

Indo china war and its impact on Pakistan

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The second half of the 20th Century has seen various ups and downs between two very prominent Asian neighbors- India and China. Their relationship has neither been a cold war like the two Superpowers, nor the hot war like that between India and China. Historically, India and China have had relations for more than 2,000 years, but the modern relationship began in 1950 when India was among the first countries to end formal ties with the Republic of China (Taiwan) and recognize the PRC as the legitimate government of Mainland China. China and India are the two most populous countries and fastest growing major economies in the world. Growth in diplomatic and economic influence has increased the significance of their bilateral relationship.¹ Despite lingering suspicions remaining from the 1962 Sino-Indian War and 1967 Nathu La and Cho La incidents. continuing boundary disputes over Aksai Chin and Arunachal Pradesh, Sino-Indian relations have improved gradually since 1988. Both countries have sought to reduce tensions along the frontier, expand trade and cultural ties, and normalize relations.² China and India today represent Asia's two largest and most dynamic societies which are emerging as new trend setters in international relations.³

According to Dr Yuan, Sino-Indian relations will be very important in the coming decade. India and China together comprise one third of the world's population and the nature of Sino-Indian relations will impact upon world peace. Sino-Indian ties are also important in the context of global arms race and disarmament. Chin's activities in South Asia, India's activities in East Asia and their respective bilateral relationships with Pakistan are important aspects of Sino-Indian relations.⁴

India and China are two most populous countries of the world have started their march towards the core of the international economic system and seem to be marching at a fair speed. It may be early into the present century but there are unmistakable allusions by various thinkers all over the world that the current century is going to be shaped largely by the actions of these two Asian giants. Their relation has travelled a long way from a position of conflict to being major collaborators in some aspect of their bilateral engagements in the last 60 years.

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/China%E2%80%93India_relations

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foreign_relations_of_India#China

³ <http://chinaperspectives.revues.org/2853>

⁴ <http://www.ipcs.org/article/china/sino-indian-relations-692.html>

Despite wholly unresolved territorial issues between the two most populous nations of the world, the recent visits of Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi have strengthened Sino-Indian ties and successfully jolted the economic stalemate by yielding business deals worth more than \$22 billion. There has also been a remarkable headway in the facilitation of investment opportunities for Indian companies in China.⁵

POINTS OF COOPERATION

Following are some of the important points of cooperation between India and China:

- **Political Cooperation:** Political Cooperation between both the countries is based on The Panchsheel Treaty or the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence which was based on Pt. Nehru's vision of 'Resurgent India'.
- **Economic Collaboration:** The pace of economic trade and relations between the two countries has attained new dimensions in recent years and during 2006 the Sino-Indian trade has registered an increase of more than 40 percent and is about to touch the \$20 billion mark, compared to below \$1 billion in 1994. Both sides have fixed a target of \$ 40 billion in bilateral trade by 2010. China is engaged in building roads along its borders with India in order to enhance border trade and for opening of many more custom posts.⁶ In 2004, India was among China's top 20 trading partners, fifteenth in imports, and eighteenth in exports. China was a much more important trade partner for India in 2004, ranking in the top five, second in imports, and third in exports.⁷ Both India and China are the founding members of BRICS and the BRICS bank. India's trade with China in 2000-01 was \$2 billion, in 2013-14 it was \$65.86 billion, and in 2015 it reached up to \$100 billion. India is largest trading partner of China. Both states term their trade relationship as "South to South Trade" and both have set a target of \$100 billion by 2015.
- **Strategic Reconciliation:** During Modi's 2015 visit to China, the strategic agreements signed were; Cooperation between Foreign Ministry and Central Committee of Communist Party of China (CCCPC). The joint military exercises were held between military forces of both states in 2007, 2008 and 2013. There is also a series of joint Strategic Economic Dialogues (SED) between both the states; the 1st SED was held in 2011, 2nd in 2012 and 3rd in 2014. Both states have regular ministerial-level exchanges. China plans to participate in expected Indian nuclear projects worth \$150 billion. Both have signed a "Protocol on Modalities for the implementation of CBMs in the Military Field along the LAC" in China-India border areas. Both the countries condemn terrorism in any form.⁸

⁵ <https://www.dk.com/in/explore/indian-content/china-and-india-economic-cooperation-and-exchange/>

⁶ <http://www.indiandefencereview.com/news/sino-india-relations/>

⁷ <http://prasad.dyson.cornell.edu/doc/books/13India-ChinaEconomicCooperation.pdf>

⁸ <http://www.ipripak.org/improvement-in-china-india-relations-impact-on-pakistan/#sthash.fgcvs3Ju.dpbs>

- **Social Association:** Various MoU's were signed between ICCR and Fudan University during Prime Minister Modi's visit of China for establishment of centre for Gandhian studies, on education exchange programme, for Mandarin as a foreign language from 2011, and on climate change. During the Climate Talks in Paris in the year 2014 The Indian Climate Minister backed China's assertions that "historical emissions of developed countries as laid down in the Conventions should be the basis for differentiation."

POINTS OF CONFLICT:

- **Tibet and Dalai Lama:** Despite booming two-way trade, strategic discord and rivalry between China and India is sharpening. At the core of their divide is Tibet, an issue that fuels territorial disputes, border tensions and water feuds.⁹ **The biggest bone of contention is Tibet & Dalai Lama.** This led to the first ever war between these two nations. China is very sensitive about the territorial sovereignty and having Dalai Lama run a shadow government in India has historically been a major irritator for them.¹⁰
- **Chinese String of Pearls:** Among the main concerns of India in the past decade is the growing geo-political influence of China in the Indian Ocean. Known as the String of Pearls, it involves the build out of business ports in various countries as part of its new "Silk Route". The route, which China claims as an important trade corridor, extends from its naval base in Hainan Island (South China Sea) to Bagamayo in Tanzania, Africa, with several of the ports encircling mainland India. These include Hambantota (Sri Lanka), Gwadar (Pakistan), Chittagong (Bangladesh) and Marao Atoll (Maldives).¹¹ It can be said that this action of China is creating a security dilemma between India and China in the Indian Ocean.
- **Water Dispute:** The Brahmaputra which originates in Tibet (as Tsangpo) acts as the major water source in the North- East region of India, especially in irrigation and industry. China believes in absolute and unshared use of those resources which originate from its soil. In early 2003, scientists from the China Water Conservancy and Hydropower Planning and Designing Institute organized a feasibility study for a major hydropower project along the section of the Brahmaputra River which flows

⁹ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/brahmachellaney/2014/11/27/why-tibet-remains-the-core-issue-in-china-india-relations/#1c81d07758a0>

¹⁰ <https://www.quora.com/What-are-the-main-conflicts-between-India-and-China>

¹¹ <http://www.livemint.com/Politics/PsdTIEacInM6EkEMUrMGDP/Seven-flashpoints-between-India-and-China.html>

through China. This section of the river, which later flows into India and Bangladesh, has a water energy reserve of about 68 million kilowatt, or 1/10th of the national total. If successful, this project would divert 200 billion cubic meters of water annually to the Yellow River. Although highly beneficial for Chinese interests, the effects on India and Bangladesh will be devastating. Environmental experts report that roughly 60% of the total water flow will fall drastically if China is successful in constructing this dam on the Brahmaputra.¹² Thus India plans to build around 25 hydropower projects before China completes its project.

- **Stapled Visas:** There has been a practice by China to issue stapled visas to the Indian Citizens of Arunachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. This has been a debatable topic between these two nations. When the stamps of the country you are visiting, not placed on the passport, but on pages staple to it is called Stapled Visas. When the visitor leaves the country, his visa and entry and exit stamps are torn out, leaving no record on his passport. Stapled Visa is issued between countries which are hostile to each other.¹³ India states that this act by China questions the Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity of India.
- **Border Incursions:** An immediate repercussion of various undetermined territorial claims between the two nations, India's view is that China is occupying 38,000 sq km of its territory in Aksai Chin, while China asserts 90,000 sq km in Arunachal Pradesh as a part of its own territory. Both countries have been strengthening their military presence along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). While China has deployed close to 300,000 troops (13 full 'Border Defence Regiments') India has deployed around 120,000 troops in the Eastern Sector.¹⁴ There are around 200-300 Chinese incursions within Indian Borders every year.
- **Trade Imbalance:** India and China formally resumed their trade relations since 1978. India exports raw materials to China and imports finished products. These Chinese products have invaded the Indian markets in various sectors like toys, consumer electronics, even firecrackers. This has affected India's own manufacturing sector.

IMPACT ON PAKISTAN:

China and Pakistan historically have enjoyed long standing, versatile and cordial relations. From the very beginning, in 1955, when the then Prime Minister Chaudary Muhammad

¹² <http://indochina102.blogspot.in/>

¹³ <http://www.oneindia.com/feature/things-need-know-about-stapled-visa-1747720.html>

¹⁴ <http://www.livemint.com/Politics/PsdTIEacInM6EkEMUrMGDP/Seven-flashpoints-between-India-and-China.html>

Ali and his Chinese counterpart Zhou Enlai consolidated their support on mutual understanding, the relationship between the two countries have remained 'tested by adversity'.¹⁵

China and Pakistan share amiable and friendly relations with each other. Pakistan had been a close associate of China throughout the cold war in coping with India and the Erstwhile Soviet Union. As a result of this association, Pakistan also benefitted in many ways, viz, China helped Pakistan in improving its security, provided Pakistan with weaponry and also adopted Pro-Pakistan view on Kashmir issue during the 1965 Indo- China war.

After the normalization of China- Soviet and China- India relations the China- Pakistan relation has lost its cardinal meaning. From the early 1990s China gradually took an unbiased position on the Kashmir issue. China positively described Kashmir as a bilateral dispute between India and Pakistan and urged both sides to resolve it through dialogue. China's economic focus and its utmost priority is economic growth. China sees Pakistan in terms of its economic interests. China currently is the world's second-largest consumer of oil. Apart from the significance of Pakistan's strategic location, the Gwadar port situated in Balochistan has reinvented Pakistan's regional significance as an energy corridor for China. China's enthusiasm about the Gwadar port and its immense technical assistance to Pakistan is one such example of this economic co-operation between the two countries. China attaches a strategic value to the Gwadar port, which for China is no lesser than that of the Karakoram highway because the port will provide China with the closest access point to the Persian Gulf.

China is sensitive about the growing role of the US in the region and the US leaning towards India in the Asian continent. To counter this, China perceives Pakistan a best ally. Pakistan has always advocated full diplomatic support in favour of China over Tibet and Taiwan. Pakistan had also supported China to get permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).¹⁶

After the end of the Cold War, China's South Asian policy is to develop friendly relations with both India and Pakistan simultaneously and separately. Pakistan has no longer been a factor in the improvement of the Sino-Indian relations. Having close relationship with Islamabad is in the vital interests of China. It will help to curb the threat posed by Muslim secessionists and religious extremists in Xinjiang-Uighur Autonomous Region, as well as developing good relations with other Muslim countries. Some Indian scholars argue that as long as China having

¹⁵ <http://blogs.tribune.com.pk/story/14568/will-china-india-relations-dent-pak-china-relations/>

¹⁶ http://www.idsa.in/idsacomments/deal-with-china-india-needs-to-return-to-strategic-fundamentals_pstobdan_210317

close relations with Pakistan, there will be little hope for improving Sino-Indian relations. India should give up the idea that the enemy's fiend is an enemy. To have a normalized relationship with Pakistan is decisively depends on India itself. It is hard to imagine that an abandoned or an isolated Pakistan is willing to have normalized relations with India or is really in India's interests. China, which even has a stake in South Asia's peace stability and prosperity, sincerely hopes India and Pakistan could end their hostilities and resolve all the disputes through dialogue. Actually, China is now a positive and constructive factor in the India-Pakistan relations. Friendly Sino-Pakistan and Sino-Indian relations could facilitate and promote the normalization process between India and Pakistan. This is just like today's Russia, which established good relations with both China and India, is no longer an obstacle in the development of Sino-Indian relations as it once was during the Cold War period.

Some of the positive and negative implications for Pakistan are as follows.

➤ **Positive Implications**

- Cooperation between China and India could help Pakistan in resolving its disputes with India since cooperation and dependence in the region will enhance mutual trust.
- In view of growing India-US relations as a consequence of US President Barack Obama's India visit in January, 2015, as indicated by the visit of Chief of Army Staff Raheel Sharif to China in January Pakistan China also progressing at faster pace.
- Chinese String of Pearls strategy will have strategic and economic benefits for Pakistan because of development of Gawadar and Pak-China Economic Corridor and Maritime Silk Route.

➤ **Negative Implications**

- Indian textile and agricultural exports to China might negatively impact Pakistan's exports to China.
- If China decides to supports India in the United Nations Security Council and India secures a seat, it becoming a permanent member would make India more arrogant and it will become impossible for Pakistan to resolve the Kashmir and other disputes with India in a just manner.¹⁷

¹⁷ <http://www.ipripak.org/improvement-in-china-india-relations-impact-on-pakistan/#sthash.fgcvs3Ju.dpbs>

CONCLUSION:

18 rounds of talks between the nations have taken place since 2003. But these talks show little progress in the relations of these two prominent Asian countries. Views regarding the Line of Actual Control still differ. Beijing does not seem likely to give up its claim over Arunachal Pradesh, and no Indian government will find it easy to surrender the claim over all of Jammu & Kashmir. India should seek to harmonize its relation with China, without compromising on its core interests. China's partnership with India will not affect China's relationship with Pakistan because of the gravity of China's interests linked to Pakistan. We need to reframe our terms of relationship with China; rethink our own posture; rescue ourselves from experiencing a delusion of grandeur and instead persevere to emerge as a confident and aspiring regional power.¹⁸

¹⁸ http://www.idsa.in/idsacomments/deal-with-china-india-needs-to-return-to-strategic-fundamentals_pstobdan_210317