

South Asian Geo-Politics from the Prism of Pak-China Relations

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regional integration projects under BRI agenda to secure pivotal energy routes; hence CPEC garners immense importance as well. These interests are in clear violation of the greater US stratagems; which encircle goals of achieving political, economic, security and diplomatic ties within the region. (Tehseen, 2017:2)

CPEC initiative acts as a gateway to expand its strategic scope to Central Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East. (Tikhonova, 2016) CPEC initiative will bridge the regions to develop robust economic connectivity within the region. (Arif K. , 2017) Gwadar port geo-strategically provides China with the shortest route to gain access to the rich hydrocarbons of the Persian Gulf, the Middle East and Africa—enabling Beijing to avoid the politically disrupted region of South-China Sea and Straits of Malacca. (Masood, 2017) For both Pakistan and China, the project is lucrative to develop their less saturated areas and leaves breadcrumbs for strengthened relations with the other regional and extra regional states.

It not surprising that South has become a playground of geopolitical interests by the superpowers; which have influenced the regional dynamics, in both progressive and regressive manners. Therefore, to say the least, the geopolitical significance of Pakistan, Afghanistan and India will not fade away in the long run but eventually will over power one another. The wild card Pakistan exercises is its connectivity with the Muslim world (Naseer 2016).

Geo-politics of South Asia: Post 9/11 Scenario

Challenges for Pakistan

Pak-Afghan diplomatic relations were crushed in the wake of 9/11 incident. Stability of Afghanistan is critical to achieve the fruits of CPEC initiative; yet, antagonistic perceptions have hindered any chances of much desired diplomatic engagements. Afghanistan's geo-strategic

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