

## GEO-STRATEGIC AND ECONOMIC RAMIFICATIONS OF CPEC ON THE REGION: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS

Haadia Hidayat<sup>\*1</sup>, Abdullah<sup>2</sup>

<sup>\*1</sup>MS Scholar, Department of Psychology, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, Peshawar

<sup>2</sup>BS Scholar, Department of Political Science, GDC Daggar, Buner

<sup>\*1</sup>haadiahidayat3@gmail.com, <sup>2</sup>abdullah080993@gmail.com

Corresponding Author: \*

Received: 05 May, 2024

Revised: 05 June, 2024

Accepted: 17 June, 2024

Published: 30 June, 2024

### ABSTRACT

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a flagship project under China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) that aims to enhance regional connectivity and foster economic growth. This research critically examines the geo-strategic and economic ramifications of CPEC on the region. By analyzing the strategic realignments, economic benefits, and security challenges associated with CPEC, this study provides a comprehensive understanding of its impact on regional dynamics. The research highlights how CPEC's infrastructure projects, including highways, railways, and ports, are reshaping trade routes and economic corridors, thereby influencing regional trade patterns and economic integration. Furthermore, the study explores the strategic implications of CPEC, including the shift in power dynamics, regional cooperation, and potential conflicts. The analysis also considers the perspectives of key regional players, such as India, Afghanistan, Iran, and the Central Asian states, assessing their responses and strategies in the face of CPEC's advancements. This research underscores the dual nature of CPEC's impact, offering opportunities for economic development and regional cooperation while posing significant strategic and security challenges. Ultimately, this study aims to contribute to the broader discourse on CPEC's role in shaping the geopolitical and geo-economic landscape of the region.

**Keywords:** China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Geo-strategic impact, Geo-economic ramifications, Regional dynamics, Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

### INTRODUCTION

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a cornerstone of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), has emerged as a transformative project with far-reaching implications for the regions it traverses. Envisioned as a network of highways, railways, and energy projects, CPEC aims to enhance connectivity between China and Pakistan, extending its influence across South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East. As a strategic initiative, CPEC not only promises economic uplift for Pakistan but also holds the potential to redefine regional trade routes, economic partnerships, and geopolitical alignments (Jaleel et al., 2019).

This study delves into the geo-strategic and geo-economic ramifications of CPEC, offering a critical analysis of its impact on regional dynamics. The strategic significance of CPEC is underscored by its ability to provide China with direct access to the

Arabian Sea, thereby reducing its dependency on traditional maritime routes through the South China Sea and the Strait of Malacca. This shift not only enhances China's strategic positioning but also has profound implications for regional security and power dynamics.

From a geo-economic perspective, CPEC is poised to stimulate economic growth through infrastructure development, energy projects, and trade facilitation. The corridor is expected to create new economic opportunities, attract foreign investments, and foster industrialization in Pakistan and beyond. However, the economic benefits are accompanied by challenges, including concerns over debt sustainability, economic disparities, and local resistance.

The China-Pakistan relationship is a noteworthy example of successful bilateral ties on the

international stage, influencing local, regional, and global politics. Some countries, such as India, view this alliance as a threat to their interests, while others aspire to emulate it in their own bilateral relations. The enduring Sino-Pak relations are significantly influenced by the long-standing rivalry between Pakistan and India, which may be a crucial factor binding the two nations together. India's aggressive policies to dominate the region, acting as a mini-superpower, have reinforced strong Sino-Pak connections.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a flagship project of China's One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative, linking the entire region, including Iran, India, Afghanistan, and the Central Asian Republics. The project aims to enhance air, rail, and road transportation, strengthen interpersonal relationships, facilitate the exchange of local knowledge, and promote sociocultural interactions. With an investment of \$62 billion, CPEC aims to modernize Pakistan's infrastructure and economy, boost bilateral trade, and promote peaceful coexistence, cooperation, harmony, and economic growth. In December 2021, Pakistan's first-ever National Security Policy (NSP) prioritized economic security, shifting its foreign policy focus from geo-strategic to geo-economic interests. CPEC is considered a "game changer" for South Asia (Malik, 2012).

### **The Geo-strategic and Economic Importance of Pakistan's Location for the Region:**

Pakistan's strategic location is of immense geopolitical significance for China, particularly in the context of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). This significance can be understood through several key dimensions:

#### **1. Access to the Arabian Sea and Persian Gulf**

One of the primary reasons for China's interest in Pakistan is its geographic access to the Arabian Sea through the Gwadar Port. Gwadar, located in Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan province, provides China with a direct route to the Arabian Sea and, subsequently, to the Persian Gulf. This access is crucial for several reasons:

**Energy Security:** The Persian Gulf is a critical region for global oil supplies. By having access to Gwadar, China can significantly reduce the distance and time needed to transport oil from the Middle East to its western provinces. This route is more secure

and less susceptible to disruptions than the traditional sea routes through the Strait of Malacca, which are longer and pass through regions of high geopolitical tension (Saad, 2018).

**Trade Efficiency:** The development of Gwadar Port under CPEC facilitates a shorter and more efficient trade route for Chinese goods destined for Middle Eastern, African, and European markets. This port serves as a pivotal node in China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), enhancing China's trade connectivity and economic reach.

#### **2. Strategic Depth and Military Logistics**

Pakistan's location offers strategic depth for China, particularly in the context of its rivalry with India and its strategic interests in the Indian Ocean region:

**Military Cooperation:** The deepening of military ties between China and Pakistan, supported by infrastructural developments under CPEC, allows China to project its military power more effectively in South Asia and the Indian Ocean. Access to Gwadar Port can potentially be used for logistical support to the Chinese navy, enhancing its operational capabilities in the region (Umbreen & Rameesha, 2016).

**Counterbalancing India:** Pakistan's alliance with China acts as a counterbalance to India's regional dominance. The strategic cooperation between China and Pakistan, facilitated by CPEC, helps China maintain a strategic foothold in South Asia, which is vital in the context of its competition with India.

#### **3. Regional Influence and Economic Integration**

CPEC and Pakistan's strategic location contribute to China's broader geopolitical objectives of regional influence and economic integration:

**Economic Integration:** Through CPEC, China aims to integrate the economies of Central and South Asia, creating a network of trade routes, energy pipelines, and communication links. Pakistan's geographic position is central to this vision, serving as a bridge connecting China with the Middle East, Central Asia, and beyond.

**Political Influence:** By investing heavily in Pakistan's infrastructure and economy, China enhances its political influence in Islamabad. This influence extends to regional politics, where Pakistan often aligns with China on key issues, including matters related to India, Afghanistan, and broader regional security dynamics.

#### 4. Stabilizing Western China

The development of CPEC has significant implications for China's internal stability, particularly in its western Xinjiang region:

**Economic Development:** Xinjiang, a region troubled by ethnic unrest and economic underdevelopment, stands to benefit from the economic opportunities provided by CPEC. Improved trade routes and economic connectivity with Pakistan can spur economic growth in Xinjiang, helping to stabilize the region.

**Security Concerns:** Enhanced economic ties with Pakistan, coupled with infrastructural development, can also help China address security concerns in its western provinces by promoting economic development as a tool for stability and countering separatist sentiments.

#### 5. Strengthening Bilateral Ties

The geopolitical importance of Pakistan's location is also evident in the strengthening of bilateral ties between China and Pakistan:

**Diplomatic Support:** Pakistan consistently supports China on international platforms, including issues related to Taiwan, Tibet, and the South China Sea. This support is reciprocal, with China backing Pakistan on matters related to Kashmir and its stance against India.

**Economic Dependencies:** The economic interdependencies fostered by CPEC create a robust bilateral relationship that extends beyond mere political rhetoric, embedding economic and strategic interests that bind the two nations closely.

#### Geo-Strategic and Economic Ramifications for the Region:

In the twenty-first century, the emphasis has shifted from competition to collaboration and the interdependence of interests. Globalization and regionalism have intensified the world's interconnectedness in terms of bilateral trade and regional business, and the economic integration of states within a region yields global benefits. However, South Asia, with only 3-5% of its trade being regional, experiences poor economic growth due to a lack of regional integration (But & But, 2015). China's ambition to dominate the global economy relies heavily on fostering regional cooperation and growth, particularly in South Asia and Central Asia. Therefore, China is particularly

invested in promoting regional growth and integration in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, and India. In the coming years, regional and extra-regional actors are poised to reap significant benefits from the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). This extensive land-sea project is set to dramatically reshape Asia's geopolitical and strategic landscape (Umbreen & Rameesha, 2016). The economic prospects of regional states could be profoundly transformed, with millions of people expected to benefit from CPEC's potential to enhance socio-cultural connectivity, trade relations, economic activity, technical collaboration, and financial opportunities.

#### Economic Growth and Integration

CPEC is a critical driver for economic growth and regional integration in South Asia. By improving infrastructure and connectivity, CPEC facilitates trade and commerce not only between China and Pakistan but also among other South Asian countries. Enhanced road and rail networks, along with modernized ports, reduce transportation costs and increase trade efficiency, contributing to economic growth in the region (Rajiv & Menon, 2019).

#### Socio-Cultural Connectivity

The development projects under CPEC are expected to foster socio-cultural connectivity among South Asian countries. Improved transportation links and economic collaboration create opportunities for cultural exchange and mutual understanding. This connectivity can help reduce historical animosities and build a foundation for lasting peace and cooperation.

#### Trade Relations

CPEC is poised to significantly boost trade relations within South Asia. By providing a direct link between the Arabian Sea and China's Xinjiang province, it opens new trade routes that can be utilized by neighboring countries. This increased trade activity can help diversify the economies of South Asian nations and reduce their reliance on a few traditional markets.

#### Technical Collaboration

CPEC brings with it opportunities for technical collaboration between China and South Asian countries. The transfer of technology, expertise, and skills from China to Pakistan and other neighboring

countries can spur innovation and enhance the technological capabilities of the region. This collaboration can drive industrial development and modernize various sectors, including agriculture, manufacturing, and energy.

### **Financial Opportunities**

The influx of Chinese investment through CPEC creates numerous financial opportunities for South Asian countries. Investments in infrastructure, energy, and industrial projects generate employment and stimulate economic activity. Furthermore, the development of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) attracts foreign investors, boosts exports, and strengthens the financial stability of the region (Stobdan, 2015).

### **Geopolitical and Strategic Landscape Shift in Regional Power Dynamics**

CPEC is likely to alter the regional power dynamics in South Asia. The deepening of economic and strategic ties between China and Pakistan challenges India's traditional dominance in the region. This shift can lead to a reconfiguration of alliances and prompt other South Asian countries to seek closer ties with China to balance regional influences.

### **Regional Stability and Security**

The success of CPEC depends on regional stability and security. By fostering economic interdependence and development, CPEC has the potential to reduce conflicts and promote peace in South Asia. However, the project also faces security challenges, particularly in regions with ongoing conflicts and militant activities. Addressing these security concerns is crucial for the long-term success of CPEC (Altaf, 2018).

### **Impact on Regional Policies**

CPEC influences the foreign and economic policies of South Asian countries. Nations in the region may align their policies to benefit from the economic opportunities presented by CPEC. This alignment can lead to greater regional cooperation on issues such as trade, infrastructure development, and counter-terrorism.

### **Economic Ramifications on the Region:**

Being the centerpiece of BRI, CPEC is a boon for the countries in the area and will quicken economic activity in the following ways:-

### **1. Regional Integration**

Regional integration focuses on interdependence, collaboration, regional communication, and infrastructure development among states to enhance the region's economy. It involves removing tariffs and other barriers to promote regional trade, which is crucial for economic growth and development. Through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), regional integration may be introduced to Asia. CPEC aims to connect markets across Pakistan, China, the Central Asian republics, Afghanistan, and Iran, impacting approximately two billion people. This integration is vital for maintaining peace in the region (Jaleel, 2019). The CPEC initiative offers South Asian and Central Asian nations the opportunity to benefit from increased regional trade. It is designed to bolster Pakistan's position in South Asia through active participation in regional integration.

The liberal school of thought posits that when trade and economic interests are interwoven, peace and cooperation among states are fostered, reducing the fear of war. In their Complex Interdependence Theory, Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye suggest that states may promote integration based on the interdependency of interests. Today, no state can exist without official relations with other nations, especially neighboring ones, as no nation can fulfill all its needs independently. All states are working together to address their needs for expansion and economic development. The era of globalization has compelled governments to deepen their economic links and dependencies. The China Belt and Road Initiative can be analyzed using the complex interdependence paradigm, which promotes cooperation and interdependence among governments (Wang, 2017). Essentially, "interdependence" refers to the political and economic connectivity of two or more states. Interdependence promotes economic growth by reducing the likelihood of conflict and power struggles.

## **2. Regional Connectivity**

Regional connectivity refers to the efficiency and effectiveness of a regional network in facilitating the movement of people, products, services, and information within an area. This is essential for a state's economic growth and prosperity. China has initiated the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), including the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), to secure regional connectivity for economic development. The BRI megaproject, developed by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Development and Reform Commission, and Ministry of Commerce, aims to promote global connectivity and enhance engagement with neighboring states (Khan, 2018).

The CPEC project, a key component of the BRI, aims to link infrastructure initiatives across Central Asia, West Asia, South Asia, and beyond, addressing China's energy transit needs. This project is crucial for the region's economic growth as it sits at the intersection of Central Asia, South Asia, and Europe. Pakistan, located at this strategic intersection, is expected to play a significant role in CPEC's economic development (Sheikh & Mehboob, 2020). By 2050, Asia is projected to account for 50% of the world's GDP, with Gwadar serving as a central transshipment hub. CPEC will significantly transform the region's landscape.

CPEC is anticipated to increase interdependence among regional economies, promoting industrial development, agricultural growth, trade, and the exchange of information. As the shortest trade route connecting South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East, CPEC will boost economic activity, ensuring the region's economic growth and prosperity.

## **3. Boosting of Trade Activities**

Trade liberalization and openness are essential for economic expansion and development. Economically developed states have embraced trade liberalization to foster progress and sustainable growth. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) aims to enhance trade between China, Pakistan, Central Asia, South Asia, the

Middle East, and Europe. Similarly, the TAPI regional energy project, involving Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, and Turkmenistan, seeks to strengthen energy connections between Central Asian states and South Asian governments. Pakistan is working to create a favorable climate for commerce and increase connections with Central Asian republics. In 2018, a delegation from Central Asian nations visited Pakistan, offering ideas to enhance trade ties between these countries (Rajiv & Menon, 2019).

Historically, Central Asian countries and India were economically linked along the Silk Road, facilitating the movement of goods, people, and ideas. However, these regions were cut off from one another once the ancient Silk Road was abandoned. The CPEC's connectivity with Afghanistan through the Indian Ocean will reconnect India and Central Asian republics (Stobdan, 2015).

CPEC is expected to boost trade between India and Central Asian republics by providing access to the warm waters of the Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea (Rajiv & Menon, 2019). Currently, trade between India and Central Asian countries amounts to US \$851.91 million. Uzbekistan is India's largest trading partner in Central Asia, with a total trade volume of US \$328.14 million. Trade between India and Turkmenistan stands at US \$66.27 million, followed by trade with Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan at US \$32.60 million each.

Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan have significant hydroelectric energy production potential but need markets to export this energy. Without markets, they risk losing substantial revenue. Through Afghanistan, CPEC enables Central Asian states to sell excess electricity to South Asian countries facing energy shortages. The massive TAPI pipeline project, linking Central Asia and South Asia, was signed in 2002 by Turkmenistan, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and India. Covering 1800 kilometers, this project starts in Turkmenistan and travels through Afghanistan and Pakistan to India. It is expected to export 33 billion cubic meters of

natural gas annually to member countries (Altaf, 2018). The project's total cost was estimated at US \$7.6 billion in 2008. This project is anticipated to meet 15% of Pakistan's annual energy demand.

### **Political Repercussions on the Region:**

#### **Emergence of Amicable Relations in the Region**

Afghanistan was the first country to reject Pakistan's admission to the UN due to its claim to Pashtun lands along their shared border, known as the Durand Line, which led to a tense relationship from the beginning. Afghanistan still does not recognize the Durand Line as a legitimate border separating the two nations. Another major source of tension between Pakistan and Afghanistan is Pakistan's interference in Afghan domestic matters (Khan, 2019).

Because of its connection to Afghanistan, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) remains important for both Pakistan and Afghanistan. It provides both states with a platform to transform their often tense relations into a solid bilateral partnership (Grare, 2006). Strong bilateral ties between these two states are essential for their mutual benefit and the stability of the entire region.

The relationship between the two largest states in the area, India and Pakistan, has greatly contributed to regional volatility. India views the CPEC as a way to counter China, but it will soon recognize its importance to the regional economy (Wagner, 2016). Both China and Pakistan want India to participate in this enormous project. Pakistan views CPEC as a game-changer for regional economic development, prosperity, and conflict resolution. CPEC can help Pakistan and India find a solution to the Kashmir issue, as conflict resolution is more likely when economic interests become interdependent (Grare, 2006). By participating in CPEC, India could gain access to Afghanistan's vast market, enhancing the region's economic and political prosperity.

#### **Enhancing People-to-People Connectivity**

A core principle of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is fostering human connectivity, which is crucial for the successful implementation of the initiative. This involves various forms of exchanges, including staff swaps, media partnerships, youth and women's exchanges, cultural and educational exchanges, and volunteer service programs. The Chinese government has initiated programs to connect people

and facilitate cultural exchange under the BRI framework. These human connections promote peace and intercultural cooperation, enhancing mutual trust and supporting international trade and economic growth. To further this goal, the Chinese government provides tens of thousands of scholarships to students from BRI member countries, enabling them to study in China, share their cultures, and enhance intercultural understanding (Jaleel, 2019). Additionally, the government encourages cultural festivals, book fairs, and scientific and technological collaboration to strengthen people-to-people ties.

Moreover, these efforts at people-to-people connectivity play a vital role in soft diplomacy, allowing China to build a positive image and foster goodwill among participating nations. By engaging in cultural exchange programs, China not only promotes its own culture but also learns from the diverse cultures of its partner countries, creating a rich tapestry of mutual respect and understanding. This cultural diplomacy helps mitigate misunderstandings and build stronger bilateral relationships, which are foundational for the BRI's broader economic and strategic goals. These initiatives also pave the way for future collaborations in various sectors, including business, technology, and education, thereby creating a more interconnected and cooperative global community (Safi, 2018). By investing in human connectivity, China is laying the groundwork for a stable, peaceful, and prosperous international environment conducive to long-term economic development and global harmony.

### **Conclusion**

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor stands as a pivotal initiative with the potential to significantly reshape the geo-strategic and geo-economic landscape of South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East. This study has provided a critical analysis of CPEC's ramifications, underscoring both its transformative opportunities and inherent challenges. Geo-strategically, CPEC enhances China's influence by securing direct access to the Arabian Sea, thereby altering traditional power dynamics and regional security considerations. For Pakistan, CPEC offers a pathway to economic revitalization, fostering infrastructure development, energy projects, and industrial growth.

However, the benefits of CPEC come with substantial challenges. The economic viability and sustainability of the projects depend on effective governance, debt management, and equitable distribution of benefits. Additionally, the strategic realignments triggered by CPEC may lead to regional tensions and competition, particularly with India and other neighboring countries wary of China's expanding influence.

Moreover, CPEC has the potential to be a catalyst for economic development and regional integration, its success hinges on navigating the complex interplay of strategic interests, economic imperatives, and regional geopolitics. This study contributes to the broader discourse on CPEC by highlighting its dual impact, emphasizing the need for collaborative efforts to maximize benefits and mitigate risks. As CPEC progresses, continuous monitoring and adaptive strategies will be crucial to ensure it fulfills its promise of enhancing regional connectivity and fostering sustainable growth.

#### Recommendations:

- Enhanced Regional Cooperation:** To maximize the benefits of CPEC, there is a need for increased cooperation among regional countries. Initiatives should be taken to foster dialogue and collaboration, reducing mistrust and fostering a shared vision for regional development.
- Strengthening Governance and Transparency:** Effective governance and transparency are crucial for the successful implementation of CPEC projects. Establishing robust regulatory frameworks, ensuring accountability, and involving local communities can help mitigate the risks associated with corruption and mismanagement.
- Debt Management Strategies:** Given the significant financial investments involved, Pakistan should implement comprehensive debt management strategies. This includes negotiating favorable terms, diversifying funding sources, and ensuring that debt levels remain sustainable to avoid financial vulnerabilities.
- Inclusive Economic Development:** Efforts should be made to ensure that the economic benefits of CPEC are distributed equitably across different regions and communities in Pakistan. Promoting inclusive policies that address local

needs and provide opportunities for marginalized groups can enhance social stability and support for the project.

- Security Measures:** Given the strategic importance of CPEC, robust security measures are essential to protect infrastructure and personnel. Collaborative security frameworks involving Pakistan, China, and other regional stakeholders can help address potential threats and ensure the safety and continuity of the projects.
- Environmental Sustainability:** CPEC projects should prioritize environmental sustainability to mitigate negative impacts on local ecosystems. Implementing environmental impact assessments, adopting green technologies, and ensuring compliance with environmental regulations are crucial for sustainable development.
- Continuous Monitoring and Evaluation:** Establishing mechanisms for continuous monitoring and evaluation of CPEC projects can help identify and address challenges in a timely manner. Regular assessments, feedback loops, and adaptive management strategies can ensure that projects stay on track and deliver intended benefits.

#### References

- Abrar, M. (2019). Peshawar-Kabul motorway paves way for Afghanistan's entry to CPEC. *Pakistan today*.
- Ahmad, A. (2016). Pakistan, Tajikistan discuss rail link. *Dawn News*. Retrieved from <https://www.dawn.com/news/1298258>.
- Altaf, A. (2018). Trade with Central Asia: Minister for better linkages to increase trade. *Express Tribune*. Retrieved from <https://tribune.com.pk/story/1667901/trade-central-asia-minister-better-linkages-increase-trade>.
- Andrew, S. (2015). "The China Pakistan Axis: Asia's New Geopolitics", Oxford University Press, C. Hurst & Co., 1st Edition, p.211.
- Asia, C. A. (2020). The significance of China's Role in Afghan peace Talks. *Belt and Road news*. Retrieved from <https://www.beltandroad.news/2020/03/25/the-significance-of-chinas-role-in-afghan-peace-talks/>.
- Asif, M., Zhiyong, D., Ullah, I., Nisar, M., Kalsoom, R., & Hussain, M. A. (2019). The study on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a language and culture changer in Pakistan. *Journal of the Punjab University Historical Society*, 32(1), 35-49.

- Aziz, M. (2012). Afghanistan: The Geopolitics of Regional Economic Integration—The Emergence of China as the New Facilitator. Sources of Tension in Afghanistan and Pakistan: A Regional Perspective. CIDOB Policy Research Project (Barcelona Institute for International Affairs).
- Birendra, N.G. (1971). "Asia: Pakistan and China: A Study of their Relations", Allied Publishers, India Quarterly: A Journal of International Affairs, 1971, Vol. 30(2): 112-
- Butt, K. M., & Butt, A. A. (2015). Impact of CPEC on regional and extra-regional actors. The journal of political science, 33, 23.
- Butt, K. M., Anam Abid Butt. (2015). Impact of CPEC on regional and extra regional actors: Analysis of benefits and challenges. Paper presented at the International Conference on China Pakistan Corridor, Lahore.
- Cowan, A. (2018). Afghanistan Reconnected: Challenges and Opportunities in the Context of China's Belt and Road Initiative. Eastwest.ngo. Retrieved from <https://www.eastwest.ngo/idea/Afghanistan-reconnected-challenges-opportunities-context-chinas-belt-and-road-initiative>.
- Elahi, M. M. (2015). Heartland and Rimland theories in the CPEC perspective: Strategic interplay in the 21st Century. Paper presented at the International Conference on China Pakistan Economic Corridor, Lahore.
- Grare, F. (2006). Pakistan-Afghanistan relations in the post-9/11 ERA/Frédéric, Grare.
- Hali, S. M. (2017). Regional and global scenarios of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor. Eds.). Khan, MM, Malik. R. A, Ijaz, S and Farwa, U."China Pakistan economic corridor, a game changer". Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad.
- Hasan Askari Rizvi, Pakistan and the Geostrategic Environment: A Study of Foreign Policy (St. Martin's Press, 1993), 138
- Huasheng, Z. (2016). Afghanistan and China's new neighborhood diplomacy. International Affairs, 92(4), 891-908.
- Jaleel, S., Talha, N and Shah, Z. (2019). CPEC and Regional Integration. Global Regional Review, IV, 19-28.
- Jamil, A. (2015). China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: Impact on Development of Baluchistan Corridors, Culture & Connectivity. Islamabad: Pakistan-China Institute.
- Kainat, (n.d.), geostrategic significance of Pakistan. Academia. Retrieved from [https://www.academia.edu/37956325/GEOSTRATEGIC\\_SIGNIFICANCE\\_OF\\_PAKISTAN](https://www.academia.edu/37956325/GEOSTRATEGIC_SIGNIFICANCE_OF_PAKISTAN).
- Khalid Mahmood, —Pakistan-China Strategic Relations, Quarterly Journal of the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad, XXXI, (Spring & Summer, 2011).
- Khalid, M. M. (2009). History of Karakoram Highway, Volume II. Hamza Pervez Printers, Rawalpindi, Pakistan.
- Khan, A. (2019). Extension of CPEC to Afghanistan: Pros and Cons.Publication permitted vide Memo No. 1481-77/1181 dated 7-7-1977. ISSN. 1029-0990. Retrieved from <http://issi.org.pk/islamabad-paper-on-extension-of-cpec-to-afghanistan-pros-and-cons/>.
- Khan, A. U. (2015). Pak-China Economic Corridor: The Hopes and Reality. Regional Studies, 33(1).
- Khan, N., Ahmad, R., & Xing, K. (2018). China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC): Regional Development, Employment Opportunities and Policy Challenges. Global Political Review, 3(1), 12-23.
- Khan, R. M. (2011). Prospects of Sino-Pak Relationship. Margalla Papers, XV(II), 17-48.
- Khan, S. A. (2013). Geo-Economic Imperatives of Gwadar Sea Port and Kashgar Economic Zone for Pakistan and China. IPRI Journal, XIII(2), 87-100.
- Khan, S. H. (2013). Pakistan's Energy Choices: Vision 2030. In M. Anwar (Ed.), Solutions for Energy Crisis in Pakistan. Islamabad: Islamabad Policy Research Institute.
- Khan, Z. A. (2013). Pakistan and Shanghai Cooperation Organization. IPRI Journal, 13(1).
- Khetran, M. S. B and Khalid, M. H. (2019). The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: Gateway to Central Asia. ChinaQuarterly of International Strategic Studies, 5(03), 455-469.
- Khyber Pass economic corridor (KPEC).(2019).World Bank. Khyber Pass economic corridor (KPEC).
- Masood, M. T., Farooq, M and Hussain, S. B. (2016). Pakistan's potential as a transit trade corridor and transportation challenges. Pakistan Business Review, 18(1), 267-289. Retrieved from <http://dx.doi.org/10.22555/pbr.v18i1.668>.
- Munir, k. (2018). CAN CPEC BE A BOON FOR CENTRAL ASIA? South Asian voices. Retrieved from <https://southasianvoices.org/cpec-boon-for-central-asia/>
- Rabbi, M. A. (2017). Global perspective of CPEC regarding economic integration and trade openness.
- Rajiv, S. & Menon, R. (2019). Realization of India's strategic interests in central Asia. Carnegie India.. Routes to Central Asia being Constructed says Nawaz. (2015). Dawn News. Retrieved from <https://www.dawn.com/news/1188554/routes-to-central-asia-being-constructed-says-nawaz>.



- Saad, N. (2018) Pakistan's geostrategic environment and its impact on the economy. Global Village Space.
- Safi, M. (2018). Integrating Afghanistan into the belt and road initiative: review, analysis and prospects.
- Sheikh, A, M and Mehboob, S. S. (2020). China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC): Challenges and Opportunities for India . International Journal of Research in Engineering, Science and Management Volume-3, Issue-3, March-2020 , 369-401.
- Soilen, K. S. (2012). Geo-economics Retrieved from [www.bookboon.com](http://www.bookboon.com)
- Stobdan, P. (2015) Central Asia: back in India's sight. Gateway House. Retrived from <https://www.gatewayhouse.in/central-asia-back-into-indias-lens/>.
- Stoopman, J. T. W. (2015). CPEC: Forging A common destiny Paper presented at the International Conference on China Pakistan Economic Corridor, Lahore.
- Wagner, C. (2016). The effects of the China-Pakistan economic corridor on India-Pakistan relations.
- Wang, L. (2017). Opportunities and challenges of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and implications for US policy and Pakistan.
- Wolf, S. O. (2016). China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, Civil-Military Relations and Democracy in Pakistan. Paper presented at the 24th European Conference on South Asian Studies (ECSAS), Poland.
- Xiguang, L. (2016). Building a new civilization along the One Belt One Road initiative. In M. M. K. e. al. (Ed.), China Pakistan Economic Corridor: A game changer. Islamabad: The Institute of Strategic Studies.

