

## **Geostrategic Importance of Balochistan: Baloch Insurgency and the Global Politics of Energy Resources**

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### **Abstract**

Balochistan is at crossroads of conquerors, traders and settlers. It is ideally located along the long coastal belt from the Middle East toward the Indian-sub-Continent and a critical central point for goods to and from this part of the region to Central Asia through Afghanistan. Balochistan, due to its geostrategic position, has special influence on local, national, regional and global politics. This paper contends that insurgency proved a real impediment in its social, political, economic development and has also destabilized the whole region. The current phase of insurgency will meet the same fate as it did in the past due to its disorganized nature. This paper focuses on the geo-strategic importance of Balochistan and how its significance does exploited by the regional and global players. Baloch accounts for less than four percent of the total population of Pakistan; these Baloch insurgents living in the province that comprises roughly 45 percent of the total area of Pakistan. The Baloch insurgents dreaming of Greater Balochistan, as it includes the Baloch living in Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan. This paper has proved by what methods the motives, both suspected and stated, reflect the Baloch a very harmful and lethal whose behavior is unexpected.

**Keywords:** Balochistan; Baloch Insurgency; China; Iran; India; U.S., Afghanistan.

### **Introduction**

Balochistan has not only importance due to its vast fields of valuable natural resources and other minerals but it is situated in the South-west of Pakistan, near Iran and Afghanistan borders, the construction of Gwadar port in Arabian Sea has the possibility of bringing development in the region extraordinarily has increased its importance for Pakistan in regional affairs. Before independence, the British took advantage of this region by utilizing it as a buffer zone. They controlled it through Sardars of Balochistan, and this practice still existed after 1947, but several insurgencies outbreak to create independent Balochistan.(Wolpert, 2000, pp. 2-5). Since then, Pakistani

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central government has been struggling hard to stop eruption of Baloch insurgency and continue to have territorial integrity and sovereignty and have law and order situation under control in Balochistan. Since 1947, the Baloch launched five revolts against the central government of Pakistan. Nevertheless, due to the regional and global changing strategic, political and economic scenarios, its importance has come into focus. Robert Kaplan argues that energy competition is increasing with reducing collection of new and emerging markets (Kaplan, 2010, pp. 4-5).

Current NATO war in Afghanistan also express the importance of Balochistan as it provides the entry point for the military and relief goods going to the fighting zones in Afghanistan. Balochistan proved to be a safe route for these military goods as compared to other routes. It is important to mention that insurgency and other extremists and fundamentalist factors in Balochistan are possible indicators for worries in the near future that needs extra amount of care and treatment. Interests and pressures from regional and global powers and its strategic location along multiple sea and land routes has increased its importance that needs careful attention, because number of security issues of regional and global dimension are linked to Pakistan's internal politics. Energy issues have increased the interest of not only South Asian countries but also China, Russia and European nations. Decision for construction of the proposed pipelines to carry oil and gas through Balochistan, have increased its importance in terms of security and stability of this region.(UNPO, 2010, March 23).

### **Geostrategic Importance of Balochistan**

This part of the paper illustrates the geostrategic importance of Balochistan, such as how it is perfectly situated in Southwest of Pakistan and its close proximity to the energy rich regions, Middle East and Central Asia. This part of the study will show the importance of vast, large Balochistan's valuable and useful energy possessions and by what methods the Gawadar deep-sea port will bring globalization into Pakistan. Furthermore, this paper explores in what ways the Baloch insurgency causes problems for regional peace and security and the increasing level of international involvement in Balochistan, the potential for global intervention along with their vested interests and political agendas can push this strategically important region into chaos. Strategic importance of Balochistan exists by joining together its geographic position, natural resources and the people living in and around Balochistan. The focus is on in what way the area of land of Balochistan positioned it at the crossroads of most important business route from South Asia to Southwest Asia.

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To survive, the states think about two important principles or ideas that complement each other, “interests” and “security.” Interests refer to the values that distinguish that state from any other state. However, security refers to the survival. Purpose of “security” is to get and protect the “interests” of the state. Since each state would like to protect its interests, the extreme and forceful competition is inevitable. Some, usually the powerful states claim what amounts to a *prerogative of the mighty* to act against the international law if it is believed to be in conflict with their interests. And they also get away with it. Ability of a state to compete or exercise the *prerogative of the mighty* depends on its position or capacity for interplay and applications of concepts that all the time drives human history. There are politics, resources, space, or geography, and strategy. Out of them the terms geopolitics and geo-strategy are derived.

The emphasis in geopolitics is the why but the stress in geopolitics is the how. Geopolitics is aimed at policies, mostly in intellectual exercise while geo-strategy is aimed at the implementation, usually functionary occupation. Geo-strategic importance of any state begins with itself as the most important interest or attention. Survival and well-being of that centre becomes deciding factor in judging the geo-strategic importance to protect the centre. The geo-strategic importance needs attention on immediate neighbours, whether land or seas, other countries within the continent, but are not immediate neighbours, third, extra-continental powerful countries and their regional grouping and movement connected with the immediate neighbours.

Strategic location is prime factor that Pakistani federal government at Islamabad can ill afford to deal with the Baloch insurgents’ demands. On other hand, the importance of these natural resources and security and stability of the region for extracting and distributing these resources have created more incentive for the Baloch insurgents to fight, and for the same reasons, the central government of Pakistan has increased more reasons for crushing of these insurgents, at any cost. Baloch insurgency remained a national concern for years and this insurgency is almost completely based on Baloch nationalism. In fact, this is another insurgency that federal government of Pakistan don’t want to succeed because they cannot afford another Bangladesh. The strategically important port of Gawadar is perfectly in a particular position for access to the South Asia, Central Asia through Afghanistan, the Middle East and the eastern coasts of Africa. It is also a position for land-route to Russia.

Balochistan is militarily important (from a logistical point of view), as it supplies an important place for the fast and sudden build-up of power and becoming more and more successful deployment and again supplying to the Central Asia, South Asia, Middle East, China and Russia. Furthermore, through an air

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force and navy stationed at Gawadar can also keep a vigilant eye and external control over important international “choke point” in the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz, and the shipping trade through the Indian Ocean. Discovery of large number of valuable Balochistan’s resources has proved significance of this part of Pakistan, even more than before, in complex geostrategic interests of different types of regional and global players. Hence, the important location and the abundance of natural resources have raised the importance of Balochistan to the regional and global community, as competition for these valuable resources has been intensifying with the passage of time.

After partition, very little written about the Baloch insurgency but after creation of Bangladesh, the central government of Pakistan took serious interest in Balochistan and during 1972-77 Balochistan government was disbanded by the former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, sent approximately 30,000 military personnel on duty into Balochistan to silence the insurgents. Iran during that period, helped and assisted Pakistani government maintain control of the region at the same time Soviets and Iraqi governments were materially supplying the Baloch insurgents secretly and in a hidden way. In early 1980s, Balochistan gained larger interests due to already discovered gas and newly discovered coal and copper reserves. The proposed Iran-Pakistan pipeline discussions already began and the development of this pipeline to China, and also increased global interests in the region. The war next-door was in full swing in Afghanistan, the writer like Mehtab Ali Shah, highlight the fact that the powerful effect of millions of refugees reaching the Balochistan after 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.(Shah, 1997). Soviets, during their Afghan occupation, attempted hard to persuade the Baloch to raise another standard of revolt in opposition to the central government in Pakistan and Soviet assured the Baloch insurgents that they would be rewarded greatest possible autonomy after the Soviet complete victory in Afghanistan.(Blood, 1995, pp. 4-5).

Authors like Shaheen Khan given a lot of attention to Balochistan’s importance because it is closely connected with the regional conflicts and their resolution. He argued that Pakistan’s internal problems caused real impediments in the country’s growth (Khan, 2009, p. 22). Mary Ann Weavers states a high quality description of the Baloch people’s life and politics as they understand and think about the central government in Pakistan, relationship among tribal societies and the powerful impact on Indian, Iranian and Afghanistan politics on the Balochistan internal politics.(Weaver, 2002, pp. 29-30). She provided an insight about Baloch sentiments to federal and provincial governments, to their neighbouring states and the resources of Balochistan and its distribution. Nina Swindler argues that the complex tribal family system is a way of life existed for a long time and sources of continuity for the Baloch continuously

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changing political scenarios at local, national, regional, and global level.(Swindler, 1992, pp. 553-570).

### **Balochistan's Human Resources and The Baloch People**

Mansel Longworth Dames points out in *The Baloch Race*, the importance of Sardari system and paints a picture of life of Balochistan with nomads. His writings increased interest in the Balochistan region that would show way to the military and political choices made by the British raj, due to the "Great Game" between British and Russian Empires. This region was used as effective buffer zone. His work emphasized on the Baloch Sardar who is the admired-person, voice of the people and whose behaviour the Baloch people try to copy, but these Baloch lack material resources.(Dames, 1904, pp. 34-40).

For much of the recorded history, the Baloch lived in the area now known as Balochistan. It is important to mention that Baloch insurgents do not limit their greater Balochistan demands to area now referred to as Balochistan but it includes some territories in southern Afghanistan and southern Iran as integral part of their Greater Balochistan demand. Akbar S. Ahmed stated that the Baloch tribal society is described that does not have a large number of relationship with other people of the world. Sardar is at the centre of the tribal society. Sardar is an example of hospitality, honour and bravery. The order of the Sardar is mandatory which must be obeyed. The common people obeyed the sardars because these Sardars were key to their survival for centuries. Ahmed exaggerated the Baloch saying, "the Baloch will swear on the Holy Quran but never on the head of the Sardar."(Ahmed, 1986, p. 188). Each and every Baloch tribe is led by Sardar that has no-holds-barred power, command and control of the tribe and this system has existed for hundreds of years. The basic philosophy of these tribes is the hospitality, revenge and intense loyalty to the Sardar. Sardar are controlling Baloch insurgency and the compromise should also be reached through Sardars. With the increasing interest by the global powers in Balochistan, the Baloch are more determined to fight for independence or achieving autonomy using more severe and sudden methods in a highly different and change manner.(Tilly, 2004, p. 54).

### **Physical Terrain and Area of Balochistan**

Balochistan's land is extremely inhospitable. The most important explanation for the increasing interest in Balochistan exists in its geo-strategic importance. On its east and west are high mountains which are wild and not easy to travel over to the western parts Afghanistan and the Central Asia toward Russia. Due to its large area of flat land, it has for a long time provided the best

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possible crossroads for militaries and merchants from the Middle East and South Asia and vice versa. The Soviets had interest in warm waters at Gwadar. For that reason, the British colonial power during 1860s and 1870s, not only had created buffer state as a protection and defence from the bad effects of increasing Persian interest and powerful impact, but also to prevent the increasing Russian Empire from stretching to the warm-waters of Indian Ocean, in this way they want to protect the British commercial dominance in the region.

Not long ago, the Soviets again tried to get control of this region when they tried to please the Baloch throughout the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan also explaining the importance of this region.(Harrison, 1981, pp. 43-44). Because of all of the advantages of the geo-strategic importance of Balochistan, several projects have been planned, started and executed by many different Pakistani governments and extra-national actors. They develop road networks, railroads and pipelines that will make more efficient and cheaper movement of goods and services in every part of the region. This could be very helpful and improves the quality of life of the Baloch people. China, Iran, India, the Central Asian countries, and Russia all hoping to get profit, but the Baloch insurgency presents an overwhelming threat to the balance of power of Southwest Asia.

### **Balochistan and Proposed Pipelines**

The issue of command and control of the resources, especially natural gas fields, started immediately after its discovery in 1952, because of the industrial growth and rising demands of energy which resulted into the construction of pipelines at the large-scale.(Luft, 2005, January 12). There are two more important suggested pipelines with different types of supporters and investors within the region, in addition to the Chinese financial help and encouragement that will transit natural gas from Turkmenistan and Iran to Gwadar Port. Stable Balochistan is required to develop all those pipelines, a stability that is yet to be achieved as shown to be true by the frequent attacks aimed at the pipelines and workers who works for the construction of these pipelines in the region. This state of law and order situation has forced Indian government to think about alternate ways of fulfilling its energy demands.

### **Communication Systems through Roads in Balochistan**

Balochistan also faces lack of sufficient and excellent road communication system. With the aim of achieving completely use the transportation of goods and services to the markets in neighbouring countries, enough road and rail communication system must be organized. To deal with this problem,

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Pakistan's central and provincial governments have started several projects to change completely rural, dirt roads into most modern one. As the federal government in Pakistan pursues its own interests contributes to the frustration of Baloch and their opinions of marginalization. Another important issue is international border crossing check points and the methods that are needed for the successful command and control of trade in this border area. Another concern connected with Balochistan is the Iranian government's desire to construct a wall along the Iran–Pakistan border.

Baloch are worried about development of Gwadar port and its impact on the tribal and their family relations. Another concern is that there is no important state-of-the-art road connecting Balochistan and Afghanistan. Since its border, not protected enough, and is uncontrolled that makes it easier to transport illegal goods and at the same time stopping easy possibility of goods between Gwadar Port and Central Asia and Russia through Afghanistan. If the goods once transported to Quetta and then south to Karachi or Gwadar port, the rise in the amount of time and distance makes Chabahar Port a more acceptable and not too expensive option. To alleviate this problem, there is a proposed construction of a road connecting Gwadar with another important mineral place, Saindak, but construction has not begun till now. Baloch will no longer have any of the the ability to get what they want, if this road is constructed, and will resulted into an unpleasant strong reaction from the central government. Therefore, Baloch insurgents have unleashed attacked on workers constructing roads. Most of the workers under attack are foreigners, which prove the assumption that there may be some type of possibility of foreign involvement behind these attacks.

### **Rail Networks**

Expected railway lines from Gwadar to Chinese south-western province has until now not started. Pakistani and Chinese governments have several times strengthened and reaffirmed their strong wish to complete this railway line as soon as possible. However, the Baloch insurgents continue to stop these projects by sabotaging railway track, and by continuing to harass the construction crews. Balochistan's geostrategic position is perfectly look more attractive for growth, development and to make its society more modern. The neighbouring countries' interests in both the natural resources exist and the ability and skill to cheaply and quickly move them, there is enough investment opportunities for the Baloch living in Pakistan.

### **Rickodek**

Rickodek, known as the “Hillock of Gold” situated in Chaghi, a tehsil of Balochistan. According to recent estimates, it is the world’s 4<sup>th</sup> largest reservoirs of gold and copper (there exist 10 billion kilo gram copper and 370 million gram gold, about the US \$ 260 billion of worth). It has proved that the Balochistan has sufficient reservoirs of valuable mineral. But unfortunately Pakistan is dependent upon foreign companies for their exploring, mining, surveying and refining. This region is also close to Iran and Afghan border. Even few mining companies have sent messages to Baloch insurgents that if they do not create problems, they would be heavily compensated. The US and India wants to become worse the law and order situation in Balochistan so that Pakistan cannot get benefit out of this.(Shahid, 2011, January 20).

### **Gawadar Port**

Robert Looney argues that economy of Pakistan, for a long time, has suffered from underdevelopment and not enough active involvement in the international economic market. (Looney, 1997, June 1, pp. 79-98). Gawadar Port is meant to invigorate the economy of Pakistan. This is situated not far away from the entrance to the Straits of Hormuz (Persian Gulf), is thought to be suitable for central part for global business activity in and around the Indian Ocean, in addition to an entrance to the energy abundant region, Central Asia, particularly for the export of energy resources from Central Asian to the world. This port is also geostrategically situated to work as a place for shipping energy resources from Balochistan. With the arrival of large number of investment, Pakistan could become an important global passage for petro-chemical trade and very much encourage its economy to grow.

Economies of the world are in need for energy resources. Gawadar deep sea-port can supply the route to use the extremely big natural resources of Central Asia, whose “market access is hindered by political and geographic conditions, including continued Russian influence.”(Cohen, 2006, November 15). According to current estimates, these natural energy resources are equal to the combined energy resources (oil reserves) of Kuwait and Iraq and the energy resources (natural gas reserves) of Saudi Arabia.(Cohen, 2006, November 15). Central Asian landlocked states like Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan own these natural resources which have very limited access to the global economic markets and they have not at any time developed their export infrastructure (the basic systems and services, such as transport and power supplies) to work effectively.(Weitz, 2006, pp. 155-167). In December 2002 trilateral agreement between Pakistan, Turkmenistan and

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Afghanistan to build and develop a pipeline that would transport the oil resources from Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to Pakistani port Gwadar that highlighted the importance of this strategic important Port.(Cohen, 2006, November 15).

Russian companies purchased the Central Asian resources and sold to the European nations on profit. These practices created strong encouragements for European nations to build pipelines from Central Asia to Gwadar because these pipelines would greatly benefit those countries through which these pipelines would operate.(Haider, 2005), p. 95). This situation has created to extreme and forceful competition in the middle of those states which controls comfortable access to these energy abundant Central Asian states to the global markets using their deep-sea-water ports. Pakistan and Iran, because of their geostrategic position, present the best solutions using its shortest possible pipelines, with Gwadar deep-sea-port allow the closest and most suitable port to transport energy resources from the Central Asian region.(International Crisis Group, 2006, September 14).

Both, India and China, Asian giants are trying to develop major ports and the roads or trains to connect them to the Caspian region littoral states with the aim of achieving benefits from the Central Asian natural reserves, such as gas and oil.(Haider, 2005, p. 97). Although, trade in cotton also presents possible financial benefits can open a new safe passage for that trade which is more cheaper, in comparison with the existing routes through Russia.(Starr, 2005). Pakistan hopes to take advantage of this trade from Caspian region and more exactly expect Gwadar deep-sea-port as the future main transit place for Russian goods moving to and from South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Middle East.(Haider, 2005, p. 100). The possible benefits from this trade provide as an extra encouragement for the competing Pakistani and Iranian deep-sea-port developments.(Starr, 2005).

### **Apple of Discord: Competition for Energy Resources**

Before the discovery of gas, Balochistan and Baloch insurgency and their movement for autonomy was purely and solely an indigenous Pakistani issue, others nations did not take notice up to the time of the Soviet's attack and occupation of Afghanistan in 1979. But, in 1978, for the first time, it was Selig S. Harrison, who predicted the description of possible "worst-case" action and event in the future including this Soviet occupation attack, and he highlighted this action in the reaction of the regional actors towards the Balochistan's geostrategic importance,(Harrison, 1978, p. 137) when his prediction became a reality in 1979, he argued the Soviet have been dreaming for their possession of deep-sea-water port on the Indian Ocean, and in this way the

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position and purpose of Baloch insurgents are important in this Soviet attempt.(Harrison, 1981). Of the present time, the global players are interested in Balochistan's internal security and external importance, and these global players for example China, India and Iran are involve in the politics and the future prospects of this energy abundant and strategically important region.(Kaplan, 2010, p. 10).

Certain factions in Baloch insurgency and their movement, to raise standard of revolt and violent and frightening armed-resistance with the aim of full autonomy or preserving Balochistan and the Baloch way of life, tries to take in an organized activity just to fulfil the international agenda, in hopes of getting independence with the help of these international forces. Pakistani central government has been accusing Indian government of helping and encouraging the insurgents against Pakistan's national interests and leading them to gain independence, as they did in the case of Bangladesh. This involvement caused Pakistani government to intervene in the affairs of Balochistan and there is also potential for great powers to exploit the situation for their own vested interests. The question is that why it is strategically important for Pakistan and regional powers to solve this important problem of Balochistan and does it needs to involve the global powers to improve their law and order situation in this area.

Geoffrey Kemp and Robert Kaplan have expressed in writing the changing and increasing role of China's taking part and interest in Balochistan.(Kemp, 2010, p.4; Kaplan, 2010, p. 12). They began to show the broader global powers interest regarding Balochistan's importance in global affairs. Kemp argues that China wants to corner the global powers through its attempts of pouring money and investment in Balochistan and the Gawadar port which is a strategic importance and helping the central government in Pakistan economically to bring peace and stability in Balochistan. In the presence of large number of countries interest, investing, and strong desire to work in Balochistan increases a chance of seemingly unimportant unpleasant and unusual event making into more serious global issue that can threaten not only Balochistan and Baloch, but also all of the South Asia, within the realms of possibility of including global powers.

Advantages of Gwadar Port are certain for the Balochistan citizens. Unfortunately for Pakistan, being almost the same port project has begun at Chabahar, Iran. This deep-sea-port project in Iran, helped and encouraged mostly by the Indian investors, is not facing the exactly like problems faced by the Gwadar deep-sea-port. With the advantage of developed road infrastructure, through Afghanistan to Central Asia, Chabahar is ready to take the most important position in the region. Chabahar and Gwadar ports are

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separated by a distance less than 110 miles and are trying to take part in a competition to exploit the Central Asian resources. This competition is more important and serious concern the Pakistani state officials, those stated clearly that success of “Chabahar port would inflict a huge financial setback for Pakistan.”(Haider, 2005, p.101). Iran has given Afghanistan generally reduced port fees by using its Chabahar port.(Haider, 2005, p.101).). Pakistan has reacted by granting Afghanistan “preferential trade status.”(Haider, 2005, p.101).

Emerging competition in the region is between the China and India, known as the two Asian giants. The Chinese investment crossed over 80 percent of the total investment in the Gwadar deep-sea-port, and the total amount of which is estimated at more than \$ 850 million, in addition more than 450 Chinese experts (including engineers and workers) have been working to complete the majority of the construction.(Starr, 2005). Pakistan has been encouraging China to develop and take advantage of Gwadar deep-sea-port to make possible the trade to and from the Xinjiang south-western province of China. The Pakistan-China friendship is especially cause discomfort in India that has rivalry with Pakistan since 1947. This rivalry between India and Pakistan resulted into wars between these two nuclear powers. This rivalry explains for what reason India provide help for the development of Chabahar, in preference to working with the Chinese and Pakistanis in the development of Gwadar deep-sea-port that near to India as compared to Chabahar deep-sea-port, and for that reason more suitable and near to India.(Blank, 2003, pp. 139-157).

Despite this, the use of Gwadar deep-sea-port for military purposes, as a military naval base, which will not be easy to attack, India will probably continue to look at this with doubts. To make this financial competition worse, the geopolitical, military, and financial competition between China and India, increased to some degree by competing Chinese and Indian influence and interests in Central Asia.(Kaplan, 2009, March/April). Additional important element of this economic and energy competition is that China’s establishment of noticeable military presence in Gwadar, called by the name of the “string of pearls” strategy, immediately challenges India’s place and situation in the region where India does not let any nation to challenge its authority.(Kaplan, 2009, March/April).

Both China and India import large amounts of their natural resources, such as oil and gas, through the Straits of Hormuz that is very close to Gwadar deep-sea-port (less than 250 miles), providing an extra edge to China’s having its large military and naval presence at Gwadar gives a significant and valuable quality for protecting Chinese shipments and an extreme threat to Indian

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shipments if hostilities happen.(Berlin, 2004, p. 2). Furthermore, the increasing competition between them is China's involvement and projection to utilize the geostrategic importance of Gwadar as the development of an oil pipeline which would transport Middle Eastern oil into the western provinces of China, as a result of this action, reducing India's power to hinder Chinese oil supply through Straits of Malacca.(Kaplan, 2009, March/April). These tense conditions have forced India to finance and provide engineers, technicians and experts for the development and up gradation of Chabahar deep-sea-port to counter Chinese presence in Indian Ocean. The Gwadar deep-sea-port and oil pipelines confront severe challenges from the Baloch inside Balochistan. The most important impediments to develop the Gwadar and other projects in Balochistan are the Baloch revolutionaries, the extremely big majority of whom are not in favour of these projects. With the aim of understand the origin of why the Baloch oppose these projects one needs to examine their history.

### **Baloch and New Global Order**

As a result of repeated failures, the Baloch insurgents are trying to help, support and encouragement from the global community to succeed in reaching their aim of autonomy and Greater Balochistan. (IntelliBriefs, 2010, March 19) These insurgents are important members of the UNPO (Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization) and they requested the United Nations (U.N.) to help them. (UNPO, 2008, April 14). Baloch are also wished to make appeals to the US for help and support. (Baloch, 2008, August 22). By putting foreign and global players and their agendas into local affairs, the Baloch leaders can make their situation worse by taking it to a time or place from which they could not be able to control the situation.

### **Autonomy and the Preservation of Baloch Culture**

Despite the fact that Bangladesh got independence in 1971 and the circumstances here in Balochistan are different in two important ways: the physical separation was most important part that played key role and the second was the overt help and encouragement from the Indian government and its military toward the East Pakistani insurgency and independence movement.(Pike, 2005, April 27). In whatever way, the earlier discussed competition about Chabahar and Gwadar deep-sea-port, there is possibility that overt Indian help and encouragement to Baloch insurgents can spread out negative impact in the Indian occupied Kashmir.(Kakatkar-Kulkarni, 2009, July 20). India's help and encouragement for independent Balochistan will not and cannot be as productive as it provided support to Bangladesh in 1971. The Pakistan central government cannot allow the presence of Baloch insurgents in almost half the country (geographically), to dictate their terms to

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Pakistani government. It can establish a unpleasant example for the other groups in the places like the Federal Administered Tribal Area (FATA). There is a need for extra para-military and police forces to supply safety and security to all non-Baloch where unusual violence is possible. Repairing the damaged oil and gas pipelines, roads and rails amount to big loss of time and money for Pakistan. More importantly, frequent threat of attacks make these services more difficult and costing a lot of money. Certainly, with the vast natural resources in Balochistan provides explanation for Pakistan to hold on to this part of the country. In addition, because of the War on Terror and with the rising pressures and attention towards this part of the world, global politics of exploitative regimes has begun that can force this region into a full of unpleasant increase in violence. Furthermore, because of all these circumstances, presence of Global powers in the Southwest Asian region and global increasing demands for energy, the Pakistani central government is compelled to stop this Baloch insurgency and other terrorist activities in this region as quickly as Pakistani central government can possibly do it.

Balochistan continues to provide the most important route for military personnel and equipment to the battle ground, Afghanistan. Due, to law and order, the loss of this conduit would very much endanger the logistic support for the US. With China already having occupied a suitable and strong position in one of the the best geostrategic positions in Balochistan (at Gwadar), there is extra threat of a global incident that at a fast speed can turn out of control. Making this whole environment even more disturbing, the Baloch seem to be seeking help and assistance from the Russians.(Hasanabadi, 2010, June 14). Despite the fact that evidence of Russian help and encouragement to Baloch insurgents is not giving results, an interesting WikiLeaks cable revealed the truth that the Russian government has continued its help and encouragement to Baloch resistance forces.(Imtiaz, 2010, December 3). By looking at carefully the dilemmas regarding foreign help and encouragement, existed with their strategic area of land and geographical location and their vast natural reservoirs, a delicate picture starts to develop. Baloch leadership stands to get great amount of wealth by getting their autonomy.(Marri, 2011, January 12). With promises of great amount of wealth and the support and encouragement of the US, it seems that the Baloch insurgency has put down their basis of existence on hope.(Hassan, 2011, April 10).

Hope for more participation and voice in their government and development projects, hope for comparative of higher standard of education and job opportunities had compelled the Baloch to the possibility of far greater financial returns than under the current Pakistani government.(Rashid, 2009, October 11). The trend of Baloch insurgents' inclination towards the US can be witnessed in the US behavior and dealing with the tribal and ethnic groups

in Afghanistan and Iraq. The fact remains, as the US supported Kurds during 1990s and after its second invasion of Iraq in 2003 and removal of Saddam, prove that such ethnic and tribal groups were helped and encouraged by the US if they were beneficial for them, while the energy reservoirs and Gwadar deep-sea-port can also benefit it. (Stanton, 2007, March 29). With their interest in the region, the Baloch can either get very large success or deal with the largest degree possible marginalization. It seems that the Baloch insurgents are bound and seriously intending to make a serious, complete and with as much effort as possible to get full autonomy with the realization that this is probably their last and final chance.

### **Assessment**

For successful interplay and application, every state's policy and decision-makers should be conceptually agree and understand with three types of knowledge that make easier the state to protect the interests of that state, without considering who is at the helm of affairs: the Knowledge of the national philosophy and ideas; the knowledge of the national philosophy and ideas in other countries that a state has to communicate or deal with; and the knowledge of the similarities and differences that a state has with those other groups or states. Lack of this knowledge by the policy and decision-makers causes a lot of troubles for the state. These types of knowledge influence the geopolitics and geo-strategy that exploit space as the mental centre.

Every country attempts to look after its perceived interests sometimes with the help of other states, and sometimes without them. Geo-strategic facts are most important to the calculations of the benefits existed or happened in the near future. Every state has to solve the problems about internal challenges, and connect them to the development in the neighbouring states and whether together they can synchronise their peace strategies. This might need analysis of events beyond the region and to consider and remember the perceived interests of other players.

Internal contradictions are worsened by extra-continental vested interests. These are of two types, state and non-state players. Non-state actors are very serious problem. Some have direct connections with the states and others are not fixed and hard to discover the exact facts about them. They all work with geopolitical mind-frames which have influenced the environment of peace. Geo-strategic facts are every time most important factors in making existence the existence of peace or desired type of peace. The question of ensuring peace in Balochistan have many sides, a lot of different features and characteristics, because there are different ideas of peace and how to achieve this peace for a long period.

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Most harmful belief or idea connected with the democracies is that democracy is a system characterized by “one person, one vote” and “majority rule.” Such beliefs or ideas communicate that the largest social group- religion, ethnicity and class- has the right to rule that society. This standard way of democracy and rule is a cause for factionalism, if and only, this majority rule is under critical “checks and balances.” Factionalism has three characteristics: First is Parochialism- when major political parties promote favouritism; second is Polarization- when competition over central authority becomes uncompromising, or winner-take-all-struggle; third is Mobilization- when rival groups pursue their parochial interests through violent actions. To make peace certain, domestic/internal and foreign/external challenges should be considered when judging any situation. External challenges are like “emergence of new political doctrine or new great game.” Good governance characteristic “stable political system” is solution of the problems of factionalism. Political stability is considered as the ability of all the citizens to peacefully elect and replace those at the helm of affairs. Political Instability originates from “inequality” and “regime type.” Extreme case of political instability is “civil war.” Baloch insurgency is the result of this factionalism or marginalisation of that society.

Human capacity and land of Balochistan, natural resources and local political scenario, all presenting strong reasons regarding geostrategic significance of Balochistan not only for Pakistan, but also for the whole region. Because technological developments and innovations has made the world a global village, the matters of regional significance can create larger effects around the world. The increasing international trade and the global competition for energy drive for low price production and new markets have ignored the local politics. With this particular set of thoughts in mind, the importance of Balochistan is certain. With its significant area of land making easy and rapid access possible to the emerging markets and natural resources of Central Asian states or while a land-bridge connecting the South Asia and Middle East, it has started to be of great importance and interest to global players.

Gwadar Port is also of great significance because of its ability to make possible and easier the routes of trade to international commerce. The sale of these vast valuable resources promises unbelievable economic advantages. With the trade of China, Pakistan can get rid of her dependence on the US aid. Baloch insurgents claim that Balochistan’s energy resources belong to them, but the insurgents have made clear that no one is safe or even the Baloch. Central government must persuade the Baloch that to a large degree the Gawadar port will benefit them and for that reason they should try their level best in ensuring its success.

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The provincial and central governments should train Baloch for technical jobs that will able them to use their skills in the Gwadar port and economic zone around the port and also prefer them employing over nonlocal workers can very much reduce the annoyance fueling the insurgency. Last but not the least, compensate those local populations that are displaced by the expansion of the Gwadar deep-sea-port and its facilities, which is without any doubt possible to achieve.(Haider, 2005, p. 96). Because of the seeming lack of ability to compromise and lack of political behavior and system to succeed in reaching their aims, so the Baloch have started a mission of terror, damage and destruction, targeting not only the military personnel and military installations, but also carrying out such activities against the foreign workers taking part in the various and sundry projects in the province. By taking part of the powerful global actors in this scenario, the attempting to get into a better position for exploiting these natural reserves can make the situation more serious and escalate into a broader dilemma; as a result, it increases the geostrategic significance of Balochistan in matters of regional stability and global security.

An insurgency with a record of targeting energy transportation lines is a strong impediment in development and investment.(Akhtar, November 17, 2007: 7.). Until now, Pakistan's central government has reacted to the Baloch insurgency with extreme and forceful repression including large numbers of arrests and more exactly "disappearing" of political activists. The success of this strategy is due to the disorganized nature of the current phase of Baloch insurgency. Despite this, there are other, more successful methods that the central government in Pakistan can take to stop the violence by using force and bring security and stability to Balochistan for a long time. Thinking about these methods is necessary, because Pakistan cannot always continue on luck.

## **Conclusion**

This paper contends that Baloch did not create the Baloch insurgency, our central and provincial governments' policies did. However, Pakistani central government has made it certain that autonomy is not an option to use for Balochistan and that large-scale insurgency will only resulted into military action and increased military personnel presence in Balochistan. The geostrategic significance of Balochistan exists in how the Baloch insurgents and Pakistani leadership, at federal and provincial levels, will respond to the global pressures. Balochistan will continue as an integral part of Pakistan, will continue to be an important route for transporting goods and military support infrastructure facilities to Afghanistan, continue as a safe and easy passage to Central Asia and Russia and also providing as a land-bridge between the

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South Asia and Middle East. For that reason, the centre of the geostrategic significance of Balochistan is how the powerful global countries deal with Balochistan issue, and how the Baloch insurgents response to these improvements.

It is concluded that regional and global power do not create any situation to exploit but the situation and environment for exploitation is created by the indigenous forces so these forces come and exploit them for their own benefits. Global powers' interest in Balochistan is unlikely to gradually become less important. The demands for energy at local, regional and global levels will also continue to increase with the passage of time. China and India are probably to take part in this competition for natural resources to meet their future needs. The energy abundant regions, such as Balochistan and Central Asia, are of so much interest because the control and influence on these sources makes it possible for privileged access and lower prices. In an already unstable, destabilized and troubled environment of the region, foreign interference and involvement will prove an impediment in the progress and development of this region because commercial advantages compete with national politics powering pre-existing strong dislike, opposition or anger to gain influence.

As India increases its pressures at the Chabahar deep-sea-port project and connected road linking this port with the Central Asia through Afghanistan. The continuing traditional rivalry and nuclear standoff between Indian and Pakistan can be repeated. But, the chances of Indian invasion on Pakistan and endangering its own growth and development are very small in amount. The opinion and policies of Pakistan in this future environment are not known. In a similar way, it is very unlikely that Pakistan's central government will not meet the demands of the Baloch insurgents for independence but it can agree with some level of provincial autonomy. In fact, Iran and Afghanistan with the help of India can further exacerbate her problems. But, it seems to be unacceptable scenario for Pakistan. Finally, Pakistani central government has to try her level best to end all her differences with her neighbouring states to take advantage of the geostrategic significance of Balochistan and to reduce those policies which created factionalism and disappointment in the Baloch common people.

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