

**RESEARCH PAPER****Pakistan Power Position under the influence of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: An Analysis of Economic and Strategic Opportunities****¹ Sahar Fatima * ² Mehar Amna and ³Hina Saeed**

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Corresponding Author sahar.fatima@wum.edu.pk**ABSTRACT**

This research paper wants to create the effects of CPEC on the Pakistan Power Position. Geographic location of Pakistan plays a particular role in its power ambition. The strategic and Economic benefits of Pakistan is connected with China. Pakistan is bordered by China which is the world's second largest economy wants to reach in Gulf states, and toward the European and African markets. CPEC is the eminent project of the Belt and Road initiative which gives the shortest way to China in the Gulf region. In this paper, the data is collected by using qualitative method through content analysis. This multi-billion project has the potential to effect Pakistan's national power elements. Pakistan being 6th largest populous country is capable of gaining major investment through CPEC. Geographic location of Pakistan is crucial in bringing economic stability as well as opportunities. Pakistan has to take appropriate measures for catching this project.

Keywords: China, CPEC, Hard Power Elements, Pakistan, Smart Power, Soft Power Elements**Introduction**

Pakistan is sharing borders with many important territorial states. China and India are located on the North and the East, two rapid developing countries, while the resource-rich states Iran and Afghanistan are located on the west. Resource-rich Gulf States and Central Asian states are also in close proximity to Pakistan (Shah et. al 2020). Due to the placement of Pakistan at the Heart of Asia, China which is the second largest economy wants to use Pakistan's location to arrive in Gulf states for oil and gas (Aslam, Khan&Rafi, 2016). The way from Pakistan can also provide the shortest door to the European and African markets. Since 1950, China-Pakistan is enjoying good diplomatic relation. The cooperation of China by CPEC will prove fruitful for the unstable and weak economy of Pakistan. Having 41st largest economy with relatively large no of young people, geographic location, and the six largest Army; Pakistan has capacity to become a territorial power (The News, 2016). That is why Pakistan is choosing to be a part of China's Belt and Road initiatives.

One Belt, One Road ambition of China is an idea to extent association through sea and land routes, which will connect Asian, African, and European states (Ahmed, 2018). The Belt and Road initiatives (BRI) is the new chapter of early silk route between China and the rest, which provides the shorter way to China in order to fulfill geo-economic and geo-political goals (Ahmed, 2018). The project of CPEC include various developments like infrastructure and energy resources that will prove beneficial for both China, Pakistan (Rahim, et. al., 2018). The front runner project of OBOR is China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

CPEC has gained the recognition of different researchers in the world due to its geo-strategic, geo-economic and geo-political significance. The important strategic location of

Pakistan will be proved fruitful for China. Likewise, Pakistan will have equal opportunities to improve its economy. CPEC is billion of dollars plan that has the potential to enhance the power position of Pakistan in the region. This research paper is about the effects of CPEC on power position of Pakistan with respect to Hard power and Soft Power. A very good example found in the work of John Mearsheimer (2001), the military power of a state is developed by wealth, and the national power elements is influenced by strong economic state. Pakistan has the national power elements that play an important role in state capacity like military, economy, geography, and population (Morgenthau, Thompson&Clinton, 2006). All the elements of power could not actively involve in state capabilities as it should be without economic stability. A country must have soft power elements beside hard power for example political values, culture and good foreign policies (Nye, 2008).

Literature Review

In this research, defining power concept with reference to CPEC is essential. The concepts of power are studied with reference to different theories like Realism and Liberalism. Many theorists have defined their concepts according to their own opinion. Moreover, the Literature Review examine the effects of CPEC on Pakistan National Power Elements. The research will fulfil the gap and illustrate the effects of CPEC on Pakistan Power Position.

Defining power concept with reference to CPEC

Many theorists define power as a valuable factor for any state in its relation with others in the world of international politics. States are ready to take all necessary steps for becoming a powerful state. The main motive of any country is economic stability. Soviet Union, in the past, had remained a big military giant while the failure of economic growth turned a question mark on its relative power (Szelenyi & Szelenyi, 1994). In contemporary world, state power is influenced by economic growth. The economic, military strength of a state are built by stable economy (Mearsheimer, 2001). A neighboring country of Pakistan is China who is gradually developing its economy by partnering more energy projects and in search of new markets for its commodities. An important strategic, geographic location of Pakistan attracts China for using Pakistan position and ease the billions of dollar project of CPEC.

The CPEC consists of different projects like development and infrastructure etc. These projects include the development of new roads and railway tracks, establishment of economic zones, development of Gwadar port, new dams and other energy production plants. Pakistan having the six largest population, and army but faced difficulties due to low education rate and lack of opportunities in way to employment (Arshad, 2018). The army of Pakistan is quite underdeveloped which lacks the modern technology. Different researchers suggest that CPEC will prove to be a game changer for developments of Pakistan (Malik, 2015). The corridor facilitates the contact among people as well as social and cultural cooperation. Another benefit of CPEC is that it will increase regional integration among participant states.

Concept of Power

In international relation theories, the general concept of power is universal (Guzzini, 2013). Many theorists in the last two decades of 20th century describe the concept of power and how it dispensed in different societies. The question about how power is used in contemporary era. Two best examples of this explanation are derived from the work of great philosophers from Plato to Aristotle emphasized about why power is being institutionalized. Another good understanding found by Lampton that the goals of a person is achieve by the ability of his power (Lampton, 2008, p. 9).

In contemporary world of international politics, the concept of power is changing gradually. However, opinion of theorists has divided about the concept of power. Some describe the concept of power as Hard while others describe as Soft. Joseph Nye is one of the great political philosophers, who argued that soft power is the ability of state to achieve its national goals by the effect of foreign policy, culture and political values instead of military use (Nye, 1990). The concept of Hard power was considered as good strategy in order to increase state power before the concept of soft power by Nye. In hard power, the usage of money, military are considered as main tools in state power (Morgenthau et al, 2006 & Mearsheimer, 2001).

Different states can meet their goals effectively by using different power strategies in their cycle of policy making. In a world of geopolitics, states prefer their national interest and working for it. Hence, China can change its behavior between neighboring states with respect to its own benefits. According to the words of Hans Morgenthau, a state struggle for power is universal in space and time which is an unquestionable reality of experiences (Morgenthau et al, 2006). In Global public affairs, the power relations are changes by contemporary politics (Baldwin, 2012). The characteristics of power are vital under different conceptual framework like liberalism and realism etc. By usage of power, states can achieve their national goals.

Realism and power

Realists look on world politics are pessimist. They want to live in a world which is free from conflicts but it is impossible in a bitter world of security, competition, and war (Mearsheimer, 2001). They think about the world without conflict is impossible. In the words of E.H Carr and Mearsheimer (2001), realism highlights the increasing military strength of great power and accepting the capability of these power in contemporary world. For example, the nuclear strength strain states to take reasonable steps in order to maintain peace.

Realists said, the world of contemporary politics relies on three core aspects. Firstly, they think states has main role in global politics; focus on super powers because major powers formed the world of international politics, and super power derived the deadliest war (Mearsheimer, 2001). Secondly, they believe the great power behavior is influence by external environment as compared to internal features. Thirdly, they believe that states have competition in their ability to dominate on power (Mearsheimer, 2001). Additionally, this competition may sometimes bring them to war that in turn will not be acceptable instrument for statecraft and cause of society's destruction. One of the best explanations is given by Thucydides about the paradigm based on conflict in which states are the major actor and the major issues are security, the lust for power (Thucydides, 2009). Moreover, another understanding of this domain is given in book 'The Twenty Years Crisis' by E.H car about the negligence of power in contemporary political analysis (Car, 1939). He described about post world war1 era when all the treaties of peace and security crushed under the chaos and insecurity. He thought that the existence and struggle are the main goals between states for achieving power in the global political context (Car, 1939).

Liberalism and power

In 18th century in Europe, liberal enlightenment period emerged. In this duration, different political thinkers had thought that there must be a logic to make world a safe place to live in (Mearsheimer, 2001). This must be a reason that many liberals remain confident in order to make a peaceful world. They think there are the possibilities of reducing the chances of war in the world by way of cooperation. This in turn will enhance the global well-being. That is why, they are sometimes called utopian or idealist (Mearsheimer, 2001, p. 15).

The liberalism is relied on three core ideas which are identical in all liberal explanation (Mearsheimer, 2001, p. 15-17). Firstly, they argue that states have the major role in global politics. Secondly, liberalists stress that inner attributes are prime as compared to outer domain. The dissimilarities play a major role on state behavior (Moravcsik, 1997). They believe internal change of regime from dictatorship to democracy. This is the reason they called some states as good while the others are bad. Good one may deal with the chances of occurring a war by making better policies, while bad state may become a victim of war by powerful states and trying to usage of force for their well-being. Thirdly, the liberalists want to avoid a war for sake of getting more national power but for that matter they employ the way of economic and political means. In accordance with liberalists, good states are not using the means of war for gaining power, while bad states engaged in wars easily.

In all theories, power concepts define differently by theorists. In liberalism and realism, states are the main actors while the ways by which state influences are different in both theories. For a detailed overlook, both of the theories are divided in concept of power like hard power and soft power. In these, we study power concept by optimist and pessimist way of power (Mearsheimer, 2001 & Raimzhanova, 2015).

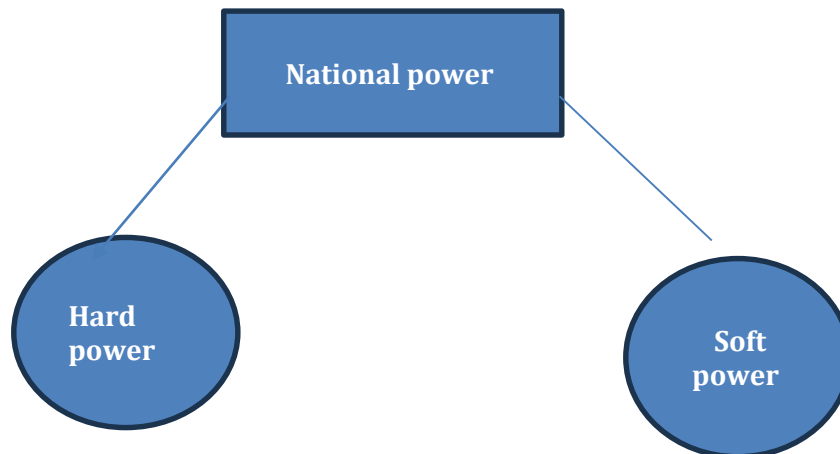


Figure 1: Forms of national power like hard power and soft powers.

The National power

In a world of international relation, a researcher is more concerned about the behavior of states. To understand the states behavior the terminology of National power is used. The power of state or the national power can be explained as the combination of political, economy, strategic, and military strength of a country or state (Sarkesian & connor, 2006). A famous realist like Hans J. Morgenthau of 20th century said, power is more valuable for achieving national objectives in international politics. He argued about how a state takes power in international world of today. This is the reason why we study about power elements that are required for attaining power. In reference of power elements, the states may call herself an influential state. The elements of national power are military preparedness, national character, national morale, population, quality of government and the quality of diplomacy (Morgenthau et al, 2006, p. 111-162). To sum up the concept, this research would say, the national power is the combination of different resources accessible to a nation or state in order to attain its goals.

Material and Methods

In this research paper, the technique of qualitative method to collect data is used. Various kinds of data analysis techniques are used in the research. Among those method, the

mixed method and triangular approaches are the most popular. This approach can be applied on different level of analysis in research. At first, the researcher uses different sources of data. The same sources of data are used in this paper. And secondly, the researcher makes both steps like qualitative and quantitative in research process. The process of content analysis consists of three ways: preparation, organizing, and reporting. Then, the researcher argued about the advantages that allow for developing theories that are based on empirical evidence. The fact and figures are also demonstrated by flow charts. During this Research, it introduces to theme of Power in literature review. Power is also organized according to the theme of CPEC with reference to hard power and soft power elements.

CPEC and Pakistan National Power Elements

The effects of CPEC on the power position of Pakistan is started from here. Firstly, we are going to examine the effects of CPEC upon the hard power elements. Secondly, we're exploring its influence on Pakistan soft power. After these, we may check either the investment of \$46 billion in shape of CPEC will prove fruitful for Pakistan or not. Furthermore, this research paper will explore about how China is going to take benefits from CPEC.

Pakistan Hard Power Elements and the CPEC

This investments of \$46 billion is multidimensional in nature. It will facilitate China's way to the Gulf states, and it will influence the Pakistan Hard power elements. We are going to explore the unstable and weak elements of hard power of Pakistan, and how to employ their full potential in true sense. These elements are as follow:

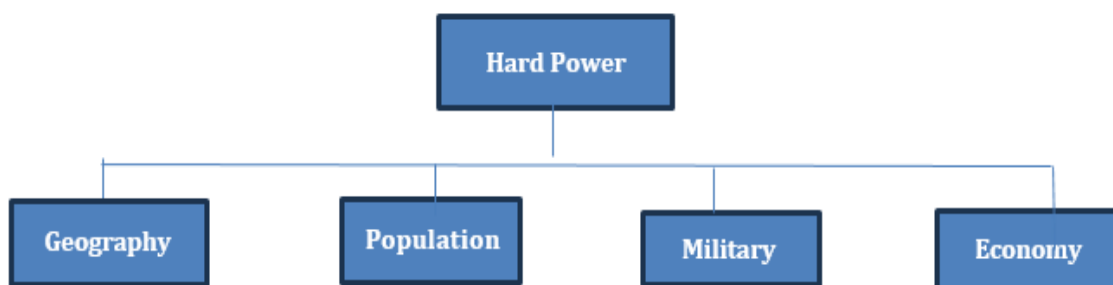


Figure2: Different forms of the Hard power like Geography, Population, Military, Economy.

Geography of Pakistan and the CPEC

The Geostrategic location of Pakistan is very crucial in the world. Many important regional countries are sharing borders with Pakistan. India is second largest country in term of population and gradually rising economy with the annual growth rate of 8% lies on Eastern border of Pakistan (The Economic Times, 2018). In North, China lies which is the world second largest economy and having potential to become the largest one by 2030. Afghanistan lies on the western border having crucial relations with Pakistan. By the way of Afghanistan or China, Pakistan may easy access to resource rich region of Central Asian Republics (CARs). In southwest, the Oil-rich Gulf state, Iran lies which is in close proximity with important chock point of Strait of Hormuz. Pakistan having a long coastal-line of 1100km with the Arabian Sea in Indian Ocean (Malik, 2012).

A very good example is observed by Malik (2012), the development of human society is affected by geographical environment. One of the most critical elements of the environment is Sea, which surrounded nearly three-quarter of the surface area of earth (Malik, 2012, p.57). However, China is utilizing Pakistan location benefits by building

Gwadar port which is in close proximity to Strait of Hormuz in Indian ocean. In the province of Baluchistan, the Gwadar deep sea port lies that is bestow in different natural resources. At the mouth of Persian Gulf, the Gwadar is located which is nearby to the Strait of Hormuz, the world's busiest shipping route. The Gwadar port having potential to compete UAE's port of Chabahar by proving the land routes to the Caspian region. The significance of the port of Gwadar is described by erstwhile president of Pakistan General Pervez Musharraf when he claims:

If we look this entire territorial area, it is like a channel. At the head of this channel, the vast area of Central Asian lies, and the China's western region. From here, this channel becomes precise by the Afghanistan and Pakistan and the edge of this channel is Gwadar port. So, this channel is known as the economic channel of this entire area (Malik, 2012, p.57).

After full development of Gwadar port, this gives way to the landlocked states of Afghanistan, and all the CARs countries to the deep water of sea. The port of Gwadar is also known a regional hub because it is in the heart of Persian Gulf, the Middle East, the South East Asia, Afghanistan, the CARs Republics, and Iran (Kataria & Naveed, 2014). The project of CPEC is starting from the Chinese autonomous region of Xinjiang's KASHGAR city to Pakistan at the KHUNJAREB highway then to all the provinces of Pakistan by land routes to the Gwadar port (Afridi & Khalid, 2016). The significance of Gwadar is alluring for China in all CPEC projects, it can become Pakistan's special economic hub in the region. Therefore, the inauguration of CPEC by China in Pakistan for the matter of using Gwadar port. Although China did large investment in shape of CPEC but taking the port on 40 years lease which show that the Chinese sway on Pakistan important seaport. This will in turn minimize the fruits of Gwadar port for Pakistan.

The Population of Pakistan and CPEC

The skill factor, development of population are necessary for a country's growth and power. According to the census in 2017, the population is more than 200 million and a great number of people are under 30 years of age in Pakistan (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, 2019). The nation is still behind in term of economic and human development index among others states with large numbers of population. Owing to unstable economy situation, the public in Pakistan is coping with the crisis of increasing population which in turn increasing the unemployment rate. Pakistan having blessed with many natural resources, but the factors of unstable economy, lack of employment, and no education standard are impeding in way of population as an effective national power element.

Different researchers are of the opinion that CPEC is being understand as changing the economic situation for Pakistan. The projects in CPEC having abilities to eradicate several challenges in Pakistan (Butt & Butt, 2015, Malik, 2015 & Kalim, 2017). With the completion of energy and infrastructure projects, the growth of domestic and international markets is interlinked. The project is about road connectivity, CPEC will facilitate the amalgamation among people in different parts of country. The architecture and development of new economic zones assessed to formation of 700,000 jobs during 2015 to 2030 according to a survey (Haq & Farooq, 2016).

Pakistan being the 6th largest army with unstable economy needs investments from China. Alongside to CPEC, China is further seeing to develop relations with the Army of Pakistan in her competition of Indian rivalry. Additionally, population of Pakistan has a chance to develop its level of education and health as well as security, and technological skills. Different sectors are opening in efficient education, and creation of new hospitals, domestic routes, more check posts with monitoring system (Ijaz, 2018 & Abrar, 2016). Pakistan strategic position can be increased with this demographic change. The factor of

increasing population is linked with economic and military development when more people are available in path to development and progress.

CPEC and Military of Pakistan

The power of Military is important to study the world politics. By the use of this power, different states shape their relation among themselves. The best example in words of Beckley (2010) is the power of military is to affect the international relations, trade policy, economic development, identity construction, and the causation and termination of war. Moreover, He added, there is interdependence between military effectiveness and economic development (Beckley, 2010, p. 73). A country which is economically strong can achieve stronger military capability through modernization and technological advancement with many powerful states. An important pillar of national power is military strengths. Pakistan being the 6th largest army and 145 nuclear warheads in military capacity (Statista, 2019 & Arm control Association, 2018). In past, Pakistan had good economic and military relation with USA but the focus has shifted now towards China. According to the data of Stockholm institute of International Peace Research, the figures during 2008- 2018, the supply of military equipment by China values \$6.4 billion and the supplies of USA are \$2.5 billion to Pakistan (Pabby, 2019). Now Pakistan has needs of military forces to play their part of providing security in its territory. All economic investment shall reap benefits when there is a stable and safe environment of Pakistan.

A flagship project of OBOR is CPEC. That is why it is important for China to keep CPEC routes safe. However, for this purpose, China is going to invest in Pakistan military strengths. At one hand, this will prove beneficial for China while, at another hand, Pakistan is going to increase its strengths in competition with India. The China former chief of army staff said, Pakistan is the Israel of China (Small, 2015), which meant China capacity may be used as competition from others common rival, like India. The friendship of China-Pakistan is considered as all-time friends. They had cooperated in the military power since their inception. Now they both cooperated to develop a multi-role combat aircraft, ballistic and cruise missiles (The Economic Times, 2018). China is facilitating in development of JF-17 thunders known as Xiaolong lightweight and multi-role aircraft, a very good examples of partnering military cooperation. Another corporation like EFSAS (2017) analyzed about this cooperation, CPEC operating as an economic plan, it also keeps a military motive; it connects China-Pakistan military, and to some extent, the aim to legalized their several controversial ownerships over disputed areas.

CPEC and Economy of Pakistan

This project gives opportunity to Pakistan in order to grabbing the foreign investment after fulfilments of all the projects like infrastructure development, energy etc. Former prime minister of Pakistan, again and again, said, CPEC is the policy initiative and prove as pathbreaker for the region as well as Pakistan. Several new economic steps are part of CPEC in many parts of Pakistan. There is creation of three different CPEC routes, 29 industrial parks and 21 mineral zones. Amid these, there are 27 Special Economic Zones (SEZ), in that most developed is the Gwadar SEZ, which is wrapping the area of 9km (Singh & Magray, 2017).

The investment in shape of CPEC is US \$46 billion initially in 2015, but later it has changed up to US \$62 billion with a potential to revive Pakistan Economy (Siddiqui, 2017). However, this investment is not a grant or aid but it is an aid which Pakistan have to return with the interest rate. Moreover, the investment of \$46 billion as stated by Esteban (2016), a multi-billion package in CPEC gives an incredible chance to Pakistan for dealing some of the main impediment hampering its economic development like limited attraction for foreign investors, energy development, poor connectivity.

The main investment in CPEC is the projects of 21 energy sector under it, in different region of country. That is why, the energy sector compromising coal, hydro, gas, solar, wind plants. With the creation of these zones, Pakistan can diminish its energy crisis, the cost of which is 2% to 2.5% gross domestic progress (GDP) annually (Esteban, 2016). After this project, the development of many other sectors like transport, infrastructure, and communication. The development in Pakistan as well as new opportunities will improve connectivity within the country. This in turn will prove fruitful for economic growth. After the execution of all projects under CPEC, the distance would be reduced, save time, and the facilitation for Chinese market by way of the Gwadar. By the way of the Gwadar port, Pakistan will have link to new roads for the European and African markets. Furthermore, it will enhance the sector of tourism in mountainous parts of Pakistan and gives new places to sold commodities in Central Asian Republics.

CPEC Influence on Pakistan's Soft Power

CPEC will lead significant changes on Pakistan soft power elements. As discussed earlier in this paper, the liberalists view soft power is better in enhancing Pakistan power position as compared to realist's hard power. By the way of CPEC, Pakistan can best enhance its soft power elements. According to the idea of Joseph Nye, the core element is political values, culture will give support, as well as foreign policy as the practice, these will be explained in the following paragraphs:

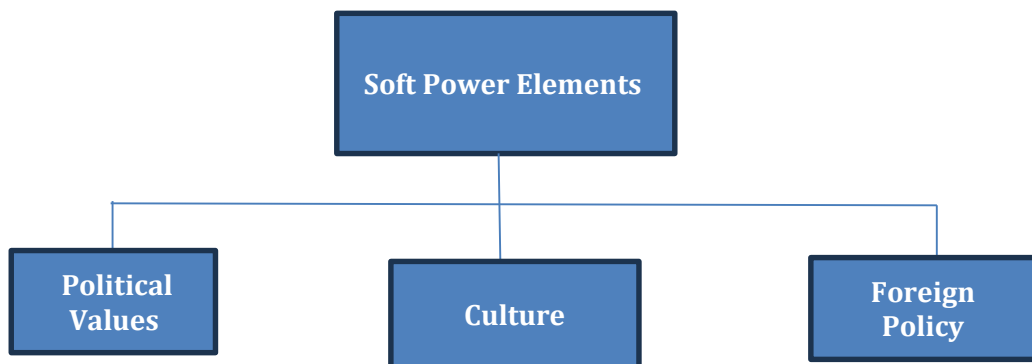


Figure 3 Forms of Soft Power are Culture, Political Values, Foreign Policy.

Political Values of Pakistan and CPEC

The official name of Pakistan is Islamic Republic of Pakistan show its unique political values. The two pillars of Pakistan constitution are Islamic values and democracy. At one hand, the liberal values of western world are settled by democracy while, on the other hand, the Islamic values are close to Muslim countries. With the perspective of CPEC, Pakistan is more attracted towards China which is an autocratic state along with dictatorial values and also a Buddhist state. Because of economic inter-dependance, China and Pakistan are willing to cooperate with each other in shape of CPEC.

The expenditure of CPEC is multi-billion dollars by which multiple projects are working across all the provinces of Pakistan. All provinces are taking their part under democratic values (Hameed, 2018). Due to this, Pakistan government is taking responsibility to protect foreign workers. That is why Military of Pakistan is entertaining a very energetic part to assure foreign, local employees. With neighboring countries, the administration of Pakistan is also trying to promote peace, stability, and the human rights agreement with international institutions. Likewise, Pakistan facilitated the peace talk of Afghan Taliban with USA, and set free an Indian pilot as gesture of peace in past (Fatima, 2019). As an Islamic country, Pakistan can also play its role in facilitating the relations with other Muslim countries that are participating in CPEC like Iran and Saudi Arabia. The role of

Pakistan is also important with reference to Afghanistan and CARs countries. Moreover, the political values of Pakistan can provide citizen to citizen contacts with the Muslim states which in turn will bring peace and economic prosperity in the region.

Culture of Pakistan and CPEC

The importance of culture is crucial in the contemporary world politics. As said by a Joseph Nye, the significance of culture is understood as an efficient tool of the soft power of any state. With reference to CPEC, the culture of Pakistan is important in promoting soft power because Pakistan is serving as an economic hub in it. By way of CPEC, the enhance connection among people of the region will boost culture values of Pakistan. This will further boost up the relations between neighboring states. Throughout the visit of Xi Jinping to Pakistan in 2015, he said as:

The history and prosperity of a nation is advance by people. The China-Pakistan, time tested friendship, is favored by the strength of their public. We ought to employ the platforms of sister cities, cultures hubs, and media organizations to manage the events of celebrations. In future, the China-Pakistan would continue to dispatch 100 members young batch to explore each other's country and motivate more collaborations and interchanges among young Pakistani and Chinese. The upcoming 5 years, China will give 2,000 training chances for Pakistan and educate 1000 Chinese teachers for Pakistan (Butt & Butt, 2015, p. 31).

After the visit of Xi, the people-to-people contacts opened between China and Pakistan. Different languages centers launched in different cities to acquire the Chinese language for free. This will prove helpful in taking job in multiple projects of CPEC. The ratio of Pakistani students that learned Chinese languages will increases rapidly (Bacha, 2017). On the other hand, English is the official language of Pakistan and many institutions are providing educations in it. Due to western influence, China which is about to become the 2nd largest economy has main investment in CPEC for shaping the innovation, knowledge and technology as these are the major sources of progress and growth (Niazi, 2017). Furthermore, CPEC has a potential to bring all the regional Muslims countries closer to Pakistan.

Foreign Policy of Pakistan and CPEC

The foreign policy aim of Pakistan is to encourage stability and regional integration. From independence, a major focus of Pakistan foreign policy is towards USA and its economic grants. With the agreement of CPEC, a great shift in Pakistan foreign policy has been seen which is China centered. Due to CPEC, Pakistan will enhance its economic and military capability. Being a partner in CPEC, the position of Pakistan will improve in international economy (Fatima, 2019 & Iqbal, 2018). By the way of CPEC as part of OBOR, Pakistan is on the way to pursue the regional stability, economic integration, and most importantly peace. Hence, Pakistan had cordially invited the rivals namely Iran and Saudi Arabia to join CPEC (Fatima, 2019). With this, Saudi government had announced the build-up of oil-refinery at Gwadar port. Similarly, Iran had announced that Chabahar port is not working in competition with Gwadar port. The steps like these will enhance the stability and regional integration in the Middle East (Fatima, 2019). Therefore, Pakistan is set to prevail peace messages in form of foreign policy by way of CPEC.

Influence of Pakistan smart power on CPEC

In the words of Joseph Nye, the smart power is very important in political world of today. The strategy of smart power is very useful when the hard and soft could not play their part in promoting national interests. With the perspective of CPEC, China and Pakistan will have same chances to entertain smart power strategy for each other interests. This strategy

will also use in the interests of other regional actors like Iran, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, and Central Asian Republics.

By the way of Gwadar, the Chinese and Pakistan military can closely observe the sea lines of communication (SLOCs) in the Indian Ocean. Pakistan can also take benefit of observing India which oil shipment is passing by the Strait of Hormuz. By operationalizing the smart power strategy, Pakistan will best fulfil its national interests. Pakistan has potential by way of CPEC to smartly observe Indian activities in the region. The cooperation in CPEC will bring Pakistan closer to Iran and Afghanistan. The economic integration can inspire Iran and Saudi Arabia to set aside their conflicts and be a partner in CPEC.

India does not want to be a part of CPEC because she considers it against its territorial sovereignty by passing in Kashmir. Due to geostrategic location of Pakistan, India is repeatedly invited by Pakistan to be a part of CPEC and enjoying a land access to CARs and Afghanistan, and Iran markets. So that there will be lasting peace in the region for equal progress and prosperity.

Conclusion

In this research paper, the influence of Pakistan power position with reference to CPEC is described. The national power elements can be divided in hard and soft power concept. Furthermore, the concept of power is also described with reference to smart power strategies that are providing different opportunities to Pakistan. The important geostrategic location of Pakistan is used to boost up the other power elements in its own favor by way of CPEC. The development of Gwadar port is important in connecting China to Europe and African markets in the project of CPEC. These development in shape of CPEC will bring the economic benefits for Pakistan. That is why different scholars called CPEC as game changer for both Pakistan and China. The development of economic zones to energy projects to infrastructure development will prove fruitful in shaping the hard power elements of Pakistan. Similarly, the connection by way of CPEC routes to European and African market can boost up the people to people contact and ultimately the soft power elements of the Pakistan. CPEC is the flagship project of OBOR which will facilitate the friendly relations among all the neighboring and regional countries of Pakistan by passing the equal opportunities of progress for all the members.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Power Position of Pakistan under the influence of CPEC can be further improve by taking the following measures: first of the people-to-people connection in public should be encouraged in cultural paradigm. the Pakistan government has to increase the standard of education and awareness in Public about the benefits of CPEC. The efficient economic policy is required so that Pakistan may not drag in the debt trap situation by China. The federal government of Pakistan should adopt an inclusive approach all the provinces of Pakistan for development under CPEC. This project will further improve the regional connectivity by way of Pakistan with the collaboration of other regional countries (cooperation of Iran and Saudia Arabia as well as India).

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