

Beijing Interests in CPEC



p- ISSN: 2708-2121

e-ISSN: 2708-3616

L- ISSN: 2708-2121

Ijaz Khalid *

Syed Umair Jalal †

Muhammad Usman Ullah ‡

Abstract

The paper investigates the PRC interests being developed in China Pakistan Economic Corridor since long its announcement in 2015. The study also analysis the factors that led to the adoption of policy being chalk out for the joint venture of CPEC. Beijing articulated its interests under the prism of political, security, economic and strategic perspectives. The Western World comprehended Chinese interests in the strategic perspective but Chinese always define it as economic and a win-win game for both the receiver and PRC. The paper concluded that China deep political and strategic interest in CPEC that undermines the interest of many major powers including USA, India and some extent Russia. The study also finds that CPEC has been marked the shortest and safest commercial route to Beijing global trade that cut down fourteen thousand miles of distances while reaching from eastern China to the Arabian Sea.

Key Words: China, CPEC, BRI, Interests, Political, Strategic

Introduction

Chinese motivated by three main objectives to go for CPEC in a situation where Pakistan heavily damaged by the War on terror and burning in the issue s of security and energy. Keeping in mind the development in South Asia where the US strengthened its relations with India to use it as a counter to China also multiplied by the *Malacca Dilemma* that can slow down the Chinese three decades double digit economic growth but Chinese authorities are well aware of these developments and planned CPEC to counter all these issues with good manner (Hafeez Ullah Khan, 2018).

To strengthen Pakistan Economically; China and Pakistan enjoyed long term diplomatic, political and military relations based on trust and respect for each other sovereignty since the inception of both but the missing chapter in their relations was added post 9/11 2001 when Chinese policy maker adopted economic oriented policies and feel the need of Pakistan in its long term geo-economic strategy (Hafeez Ullah Khan, 2018). The importance of Pakistan to the Chinese were severe when the US adopted strong relations with India for two reasons, one to counter China regional influence and second to use the India in the issues of South China Sea. For that purpose, it is logical that Beijing would seek to apply a dreadful counterweight to India to level the score with US in the South Asia politics. Unlike US, Chinese rightly conceived the real problems of Pakistan that hurdles its economic growth which are security and energy crises. To put an end to the issue of energy, China plan to invest \$55 billion in Pakistan and with reference to security Chinese also greatly concerns with elements of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. Some Chinese media also pointed out finger on Pakistani individuals who trains and equipped these groups to operate in Xinjiang but during Musharraf era all these concerns were cleared by

* Demonstrator, Department of Political Science, Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan, KP, Pakistan.

Email: ijazkhalid@awkum.edu.pk

† M.Phil. Scholar, Department of Political Science, University of Peshawar, KP, Pakistan.

‡ Junior Research Fellow, Humanity Research Council, Islamabad, Pakistan.

Pakistan and it was proved when Pakistan kill the leader of ETIM in a drone attack near Pak-Afghan border. For this purpose, Beijing chalk out plan to bring security through development in both these unstable regions of China (Xinjiang) and Pakistan (FATA, KP). Keeping in mind this goal China design CPEC to strengthen its time-tested allies Pakistan to counter terrorism. So as a result, politically stable, economically prosperous and militarily strong Pakistan will ultimately limit the Indian regional influence (Hafeez Ullah Khan, Indian Cold Start Doctrine: Pakistan's Policy Response, 2018).

Secondly, the Chinese interests in CPEC to divert energy sea trade routes to and from the Middle East. China 75% of international trade going through the Strait of Malacca and Indian Ocean where huge U.S. naval presence could blockades the choke points of the Strait of Malacca that would leads to the conflict between the two largest economies of the World. For that purpose, Gwadar operated by Chinese to directly link it western China and reduce the dependency on US influenced sea routes of Indian Ocean, Strait of Malacca, East and South China Sea to sustain and ensure free flow of imports and exports to the region of Middle East, Africa and Europe with any obstacle (Ijaz Khalid, 2018).

Lastly, the Chinese huge investment in a country like Pakistan could not justify only for supporting Pakistan economically and diverting its maritime sea routes through CPEC but the goals of Beijing are not regional but its global in nature that beyond its friend Pakistan and covers CARs, Middle East and African countries. For that purpose, PRC plan to build rail network to connect Kashghar with Gwadar. This would help China to link economic partners of South east Asia to Europe, Middle East and African Markets by land corridors and maritime trade routes on the basis of this rationale, Chinese operated the *Gawadar* port to meet its economic objectives but also it is hotly debated around the World that Chinese will use the port for the naval purposes to ensure the security of its maritime routes from the piracy incidents (Ijaz Khalid, 2018).

China's Interests in CPEC

For understanding CPEC and Beijing's interests in the CPEC, we must understand the broader agenda and strategy of Chinese policy maker who chalk out the whole system of corridors across the Asia, Europe and Africa. The new leadership of Xi Jin Ping spoke about the "Silk Road Economic Belt" in 2013 when he was on official visit to Kazakhstan. In early 2015 the policy maker also came up with another vision of "21st Century Maritime Silk Road" through South east and South Asia. China marked both of these visions collectively as "One Belt, One Road" (OBOR) (Zimmerman, 2015).

International system dominated by western powers and in later century by the US along with its western allies through its much practices values of democracy and capitalism. The history of international politics is full of the emergence and decline of non-western powers but all of them failed to defeat western oriented values and compelled to adopt the same values. Unlike other non-western powers China emerged as an economic power within very short period of thirty years committed to capitalism economically and communism politically. The US and west tried to transformed the hostile powers in the colors of US and western political culture and China is not an exceptional.

Mao Foreign Policy

China emerged as a communist state in 1949 but was compelled to practice capitalism when the US and western powers relaxed their relations with Beijing in late 1970s. This development on the one hand relaxed the tension between Washington and Beijing but with the rapid rise of China as an economic power and responsible actor of international politics produced tension in Sino-US relations in particularly and to the western powers in general (Godehardt, 2016). This tension of current major powers will ultimately lead to conflict of Washington and Beijing and consider China as a threat to the existence established norms of international political and economic order (Vangeli, 2017)

China built an economic empire within just thirty years when Deng took the power of people Republic of China as a second leadership in 1978. During Mao era China encircled by the US administration through its policy of *"Let the Dust to Settle"* politically, economically, militarily and diplomatically. Politically, China was replaced by Taiwan in the UN Security Council permanent membership and deprived it from the veto power status that was totally unjust to the Chinese people and its size as an important factor in international politics. Economically, the US and its Western Allies did not invest a single dollar in Chinese land and impose sanctions on for being a communist state that was declared by the Mao Zhe Dong in October 1949. To make China diplomatically isolate, the US and Western allies opened their embassies in Taiwan instead of China until their relations were normalized in 1970s. Militarily, Chinese were involved in the Korean War (1950-53) and Vietnam War (1954-75) that heavily damages its infrastructure and developmental planning (Vangeli, 2017).

To counter the US policy of isolating China, Mao adopted three different and diverts strategies to achieve its foreign policy objectives. Firstly, *"Leaning to One Side strategy"*. According to this strategy Mao make it clear to lean to one side and choose the communist bloc as an alliance. Initially Mao was not in mood to adopt this policy of aligning itself to the Moscow but it was due to the US policies that compelled Mao to clubbed China with USSR. Secondly, *"The Double Anti"*, this strategy put China hostile to both of the super powers when Beijing found itself in clash with Soviet Union in 1969. During this time China developed close relations with the third World states of Asia, Africa and Latin America that gave an identity to Chinese people and some scholar considered China the master of third World states but Beijing negate that sort of notions for itself and did not claimed any leadership status. Lastly, *"The One United Front Strategy"*. After Sino-Soviet split in 1969 China realized that it could no longer afford to be hostile with both the super powers and relaxed its relations with the US and Western states that ultimately led to the collapse of USSR in 1990. As a result, the policies of Mao were security oriented and he was very rigid and committed to the values of communism and strongly opposed the Western oriented values of democracy and capitalism and their dominated World order and agencies (Zimmerman, 2015).

Deng's Foreign Policy

When Deng Zhao Ping came to power in 1978, he put China on the opposite side and made economy as the top priority of the nation and kept politics secondary. To achieve its objectives, he adopted the Openness and reforms program and introduced the Modernization of Agriculture, Industry, Defense, Science and technology that consequently explore China to the rest of the international community and brought positive results in terms of economic development. After Deng, Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao both of them continue the policies of Deng modernization and reform program that marked China as one of the economic due to it double digit economic growth for the last thirty years (Whiting, 1995). The 9/11 2001 attacks and the post 9/11 US policies faced China with both challenges and opportunities.

Xi Jinping Policies

Chinese interests in the post Hu has clearly elaborated by the new leadership of Xi Jinping when he came to power in 2012. What China needs and what would be the destination of its people were the questions that everyone in the World wants to know about the second largest economy and the most populous country in the World. In this regard the Beijing new leadership clearly talks about its vision when Xi spoke in January 16, 2013 and he said,

"By the time the People's Republic celebrates its 100th anniversary, we will become a prosperous, strong, democratic, civilized, and harmonious socialist modernized country on its way to the ultimate great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. This is the greatest dream of the Chinese nation in modern history (Lin, 2015)."

Keeping in mind the XI vision, one can remind that after Deng the Chinese people got another leadership that not only pursuing the policies of openness and reforms but also chalked out the

future planning for conducting the domestic and foreign policy. Xi clearly marked prosperity that simply means the Beijing's current economic policy that was continuing since Deng. Economically developed China will also strengthen the external behavior of Beijing towards the rest of the World. Xi meaning of democratic China does not represent the western oriented democracy but democracy with Chinese characteristics. Among his speech he also focused on the socialist modernized China which is the ultimate goal of Chinese communist party to build up a society in modern era that has committed to socialism. In the above-mentioned speech, he also realized the outside World that the rise of China will not like other empires to pose threat to small states and exploit it but it will be based on the peaceful principles of coexistence of the UN. Xi marked all these activities are the greatest dream of China that will come true in 2049 the day of China's 100th anniversary (Ross, 1989)

Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is the only party that came into being in 1921 and got power in October 1949 under the leadership of Mao Zhe Dong. CCP control all the political, economic and security powers in its own hands and did not allow other party to be part of the Chinese political affairs. Recently party decided to revive its ideology and governing methods to achieve the fundamental interests of Chinese people its primary aim. To achieve these objectives CCP will do this through raise of living standard of its people and to ensure the rise of China as a great power of the century. For this purpose, Beijing pursues domestic and foreign policy objectives to make it this vision a reality but CCP also facing divert challenges to do so (Ross, 1989).

The CCP pursuit long term history of planning which they outlined as an ambitious vision is called "*The Chinese Dream by Xi*" that will be achieve in the mid of this century. This vision is the aggregate of policy aims proposed to augment prosperity, encourage social stability, guarantee a higher standard of life for citizens, and advance China's position as a World power. The PRC policy makers are hopeful about the result of this vision that it will bring happiness to the individuals. In effect, Beijing adopted the numerous domestic and foreign policy to advance this vision. Internally, since 2002, the CCP focused on the five areas included economic, political, social, cultural and environmental to be improved for the smooth running of China rapid economic growth that was designed by the Deng in 1980.externally, with its rising power as a global power status Beijing needs to address the economic security issues by adopting to formulate the new World order and seek regional cooperation to ease the tension between China and conflictive state (Lin, 2015).

To ensure quality of life in any society the economic development must be based on Balance sustainable growth otherwise it will lead to separatism, terrorism and extremism. Since 2002 China also faced this economic issue of balance growth and the gap between the eastern China and Southern and Western China that is widen with passing every single day that consequently created the issue Tibet and Sinkiang separatist elements in the shape of Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM) which posed severe threats to Beijing National sovereignty. So economically, PRC policy makers addressed economic issue of balance growth that heavily affect the quality of life in western and Southern regions to increase urbanization and also double the income of rural areas. The PRC policy makers committed to keep the party ruling in the country and considered to be the only acceptable form of government in the state but with introduction of new modern technology and social media; Beijing comprehended the need to accommodate the contribution of its citizens in making foreign policy of the state and to provide a more responsive judicial system to eradicate corruption nepotism and other exploitative elements from Chinese society (Lin, 2015).

Along with economic and political issues that were addressed, the party also developed more policies to improve education and health care, and reducing poverty and income inequality. Authorities have adopted policies to cultivate Chinese culture domestically and export its soft image internationally. Lastly, the PRC elite policy makers pursue such policies provide clean water for drinking, and to improve the best quality of life (Ross, 1989).

Beijing conceived that its economic and security are in clash with the prevailing international political and economic order but China finding ways to pursue its developmental and security

interest across the globe. In this regard Hu Jin Tao in 2005 introduced the strategy of “Harmonious World” agreeable to the current World order created some new institutions and organizations along with some reforms to serves the interests of rising power China. Politically, Beijing also strictly committed to the five principles of peaceful coexistence of the UN Charter and international law. To make realty of Chinese Dream, Beijing also believes on multilateralism not unilateralism to resolve their issues peacefully. About the Sino-US relations PRC seeks to establish relations based on equality, cooperation and common interest. Beijing also expected from Washington to accommodate China core interests while formulating any policy related to the region or Beijing (Vangeli, 2017).

President Xi put the Asia-Pacific region on top priority in Chinese foreign policy due to increased tension in the region. To tackle this issue PRC called for community of common Destiny which needs economic integration. Collectively it was designed into OBOR, AIIB and BRICS. This community of share destiny also put regional responsibility to provide regional security. In this regard Mr. Xi declared that Asian states have the capacity to resolve their issues by themselves.

PRC outlines its core national interests in the new era which includes, firstly, Preserving China’s basic state system and national security (CCP rule) that directly means to sustain the rule of CCP in China and they declared it the state political stability. A policy maker in Beijing faces many domestic issues including social unrest, natural disasters incidents, security problems, and public health issues. In modern World the control over social media has also worried Beijing that provides alternative information against the CCP program. PRC also sensitive to the secret activities by foreign powers that might pose threats to its control in China for example the UK statements about electoral reforms Hong Kong that perceived Beijing as interference of UK in the internal affairs of Chinese affairs (Yahuda, 1993)

Secondly, to overcome on three deferent sovereignty issues of separatism, terrorism and extremism in diverse areas of Taiwan, Xinjiang, and Tibet are counted as the core interests of Beijing while making priorities of their national interests. Along with these land issue of sovereignty, Authorities in PRC also took hard stance to the maritime issues that challenged Beijing assertion but the presidency of Xi jin Ping said that we will not give up an inch to anyone who attempts to violate the sea law of China. Finally, Beijing committed to protect its raw materials markets that provides and maintain the economic development and marked this task as also the core interests of China that is not open for any negotiation and cannot be compromised for any dialogue. Threats related to piracy and technical issues in sea lines could harm the economic development speed of China that was experiencing for the last 35 years. In this regard People Liberation Army (PLA) has also given double duty along with defense of the state to make sure the security of the off-shore’s sea lines of the PRC and overseas interests (Yahuda, 1993).

One Belt One Road Initiative (OBOR)

There are three reasons that why China need land corridors for the smooth running and sustainable development of economic growth which is continue for the last three decades since Deng committed China to modernization and reform program. Firstly, when Ho Jin Tao talked about the Malacca dilemma in November 2003, Secondly, the US increased the deployment of naval forces and provided seven aircraft strike groups including in East and South China Sea and Pacific region, lastly, the balance growth and the gap between East and western China and its connection with Xinjiang problem (Swaine, 2015).

This image explains the motives behind the Chinese planning of OBOR that pointed out in the images the increased presence of America in the regions of South China Sea, Indian Ocean and Mediterranean Sea that may block China and contain it in maritime business.



Figure 1. The US increased presence in the Region

The US administration decided to strengthen the US Naval ability by providing seven aircraft carrier strike groups (CSG) to enable Navy's combat power with other US allies that posted in five divers slots in the maritime regions. The US also conducted joint exercises with its allies including, India, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Arab States to show its strong presence in the areas which were that threatened by hostile nation in the World including China (Swaine, 2015).

This was the spark for China to think about its sea lanes of communications (SLOC) that was heavily dependent on the sea routes and to replace it by land routes for trade and commercial links with Middle East, African nations and Europe when the US started to show its naval mighty power in the region. In 2004 Chinese economy was based on foreign trade of which 90% was passing through sea routes of Yellow Sea, East China Sea and South China Sea that were under the strong influence of US and its allies including Japan, Philippines, Indonesia and Taiwan. The major check point in all of these sea routes is the Strait of Malacca that was responsible for 82% of crude oil passed through this check point and it is controlled by the mighty Naval powers the US and its allies. Here for Beijing two options is available, one to deter the threat posed by the US and its allies by showing more naval power to the opposite powers but China at this level is incapable to deter US policies and strategies through force. The second options are to search for an alternative to replace the sea routes by land routes to avoid the clash with the US in the Pacific region and areas where China travelling it's 90% of its international trade to ensure it sustainable growth in double digit (Cheng, 2016).

Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)

Under "*The US Back to Asia*" or "*Asia Pivot*" policy the US adopted different strategies to pursue its interests in the Pacific region. Among those strategies Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is one which initiated in later Bush era but was formally started during Obama era in 2010, which initially started from four countries and consequently covered twelve countries of Asia Pacific region including USA. The specific objective of TTP is, to make their economies integrated that will ultimately leads to common business and trade interests and political align in one block excluding China. Being target of the TTP, Beijing adopted many strategies to counter the US Back to Asia policy and plan to integrate the region economically and resolve the issue political with peaceful means. The immediate response to TTP, PRC launched the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) that excluded USA (Capling, 2011).

Beijing took two years to come up with rationalize and long-term comprehensive policy response to not only TTP but also to counter the US presence in the regions that surrounded

China. In this regard PRC announced its two side of strategy by combining Silk Road Economic Belt and Maritime Silk Road which also known OBOR. The initiative has seven land base economic corridors that cover Asia, Europe and Africa. The details of corridors are under which explain the comprehensive thinking of the Chinese elite policy makers who chalk out an economic and military strategy for the 21st century. It includes: The China-Mongolia-Russia corridor, The New Eurasian Land Bridge, from central China to Europe via Kazakhstan, Russia and Belarus, The China-Central Asia-Western Asia Corridor, The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), The Indo-China Peninsula Corridor, The Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Corridor (Capling, 2011).

The image below clearly explains the seven corridors of Chinese OBOR that connect PRC with Asia, Europe and African continent.



Figure 2. Accessed on August 22, 2017, at <https://www.scmp.com/sites/default/files/2015/11/03/obor.png>

The OBOR is not only the new shape of another Silk Road but it also the start of Chinese academic, political, and public discourse. In a short period of time this OBOR initiative become a dominant depiction for China's foreign policy and diplomatic experiences, regional neighborhood relations and specially for the domestic economic development. The geography of OBOR is not define and its open to every nation of the World that is why most of the maps of this strategy which was published by the Chinese officials does not show the national borders but only the corridors, regions and the cities. This is not the only time China initiated the vague and complex policies but historically the concept of harmonious society, good neighbor policy and peaceful development are the examples that were not clear to outside World to comprehend but left some space for the academia, the media or for the public to discuss and prepare some solid ground for the implementation of programs. For this purpose, Chinese government encouraged research intuitions, governmental departments, provincial governments and think tanks organizations to conduct and arrange national and international workshops to further crystallize the OBOR program that was started by Mr. Xi Jinping in 2013 (Capling, 2011).

It was in 2014 when the Chinese modernized their thinking about the OBOR due to two developments. Firstly, by the local provincial support for the belt and road initiative that gave socio-economic support and strengthens in all dimensions. Secondly, the diverse composition of participants led to the creation of new ideas of potentials aspects of cooperation among the states which are the members of the corridors. It was not only the traditional infrastructure that links the nations for trade but also, cover the issues of environment, questions of urbanization, and the

build-up of linkages between key cities along the Silk Road that included in the OBOR program (Capling, 2011).

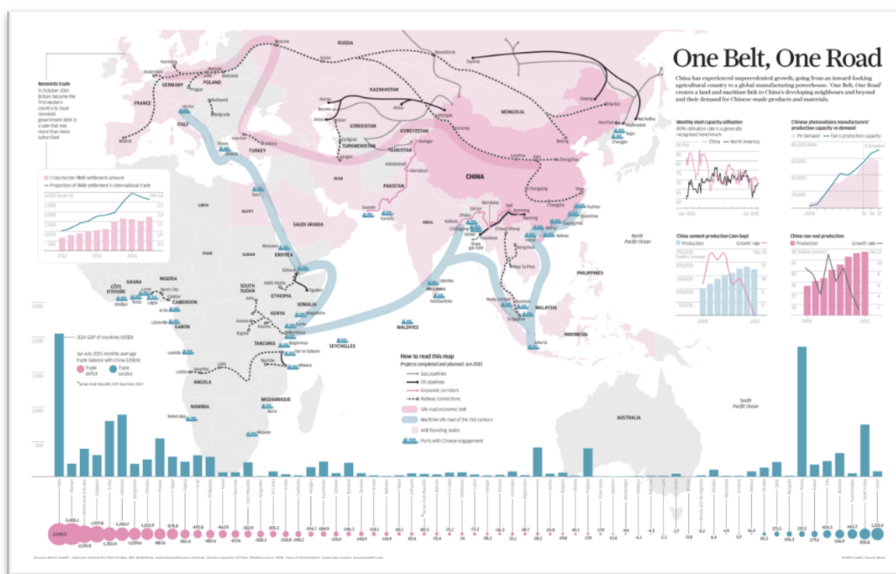


Figure 3. Accessed on August 20, 2017, at <https://www.scmp.com/sites/default/files/2015/11/03/obor.png>

OBOR: Main Features

The Chinese OBOR initiative is not a grand strategy as a counter-model to the established norms, values; rules that shaped the current international political and economic World order but rather a proactive Chinese policy response to the rising complexity in the World that provide an alternative concept of how international politics could be planned in the future. It also represents a loose political notion in which new mechanisms of cooperation are fashioned. That's why OBOR is very different from the rule Eurocentric model of international order and institutions (Beeson, 2018). Below are the main features of the OBOR initiative:

Firstly, it *strengthens cooperation* among the member states, to create a network of cooperation in many aspects at divers' political level that consequently maximizing cooperation and minimizing the conflict among the member states. Keeping in mind this objective the Chinese main focus is on the economic opportunities and avoid security issues and conflicts. Secondly, it is *flexible and open*; it has no determined geography and opens to all the nations of the World to be part of the initiative that's why the Chinese official has not yet published and present any map of the corridors and that is the example of openness and inclusiveness. The beauty of this initiative covers the diverse nations and divers' interests of these nations which lead to the cooperation and common interests because it based on the win-win situation. In simple words the OBOR is one program that includes diverse actors, different interests of these nations but as a result and the successful completion and implementation of the program all the diverse interests would lead to the common interests of all the nations of OBOR. Thirdly, it is based on broad economic and political system of network that promotes connectivity among the states which include in the Silk Road for that purpose OBOR supported by all institutions within China including, Provincial and local governments, national universities, think tank organizations the ruling party of CPC and the national electronic and print media. Externally, it seeks the support of multinational companies, multilateral institutions, multilateral mechanism and bilateral

relations of China with the rest of the World to make sure the success of the OBOR initiative to achieve its objectives (Beeson, 2018).

OBOR has international importance and it covers diverse regions of the World with a population of 4.4 billion and economic worth of US\$ 21 trillion. The corridor envisions with World changing consequences that will cross Asia, Europe, Africa Oceania and the Middle East to connect through diplomatic relations, infrastructure and free trade cities and zones that will led to peace, prosperity and cooperation in all these regions of the World. This project consists of three main routes and six or seven corridors. The South ern Corridor that begins from Guangzhou which connect Kashgar with Gwadar the deep-Sea port in Pakistan. It is the shortest and more feasible route to China in terms of security distance and transportation. Secondly, the central corridor that connects Shanghai to Tashkent, Tehran that make China to have access to the central Asian and gulf resources very easily but it is the longest route of all the three routes. The third one is the Northern Corridor that starts from Beijing, goes through Russia, and links it to European cities (Massarrat Abid, 2015).

China Pakistan Economic Corridor has central role in all the above mentioned corridors because it truly pursue the interests of OBOR by connecting China to the Africa, Middle East and Europe through land base and also by maritime Sea route cutting 12900 KM route to just 2500 KM that ultimately save the transportation costs and time for the Chinese companies to continue their international trade to the rest of the World without taking any risk of piracy as it has seen in strait of Malacca Sea route (Beeson, 2018).

Threats to OBOR

The Chinese policy makers are optimistic about the success of OBOR and its realization to the outside World that Beijing is not expanding its sphere of influence. In this regard Chinese marked this initiative as win-win game but despite of all these explanations some of the regional states are skeptical about the activities of OBOR and its consequences on their regions and specifically on the concerned state. The World diplomats publicly supported the initiative but secretly they raised their voiced against the corridor. In this regard the Chinese policy leaders clearly marked USA and Japan is the most spoiler states but internally Chinese have great connection to their civil society in terms of business (Firdous, 2019).

Central Asia was part of the USSR during the Cold War and became independent region Post-Cold War but Moscow still has some sort of political, economic and strategic influence. Beijing became the first largest investor crossing the Russian in 2009. Along with economic dominance China also keeping political role in the region but it faces high level corruption and capital flight that put Chinese huge investment in the region on risk. During the Cold War Beijing and Moscow experienced difficult economic and political relations but currently after the EU sanctions on Russia it dependent on Beijing. In this regard Moscow looked China for economic boost but China will not be in competition with Russia and will respect the Russian role in the region. Both the states are also having common interests by bringing integration in the region through SCO and AIIB but Moscow keep its political influence of the region in its own hand which has some worries for the Beijing grand strategy of the Silk Road Economic Belt that needs free trade (Zimmerman, 2015)

India is also suspicious about China's OBOR development with special reference to the CPEC that will pass through Jammu and Kashmir, a disputed area between Pakistan and India. Being part of the Chinese oriented institutions of AIIB and BRICS New Delhi refused to become part of the OBOR as they believe a national agenda of the Beijing not multilateral like other institutions. Furthermore, Indian also join the US oriented projects and support policies in which they would establish North-South Economic Corridors (NSEC). About the South Asia, Indian also planned to have their own goal and fund for the infrastructure that would consequently contain Chinese presence in South Asia. To counter the Beijing's maritime Route Indian launched "Project Mausam", which aims to revive traditional routes and strengthen cultural ties to countries across

the Indian Ocean. Lastly, Indian raised their voices about CPEC that will goes through Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan Province which is considered to be disputed area (Zimmerman, 2015).

Political Hurdles to BRI

In Chinese policy spheres, the US and Japan are framed as most likely spoilers, and so China is giving very little attention to the domestic and regional politics in Central Asia and South Asia, which can affect China's plans. In Central Asian Republic there is high level of corruption from upper level to lower levels, there are concerns that whether Central Asian Republic has capacity to absorb the proposed level of Investments. China has positioned itself to play a mediating role in Central Asia. China has exceeded Russia in 2009 and became single greatest source of investment in the region, while political influence of Russia and China has grown in parallel (Swaine, 2015). Both Moscow and Beijing have developed consensus to pursue common policies in the region by investing billions of dollars that make CARs more dependent on China and Russia rather on the US and the West. Both states have also adopted same strategies to counter the US presence in Afghanistan and its proxy forces of ISIS that can hurt both Moscow and Beijing interests in the region and leads to the instability of the region. To some observers, that marked Chinese increased presence in CARs made suspicious but Beijing has made it clear that their activities are economic oriented not political and additionally it will not be in clash with Moscow's Eurasian Economic Union (EEU). India has also considered (China's proposed route of Silk Road Economic Belt in) Gilgit-Baltistan province (of Pakistan) a disputed territory, claiming that the land was ruled by the Maharaja of Kashmir before 1947 (Firdous, 2019).

Conclusion

Post Deng's People Republic of China has always adopted soft and encouraging policy towards regional and the global actors but it was the US policies of Trans Pacific partnership and increased involvement in South China Sea that compelled Beijing to adopt a more strategic policy than the economic one. Keeping in minds its leadership instructions Beijing again diplomatically face the 21st century challenges put by major and regional powers. CPEC being part of the Chinese BRI provided best opportunity that addressed most of the PRC security and economic questions. The Beijing's interests in Pakistan were increased when the American adopted a mix policy of engagement and containing China. The American presence in Afghanistan, South China Sea and the adopting of Asia pivot policy realize the Chinese leadership to counter the US policy of containing China. The sparks of their policies also emerged in the shape of Malacca Dilemma and the question of sovereignty in the Xinjiang province. For the Beijing, CPEC has political economic and strategic interest that can provide best answers to these gravest and challenged issues of economic and sovereignty. On the other hand, for Pakistan, CPEC is counted as an opportunity of millennium as it was shattered by the US War on Terror. Diplomatically, it was isolated in the region, politically it has no role to play, economically it was on the verge of collapse, its infrastructure was heavily devastated but with CPEC, Pakistan got a new life and included in the World top \$300 billion economies. Politically, Pakistan also got a new balancer (China) to its traditional rival India by the concept of balance of threat. (Ziying, 2016)

References

- Beeson, M. (2018). "Geeconomics with Chinese characteristics: the BRI and China's evolving grand strategy." . *Economic and Political Studies*, 230-233.
- Capling, A. a. (2011). "Multilateralising regionalism: what role for the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement?." . *The Pacific Review*, 511-523.
- Cheng, L. K. (2016). "Three questions on China's "Belt and Road Initiative". *China Economic Review* , 302-309.
- Firdous, A. a. (2019). "OBOR: MULTIDIMENSIONAL CHINESE INITIATIVE." . *New Horizons*, 12-33.
- Hafeez Ullah Khan, I. K. (2018). Indian Cold Start Doctrine: Pakistan's Policy Response. *Journal of the Research Society of Pakistan*, 12-24.
- Hafeez Ullah Khan, I. K. (2018). New Delhi Response to Beijing'BRI'Project: A Lucid connection with Chinese" String of Pearls". *Journal of Political Studies*, 243-254.
- Ijaz Khalid, S. U. (2018). Analytical Overview of Beijing's Belt & Road Corridors. *Global Political Review*, 18-30.
- Ross, R. S. (1989). "From Lin Biao to Deng Xiaoping: Elite Instability and China's US Policy.". *The China Quarterly* , 255-265.
- Swaine, M. D. (2015). "Chinese views and commentary on the 'One Belt, One Road'initiative." . *China Leadership Monitor* , 3-7.
- Vangeli, A. (2017). "China's engagement with the sixteen countries of central, East and Southeast Europe under the belt and road initiative." . *China & World Economy*, 101-133.
- Whiting, A. S. (1995). "Chinese nationalism and foreign policy after Deng." . *The China Quarterly*, 299-301.
- Yahuda, M. (1993). "Deng Xiaoping: the statesman." . *The China Quarterly*, 555-565.
- Zimmerman, T. (2015). *The New Silk Roads: China, the US, and the Future of Central Asia*. New York: Center on International Cooperation.