

## SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR PAKISTAN

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### Abstract

This study presents empirical information regarding the Sino-Indian Strategic relations which has been bitter since 1960s. India and China had good friendly ties after the Indian independence but the fragility of this relationship showed itself when they made completely different responses to the superpowers which started meddling in Asian affairs. Since 1960s, both the Asiatic powers tried to come closer and achieved outstanding progress in bilateral trade. Despite the massive trade between the two economic powers, the relations between these two were easily influenced by factors created by states like USA and Pakistan. The relations were first influenced by Sino-Pak alliance in post 1962 and then by Sino-Pak-US axis in 1971.

China is India's second largest trading partner since 1995 but the border conflicts and disputes still goes on. India's concerns and apprehensions over CPEC is another factor causing distress in the mutual understanding. On the other hand, Pakistan is China's all-weather friend and the Sino-Indian relationship has implications for Pakistan.

This paper attempts to find out the areas in which both the states are improving their relations in the changing political atmosphere of the world. The study also focuses on the factors which will determine the future of this relationship and Pakistan's role and status.

This study is qualitative in nature and both primary and secondary sources of data collection are used.

Key Words: Conflict, CPEC, Strategic, Pakistan, China, India

### Introduction:

India and China are the two emerging economic and nuclear powers and the most populous countries on the globe. They are already making more than one third of the world's total population. Both the powers share a long border of 4,056 Km transverses five Indian States. China and India being two superpowers had extremely strong trade and military capacity where they used to make up half the world's economy till 19<sup>th</sup> century. As of today, they are back on their feet; specifically observing at how both the powers have had continuous steady

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growth during 1980 and 1990. China is the world's largest exporter and largest economy and India being the fourth largest economy in the world. Both the states have disputed 125,000 square kilometers border since 1950s, which is divided into three sectors: The largest eastern sector which is under Indian control. The middle and smallest sector where control is divided between both states. The western sector which is under China's control and is the main region of conflict since 1962. (Svensson, 2012)

Despite of sharing a long border between China and India, there exist no mutually agreed Line of Actual Control (LAC). After India's freedom, it was expected that both the nations will come together to develop Asia but unfortunately the Tibetan Issue and its annexation by China in 1950 caused some differences. With increasing tension in conflict, every attempt in peaceful negotiation failed and diplomatic relations were freeze till 1976. In 1954, the joint ideas of Panchsheel were introduced by Indian Prime Minister and the Prime Minister of China but the provision of Asylum to Lie Lama by India annoyed China in 1959. In 1962, both the states got involved in border conflict in Arunachal Pradesh and Ladakh. The relations got strained when China invaded the territory of India. Since then both the superpowers couldn't find any possible diplomatic solution to the border conflict. (Ayres, 2020)

Ladakh region of India which connects China and Pakistan serves as the world's only "Nuclear Trijunction". (Aamir and Ahmad, 2020)

### **Developments in Resolution of Border Conflict:**

More than sixty years have passed but the border crisis remained unresolved. It is one of the most prolonged and extended border conflicts. The first rounds of border talks were initiated in 1981 and since then officials from both the states met frequently to solve the issue. Both the emerging powers are involved with each other in Confidence Building Measures (CBM) on the border and bilateral agreements that were signed in 1993, 1996, 2005, 2012 and 2013. In the start of 21<sup>st</sup> century, both the powers agreed not to let the border dispute affect the bilateral agreements. On the China's visit of Indian PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 2003, both the parties agreed on appointments of delegates for consultations for the purpose of giving a proper design for Boundary settlement. (Bhonsale, 2018)

But the People's Liberation Army captured 10 km into Indian Territory of Ladakh region by

setting a camp on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2013 following the visit of Chinese Premier to India on 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2013. (Svensson, 2012) China's leadership believe that the rising power of China is discouraging India from attempting any vigorous and aggressive act. They are of the opinion that India will not fight China and seem quite optimistic about the future of bilateral relations of both the states. According to them, disputes and conflicts with India almost seem unimaginable. Beijing believes that the development of nuclear weapons by New Delhi is in aim of deterrence and global prestige, not as a way to threaten and challenge China. To Chinese strategists, India do not have the power, will and might to fight back China on all grounds. On the other hand, India claimed that China's growing nuclear status has forced India to develop nuclear bombs. Although Chinese experts refuted these statements by calling it a political excuses. (Dalton, Tong Zhao and Gupta, 2020)

#### **China and India Tension Spike In 2020 and the Military standoff:**

The relations of India and China have dived into new depths in 2020, with experts believing in no détente next year either. The month of June of this tumultuous year saw a great deadly clash between India and China after 45 years in the mountainous region of Ladakh. The military standoff was followed by New Delhi's decision of separating Ladakh from the Jammu and Kashmir. The Indian governments also revoked the semi-autonomous status of Himalayan Region in August, 2020, which invited a huge disapproval from Islamabad and Beijing. (Aamir and Ahmad, 2020)

On October 20, 1962, China's PLA attacked Indian military posts on their disputed border. The Chinese attack was one of the big armed combat in recent times between the two most populous countries of the world. The Indian military was hardly ready for the conflict and poorly led. A second attack by China the following month compelled India's PM Jawaharlal Nehru to write to US President John F. Kennedy to request air support. After bringing India to its knees and massive conflict, China declared ceasefire on November 21, 1962. The short but savage war, resulting in over 2,000 fatalities, was fought when world's attention was fixed on the standoff between USA and USSR in Cuba Missile Crisis. (Jaishankar. D, 2012)

A former CIA officer Bruce Riedel, authored book in 2015, JFK's Forgotten Crisis: Tibet, the CIA, and Sino-Indian War, writes: "In this second letter Nehru was, in fact, asking Kennedy for some 350 combat aircraft and crews: twelve squadrons of fighter aircraft with twenty-four jets in each and two bomber squadrons. At least 10,000 personnel would be

needed to staff and operate the jets, provide radar support, and conduct logistical support for the operation.” (Haider. E, 2020)

In case of the border standoff, China has been convincing the world that the Indian Infrastructure development in the Galwan Valley is the main cause of this conflict and that India has violated some agreement of the Line of Actual Control (LAC). On the other hand, China has also developed large scale infrastructure on the border region with an intention of abutting India. Secondly, China has repeatedly refused to recognize the new administrative division of Indian Union Territory of Ladakh, even though it has no impact on the external borders of India. Keeping their “NO-FIRST-USE policy” (NFU), none of the country openly threatened the opponent with the nuclear weapons use but their nuclear status is not a considered factor. China showed its superior nuclear and conventional military assets by deploying H-6 Bombers in a plateau region for training exercise. As per policy of NFU, the risk of nuclear escalations between both the states is very low as compared to any other potential nuclear flashpoint in the world. (Dalton, Tong Zhao and Gupta, 2020). This is a fact that both Pakistan and China pose Potential threat towards India not only on papers but also on the grounds. Their collaborative approach towards their collective enemy India is a challenge. India is fully aware of the Chinese deployment on the border and confirmed the recent placement of 10,000 Chinese military personnels from the border region. The People’s Liberation Army in the deep areas of Tibetan Plateau have moved back but no such movement have been seen on the friction points since August. (Kapoor, 2021)

South Asia analysts have discussed that the starting point of the conflict are from constructions, from New Delhi, of roads in disputed area in its northern border with China. Many Pakistani analysts and policymakers also believe that the conflict is because of India’s “illegal constructions” on its border with China—some may even be defending China’s recent military standoff and clashes with India as an act to control Indian expansionism. (Khokhar. R, 2020)

The Chinese experts deny the possibilities that conventional attack could escalate nuclear attack because tough, mountainous regions makes any large- scale exercise very difficult and challenging for both sides. If in case there was a massive clash, the fatalities and potential damage would be very less and will not trigger any nuclear attack. After both the states suffered casualties in June 2020 in Galwan Valley, they started to develop their

transportation infrastructure and weaponry in the conflicted zone. The possibility that one side would target the nuclear system of the opponent which can escalate nuclear war- is also very low. None of the country has embraced such nuclear tactics. It is highly unlikely that any of the power would deploy their strategic missiles on the border region.(Dalton, Tong Zhao and Gupta, 2020)

India has made important moves in recent times to strengthen its “Look East” policy. In July, 2020, Delhi has offered Vietnam an amount of US\$100 million to buy four patrol boats that would be used to resist Chinese breach in the South China Sea. (Keck. Z. 2020)

### **Sino-Indian Economic Relations:**

Both China and India are known to be huge emerging powers in Asia though India is slightly behind China in terms of economic progress. The Indian economic reforms took place in 1991, approximately ten years after China’s opening up in the world market. Being the most populous states of the world, in economic point of view, it is very surprising to know the lack of economic integration between the two sides. These two markets have huge potential and the expansion of bilateral trade could increase the benefits. Harmonious exchange manpower, resources and knowledge in field of science and technology is the winning formula. The most optimistic ones call it with a name “Chindia”. (svensson, 2012)

India has concerns over China’s economic engagement with the neighboring countries of India also remains. India is afraid that China will use their economic dependence for political gains at the cost of Indian interests. India can see the bans that China has imposed on the import of commodities from Australia when Australian government asked for investigation and inquiry into the genesis of COVID- 19 pandemic and offered safe shelters to residents of Hong Kong. Considering all things but India would not welcome Chinese efforts to fill a recognized power vacuum in South Asia. . (Dalton, Tong Zhao and Gupta, 2020)

India and China benefited greatly from globalisation during the 1970s and 1980s by opening their markets to the rest of the globe. The 1990s saw a considerable increase in bilateral trade. It was only US\$264 million in 1990; by 2000, it had increased to US\$2.9 billion. The two countries' bilateral commerce first exceeded \$1 billion in 1995. In the 1990s, bilateral trade grew generally by an average of 30% annually. Although the two regimes' US\$ 100

billion goal for 2015 has not yet been reached, it appears that bilateral commerce may surpass the US\$ 80 billion threshold. (Yuan. J, 2016).

Since Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's historic visit to China in 1988, Sino-Indian economic connections have significantly expanded despite ongoing border issues and growing military tensions between the two Asian economic and military tigers. Early in the 1990s, trade between the two most populous nations of the planet totaled a pitiful \$113 million and there was little investment. By the end of the decade, however, trade had increased to \$95 billion, making China India's second-largest trading partner after the United States, while India ranked 12th on China's list. In the recent years, Chinese investments in India have grown significantly. (Yuan. J, 2020)

### **Sino-Indian Close Ties:**

India may consider the possibility that it is preferable to forge deeper connections with a continental military, economic, and neighbour rather than with the USA, which cannot compete with China's capacity for power projection and expansion on the Asian continent. India may contribute to strategic stability and world peace by fostering relations with China. The United States should actively promote a closer alliance since both states are stifling one another. In reaction to President Obama's tour to the region, China declared its intention to take the Sino-Indian strategic relationship to a new level and urged the government in New Delhi to avoid a "zero-sum trap" put up by the US and its allies to pit New Delhi against Beijing.. (Gady. F. S, 2015)

Unresolved border disputes, the strengthening friendship between China and Pakistan, energy security, cyber espionage, the Tibet issue, India's move to expand its economic ties to the east, and Burma are just a few examples of issues where the interests of the two major powers conflict. But, there aren't many things that may bring the two antagonistic neighbours together. China and India are engaged in a conflict for "peaceful rise" and are interested in peace and development in their own areas, peripheries, and neighbourhoods. Both rely on one another for economic growth and uplift. For instance, the Straits of Malacca allow for the passage of 80% of China's total oil imports to India's southern coast. Short-term factors that will have a greater impact on Beijing's motivations and intents to forge an Indo-Sino alliance include China's deteriorating relations with Japan and the United

States' ambitious plans for Asia during President Obama's second term. The informal collaboration and understanding between the United States and India provides a lot of leeway for diplomatic understanding between China and India, which is excellent news for American policymakers and demonstrates that Indo-Sino ties lead to a more stable Asian security environment. (Gady. F. S, 2015)

**Ebb and Flow of Pakistan-Indian Relations:**

Both Pakistan and India hold control over Kashmir, a Himalayan region where Muslims predominate. Both countries, however, make full claims to the territory. China has an area of Kashmir under its control. Pakistan and India fought three wars after partition in 1947: in 1948, 1965, and 1971, two of which were fought for Kashmir. Since 1984, Indian and Pakistani soldiers have been engaged in combat with Kashmir's freedom fighters near the Siachen Glacier. In 2003, a cease-fire was reached. According to regional and international organisations, this violence has claimed thousands of lives since 1989. Kapor (2021)

With the killing of Osama bin Laden by US Marine forces on Pakistani soil and the arrest of CIA contractor Raymond Davis in Lahore, Pakistan, the relationship between the US and Pakistan deteriorated badly. Pakistan experienced hardship after American assistance on its behalf in the areas of agriculture, trade, research, and technology, as well as defence. Because India views Pakistan as its deadliest enemy, US-Indian relations are improving and strengthening daily, but this has never been beneficial for Pakistan. The close ties between India and the United States have strengthened Pakistan and China's ties and brought the two countries together on regional and international forums. (2018) Akhtar, S., and Javaid

According to Indian media, China and Pakistan are engaged in a large-scale conspiracy, in which the latter has stationed and deployed roughly 20,000 troops in Gilgit-Baltistan while continuing to consult with Chinese generals. In an article, the former head of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) discussed a joint China-Pakistan struggle against India in an effort to settle the Kashmir dispute. The Line of Control (LoC) or the northern regions, however, show no obvious signs of Pakistan making any unusual preparations or movements. A. Saddiq 2020

The Indian government abolished Article 370 of the Indian constitution in August 2019 after stationing tens of thousands of extra soldiers and paramilitary personnel in the region and rejecting the unique status of Indian controlled Jammu and Kashmir. Kashmir, which is

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administered by India, is still in lockdown, has no internet or phone access, and thousands of people are being held. In February 2019, a convoy of Indian paramilitary forces was attacked in Kashmir, which is under Indian sovereignty. The attack, one of the worst in Kashmir in the past thirty years, was claimed by the Pakistani militant group Jaish-e-Mohammed. 2020 (Reporter)

### **Sino-Pakistan “all weathers” Relation:**

Their relation is based on the principles of non-interference of each other. Sino-India border war in 1962 provided more strength to these relations. Throughout the history, India always had issues and repercussions over the Sino-Pakistan “all weathers” relations. To confront the Sino-Pakistan relations India made her strategic partnership with US. Foreign policy of both China and Pakistan shows the interests and goals of each other. China have territorial disputes with eighteen countries including, India, Afghanistan, Nepal, Laos, Cambodia, Japan, Vietnam, North Korea, Philippines, South Korea, Bhutan, Taiwan, Brunei, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia. The only exception is Pakistan. There is presence of mutual interest in between Pakistan and China which is tested with time and space over the years. Both the neighbors consult each other on international and regional forums on regular basis and cooperate. Pakistan has always provided basis for the diplomatic support of the People’s Republic of China especially the acceleration of US President’s revolutionary visit of China in 1972. Recognizing the efforts of Pakistan, Chinese PM Wen Jiabao while speaking to Pakistani parliament: “At the crucial moments when China tried to break the external blockade, restore its lawful status at the United Nations and achieve the normalization of relations with United States, we received valuable help and support from Pakistan. On those major issues related to Taiwan, Tibet, and Xinjiang, we have enjoyed Pakistan’s consistent support.”(Akhtar. S and Javaid, 2018)

During 1970s, both countries were supportive of each other. The relationship was mutually beneficial as both sides provided much support to each other. Bhutto is credited to be the maker of the Pak-China friendship as the FM of Pakistan. During Bhutto’s era, Sino-Pakistan relations were on solid footings. Bhutto was a student of Socialism and regularly donned a Mao cap which became his signature cap. (Zeb. R, 2012) It is believed that the relation of Pakistan and China will continue to flourish in the upcoming epoch. If scheduled CPEC exercised and completed, it can open new dynamics of local and regional economic



cooperation. Chinese investment in Pakistan is promoting infrastructure which helps in advancement of the country and along with that Pakistan is providing a safe and smooth route for China to do trade with the rest of the world. China uses Pakistan as a gateway to the world and by building infrastructure like CPEC, an easy link between Xinjiang and Indian Ocean is created. (Akhtar. S and Javaid, 2018)

“Everyone knows what Pakistan will be without China. Its ego is boosted purely by the support it gets from China, said George Fernandes.”

The “eye of the tiger” is the title for Sino-Pakistan defense relations. This endured and enhanced during the Western blame of Pakistan’s nuclear weapons development. From 1965 and onwards, China has been the largest arm and weapon supplier to Pakistan. However, China is investing in Pakistan through economic projects, energy and industrial corridor (CPEC), power and cable projects in the backward northern areas of Pakistan which can be a game changer for these areas and for the whole country. China’s military cooperation with Pakistan can be attributed to mutual competitiveness with India. In reaction to the India-USA nuclear agreement, China has agreed to follow a step-by-step approach in fulfilling Pakistan’s resolution for a long-lasting and powerful nuclear energy program. (Akhtar. S and Javaid, 2018)

Some experts predict that growing relations between the USA and rival India will force Pakistan to push for even stronger and deeper ties with its most reliable and time-tested strategic security partner, China. Some experts says that China’s increased concern about Pakistan-based insurgency groups may cause Beijing to proceed with the relationship in a more careful way. Pakistan’s Ambassador to US Hussain Haqqani said once in an interview that, "For China, Pakistan is a low-cost secondary deterrent to India," and “For PakistanChina is a high-value guarantor of security against India”. (Afridi. J and Bajoria. J, 2010)

### **China-India-Pakistan Triangle:**

The triangle is caught in a history full of unresolved border disputes, with military confrontations between India and China at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), and India and Pakistan at the Line of Control (LOC) occurring at regular intervals. The military dimensions of these states emerged in the years after the Sino- Indian Border Conflict in

1962, when Beijing and Islamabad signed the border delimitation agreement in 1963. As indicated in this agreement, Pakistan handed over the Trans-Karakoram Tract, a territory in Kashmir that was claimed by India, to China, turning the dispute into a trilateral one. Pakistan felt betrayed by a lack of U.S. support during the Pakistan India war of 1965 and chose to strengthen relations with China. Pakistan expected US to tilt towards its sides due to the 1954 U.S.-Pakistan mutual defense agreement and Pakistan's membership in U.S. engineered alliances like SEATO and CENTO. However, United States showed willingness to support India in Sino-Indian War in 1962. In 1971 India-Pakistan War, the US tilted towards Pakistan, because of its interest in Islamabad as a channel to Beijing during the 1972 Sino-U.S. reconciliation talks. In the beginning of 1979, Pakistan played a frontline role for the USA in Afghanistan during the Cold war clashes between the US and USSR. In this context, USA ignored intelligence and report that China helped Pakistan in developing a nuclear bomb. (Tourangbam. M, 2020)

Due to China's growing investment and engagement, Pakistan is frequently referred to as a "colony of China" due to the two countries' extensive strategic, military, and economic partnership. More than 70% of Pakistan's weapons came from China between 2015 and 2019. China continues to be the country that provides Pakistan with the most defence and arms. In light of current tensions between India and China, there are worries and trepidations about the likelihood of a "two-front war" against India. Analyzing Pakistan's posture during the India-China tensions might be helpful. (S. Chawla, 2020)

India is concerned about the changes in Pakistan because they will spur competition and increase China's threat to progress and strengthen its military capabilities. Pakistan appears confident that China will support Pakistan's stance on the Kashmir issue, border disputes, and the development of nuclear weapons against New Delhi. Pakistan also appears to be confident that China will continue to invest in Pakistan's strategic and military capabilities and remain committed to the CPEC. In order to guard against India's prospective decision to adopt the anti-China policy, China believed in investments. As competition in the area rises, the strategic triangle's future appears to be becoming more uncertain. (Jaishankar, D. 2012)

#### **Developments in Sino-Pakistan Relations in response to Sino- Indian Conflict:**

Pakistan's interest in and approach towards China developed and took a new shape in post Tibetan revolt in 1959 with the departure of Dalai Lama to India, which negatively affected

Sino-Indian relationship. Again the Sino-Indian Border conflict in 1962 further enriched the interests of China and Pakistan in each other. In 1963, the signing of Shaksgam Valley Agreement laid the foundation and development of Karakoram Highway and provided the track for many defense collaborations. The Sino-Pakistan alliance saw crucial developments in post 1965 scenario, mainly due to three leading factors. Firstly, due to sympathetic support of China for Pakistan in 1965 war against India. Secondly, while Pakistan lost the war in 1965, its demand for high and modern technology systems increased. Thirdly, USA arm embargo and restrictions led the suspension of Pakistan-US relations which provided a new environment to Sino-Pak relations to flourish more. China exports of weapons and arms to Pakistan first took place in the mid-1960s and have been increasing at a fast pace in the last twenty years. (Chawla. S. 2020)

Beijing can hardly be a neutral third party but its huge investments in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor which also involves a disputed region between Pakistan and India. Beijing claimed that it is waiting for resolution of India Pakistan dispute in the region but the unspoken interests shows that China has already taken its sides. India also sees the Chinese influence when Pakistan decided to give a provincial status to Gilgit-Baltistan. (Dalton, Tong Zhao and Gupta, 2020)

Now that the Sino-Indian relations had turned more complex and competitive, China's own efforts to mitigate the crisis between Pakistan and India may also be reducing. Pakistan's modern tactical nuclear weapons and India's modern and powerful short-range nuclear system can make both sides worry about the vulnerability of their nuclear weapons. The Chinese analysts are more concerned about the breakout of nuclear war between Pakistan and India. Now that the Washington seems less willing in doing a mediating role in the regional crisis of Asia and keeping in view the power vacuum and volatile security dynamics of Pakistan and India, the Chinese experts are suggesting the government to set up efforts to maintain regional security and peace. Although Beijing seems to be more interested in imposing diplomatic pressure on India and exploit the ugly assessment of savagery and barbarism in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir than to find a solution to its bilateral differences. (Dalton, Tong Zhao and Gupta, 2020)

China's ties with South Asian States in general and Pakistan in particular, are a source of concern and apprehension for India. Pakistan and China share mutual rivalry towards India.

The Indian Army Chief in October 2010 described Pakistan and China bond as the “two irritants” and biggest threats to India’s national security. (Khokhar. Y. A. 2011)

Beijing has maintained its support for globalism and multilateralism from an economic standpoint, particularly with regard to its expansive Belt and Road Project (BRI). India, on the other hand, has long opposed BRI and appears to be maintaining this stance in the years to come. India has lost its status as a secular democratic state with the rule of law, a high level of enlightened ideals, and justice. It has also experienced an unprecedented economic catastrophe, social unrest, and significant reputational harm. On the other hand, Pakistan improved its relations with China and Russia while contributing to the stabilisation of Afghanistan. (Aamir and Ahmad, 2020)

Both capabilities and intentions play a remarkable role in forming perceptions and misperceptions within the India-Pakistan-China triangle. Specifically, Pakistan’s power asymmetry compared to that of India, and power gap of India against China sets each state’s regional position. Pakistan’s offer to enlarge its capabilities, especially through nuclear deterrence and with Chinese support and assistance, is a way to check India’s conventional superiority. Meanwhile, China’s increasing military ability and defense modernization and advancements as well as its increasing role as a developmental, progressive and security partner for not only Pakistan but also a host of other smaller and bigger states in India’s neighborhood incite concerns in New Delhi. (Tourangbam. M, 2020)

Given the growing Chinese investment and engagement, Pakistan is frequently referred to as a "colony of China" due to the strong strategic, military, and economic partnership between Pakistan and China that dates back more than 60 years. China is Pakistan's top supplier of defence and military equipment, and from 2015 to 2019, 70% of Pakistan's weapons came from China. Given the recent rise in tensions between India and China, there are worries and discussions about the potential for a "two-front war" against India. Analysis of Pakistan's negotiating positions during the India-China crisis will be important.. (Chawla. S. 2020)

During the Sino-Indian standoff, China signed a defense pact with Pakistan. Chinese defense minister visited Islamabad for three days in December, 2020, to sign a MOU in defense cooperation between China and Pakistan. (Aamir. A, 2020)

The Indian military seemingly projects its readiness and preparedness, others are more

cynical. Pakistan takes the opportunity of Sino-Indian conflict and its opening of second front at the LoC is perceived as most probable scenario. Another scenario shows China's intention of opening a second front at the Line of Actual control or in the Indian Ocean region during the event of Pakistan-Indian conflict, or a more sinister or disastrous case of an already planned China-Pakistan military assault against India. (Tourangbam. M, 2020)

Beijing will face constrained and awkward situation with respect to its policies in Afghanistan. The post- withdrawal peace in Afghanistan is of great interest for both India and Pakistan, and both seem willing to support and devote resources to their favorite players. While China has expressed interest in Afghan resources, it is more interested in peace and stability, which may come into conflict with Pakistani preferences. (reporter, 2013)

PM Pakistan Imran Khan demanded "closer strategic cooperation to raise the iron-clad Pakistan-China brotherhood to a new height". (Krishnan. A, 2020)

The relationship is not quite balanced between Pakistan and China, it has been very important to Pakistan. "Pakistan needs China more than China needs Pakistan," says Huang Jing, a Chinese expert at the National University of Singapore. China was blamed of having close relations with Abdul Qadeer Khan (A.Q. Khan), known as the father of the Pakistani nuclear program and head of an international black market of nuclear network. (Afridi. J and Bajoria. J, 2010)

However, four leading issues will be crucial in shaping the changing dynamics of Pakistan-China relations: terrorism, security of Chinese personnel engaged in different projects in Pakistan under CPEC program, people to people contact (social connectivity) and the threat from India. (Zeb. R 2012)

**Conclusion:**

India must be careful with regard to its neighborhood where support from China will make things more troublesome as is obvious from Nepal issue. New Delhi must be worried about the chances of a two-front war, but must realize that Islamabad do not completely tilt towards Beijing for all matters that are totally unrelated to India. Islamabad tries to maintain a balance between the two emerging powers and other countries which are strategically

important to it. While demonstrating its strength and power against China, India must think more carefully about the behavior of its neighborhood. Showing China intent to support may be crucial but it is equally important to keep the regional temperature down.

Pakistan is interested in more equipment from China in the following years despite its economic restraints. It will also escalate the nuclear tension to push for the Kashmir agenda and attract global attention against the Indian barbarism in the Indian occupied Kashmir.

The Three geographically connected nuclear powers – India, Pakistan and China, must learn to live together and vouch for the peace and stability in Asia, along with devoting themselves of higher ideals and cooperation for development.

Experts are of the opinion that any conflict between Pakistan and Indian is not in China's interest and would force Beijing in to the position to choose between the two trade partners and invites the United States further into the region.

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