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Shifting Paradigm from Buddhism to Nuclear Rivalries in South Asian Region

Abstract

This study examines that how two magnificent and great civilizations of Asian region did shifted their paradigms of peace and tranquility to nuclear rivals in modern history. The Indian subcontinent which influenced China through Buddhism and even it was generally assumed in China that Laozi, the founding father of Daoism was reborn in Indian subcontinent. Through Old Silk Road, Buddhism was introduced not only in China, but also flourished in various regions of Central Asia for many centuries. This study focuses that by the passage of time and particularly, during British colonialism, the ambiguity about frontiers between India-China and Pakistan paved way for post-colonial conflicts, which ultimately led to the point of nuclearization in South Asia region. The US-India strategic partnership, that became the cause of nuclear disparity in the region compelled to develop a counter balance united force against this alliance. This study however focuses about the development of China-Pakistan military alliance, which has surrounded the region with nuclear arm race.

Keywords: Buddhism, counter balancing, Old Silk Road, Strategic Partnership, Civil nuclear deal, Nuclearization.

Introduction

The two great Asian giants, the Indian subcontinent and the China, deeply rooted in civilizations thread of constructive co-existence as well as, in every sense in term of great landmass, massive population, economically revived and tactically most powerful, comparing to other regional neighbors. Both the regions shared the Buddhism and learnt human values, social norms as well as state craft from each other since many centuries.

On the other hand, during centuries, both the regions rule over the world economic development and wealth during 1st to the 18th century, that subcontinent was to the lead until the 15th century while, the Chinese took over until the rise of the West. During all this period, they had diplomatic competition in trade through old Silk Road and co-existence, however, sometime faced minor friction, but never any major misunderstanding. Competition

Both the regions share the borders, ranging from Tibet (Ladakh) to Kashgar (Xinjiang province) but, British haziness about borders between India-China and

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Pakistan enhanced way for a post-colonial rivalries, which triggered at least one border war in 1962 between India and China (China claims Arunchal Pradesh on its map as South Tibet) and two major wars on Kashmir border dispute with Pakistan (1947-1948 and 1965) and one limited war on Kargil (1999) has changed the landscape of peaceful co-existence of China-India and Pakistan in modern history.

The competition between China and India transformed from peaceful co-existence to hard competition and now it has taken the shape of nuclear rivals in the region. At the same time, the relationship between China and Pakistan transformed from normal one to strategic partnership.

However, there was a radical shift occurred in the region, that was the striking factor to change all the geopolitical paradigm of the region and that was the civil-nuclear deal between India and the US, which permitted India to develop its nuclear capability not only in civilian sector, but in military sector also. As a result, a nuclear disparity and regional conventional balance of power was changed in to a nuclear flashpoint. This was a direct national security threat to Pakistan, but China also became the victim of US-India strategic partnership indirectly.

Keeping in view the changing reality of the South Asia region there was a great strategic partnership between China and Pakistan signed in 2006 to combat the rising challenges. This research is the detail on China-Pakistan strategic partnership in the backdrop to counterbalancing US-India civil nuclear deal in 2006.

Historical Overview

The deeply rooted historical nostalgia between China and Indian sub continent was started with firm footing of peace religion, “the Buddhism” in China during the Han dynasty, introduced by Han emperor, Mwgdi (reigned 57/58/76 CE). The Buddhism was flourished in China with popularly accepted contemporary folk religion of Daoism, colored with magical practice. Unlike the end of Han dynasty, both the religion supported same ascetic of retaining eternal life, which was generally assumed that Laozi, the founding father of Daoism, had been reemerged in India as the Buddha¹.

However, the trade routes that spread from north western India to north China was the main carrier that facilitated both the introduction of Buddhism to Central Asia and China and maintained from many centuries with flourishing Buddhist culture there.

The “old silk road” located somewhere between Gilgit and Hunza, was a great link between East and West trade route originating at ancient Chang'an (modern Xinjiang) to connect China was another direct relation of China with subcontinent. The “silk road” was first coined by the German geographer and scientist Ferdinand von Rrichthofen in 19th century.

The Classic Silk road also linked with Srinagar through Karil and Leh (the chief town of Ladakh) to elevation 5,655 meter high at karakoram Pass to descend on the Turkestan side with a very long passage surrounded by complicated and

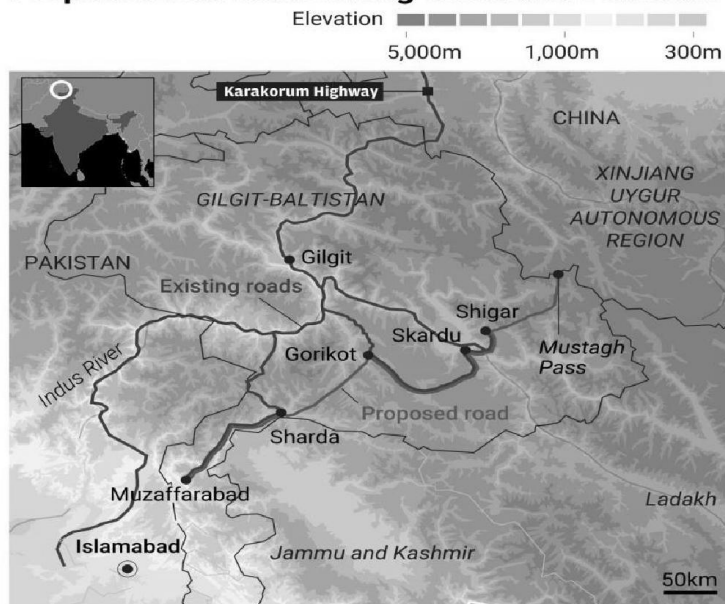
tedious terrain to Kashgar on the Silk Road via Kargilik or *Karghalik* and Yarkand.

However, the Pakistan administrated Gilgit-Baltistan region has proposed a new transit and trade route linking Xinjiang to Kashmir (Muzaffarabad) and extending it to Afghanistan. Other than present Karakarm Highway (KHH) Analysts are of the view that this new trade route will increase with Beijing and Pakistan's military into operability against Indian forces in the region. It against Indian forces in the region.

In this regard, the GB government's public work department was instructed on January 15, 2021, to frame a "project concept clearance proposal" for a 10 meter wide road capable to use by trucks from Mustagh Pass on the border with the Xinjing-Uygur autonomous region via the eastern GB region of Skardu, where the Siachen Glacier is located. The proposed road started from Yarkand to Neelum Valley (Azad-Kashmir) is a historic part of old silk road that China has decided to rebuild under the CPEC project, that was previously blocked by a glaciers in 1890s and closed the Mustagh Pass, that was a trade route between Tibet and India at that time².

The proposed "Xinjing-GB-Kashmir will road to Yarkand in Xinjiang and enter 126 km in GB West of Ladakh, crossing the major supply artery from the Kashmir highway near Skardu Town and from there, it would run South through the high rise Deosai Plateau to the Astore Valley, where the southern part of GB links to LOC amid the Himalayas.

Proposed new road linking China and Pakistan



Source: <https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/economics/article/3119850/will-new-road-between-china-and-pakistan-lead-military-boost>.

Kashmir: The Three great claimers of the region

Kashmir, a common region in the Himalayan-Karakorum mountain ranges, bifurcate Indian part, Chinese and Pakistani parts in three ways. The trika are the main claimers of partial or with complete ownership of the territory's total geographical area of 86000 square mile region in the north part of Indian sub-continent. India contains 45% of the total Jammu and Kashmir state territory under its control, while Pakistan possesses 35% and China holds remaining 20% part of the territory under its control, which was ceded to it by Pakistan in 1963 under a bilateral arrangement³.

Indian occupied Kashmir called Jammu and Kahmir, makes up Southern and Eastern parts of the region. Pakistan's controlled three areas called Azad Kashmir, and Gilgit Baltistan, which make up northern and Western parts of the region. While China controls one area called Aksai China in the northern-most part of the region.

The abrogation of article 370 made the reorganization of Kashmir on August 5, 2019 by revoking special status or limited autonomy of Kashmir and divided the Kashmir state into two union territories: The Kashmir valley and Jammu with Muslim and Hindu majority respectively was made a separate state, while Ladakh, the Buddhist majority area (which is culturally, historically close to Tibet, China) was decided to administrate by New Delhi directly.



Source: <https://edition.cnn.com/2013/11/08/world/kashmir-fast-facts/index.html>

On the other hand, Kashmir issue is an article of faith for Pakistan. It is a critical organizing principal of the foreign policy and self identity. This issue needed, underestimated the adversary resolve on Pakistan's end. The issue will continue to simmer as a diplomatic challenge for India, for the foreseeable future⁴.

No doubt, the public reaction in Pakistan lacks the ferocity, despite the fact that people of Pakistan are feeling genuinely hurt on this development. As Musharraf's words, "Kashmir flows in Pakistan's blood"⁵. The split of Kashmir region in two union territories was seen by the China with fuelling tension and in reaction in 2020, China subsequently seized 103 square km of India held territory in Ladakah and in the combat more than 20 Indian troops were killed, while Pakistan revised its official map in totally claim to all of Kashmir⁶.

South Asia: A Venue of Future Contestation between Four Nuclear States, US-India and China-Pakistan

Once the two great vibrant civilizations (India and China), tied in the thread of Buddhism in medieval age, they influenced all the Asia in part⁷ has now become the hub of nuclear courtyard of 4 nuclear nations and flash point of nuclear war in modern history of 21st century. Now, the South Asia region has become vane for the future contestation between four nuclear states, in the backdrop of changing three factors globally as well as regionally. The three factors include: first, the change in bipolar context of today's unipolar international setting after the demines of Soviet Unions, second, emergence of India and Pakistan as regional nuclear rivals and third, rising China as a potential contender economically as well as militarily in South Asia region under BRI and CPEC. The following foreign policy shift by four nuclear nations with cutting edge in South Asia region reflects the changing geopolitical realities of the region.

Changing China's Foreign Policy with reference to South Asia

China's foreign policy is generally driven by trade and investment ties and South Asia is no exception with this regard usually, South East Asia, Europe and North America have the primary importance in China's overall foreign policy strategy, but it is now changing due to shifting its security concerns in place of economic and investment many years.

This shift include: India's rise as global power, which is forcing China for both to engage and counter New Delhi along with expanding trade, investment and infrastructure links, that have connected China to South Asian countries. As well as, Beijing feels fear about geopolitical balancing in Indian pacific, such as quadrilateral consultations for "Quad", that foster coordination between India, United States, Japan and Australia that is however, limited in scope and effectiveness.

As this South Asia region plays a significant role in promoting Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which involves massive promised investment and on the other hand, China is facing a reserve dollar crunch.⁸ Both land based (Belt) and maritime (Road) even though South Asia including via the flagship China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The stalled Bangladesh, China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor, and port along the Indian Ocean rim in states such as Sri Lanka.

In this regard, China also seeks to grow its foreign policy and security interests while countering threats in South Asia by using tools such as, bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, party to party exchanges, political and media influence, as well as arm sales. The objective is to countering threats from non-state actors,

managing intra regional rivalry and building influence throughout South Asia along with gaining a geopolitical advantages over the major powers. China also wants to prevent a nuclear exchange and play a role in managing crisis between India and Pakistan. Regarding geopolitical rivalry with India, Pakistan serves China's interest by facing India to devote resources and attention to dealing with Pakistan that might otherwise go toward balancing China.

Changing China-India Foreign Relation in Modern Era

As both China and India have a long and continuous history ⁹ in ancient as well as in modern era. Both were founded in 1940s. China was founded in 1949, while India in 1947. China annexed Tibet in 1950, Dalai Lama and Tibet government exiled in India in 1959. In 1954, the India-China agreed upon five principles of peaceful co-existence, which became the cross tones of Chinese foreign policy doctrine¹⁰. A border war in 1962 between China and India disturbed the usual relationship, but later on both the Asian powers with a desire to have relationship and boost the economic growth¹¹. Between 2000-2019 India's impact from China grew forty five times to more than \$70 billion annually.¹² The changing geopolitical landscape of China-India relations since 1990s, when Chinese people's Liberation Army (PLA), has grown rapidly, with rising its defense budget \$ 261 billion in 2019, comparing with Indian's \$ 71 billion¹³.

However, Indian military has made some advances in recent years, but generally it was lags behind the PLA.¹⁴ But there are several advantages in favor of India regarding its geopolitical and geo-strategic position in the region, which include: Strategic partnership with the US, geographical position for operating in South Asia and the Indian Ocean. Both Beijing and New Delhi possess relatively small nuclear arsenals but sufficient to expand modernization and deterrence requirement¹⁵. The current trajectory of Sino-Indian relation left them ripe for rivalry¹⁶. India now sits at across road in the relationship with China and might be tilting in a more confrontational direction following the Ladakh standoff (2020), some analyst even talks about China "losing India".

In sum, China's growing role in South Asia will make it challenging for India particularly, in context with defense and strategic partnership and nuclear balance of power with Pakistan. However, it has become difficult for India as well as more important to live up as the second largest power in the free, open and prosperous Indo-Pacific region, as well as in South Asia region due to the CPEC expansion and strategic alliance with Pakistan (more detail available in next section).

Changing US Foreign Policy Interests in South Asia o contain China

In Post 9/11 paradigm, the US has changed its foreign policy interest in South Asia and the Indian Ocean region to high priority issue pertain: China's rising and its involvement in South Asia and Indo-Pacific region. US second most important priority is to prevent the nuclear conflict between India and Pakistan or between India and China. AS well as entering the security of those weapons and preventing further proliferation is another major issue of changing US foreign policy in the region¹⁷. The tools to achieve these aims and objective was to develop a strategic partnership with India.

US Policy makers also perceived upholding freedom of navigation in the Indian Ocean as part of ensuring the openness of the global common. As well as, it was viewed to counter the militant groups, which are direct threat to the United States homeland as a critical task, whether they have been operating from safe heavens located in Afghanistan, Pakistan or elsewhere in the region. Regarding regional policy of political, security and economic order to prevent from the clutches of any single state, including China. South Asia particularly most of the Indo portion was focused by the US as a major power center in term of both geography and population¹⁸.

South Asia and US-China Competition

As far as US is concerned, South Asia and the Indian Ocean region extended beyond local and regional concerns, became a major center of gravity in global politics with critical relevance for the wide US-China competition. South Asia is a region of about 24% of world population and 40% of Asia live in South Asia,¹⁹ with dynamic emerging markets and high growth rate and potential to offer an alternative East Asia as a high of lowest manufacturing, even the Covid-19 Pandemic influenced badly regional economics.

This region however, is a major technology center, whose decisions will also help to shape technological eco-system across the world. At sea area, 80% of global seaborne trade, 40% of oil shipment through the Indian Ocean.²⁰ The Indian Ocean is to spread over from Africa to the Middle East to South Asia and South East Asia and Australia and has a critical maritime choke point at the eastern and western end. The US regarding strategy peaces commanding the global commons, including the high seas at the change of approach²¹ while, the China's strategic plan through BRI cross the same area of influence the region as well as, it is an existential threat for its survival. This is conflicting point of axis for the countries to dominant it through their alliances and with modern weapons.

Changing Pakistan's Foreign Policy with reference to USA, China and India.

India centric approach is Pakistan's foreign policy's pivotal feature since independence, but the major shift occurred in recent years, and that was the development of deep ties with China instead of the US in economic and military zones under CPEC and through other bilateral deals. Since 1954 to 1990s, Pakistan's deep strategic relationship with all ups and downs remained intact with the United States against Communism, and since 2001, against Taliban in Afghanistan, where Pakistan turned into a frontline state against War on Terror with US. However, Pakistan sees India as a number one enemy in all its foreign policy calculus.

As far as Pakistan's national security issue concerned, it is the main issue to view in its external security and regional parity in term of its deterrence and stability. Pakistan's ruling elite however, perceives its foreign policy under four major strategic culture paradigm, that include: Pakistan is an incomplete state without Kashmir, Afghanistan is a strategic depth issue for Pakistan, India opposed the two nation theory and India is seen as a hegemonic power in the South Asia region. Seemingly, this looks as security issues, but these factors play a pivotal role to determine its foreign policy architecture regarding South Asia

region. Relationship with India became so hostile, that a fundamental improvement appears almost impossible²².

USA and India are compelling China not to deepen its relations with Pakistan. As a reaction, this made Pakistan to be a reliable and feasible strategic partner of China, despite the pressure of the United States on China was escalated not to do this. Regarding US as Pakistan's future strategic partnership, it can never be possible that the US remains as same strategic partner as it was in past because, US has developed its strategic partnership with India that has been an enduring rival of Pakistan since independence. The new US administration under Biden may deepen its Cold War and antagonistic relationship with both China and Russia and try to bully Pakistan in to making choices that could drive a wedge between it and China. In this regard, the US may use India, Afghanistan along with international financial and counter terror institutions such as, the FATF as an instrument to black Pakistan toward a strategic partnership with China.²³

US-India Partnership in context with Civil Nuclear Deal

US-India Civil Nuclear Coordination was a complex deal in its nature as it had to proceed through several complexes and technical stages including: change in US local rules, particularly, in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954.²⁴ This is the US Federal law, covers for the development regulation with disposal of nuclear waste and facilities in the United States. Although the framework of the agreement, which is usually called "US – India Civil Nuclear Agreement"²⁵, was first signed on July 18, 2005. At the time of signing this deal both PM Manmohan Singh and George Bush showed their full willingness to enhance Civil Nuclear collaboration between both the countries.²⁶ US President George W. Bush also promised to work with friends and allies to accommodate international governance in relation to providing access to civil nuclear energy cooperation and trade with India. As a positive stance by India, New Delhi agreed to install 14 out of 22 nuclear reactors under the IAEA oversight regime by 2014.²⁷

Significance of the Deal for the US and India

However, the two main questions arise in the backdrop of this deal. First, that why US decided to transfer nuclear fuel and technology to India? Second, what were the US stakes behind this deal? In response to these questions, U.S Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice stated, "India is a biggest market and nuclear technology is indispensable to accomplish its development goals".

The US decided regarding 2nd question, as she argued, "the US will earn financial gains through transfer of nuclear technology". She testified before Congress on April 05, 2006 that the US takes into account private sector benefits during the deal with India, and will earn \$ 13 billion through US civil nuclear deals, Boeing and reactor sales such as Air Craft creator promoted. India Xi also highlighted the Indian defence market, which it believes is a motivating factor behind the deal.²⁸ The leading Indian newspaper, The Hindu, said the deal would increase India's qualitative and quantitative nuclear arsenal and increase the capacity of India's 50 nuclear warheads in one year, much above its current capacity.²⁹ It is due to this deal between US and India that the former is considering itself as the 'Big Brother' of this region. India is the playing the role as hegemonic country in

regional organizations such as SAARC and BIMSTEC. It is an ultimate reality that India wants to be the hegemonic country of South Asia and US has helped India in this regard by signing this nuclear deal. In South Asia, there are two nuclear powers (India and Pakistan) and remaining countries of the region can easily fallen prey to Indian militarization. On the other hand, US also can fulfil its interests in the region with the help of India.

Pakistan's Response regarding Civil nuclear deal

Pakistan refused this agreement by considering it the India – specific amendment in NSG regime which was not only as a discrimination act against it, as well as, also a distortion and twisting of the criteria governing the Civil nuclear trade.³⁰ The demands of Pakistan were that NSG membership should be based on uniform criteria, instead, twisting of the “criterion of the criteria”. Pakistan’s protest and claim that, the US acknowledged Pakistan's efforts to strengthen its strategic trade controls with the multilateral export control regime during the US-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue Joint Statement in March 2016. It also grumbled that, it was appreciated by its active involvement with IAEA through contributing with the fissile security summit, as well as “hosting IAEA’s training activities in this concern.”

However, regarding NSG membership, the US administration demanded some concessions from Pakistan including: Pakistan’s limiting nuclear weapons and delivery system to the necessary levels, which deter nuclear attack from India. As well as, it was demanded for ending further development of Tactical Nuclear Weapons (TNW) and stop to developing missile that can hit target beyond the Indian Territory.³¹ Pakistan in this regard, considers itself a dependent variable in the nuclear setting, while India is an independent variable and its nuclear development is directly proportional to India’s. As well as, Pakistan’s short range missile system is aimed to determine India from conducting border invasion or attack under its Cold Start Strategy.³²

China's response regarding Civil Nuclear Deal

As one of the major factors behind the deal was U.S purpose to contain intensifying China through sound collaboration with India. Moreover, China articulated its resentment through People’s Daily, the China’s official newspaper, and published on 27th October 2005, that United States’ action for making this major deal with India is to condemn it for violating nuclear non-proliferation norms and amending the laws of exceptions for India.³³ In this connection, China also argued that this deal will allow India to improve its qualitative and quantum nuclear arsenals and free India's indigenous uranium reserves after the US's interruption in nuclear fuel supplies. Both China and Pakistan had a joint view that the India-US civil nuclear deal was able to spoil the traditional and nuclear balance of power in the South Asia region. This deal would may India an advantage to attack Pakistan and improve Indian competence for pre-emptive strikes, as it is a green signal for India's nuclear program.³⁴

China in this connection, argues that by refining Indian nuclear status through a nuclear deal, it could stimulate an arm race in the region of South: especially India, Pakistan and "possibly" China. Beijing in this regard, understands the main

ambitions of India – US nuclear deal, that, this alliance is intended to contain China's intension.³⁵ China believes that due to this deal, a reliable and assured Pakistan is the most important player to maintain the regional balance of power and peace.

An Abrupt shift in China's Foreign Policy after the deal

After the deal was signed between India and America, an abrupt shift was witnessed in the foreign policy of China. After that China has been more conscious to create its hegemony in South Asia and has enhanced its military, economic and political collaboration with the regional countries. Firstly, she has enhanced its maritime footprints in the region of Indian Ocean. China's control over Indian Ocean is crucial for its oil and gas imports. Secondly, China has also promoted a very soft image towards the countries of South Asia and has enhanced very good collaboration with the states of this region. China's cultural diplomacy of China is also worth mentioning that it has endorsed its good image in region. Thirdly, China is making efforts to balance and stabilize the regional security environment of South Asia. Lastly, China is making efforts in promoting regionalism and playing its active part in anti-terrorism cooperation.

Changing Paradigm between China-Pakistan Relations Counter containment of US-India

The changing landscape of security paradigm in South Asia was happened on March 2, 2006, when a Civil Nuclear accord was signed between India and United States. On the other hand, China and Pakistan struck a strategic partnership two month prior to nuclear deal. Later on China and Pakistan officially signed "The Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Good Neighbourly Relations" on January 04, 2006.

According to Article 05 of the contract, which links both the countries to assist when a mutual and multilateral frameworks. Besides this, the treaty averts each state to join any agreement or block, which will damage the sovereignty and territorial veracity of any party. However, this treaty delivers lot of space in miscellaneous fields, including: military, economy, trade, substructure and nuclear technology transmissions.³⁶

China's Military gains through CPEC Project

Seemingly, some \$ 62 billion CPEC project focuses to develop infrastructure in Pakistan, but as Pakistan was chilled with the US deepened, it has eagerly turned toward China. However, there were some worried Pakistanis who feared losing sovereignty to their deep-pocketed ally, but the two countries competed to engage together so as to leave very limited options to move to Pakistan. The Gwadar Port is infected, giving China a strategic card to play against New Delhi and Washington if tensions rise to the extent of the maritime block, as the confrontation between the two powers in the maritime zone increases somewhat.³⁷

As far as, a less look over part of Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) which has the vital part for Pakistan to play in Beijing's satellite "BeiDou Satellite Navigation System," BeiDou is usually referred as one of the China's top space

project in the government white papers on space activities. Its implications for the United States in security sense to counter a US intervention in a potential contingency, if it is access to GPS is denied, while the US has provided GPS signals to users worldwide for free since 1980s.³⁸

The strategic partnership with Pakistan is useful in many regards; China has found a convenient subordinate, sharing with common borders along with long history of cooperation, national defence against India in the region of South Asia, with a big market of limb sale, and potential trade with progress and growth, as well as, a possible wealth of natural assets. Now China found another advantage of its security and close surveillance that once calmly described its close military ties with the United States.

The China - Pakistan Security alliance gained momentum along the route in the Arabian Sea under CPEC, China developed the port of Gawadar in 2015 and overburdened the project with an estimated \$ 800 million development plan that included a large special economic zone of Chinese companies, one of the viewpoints that would make the Pakistani military better frightened cooperation with its former passage, the US, but the reality was that Pakistan already had surrogate support to accompany it.³⁹ A secret suggestion between China and Pakistan to enlarge the construction of Chinese military jets, armaments and other equipment in Pakistan has made cooperation deeper, in space specialization, a new frontier that the Pentagon said: "Beijing was trying to militarize after the decade of try to catch up above".⁴⁰

As military researchers forecast that China could use Gwadar Port to inflate its naval foot prints of its attached submarines after deciding to vend eight submarines to Pakistan, a highly valued deal of 6 billion dollars in 2015. China's purpose in this regard is to use those submarines it sold to Pakistan to refuel its own submarines to extend its naval force to global reach. This is not only Gwadar Port, but China is also interested in other ports of Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Myanmar. Most importantly, Gwadar port may play an important role in enhancing trade not only between China and Pakistan but with other regional countries as well.

Pakistan's gain through Strategic Deal

After the agreement, China becomes the main supplier of conventional weapons and nuclear equipment to Pakistan. In this regard, the data exposed that prior to the Civil Nuclear Agreement with India and the United States, China exchanged weapons worth \$ 1174 million with Pakistan, but surpassed it three times during the post-Indo-US nuclear agreement, China transferred arms worth \$ 4,944 million to Pakistan throughout 2006-2015, which shows how it accelerated arms sales to Pakistan through China to compete in the US-India deal and to achieve breakeven goals.

This partnership has brought significant gains for China and Pakistan mutually. Pakistan has acquired a wide range of possibilities in China's military and nuclear technology. Consequently, Pakistan delivered its deep-water port from Gwadar to China for 40 years on rent. On the other hand, throughout Gwadar, China has access to the Indian Ocean and can use it as a watchdog to observe the naval

actions of India and the United States in the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea. This port also offers the shortest land path to China for its energy materials.

When India U.S signed their strategic partnership, Pakistan and China at the same time agreed to build three nuclear reactors. China also expended nuclear cooperation by announcing to construct two (1100 Megawatt nuclear reactors in Karachi) with the worth of \$ 9.59 billion with the grant loan of \$ 6.5 billion.⁴¹ Both Pakistan and China signed different agreements, relating to the construction of 5 civilian nuclear reactors in various locations in response to the Indo - US Civil Nuclear Agreement.

Nuclear Energy Sources in Future

As Pakistan's growing energy crisis and accordingly economic misery, Pakistan is dispiritedly in search of increasing contribution of nuclear energy and other various renewable energy resources to its overall energy mix-up. In this connection, Pakistan's main target is to generate 8800 MW from nuclear energy by 2030,⁴² which would have nuclear energy account for 20% of Pakistan's total energy.⁴³ In this regard, China and Pakistan signed a deal in November 2017, to build a fifth nuclear power plant at Chasma (C-5),⁴⁴ and a new reactor is predicted by adding an additional 1000 MW energy to the national grids after completion.⁴⁵

Despite the fact, that China's assistance in the area of nuclear energy program started since 1970s, which was actually originated from the strategic cooperation between both the countries in 1960s (while civilian nuclear energy cooperation was attached with economic and geostrategic factor). In the context of building its emerging nuclear energy program to combat the challenges of nation's wide electricity shortage, China offered to cultivate Pakistan as being its strategic partner in South Asia as a part of its balance of power strategy against India. Other than nuclear energy sector, both the countries showed tremendous progress to share in high tech military weapons.

Pakistan's Acquisition of High Tech Military Equipment from China.

Pakistan had been a slow and steadily, moved in attainment military equipment acquisition and procurement away from US-made weapon to Chinese ones or jointly making up locally with the assistance of China. The best example in this regard is JF-17, aircraft, which is developing with China and catching up F-16 in term of performance and Potential.⁴⁶

Since 2010, Pakistan's import weapons from the US has been declined from \$ 1 billion to just \$ 21 million in 2017, while throughout the same period, from China, the import was also declined, but slow, i.e. from \$ 747 million to 514 million, making China, the biggest weapon exporter to its southern neighbors.⁴⁷

Indian government takes Pakistan's rising import of conventional and nuclear arms from China becomes so alarming that in August 2019, it expressed its concerns exponentially increasing its arm imports from China. These arms import include: ammunition for tanks, artillery and missiles for air craft, Indian government views that for last 10 years i.e. 2009-2018 , 86% of Pakistan's army imports can be classified as offensive weapons including: air craft's armoured vehicles, missiles and artillery in the last decade, and almost 70% of all these types

of weapons came from China.⁴⁸ In a report published by Voice Of America (VOA) on line, that, China has become the main exporter of weapons to Pakistan, Bangladeshi and Myanmar, as SIPRI reported in its 2018 annual report titled "Trends in International Arms Transfer, 2017".

The report reflects on the fundamental Shift in the geopolitical dynamics of South Asia. In this regard, the US sale of weapons to Pakistan declined by 76% in the past five years, while China has become the largest weapon exporter to Pakistan, which is India's competitor neighbor, which supplies 35% of its arms to Pakistan, from 2011-17.

The facts said that once the United States was the largest arms supplier, but recent tension between the US and Pakistan have substantially affected arms sales, precisely, from 2013-17, when there was a incredible declined in arm transfer from the US to Pakistan.⁴⁹ Nonetheless, for the US, there may be some negative consequences that stretched well beyond its complex relations with Pakistan. Because, the sole weapon system scale some time backed by privileged financial terms, may become central tool for US to manage its vast network of military business, his foreign policy and alliances in effect, which is a form of sponsorship. But in this connection, the paradigm has been shifting in favour of China by shifting key allies of the US such as, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, which have signed arm agreement with Russia. Similarly, in the East Asia region, the Philippines and Thailand along with large part of Africa, and the most world leaders have been looking increasingly toward China.⁵⁰

Since the initiation of CPEC project there has been betterment in the collaboration of already good friends i.e. China and Pakistan. China has been providing Pakistan economic, military and technical assistance. Some analysts are of the view that this project has the capacity to change the fate of both the countries, but the success of this project can only be possible if there peace opulence in the region in which we are living. In the same manner, China has been helping Pakistan to control terrorism in the country and China and provided security arsenals to Pakistan in this regard. On the other hand, Indian media, government and public are openly criticizing this mega project. They are not happy with the development of this project.

Three Weapon system from China that Sold to Pakistan

Consequently, there are three weapons systems, which have been sold to Pakistan, particularly, in new Chinese capabilities, as well as which have threatened US deep influence (even, with India's defense relations) in South Asia, these include : First , JF-17 jets, which are equally competent war planes against US made F-16, which had been remembered a heroic role in US-Pakistan's military and foreign policy history since 1980s, and played a role of ups and downs in both countries relationship. The US sent 40 F-16 jets to Pakistan in 1983 and cancelled the 2nd delivery in 1990, with the summons over Pakistan's nuclear weapons program.⁵¹

As a result, Pakistan was so indignant and furious that Islamabad was unable to recover the money it had already paid for paying for the planes, only receiving partial compensation in 1998 for its full payment already spent. Pakistan, in this

regard, has no good experience and says the recent decision not to allow the US to use military aid to buy yet another new batch with it only confirms the US's distrust of supplying weapons.

Subsequently, the new F-16 price rose to \$ 700 million from \$ 270 million after the US withdrew subsidies in 2016, while, on the other hand, when the US was making it more difficult to supply its weapons, China was ready to supply JF-17 and knocking on Pakistan's door, and in 2007, Pakistan flew through the first two JF-17s, whose parts were made in China, as well as, assembled locally. Undoubtedly, these jets were not only acrobatic or deadly like American fighters, that is, the F-16, but they also cost about a third of the price of the F-16. In this regard, China also agreed crucially to share the design, so that, armed forces of Pakistan can make personally in Pakistan and moreover, it can disseminate to other countries.

The second weapon system granted to Pakistan was military drones. This was the undesirable surprise for the US in September 2015, when Pakistan's military forces attacked militants near the Afghan border, which was carried out by a military drone. The satellite images showed that “the Drone looked a lot” like a Chinese drawing, when defense specialists analyzed it.⁵² While investigation drones are so simple enough to build, ones with armed competences are so easy to develop, commented the defense experts. Washington was shocked to note that how armed drone might be made use of other nations, so it has regretted repeated requests to supply to Islamabad, though, including other countries that to buy American systems. Pakistan then apparently with Chinese assistance developed independent posture toward the U.S assaults in tribal areas of Pakistan.

Consequently, the development of military drones in China is also an attractive temptation for Pakistan and the Middle East, where other countries have been banned from buying American drones for having bought or shown any interest in buying from China. Some defense analysts say Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt have already bought them in recent years.

The third area of Chinese weapon system is to sell eight sub marines to Pakistan. In October 2016, just after one month, when the US refused to provide any subsidy on F-16 sale, Beijing suddenly announced that it would vend eight attack submarines to Pakistan just in 6 billion dollars, which indeed, was just biggest single arm sale in the history of Pakistan. This deal played an important role in enabling Pakistan to counter India in IO region, at the moment, when the US have heavy reliance on the India than provide ram portrait art against rising Chinese maritime expansionism. Some observers are of the view that such a deal can put threat to the US strategy to contain China in Indian Ocean and Indo – Pacific region.

Implications of China-Pakistan Strategic Alliance

As the Paradigm of China – Pakistan relation changed the US-India strategic calculus and US officials are engaged in a snow storm challenge of diplomacy to repair the damage and control the rift between the two countries. One of the US diplomat comments that, “we are not walking away, rather we just have suspended the security assistance, otherwise”, our channels are open for communication”. On

the other end, Pakistan has the view that they fear that the relations with US have now historic low

With Chinese money flowing into infrastructure projects as part of the "\$ 60 billion CPEC, the traditional Washington threat", the cancellation of military deals will have less of an influence. The usual tool of US foreign policy in the military remained "arms sales" to continue the alliance and gain strategic influence. Now the time has changed and Chinese technology has turned the tables. It is more competitive. If American allies start to say that they prefer the terms offered by China that mean trouble for the US.⁵³

In 2006, when Chinese President Hu Jintao also said vividly that "China can leave gold, but not friendship with Pakistan", the statement captured exactly the essence of the two countries' longstanding partnership, which is based on trust and mutual understanding.⁵⁴ This statement was addressed after the great strategic partnership between China and Pakistan on January 04, 2006 "Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Good Neighborly Relations".

But the issue is that, as long as there would be hostile relations between Pakistan and India due to Kashmir, their relations with the U.S are at descending winding position, Pakistan would proceed to see China as its most vital partner and counter adjusting the India and to a few degree, the US-China will too have an inalienable in back of Pakistan's political and security steadiness in term of long term military and security interface within the South, Central Asia and Centre East locales (most recent Chinese \$ 400 billion deal with Iran additionally checking the rising nearness and control profile of the US).

The route of US-India strategic collaboration and the descending deterioration of Pak-US ties which activates its own reason on the security subtleties of China and Pakistan; the peace and stability seems to be out of control from India and Pakistan to decide about the fate of the region, rather both China and the US have become the master stroker for the designing of the destiny and of fate of over 1.5 billion people of South Asia region. The both enduring partnership i.e. US-India and China and Pakistan may have withstood the pressure of time and shifting geo – strategic landscape of South Asia the region in time to come.

Conclusion

As US-India Civil Nuclear Deal alarmed not only the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of Pakistan and China, but also whole of South Asia region and destabilized the existing balance of power and shift weight in India's favor by the US, Pakistan and China realized Indian intentions and struck the strategic partnership deal. The treaty of "Friendship, cooperation and Good Neighborly relations" on January 04, 2006. Both the countries transformed their fair and normal relationship into strategic partnership. Before that, China took a neutral stance towards India's core Pakistan crisis, including Kashmir, Kargil and Twin-Peak-Crisis from 2001-2002. But after the deal, China again adopted a pro-Pakistan stance and saved Pakistan from global political isolation.

The main objective of the China-Pakistan agreement was to maintain the balance of forces and to close the gap between Indo-Pakistan's conventional and nuclear

defense system. This analysis show that China - Pakistan sees the US-India nuclear deal as a danger to their state security and, as a result, both countries have taken swift action. It is therefore, a best example to threat perception and reaction against US-India nexus.

This joint gamble, the China and Pakistan have been playing, at on hand, Pakistan has made a credible promised to China with its own economy and security through developing military and security agreements since 2006, while on the other hand, China's, credibly involved with Pakistan through escalating the risk of security of its national (and its investment) in Pakistan and aggravating the tension in Xinjing. However, the risk and stakes for both countries are very high, and they are adhesive that keeps the current alliance together

The dual nature of China – Pakistan partnership provides China its immediate access to global trade and to stimulate in South Asia, as well as, its long term plans for South Asia focused on consolidating position in the Asia Pacific (India – Pacific) and ultimately, globally. Pakistan and India on the other hand, will continue to clash over their disputed territories, regardless of both great powers presence. The recent China – Pakistan rising Partnership is a warning to the US in one sense that the United States should not try to force Pakistan to disintegrate or terminate its alliance with China, Pakistan will indeed, response to dishonor such a request and instead would be compelled to play yet another double game.

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