supporter of US in maintaining stability and security in Asia. The engagement of US towards Southeast Asia is very critical because US have security alliance in this region and they are engaging towards China with its One Belt, One Road (OBOR) policy. As every state can see the shift of center of gravity from New York to Beijing, Asia Pacific is also changing its policies towards.

### **Conclusion**

In the 21st century, many things are changing the entire system of the world. The biggest change that was predicted not to be true is happening in front of the world. Asia Pacific region is gaining geopolitical and geostrategic importance in the world. The increase in significance of Asia Pacific region is because of its demography and for being the major contributor of trade and economy of the world. The super power i.e. U.S. is very much dependent on Asia for energy and natural resources in the region. Most states in the region is geographically, geopolitical and strategically very important. India and China, both are emerging super power of the world. India, though has not very good relations with its neighbors in its region and within Asia Pacific region. But China has made good trade relations with every state of Asia Pacific. The Belt, Road Initiative (BRI) policy is also because to connect the region of Asia Pacific and states for trade purposes. This has created great tension for U.S. because every Asian state is moving towards China for boosting up their economy and trade in the region. This has created tense situation for U.S. because every state is moving towards China because of its policy of connecting and increasing trade and economy. Even old allies of U.S. in Asian region are changing their foreign policy and are seeking China for trade and developing their infra-structure. America's policy of putting America first in every situation is the reason why every state is moving towards China. This One Belt, One Road (OBOR) policy has started from Central Asia from China towards South Asia and is now going to be built towards Middle East to connect the whole region with its road policy. China has also left Japan behind in economic status in Asian region and the world. With the nuclear test done by North Korea. Asian region has become powerful and dangerous as more than three nuclear states exists in

### **U.S. Indo pacific policy: Response of regional states**

Asia Pacific region now. Due to nuclear weapon made and tested by North Korea, the states near North Korea are now concerned with their security. Most of the states are now making alliance with other states for security concerns and for trade. The world is now moving towards a multipolar system from uni-polarity in which there would be more than one super power and every emerging super power would be in continuous challenge with each other. Not only this, it can be predicted that the North-South conflicts will rise again in the near future but the nature of the war in 21st century would be completely different. Because not there wouldn't be any suppressed nation being ruled by other empires, now there will be armed conflicts and unrest situation in the whole world in order to gain all the power of the world.

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