

Research Article

An Examination of Chinese Interests in Pakistan from a Regional PerspectiveIshaq Ahmad ^a

Abstract: This study aims to examine the manner and level of Chinese interests in Pakistan. The study tries to comprehend the existing level of cordiality between China and Pakistan by analyzing their approach to actively seeking new markets in the region. While Pakistan has consistently prioritized maintaining a friendly relationship with China as a fundamental aspect of its foreign policy, the process of transforming this friendship into a formal cooperation has been difficult due to their shared interests. In the realm of international politics, the connection between nations is an intricate interplay of practical national interests, which are diverse and subject to change in response to shifting regional and global circumstances. Given their shared political, economic, and strategic objectives, both Pakistan and China are prioritizing the protection of their mutual interests. This paper will examine the widely held belief that China is unavoidable by avoiding the opposite viewpoint. The common risks and problems encountered by both nations are the primary factors that unite them in terms of security, political, economic, and strategic aspects.

Keywords: China, Pakistan, Regional Perspective, international Politics, Economy

Introduction

Within the realm of international politics, interactions between countries are predominantly driven by their own national interests. A widely accepted notion in international politics is that there are no enduring enemies or allies; it is simply the pursuit of national interests. The relationship between Pakistan and China is no different; despite their extensive professions of friendliness, their alliance is mostly driven by national interests. Both of these nations have strengthened their diplomatic relations since the inception of socialist China (Amir et al., 2018). Through the examination of empirical data and statistical information presented in historical literature, we gain the capacity to retrospectively comprehend our past, grasp the current state of affairs, and make informed projections about the future. This enables us to formulate and implement strategic measures that safeguard our national interests. History serves as the most effective means of connecting the past and present. To understand the current situation, it is crucial and imperative to engage in the study of history. Thus, the researcher should commence their examination of Sino-Pak ties by scrutinizing the historical background of these two adjacent nations.

China and Pakistan assert that the continuation of their partnership is the primary determinant of their foreign policy (Javaid et al., 2016). The strength of their relationship can be gauged by their enduring friendship and collaboration in all circumstances. Pak-China friendship is said to be founded on four virtues: brotherhood, partnership, neighbourliness, and friendship. China and Pakistan established diplomatic relations in 1951 and have since maintained a mutually advantageous partnership, leveraging their close ties for mutual gain (Khalid, 2021). Pakistan was one of the states that officially recognized and accepted the People's Republic of China on the international stage in 1950. Pakistan maintained its alliance with China during China's era of isolation in the international political community in the 1960s and 1970s. During the 1960s, the Chinese population was motivated by economic progress and advancements in industries and infrastructure. However, under the leadership of Mao Zedong, the Chinese government strategically harnessed the nation's resources and capabilities, transforming it into a prominent player in the global political economy (Tsang, 2000). The strategic geographical position and persistent political instability have impeded economic growth and development. China has consistently been willing to offer Pakistan economic, technological, and

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military support without hesitation. China is thought to have supplied nuclear and missile technology to Pakistan. The growing warmth in US-India relations has prompted Pakistan to enhance its ties with its longstanding ally, China, in order to counterbalance India's dominance in the region. However, the law-and-order situation and escalating political instability, exacerbated by insurgent groups, raise significant concerns about the stability and strength of Pakistan's relations. China may use a highly careful approach to develop enduring relations with Pakistan in the region. China is offering substantial economic, technical, and military support to Pakistan in order to help it overcome its economic and military challenges and promote its development and self-reliance. China has played a significant role in supplying Pakistan with military weaponry since 1962. In addition, it has created ammunition factories and is also supplying technological expertise. During the conflict between China and India, as well as in its aftermath, the United States has consistently supplied the latter with weaponry and military equipment. Consequently, the equilibrium of power in the region was disrupted.

The USA consistently asserted that the aid was intended to restrain China and would not be utilized against Pakistan under any circumstances, yet Pakistan expressed dissatisfaction with these assurances. China's policies underwent a significant change in 1961 as it reassessed its relations with Pakistan. I had a keen interest in resolving the boundary dispute between China and Pakistan. An agreement was reached to address their border dispute, which was ultimately resolved in 1963 by the signing of a border accord. These two adjacent nations mutually designated each other as the most preferred nations for shipping and trade, leading to the consolidation of connections between the two states. In the same year, the United States postponed its promised \$4.3 million aid to Pakistan due to a shift in perspective over China's ties. In the same year's conclusion, American officials visited Pakistan with the purpose of repairing the strained relationship between the two nations, Pakistan and America. In 1964, China granted Pakistan a \$60 million loan, completely devoid of interest. During the skirmishes that began at the Rann of Kutch and eventually led to the 1965 war, China extended military support to Pakistan against India by supplying military weaponry (Hafeez, [2018](#)). America halted the supply of military-related weaponry and equipment. During that period, it served as the primary source of military aid, as India was consistently receiving weaponry from the former USSR.

In 1966, Pakistan and China entered into an agreement to establish a sophisticated heavy equipment complex in Taxila. Nevertheless, the 1970s witnessed a significant change in the bilateral relations between the two states. During the 1971 war, China was unable to offer Pakistan the support it deserved, but it did support Pakistan in the United Nations. The Karakoram Highway, which links China with Gilgit, was inaugurated in 1978. Pakistan has successfully built three nuclear power plants with the assistance of the Chinese government. This initiated a subsequent era of amicable relations between the two kingdoms, which persist to the present day. China has consistently provided strong assistance for Pakistan's development of nuclear energy for peaceful uses. The CHASNUPP-I plant is installed for commercial purposes and is situated in Punjab. The project commenced in December 2005 and successfully concluded with the assistance of China (Pakistan-and-China-relations-65-years-offriendship-to-strategic-partnership, 2019).

Significance of the research

The paper is highly significant in providing insights into the complex dynamics of the Sino-Pakistani relationship within the broader regional context. The paper offers unique insights into the complex economic, geopolitical, and strategic aspects of China's interests in Pakistan. It explores the nuances of this bilateral partnership and examines its consequences for regional stability. The text provides a detailed examination of the impact of Chinese investments, infrastructural projects, and strategic alliances in Pakistan on the geopolitical dynamics of South Asia. This essay enhances comprehension of the changing regional dynamics and the consequences of the China-Pakistan connection on the wider Asian geopolitical arena.

Research Methodology

The research will be qualitative in nature. Secondary sources, including research articles, books, newspapers, journals, and other materials, will be used to gather the data.

The Objective of the Research

The main goal of the article is to offer a thorough examination of the different aspects of Chinese interests in Pakistan, including the wider regional context. This encompasses an emphasis on economic alliances, tactical alliances, and geopolitical consequences, with the goal of providing readers with a detailed comprehension of the factors influencing the Sino-Pakistani relationship and its effect on the overall stability and distribution of power in South Asia.

Literature Review

Chinese Vision and OBOR

China has one of the world's most advanced economies, but more than 20% of the world's people live there. It has taken over as the world's biggest economy from America, which held that title for 140 years. The American Century Comes to an End, and China Becomes the World's Largest Economy, (Farooq, [2019](#)). Most people think it is still in the early stages of growth and is still dealing with issues like poverty, schooling, and health care (Aoyama, [2016](#)). China's leaders are aware of this problem and are working on a plan to change the way the country grows in order to fix it. The old approach worked for decades and helped China rise from poverty to becoming a world power on the rise. But this plan isn't enough to keep China's economy growing at a fast rate, so the government started making changes and using new strategies to deal with the problems of the 21st century. In 2013, President Xi Jinping of China began the most determined economic and foreign strategy. The president gave the go-ahead for the old Silk Route to be turned into a marine route.

One Belt on Road (OBOR) is the name of this road. This idea is a big plan to build a road and train network that will connect China's least developed areas to Pakistan and other places (Chohan, [2018](#)). The Belt and Road Initiative is a big deal in the area. Its main goal is to speed up slow growth in China.

About 4.4 billion people will benefit from the project, and it will join 65 countries, which is about 40% of the world's GDP (Hofman, [2015](#)). People think this is the biggest project in the history of the world. There are two parts to this project. The first is a land path that will connect China to Europe, South Asia, Russia, and Central Asia. The second is a maritime "road" that will connect China's ports to ports around the world. The goal of this strategy is to connect the Eurasian continent through pipelines, ports, highways, and other forms of communication and infrastructure that will help trade, people-to-people contact, and investment. The goal of this project is to link Asia, Europe, and Africa. OBOR is mostly an economic project, but it also has military and economic effects (Hali et al., [2014](#)). Its goals are energy security, shared wealth, and joint growth. It will have wonderful effects on China in particular. People in the United States are still worried about this project, even though it will connect them to the rest of the world and help their economy. Most people think that China is pursuing this project to gain strategic advantages and control the world. There may be pros and cons to the project, though. Its goal is to speed up and improve global trade and business. The truth can't be argued with; even the most vocal opponents of the project agree that its goal is to help the world's economies grow.

Pak China Economic Corridor (CPEC)

At the moment, China is seen as the economic centre of the 21st century. From 1980 to 2014, its GDP grew seventeen times. It got about 800 million people out of poverty, which has never happened before in human history. There was a lot of money in China in the 1980s. China had a lower or the same income per person as Pakistan and India before 1980, but after that, China quickly became an economic power. Since the project was approved in 2013, Pakistan has given the CPEC project its full attention. Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif has said many times that CPEC could be a game-changer for the area and for Pakistan in particular (Changer-All-Provinces will-Reap-Benefits-Of-CPEC-Says-PM, 2019). The foreign minister of China also called the Belt and Road Initiative project a flagship. Also, the political and military leaders, as well as most of the people, believe that CPEC can help Pakistan get out of its economic problems and onto the road to growth and prosperity. The project, which was given US\$46 billion, has given Pakistan a big chance to deal with some of the biggest problems facing its economic growth, such as its energy crisis, lack of modern infrastructure, and low rate of foreign investment (Khan et al., 2018). In November 2014, Pakistan and China

came to an understanding that 61% of the above amount would be used to improve the energy capacity and the networks that send and receive energy. Pakistan will be able to handle its energy problem, which is getting worse. Every year, this shortfall costs the government about 2.5% to 3% of its GDP.

The project is expected to add 10,400 Megawatts to Pakistan's energy supply in 2017 and 2018. China is working hard to make its economy grow quickly so that it can become a world superpower. Pakistan is a strategically important country, and China knows this. Because of this, China has interests in Pakistan. They have been friends for a long time (Ranade, [2022](#)). Also, a lot of people from China buy things there. On the other hand, India could be a rival to China in the area. Pakistan is important to both the United States and China because it helps them reach their goals in South Asia. Pakistan and China have been friends for a long time and have helped each other through many problems. China's economy is growing faster than any other in the world, and Pakistan is fighting terrorists and wants to get its economy back on track (Sakeena, [2021](#)). Most people think that China is spending a lot of money to fight terrorism, extremism, and the worsening law and order situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan, which are close to China. China wants to protect its people from the evils of terrorism and conflict by making the neighbourhood peaceful. This way, it can focus on economic growth and development. In addition, the power and energy projects going on in Pakistan will help her. China will be able to reach the Arabian Sea and the Middle East through this improvement of its infrastructure. It used to take 45 days for things to get to China and be unloaded there. Now, it will only take ten days. It will cut down on both the distance and the time it takes to move. The Gwadar Port of Pakistan will also be able to reach Europe through the Strait of Malacca. China is worried about how to keep up with its ever-growing energy needs. The Strait of Malacca is where its oil trade goes. They know that the US could block the route in some cases, so they'd rather put their money into CPEC, a safer and shorter route that will solve the problem for good. It will make it easy for China to get to resource-rich areas of Afghanistan and Pakistan, and it will stop its push for the energy plan. Also, the gas and oil assets of Iran, Afghanistan, and Baluchistan will be close by.

Renminbi (RMB) should be used all over the world. This is another goal of OBOR. Because it goes through a third of the world's land area and a huge portion of the world's population, the OBOR makes the RMB a foreign currency for all of those people. There is peace of mind at the Bank of China because a poll shows that nearby areas want to start using RMB as a new foreign currency soon. Around 60% of China's ODI is made up of RMB (Chen et al., [2011](#)). In 2013, that number was only 16%. In the next few years, China plans to make the RMB usable all over the world. The fact that 1.8 trillion dollars will be given to help with the project will completely change the value of the RMB. The Bank of China is hopeful that soon, other countries in the area will also use the RMB as a foreign currency. It will improve the coordination of multiple currencies and make it easier to buy and export goods using the RMB. The CBRC has made deals with Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, and Russia in the area. Fifty per cent of the world's oil sources are in the Middle East. Also, 25% of the world's oil is made there. The oil supplies in the Middle East became a valuable gift for American national security. Oil problem in the 1970s. If someone from outside of America tried to take control of the Gulf area in 1980, the government of Jimmy Carter said that it would be seen as an attack on American interests. Attacks will be met with whatever steps are needed, even armed ones if necessary. It was said that on April 20, 2016, the United States used the least amount of oil from other countries than it had in thirty years. Because more coal is being used, less oil is being brought in from the Middle East. China is becoming more interested in the Middle East because it needs more oil and is using it more. For these reasons, the fact that Gwadar Port, the world's biggest harbour, is only 25 km from the Persian Gulf will be very helpful and important for China's future interests in the area.

The most important part of CPEC is how its western areas are developed and used to help China become a major economic power in the world (Rizvi, [2014](#)). The western part of China stayed poor and underdeveloped during its rise and economic boom. The eastern coastal areas saw the most industrial and infrastructure growth, which helped with exports. In 2013, it was said that the western provinces have half as much income per person as the eastern regions. It will likely take thirty to fifty years for the western provinces to reach the same level of growth as the eastern provinces. The goal of the thirteenth five-year plan was to make Xinjian an important hub for travel between western, central, and southern Asia. Middle

Eastern and South Asian goods will come to this place to be used as a hub. People think of Xinjiang as the heart of the western part of China. Through the economic corridor, China sends manufactured goods and tools to markets in Central and South Asia. At the same time, it imports the raw materials and energy that its industries need to grow quickly. The CPEC route through the Indian Ocean brings goods to Xinjiang that are 10% cheaper than goods brought from the country's eastern coastal areas.

Acquiring Gwadar Port and Chinese Interest

The earth's surface is mostly water, which makes it a cheap way to get around. Water is a big part of how people get around the world. In the past, the only way to get from one region to another was by water. In this age of globalization, it is impossible to ignore the importance of sea lines in geopolitics. Pakistan is blessed with a deep-sea port that stretches 960 km and can be reached from both the south and the east. The ports of Karachi and Qasim are located on the Pakistani coast (Menon, [2021](#)). The port of Ormara is also being built to handle the growing trade demand in the future. Jiwani, Pasni, Kalamat, Khor, Hingol, Sonmiani, and Keti Bandar are some of the other mining sites. In the twenty-first century, sea lines have become an important part of globalization. With the help of the Gwadar port, Pakistan was able to grow its economy, meet its energy needs, and speed up industrialization. This was made possible by supporting regional connectivity and cooperation. It's a project that can help the country get back on its feet and use its geopolitical power on the continent. The port of Gwadar is in the middle of the Arabian Sea, about 460 kilometres west of Karachi. In the northeast, it is 380 km away from Oman. The "Persian Gulf" is 75 miles away from the port. The port of Gwadar is right on the Persian Gulf (Khetran, [2014](#)). Gwadar covers 15,216 square km, or 1.52 million hectares. It's one of the world's megaports. An area along the coast called Gwadar is about 600 km long. The fact that it is close to the "Strait of Hormuz" makes it stand out. The last one is the biggest trade and shipping route. China is paying for the growth of Gwadar into a major base for the area. In order to show its power in the international political economy, they are strengthening geostrategic links. Money can't be used to measure the weight of the relationship. It was needed so that the region's economies and governments could work together. Pakistan didn't have the money or means to develop it, but China made it possible by building the port for the good of China, Pakistan, the region, and the whole world. China is interested in a lot of things, both economically and strategically.

China will be able to keep a close eye on the Gulf's centre. It can be felt in India and the United States. It is in a good spot in the Caspian Region and has a lot of energy, so Xinjiang province uses it as a trade route through the Gwadar Deep Sea Port. China's economy is growing at a speed of 9% per year. It does US\$1.76 trillion worth of business. It has a 7.3% growth rate in its GNP. The amount of foreign currency it has on hand is US\$600 billion. 70% of all the CD players, microwaves, picture copiers, and toys in the world are made in China. Her economy is expected to be the best in the world by 2025, thanks to its very fast growth rate. China is able to change its fiscal structure to include countries in the area so that the regional and global economies can grow in a sensible and forward-looking way. It is looking for a large and varied buyer on the world market. To become a full member of the World Trade Organisation, one must work hard and follow the organization's economic rules exactly. It wants to play a key role in the international community, so it cares about the economic growth of the area and wants to connect that growth to the country's own political economy. As it worked to become a world leader after the fall of the USSR, it had a realistic, determined, and focused economic policy while the government stayed out of politics.

Xinjiang Province's Development and Progress

This part of China has places that aren't well-developed, and few people living there. Boars live in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and some Central Asian countries. The Uighurs are the ones who are blocking the area. In reality, they are Turkish by birth. The state where they live is Xinjiang, which is in the western part of China (Çaksu, [2020](#)). They talk, live, and worship the same gods. Most of them are fighting for their own freedom. They think of themselves as being like the people who live next to them in the Muslim Central Asian Republics. The region is close to Lop Nur, which is where China did its nuclear test. Along the Silk Road, it is easy to get to the area by water. The area also has a lot of oil, which is another reason why China wants to include it in its overall plans for growth. In terms of development strategy, she has stuck to the "go west" plan. This is

what China wants to do: develop the area to make the people happy and stop them from wanting to break away from the western part of their country. The Gwadar port project is a smart and helpful choice for the western part of China's economic growth. You can get to the Gulf of Aden and the Persian Gulf through this narrow path. It only moved 2,500 kilometres from China to the Arabian Sea. China will be able to use this to help the Uighur area grow economically. It could also lead to good ties between China and the Muslim countries that are close by.

Engage in the Observation of Naval Activities

The establishment of the port will also afford China an opportunity to closely monitor the activities of US naval forces in the Persian Gulf. It will enable China to exert control over the Indian naval forces in the Indian Ocean. China has consistently been greatly concerned about the operations of Indian naval troops in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Aden (Choudhury, [2018](#)). The Director of China's General Staff Logistics Department has declared that the strategic approach of the People's Liberation Army involves expanding its influence in the Indian and Pacific Oceans through the implementation of the "string of pearls" strategy. Additionally, we do not regard the Indian Ocean as belonging to Indians. The establishment of a naval base in Gwadar port will enable China to closely monitor the dominant forces in the South Asian region in the future. The port would grant China entry to the African continent and the Gulf region. Additionally, the port will establish itself as one of the leading deep-sea ports globally. The previous route utilized by China was a lengthy path that included the South China Sea, the Strait of Malacca, Sri Lanka, and the Pacific Rim. China's ships used to traverse a distance of ten thousand kilometres, while now they only need to go a mere 2500 kilometres. China will have a convenient and brief pathway to import oil from the Gulf and Central Asian region, as well as export manufactured goods to the global market.

The Straits

Currently, Gwadar has become a crucial pathway for the entry of energy products. Energy is crucial for China to develop its western area and maintain its growth as the world's emerging power. So far, the Strait of Malacca has accounted for 80% of China's oil imports. They hold the straight in the highest esteem as a marine route associated with legendary pirates. On the other hand, Gwadar is the calmest and most secure option for China's import and export needs. Gwadar could be seen as a potential replacement in west Asia and the Indian Ocean in the event that the United States blocks off the Malacca Strait. With its potential financial role in the Persian Gulf, CPEC can have strategic and military utility. More than 60% of the world's energy comes from the Gulf region. Thus, this will safeguard China's interests there (Yetiv et al., [2007](#)). For China, this provides a vantage point from which to watch the US and India. By connecting the two routes, China will be able to increase its trade with Central Asia, Africa, and the Middle East via South Asia.

Distance

Improving, securing, and expanding China's energy sources are top priorities. It plans to build a refinery in the port of Gwadar and link it to the Chinese province of Xinjiang via a pipeline. The distance that oil must travel from the Gulf region to western China will be drastically reduced because of this conveyance. This pipeline will extend for a total of 2,500 km. It will cut thousands of kilometres off the trip between Xining province and the Persian Gulf. The distance between the seaports of Xinjiang Beijing and Shanghai is 4,500 km, which is a significant amount for transporting petrol and oil within China. Approximately 10,000 kilometres separate the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean, where Shanghai Port is situated. From Eastern Africa and the Persian Gulf to China, the distance can be reduced by 15,000 kilometres through transportation and trade via the Gwadar route (Hassan, [2020](#)). The Chinese government will save time and money thanks to the cut in travel time and transportation costs. Not only will it be more efficient and less expensive than the maritime route that Chinese ships take, but it is also safer. After Gwadar and CPEC are finished, it will take Chinese ships only forty-eight days to reach the Gulf region through Pakistan, compared to the current twenty-day journey. This is China's most compact, risk-free, and reliable energy import route from the Gulf area. Its presence in the Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf will also be guaranteed by it. Soon, this port will play a significant role in China's trade masking with the rest of the globe, and Pakistan will emerge as the

regional trading centre. Thanks to the port, there are two markets: one that runs north to south and another that runs east to west. The fictionalization of this event will mark the beginning of a new age of friendship between China and Pakistan.

New US-India Axes

The way China acts in the area has caused fear and political tension between the US and China. Both the US and India formed strategic agreements to help stop China from growing too much in the area. To use the Chabahar Port to link South Asia to Central Asian countries, India stepped up its work with Iran and Afghanistan (Farooq, [2019](#)). To stop China from becoming too powerful, both India and the US are putting up strong pushback. The US, India, Australia, and Japan recently held the Virtual Summit of Quad. The main goal of Quad was to stop China from becoming too powerful in the Indo-Pacific area. The US had already been in a trade and technology war with China to stop its military and economic growth in the area. The US was interested in the economy and policy of South Asia for its own reasons. The United States thinks that its goals can be met by an Afghanistan that is politically safe, a friendly relationship between Pakistan and India, and a strong economy in Pakistan. The US is clear about how important Pakistan is from a strategic point of view. The United States wants to put money into Pakistan. To keep energy in Pakistan under control, it wants to get rid of extremism and push for improvements in the energy industry. At the same time, they are worried about China's fast growth in Asia, which makes it a military and economic foe in today's world politics. "D," a senior US government official, talked to the author in 2015. The United States isn't sure if China can finish the project and what its real plans and goals are around the world. It also has major concerns about how the investments will be used to fight extremism. The United States has repeatedly said that Pakistan is not doing enough to stop religious and sectarian terrorism by going after all extremist groups in the country. Even though the United States is rivals with Pakistan and China, it thinks that the current level of investment will make the area more open to joining together. At the same time, Afghanistan turned down the chance to be a part of the CPEC megaproject because the United States was too powerful and put too much pressure on them. A recent fight on the border between China and India has also strained their relationship, and neither country knows what the future holds (Madan, [2020](#)). Even though they trade a lot with each other and have worked together on different projects. India, on the other hand, was against the CPEC and said it was a threat to Indian sovereignty because it would go through Gilgit Baltistan, which is part of Kashmir and is contested by many countries. Indians believe that CPEC will help China and Pakistan's economies grow at the same time as India's. What happened in Chabahar shows that India was the one who planned a move to stop CPEC. Indian and Chinese leaders want to be the best in their regions and the world. Their ambitious policies and different methods at the regional and international levels show that they are both working together and competing with each other. People say that even if ties between China and India grow, get better, and blossom, that won't stop China from being friends with Pakistan.

Indian and Chinese leaders want to be the best in their regions and the world. Their ambitious policies and different methods at the regional and international levels show that they are both working together and competing with each other. People say that even if ties between China and India grow, get better, and blossom, that won't stop China from being friends with Pakistan. China has said many times what she wants to do. And this is how it is analyzed:

- ▶ India will likely have to keep the peace with Pakistan because of China's rise.
- ▶ China has made it clear many times that its relationship with India does not affect its relationship with Pakistan.
- ▶ The fact that there are no political or territorial issues and that China strictly follows the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence will make the friendship between Pakistan and China even stronger.
- ▶ The main reason why Pakistan and China are friends is that they share the same views and understandings on a global and regional scale.

"Pakistan-China military structures suggest that they want to keep being friends for a long time".

Conclusion

This study concludes that Pakistan's relevance to China is greater than previously thought, contrary to public perception. Pakistan holds similar or greater importance for China on both economic and strategic fronts. A comprehensive analysis reveals China frequently utilized Pakistan to overcome obstacles to regional hegemony. India and the US are attempting to limit China's influence in the region, while Pakistan's regime transition is not in line with changing conditions. Indian presence in the region poses a threat to China, while Pakistan's opposition to Indian plans provides substantial support for China. Iran, another regional power, is attempting to align with China despite American goals. However, China remains committed to maintaining the past coexistence with Pakistan. A review of China's foreign policy reveals no willingness to address the power imbalances in Pakistan caused by CPEC. China prioritizes maintaining political stability in its bilateral partnerships. This approach is evident in a no-strings-attached aid policy, avoiding internal interference and respecting territorial sovereignty. China's foreign policy is driven by its national interests, which may conflict with its non-intervention principles. For instance, China prioritizes political stability and is intolerant of regionalist ambitions due to the issue of regionalism within its borders. Given this fear, China may not respond effectively to regional elites, leading to conflicting assertions about CPEC central planning. Gwadar Port and CPEC will play a significant role in this regard. Gwadar and CPEC are crucial to Pakistan-China relations. Using its full potential can elevate China-Pakistan relations and strengthen friendship. While the project is purely economic, some argue that it has significant geopolitical and geostrategic implications for regional and global entities.

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