

China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC): A Natural Gate Way for China

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Abstract

In the present days, China and Pakistan are enjoying the strong relations which are continuing for changing regional and global dynamics. China is contributing an outstanding platform for the betterment and prosperity of Pakistan. China-Pak economic ties in the shape of China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects are the great sign of friendship between China and Pakistan. This friendship is famous as "higher than mountains, deeper than oceans", stronger than steel and sweeten than honey". The present paper highlights the importance of the CPEC special context to China. It also underlines some interests of China which highlights that how the CPEC would be proven a natural gate way for China in perspectives of easy accessibility to Middle East, Central Asia and as a driver for connectivity between Southeast and East Asian region. It may prove an important for knowing further mutual relationships. Furthermore, it may contribute in the literature of developing countries for elaborating the historical and loyal friendship of China and Pakistan.

Key words: Economic corridor, natural gate way, loyal friendship, global dynamics.

I. Introduction

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a great sign of friendship that has been from a long time ago. Being a loyal and faithful friend; China always needs to see Pakistan as a developed and economical strong country.

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For more strengthening; the friendship China contributed a mega project in the shape of CPEC which offers investment in different projects such as highways, pipelines and railways for the transference of gas, oil and various trades. This is not only sign of friendship but, also a gift of loyalty and steadiness that China contributed for Pakistan. It is the most significant project of an era of economic development and prosperity for both of the nations. Being a pillar of bright future of Pakistan and China, it would bring a massive economic development and prosperity for Pakistan and China as well as for entire region of a world (Iqbal, 2015). Furthermore, it would be fruitful for the investors of both the countries through establishing joint ventures and collaborations with different aspects of the trade. Through availing the advantage from the free trade agreements, trade dispensation and border areas, the both countries would construct further commercial and trade corridors for transferring development and investment in a shape of bilateral trade in goods and services.

Particularly, for China it would be a gate way to access the Middle East and Africa (Iqbal, 2015). It would be become the straight conceivable way for the overland energy transportation to West and Central Asia's rich regions through Gawadar port. Such overland corridor also would be the greatest substitute for the Chinese liveliness (energy) carrying to developed regions and western.

This paper may prove an important for knowing further mutual relationships in perspective of CPEC as a natural gate for China. Moreover, it may contribute in the literature of developing countries for elaborating the friendship as "higher than mountains, deeper than oceans", stronger than steel and sweeten than honey" between Pakistan and China.

II. Background

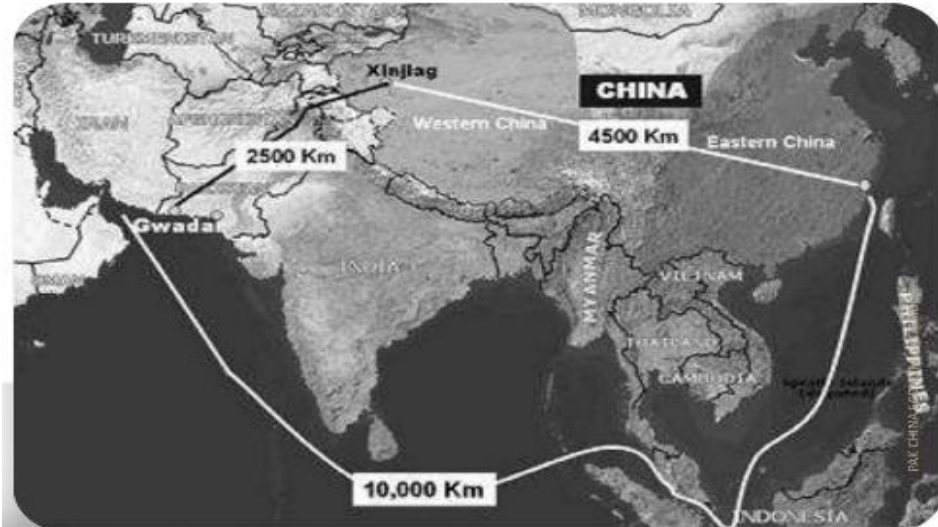
China and Pakistan relations began in 1950. They have long history of consistent and time tested relationships. Such the friendship has been verified as a model of sincere friendship between the respective countries. Both countries have strong ties in the fields of politics, social, defense and economics (Kataria and Naveed, 2014). This close friendship is based on many reasons including immediate neighbors, no availability of conflicts and diplomatic co-operation, sovereign equality, brotherhood and mutual cooperation (Kataria and Naveed, 2014). Although, Pakistan was the first Muslim country who accepted China as a nation-state and continued the strategic relationships. In spite of a great power; China did not interfere with the internal affairs of Pakistan. Their premeditated partnership continuously remains as steadfast. Both the friends are strongly committed to root out the terrorism for the peace, stability prosperity and development of the regions (Malik, 2012). From the economic perspective, China and Pakistan made the

free trade agreement for promotion of direct investment (FDI), real exchange rates and import liberalization (Wignaraja, 2011). In present, China is contributing an outstanding platform for the betterment and prosperity of Pakistan. China-Pak economic ties in the shape of China- Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects are the great sign of friendship between China and Pakistan.

In a sum up, the tree of China-Pak friendship is growing tall and durable in the shape of sound and stable growth. It is also compulsory for both the countries for maintaining and continuing close co-ordinations and communications for the stable, peaceful and health environment of prosperity.

III. Easy Accessibility to Middle East And Central Asia

The corridor would be recognized as an economic gate way for China to access the Middle East and Africa (Iqbal, 2015). It would be become the shortest conceivable route for the overland transportation of energy of west and Central Asia's rich regions through Gawadar port. Such overland corridor also would be the greatest substitute for the Chinese energy carrying to the developed regions and Western. Almost, 40% of the world's oil is taken out from the region of Gulf. For that Persian Gulf would be used. In this respect, China desires to be the share of such trade through the usage of Gwadar port (Iqbal, 2015). At the side of this, in the Indus Ocean China would carefully look after the American and Indian activities. In other words, energy security is a significant fear for China, being the biggest oil importer of world. Through oil pipelines in Pakistan and China would cut-out the oceanic travel of Southeast Asia. Furthermore, the expected trade route of China-Pakistan economic corridor would reduce the distance between China (more specifically Kashghar in Xinjiang Province, 4,376km away from Beijing) and the Persian Gulf to 2,500 km as contrasting to the present distance of 13,000 km from Beijing to the Persian Gulf (figure I) and decrease shipping time from 45 days to 10 days (Iqbal, 2015).



Source: Khan, 2013

Figure I. Distance Xinjiang Province to Eastern China and Persian Gulf.

IV. As a driver for connectivity

The CPEC would be a motorist (driver) for connectivity between East Asia and South Asia. The regional integration would be increased of the 'Greater South Asia' as well as China, Iran and Afghanistan by giving the approach to Myanmar. The government of China has been made setup a distinct economic zone in the city of Kashgar that is the border city between Pakistan and China for making operable to the CPEC. Such special economic zones would be significant for trading between India, China, Pakistan, Afghanistan and eight more central Asian countries whose border links with Pakistan and China. Moreover, a railway network is going to construct for ensuring the swift trade links. Besides that, China would enjoy the advantages of trade with Western regions and improve the relationships in the fields including agriculture, mining, industrial, telecommunications, financial and service sectors.

In a nut shell, the CPEC would be an agent for economic community which would connect the Asian continent to the Indian Ocean, as a result the influences of Pakistan and China would extended to East, South, Central and Western Asian regions. Also it would keep a significant impact on the geo-economy and modify the trade design (pattern) in Africa, Asian as well as Indian Ocean region (Figure II).



Source:

thebalochistanpoint.com

Figure II. Entrance of China in Arabian Sea for reaching Gulf countries and Africa.

V. Conclusion

The China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a great sign of consistency between China and Pakistan. It would be proven significant for uplifting not only both the regions but, also entire the region. It would also improve the lives of three billion people in Asia by creating enormous opportunities such as boosting the employment as well as in productions. Such a manner, the economy of the both nations would also boosted. Furthermore, China would reach (access) to the Middle East and Africa, through the Gwadar Port of Pakistan. In interchange, China would launch the development projects in Pakistan. Such projects may help to Pakistan for getting rid from the chronic energy and other deficits relating to trade and finance (Rana, 2015). As a result, Pakistan's economy would be recovered and established.

With a regard to China, CPEC would be a natural gate way for reaching to the Middle East and Africa in a shape of a shortest conceivable route for the overland transportation of energy of West and Central Asia's rich regions through Gawadar port. Such overland corridor would be the greatest substitute for the Chinese energy carrying to developed regions and Western.

This paper may be a significant for knowing further mutual relationships in this perspective of CPEC as a natural gate for China. In addition, it may contribute to the literature of developing countries for elaborating the

friendship as “higher than mountains, deeper than oceans’, stronger than steel and sweeten than honey” between Pakistan and China.

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