

CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF PAK-CHINA RELATIONS IN THE PERSPECTIVE OF CPEC AND ITS IMPLICATION FOR SOUTH ASIA

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ABSTRACT

The Pakistan-China relationship has significantly evolved with the advent of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). This transformative project, a cornerstone of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), has deepened economic and strategic ties between the two nations. CPEC, comprising extensive infrastructure, energy, and trade connectivity projects, aims to bolster Pakistan's economic development while providing China with critical access to the Arabian Sea. However, the implications of this partnership extend beyond bilateral relations, impacting the geopolitical and economic landscape of South Asia. This analysis critically examines the developments and dynamics of Pak-China relations in the context of CPEC, highlighting the benefits and challenges, and assessing the broader regional consequences, including the responses from India and other South Asian countries. The study provides a nuanced understanding of the strategic imperatives driving CPEC and its potential to reshape regional alignments, economic dependencies, and security paradigms.

Keywords: CPEC, Pak-China relations, Belt and Road Initiative, South Asia geopolitics, Economic development

INTRODUCTION

This study examines the economic relations between Pakistan and China in the context of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and its implications for the South Asian region. Despite facing various challenges, China and Pakistan have maintained resilient ties, never engaging in reckless behavior. Their close relationship, often described as "higher than mountains, deeper than oceans, and sweeter than honey," warrants an in-depth understanding of its dynamics and the extent to which these accords have facilitated diplomatic, political, and economic cooperation. This paper explores the historical factors that have driven both nations to collaborate on common goals, such as fostering regional economic stability and enhancing security (Khan, 2019).

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 (Jaleel et al., 2019).

Theoretical Framework

The Complex Interdependence theory, introduced by Robert Keohane and Joseph S. Nye Jr. in 1977, posits that states are deeply interconnected through economic, social, and political ties, and any destabilization or disruption of these connections would result in significant adverse consequences for the involved parties. According to this theory, states that are entangled in complex webs of interdependence are more likely to seek peaceful resolutions to conflicts, as the costs of conflict are too high due to their mutual dependencies. Conversely, states with fewer interdependent connections tend to experience more conflicts and wars because the repercussions of such conflicts are relatively minimal for them.

This framework underscores the notion that interdependent economic and political relations can foster prosperity and regional stability. An illustrative example is the cooperation among European states on coal and steel production, which has demonstrated how intertwined interests can lead to a stable and prosperous regional order. In contrast, regions with less integration, such as parts of Asia, often face economic crises and instability.

Applying this theory to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), we see a deliberate effort to create a web of economic and infrastructural interdependencies between Pakistan and China, extending to the broader region of Central and South Asia. CPEC, as a flagship project of China's One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative, aims to enhance regional connectivity by developing transportation networks, energy projects, and trade routes. This infrastructural and economic integration is intended to bind the interests of regional states more closely, fostering a stable and prosperous environment (Malik, 2012).

In the context of Pak-China relations, the Complex Interdependence theory suggests that the deepening economic ties through CPEC will lead to stronger political and strategic bonds, making the relationship more resilient and less prone to conflict. The theory

also implies that this interdependence will spill over to other regional actors, promoting peace and cooperation. For instance, Pakistan's enhanced infrastructure and economic stability can serve as a model for other South Asian countries, potentially leading to greater regional economic integration. Furthermore, the theory's application highlights the strategic calculations behind CPEC. By investing \$62 billion into Pakistan's economy and infrastructure, China is not only securing economic benefits but also reinforcing its geopolitical influence in the region. This investment creates a dependency of Pakistan on Chinese economic and infrastructural support, which aligns their strategic interests more closely. As a result, Pakistan and China are more likely to support each other in regional and international forums, reducing the likelihood of conflicts between them and promoting a cooperative regional order.

Pak-China Relations in the Perspective of CPEC:

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project under China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), has significantly transformed the geopolitical and economic landscape of South Asia. Launched in 2013, CPEC aims to enhance connectivity and foster economic cooperation between China and Pakistan. The corridor, extending from Gwadar Port in Pakistan to the city of Kashgar in China's Xinjiang province, encompasses various infrastructure projects, including highways, railways, and energy ventures, valued at approximately \$62 billion. This collaboration has not only strengthened Pak-China relations but also posed profound implications for South Asia (Khan, 2018). CPEC has solidified the strategic partnership between China and Pakistan, rooted in mutual economic interests and geopolitical considerations. For China, Pakistan serves as a critical gateway to the Arabian Sea, providing an alternative route for energy imports and reducing reliance on the Strait of Malacca. This strategic depth enhances China's energy security and facilitates its global trade ambitions. On the other hand, Pakistan views CPEC as a catalyst for economic development, promising modernization of infrastructure, industrial growth, and job creation. The deepening economic ties have reinforced political and military cooperation, creating a robust bilateral relationship resilient to regional and global shifts.

The economic benefits of CPEC for Pakistan are manifold. The development of Gwadar Port is a central element, transforming it into a major trade hub connecting Central Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. This has the potential to boost Pakistan's economy by increasing trade volumes and attracting foreign investment. Furthermore, the energy projects under CPEC, including coal, hydro, and solar power plants, aim to alleviate Pakistan's chronic energy shortages, thereby fostering industrial growth and improving the standard of living. Infrastructure projects, such as highways and railways, enhance connectivity within Pakistan and with neighboring countries, promoting regional trade and integration (Sheikh & Mehboob, 2020).

However, CPEC's implications extend beyond economic gains, influencing the geopolitical dynamics of South Asia. The collaboration has heightened India's concerns, as it perceives CPEC as a strategic maneuver by China to encircle India and enhance its influence in the region. The route of CPEC passing through the disputed territory of Gilgit-Baltistan has further aggravated India's apprehensions. Consequently, CPEC has intensified the strategic competition between China and India, impacting regional stability and security dynamics. Moreover, CPEC has implications for Pakistan's domestic politics and regional relations. The significant Chinese investments have heightened expectations among the Pakistani populace, pressuring the government to deliver on economic promises. However, challenges such as political instability, security concerns, and bureaucratic inefficiencies pose obstacles to the timely implementation of CPEC projects. Additionally, the economic dependency on China raises concerns about Pakistan's sovereignty and the potential for a debt trap, echoing the experiences of other BRI participant countries (Khan, 2014).

Regionally, CPEC influences Pakistan's relations with Afghanistan and Iran. The enhanced connectivity through CPEC offers Afghanistan an opportunity to access international markets, potentially stabilizing its economy. For Iran, the development of Gwadar Port presents both competition and cooperation prospects with its Chabahar Port. Balancing these dynamics is crucial for Pakistan to navigate its regional relations effectively.

In conclusion, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a transformative initiative reshaping Pak-

China relations and the geopolitical landscape of South Asia. While it promises substantial economic benefits for Pakistan and strategic advantages for China, it also introduces challenges and complexities. The success of CPEC hinges on addressing these challenges, ensuring equitable development, and fostering regional cooperation. As CPEC progresses, its impact on South Asia's political and economic environment will continue to unfold, shaping the future of regional dynamics (Rajiv & Menon, 2019).

Implications of CPEC for the South Asia:

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 (Khan, 2017).

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).

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 Implications on the Region:

As the centerpiece of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a significant boon for the countries in the region and will accelerate economic activity in the following ways:

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.

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.

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 Implications for the South Asian 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.

- **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.

Counterterrorism Policies in the Context of CPEC and Pak-China Relations:

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a multi-billion dollar initiative aimed at enhancing economic connectivity and development between China and Pakistan, with broader implications for South Asia. While CPEC promises significant economic and strategic benefits, it also faces considerable security challenges, particularly related to terrorism. Effective counterterrorism policies are crucial to ensure the successful implementation and sustainability of CPEC projects. Here, we explore the counterterrorism policies and strategies in the context of CPEC and their implications for Pak-China relations and regional stability (Altaf, 2018).

Security Challenges and Threats

Terrorism in Balochistan

Balochistan, where the strategic Gwadar Port is located, has been a hotspot for insurgent and terrorist activities. Various militant groups, including Baloch

separatists and Islamist extremists, pose a significant threat to the security of CPEC projects. These groups have targeted infrastructure projects, Chinese nationals, and Pakistani security forces to disrupt the progress of CPEC.

Regional Militancy

The broader region, including areas in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the tribal regions, has a history of militancy and terrorism. The presence of groups such as Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and other Islamist militants increases the security risks associated with CPEC. Additionally, cross-border militancy and the unstable security situation in neighboring Afghanistan further complicate the security environment (Khan, 2019).

Counterterrorism Policies and Strategies

Enhanced Security Measures

Both Pakistan and China have taken extensive measures to secure CPEC projects. These measures include:

Special Security Divisions (SSD): Pakistan has established dedicated security forces, known as Special Security Divisions, to protect CPEC infrastructure and Chinese nationals working in Pakistan. These forces are tasked with providing security along the CPEC routes and at key project sites.

Increased Surveillance: The deployment of advanced surveillance technologies, including drones and monitoring systems, helps in detecting and preventing terrorist activities. Enhanced intelligence-sharing mechanisms between Pakistan and China also play a crucial role in counterterrorism efforts (Khan, 2019).

Infrastructure Security: Strengthening the security infrastructure around key CPEC sites, including Gwadar Port, highways, and industrial zones, is vital. This includes constructing secure perimeters, checkpoints, and secure transportation corridors (Ali, 2015).

Bilateral Cooperation

The strong bilateral relationship between Pakistan and China extends to counterterrorism cooperation. Key aspects of this cooperation include:

Joint Counterterrorism Exercises: Pakistan and China regularly conduct joint military exercises focused on counterterrorism operations. These exercises enhance the capabilities of both nations'

security forces and improve coordination in responding to terrorist threats.

Intelligence Sharing: Robust intelligence-sharing agreements enable both countries to share critical information on terrorist activities, leading to more effective prevention and response strategies.

Conclusion

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a landmark initiative that epitomizes the deepening of strategic and economic ties between China and Pakistan, with far-reaching implications for South Asia. This multi-billion dollar project, a crucial part of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), aims to enhance regional connectivity, foster economic growth, and transform the geopolitical landscape of the region.

CPEC has the potential to significantly boost economic growth and regional integration in South Asia, providing new trade routes, enhancing socio-cultural connectivity, and creating numerous financial opportunities. The project is expected to alleviate Pakistan's infrastructure deficits, address its chronic energy shortages, and create employment opportunities, thereby fostering socio-economic development. Furthermore, CPEC's impact extends beyond bilateral benefits, offering prospects for greater regional cooperation and economic interdependence, which are vital for regional stability and prosperity.

However, the successful implementation and sustainability of CPEC are contingent upon addressing significant security challenges, particularly terrorism. The volatile security situation in regions like Balochistan poses a direct threat to the project's infrastructure and personnel. Both Pakistan and China have implemented extensive counterterrorism measures, including the deployment of Special Security Divisions, advanced surveillance, joint military exercises, and enhanced intelligence sharing. These efforts are crucial to ensuring the security of CPEC projects and the safety of Chinese nationals working in Pakistan.

The counterterrorism collaboration between Pakistan and China not only strengthens their bilateral relationship but also underscores China's commitment to regional stability. Effective counterterrorism strategies contribute to mitigating regional threats, fostering economic development, and enhancing regional stability. However, a comprehensive approach that includes addressing the root causes of terrorism, such as socio-economic

disparities and political grievances, is essential for long-term security.

CPEC's success also hinges on broader regional cooperation. Engaging neighboring countries in collaborative counterterrorism efforts and diplomatic initiatives to resolve conflicts will contribute to a more secure and stable environment for CPEC. Sustaining long-term security for CPEC requires continuous investment in security infrastructure, capacity building, and adapting to evolving threats. CPEC is a transformative project with the potential to reshape the economic and geopolitical landscape of South Asia. Through strategic investments, enhanced connectivity, and robust counterterrorism measures, CPEC can drive regional development and stability. The collaborative efforts between Pakistan and China in securing CPEC highlight the strategic importance of their partnership and its vital role in promoting peace and prosperity in the region.

Recommendations:

- 1. Foster Greater Transparency and Communication:** Improve transparency in CPEC projects by providing regular updates and information to the public and relevant stakeholders. Enhance communication channels between Pakistan and China to ensure clear understanding and alignment of objectives, mitigating misunderstandings or misconceptions.
- 2. Address Socio-Economic Concerns:** Implement policies and initiatives under CPEC that prioritize local community engagement, job creation, and socio-economic development. Ensure that the benefits of CPEC projects are distributed equitably across regions and socio-economic groups to address disparities and prevent social unrest.
- 3. Strengthen Legal and Regulatory Frameworks:** Enhance legal and regulatory frameworks governing CPEC projects to ensure accountability, environmental sustainability, and protection of workers' rights. Strengthen oversight mechanisms and enforce compliance with international standards to address concerns related to environmental degradation and labor exploitation.
- 4. Promote People-to-People Exchanges:** Facilitate cultural exchanges, educational programs, and tourism initiatives between Pakistan and China to promote mutual

understanding, friendship, and cultural ties. Encourage academic collaborations, student exchanges, and joint research projects to deepen intellectual and academic cooperation between the two countries.

5. **Expand Economic Cooperation Beyond CPEC:** Explore opportunities for expanding economic cooperation between Pakistan and China beyond CPEC, including trade diversification, investment in non-infrastructure sectors, and joint ventures in manufacturing, technology, and services industries. Encourage private sector participation and entrepreneurship to drive sustainable economic growth and innovation.
6. **Enhance Security Cooperation:** Strengthen security cooperation between Pakistan and China to address shared security challenges, including terrorism, extremism, and transnational organized crime. Increase intelligence sharing, joint training exercises, and capacity-building initiatives to enhance counterterrorism capabilities and maintain stability along the CPEC route.
7. **Promote Regional Connectivity and Integration:** Encourage regional connectivity and integration initiatives that complement CPEC and contribute to broader economic development and stability in South Asia. Support infrastructure projects, trade facilitation measures, and regional cooperation mechanisms that promote connectivity, trade, and people-to-people exchanges among South Asian countries.
8. **Build Resilience to Geopolitical Challenges:** Develop strategies to navigate geopolitical challenges and external pressures that may impact Pak-China relations and CPEC. Strengthen diplomatic engagement, diversify strategic partnerships, and pursue dialogue-based approaches to resolve disputes and mitigate tensions in the region.
9. **Invest in Sustainable Development:** Prioritize sustainable development initiatives under CPEC that promote environmental conservation, renewable energy adoption, and climate resilience. Incorporate green technologies, eco-friendly practices, and sustainable infrastructure designs into CPEC projects to minimize environmental impact and support long-term sustainability goals.

10. **Maintain Long-Term Vision and Commitment:** Uphold a long-term vision and commitment to Pak-China relations and CPEC, grounded in mutual respect, trust, and cooperation. Foster a strategic partnership that transcends short-term interests and geopolitical fluctuations, with a shared focus on achieving sustainable development, prosperity, and stability in the region.

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