



China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC): Regional

Sovereignty and Indirect Benefits

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Abstract

A true friendship is one that can withstand the toughest tests of time. It should be strong enough to deal with any thick and thin situations regardless of the consequences. Every aspect of the relationship between the two countries be it strategic, diplomatic, commercial or political have always stood strong and never wavered for even a bit. The paybacks of the project will become visible progressively and they certainly call for strength and will power both on the part of Pakistan and China to attain their foreseeable goals in the preeminent achievable approach.

Moreover, there should be liberated and facilitated exchange programs of students as well as business personnel between the two countries. Pakistani companies should be encouraged to develop joint ventures with multinational Chinese countries, which would help infiltrate the Chinese market as well as the global market. These joint ventures will also help in transfer of technology, management skills and improve innovation in products and services.

Day-by-day soaring intensity of mutual associations between Pakistan and China has become a permanent attribute of international relations in existing times.

Keywords

CPEC, Economic Growth, Indirect Benefits, Regional Sovereignty.

Introduction

CPEC should not just be considered as a transit passageway. In fact, it is being developed as an economic and trade corridor that will promote Pakistan in various sectors including power energy, development of industries, commerce, and innovative due to inadequate power supply, under developed infrastructure, undue rise in prices, and sluggish economic rate. CPEC is estimated to restore the economic development in Pakistan. Projects spanning over a longer period of time under CPEC include the assembly of more than 600 kilometer in length Khunjerab Railway track starting from Havelian to the Khunjerab Pass following to the Chinese border, further extending into Kashgar, Xinjiang. The railway line will be almost comparable Karakoram Highway, and is anticipated to be accomplished by 2030 (Mughal, 2017). China has also been really concerned about the executions of the Chinese personnel in Pakistan by the militants (News B. , Chinese workers shot in Pakistan, 2007). It has urged the Pakistani Government to take necessary steps in this regard.

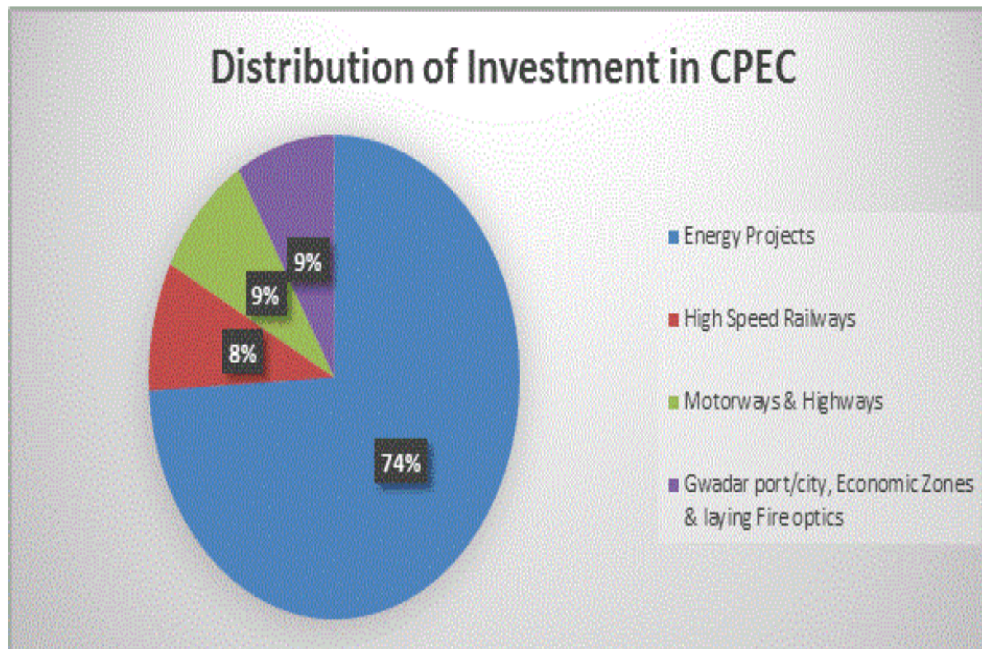
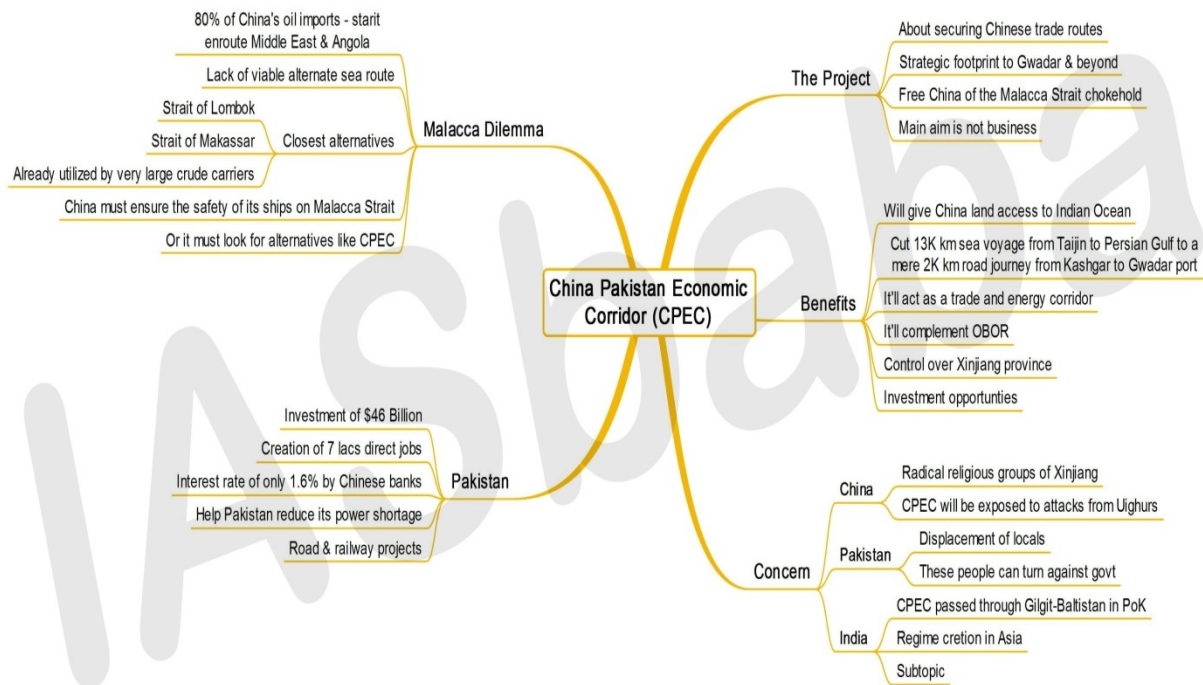


Figure 2: Sectoral Distribution of initial CPEC investment, (Source: Report of Indian Council of World Affairs).

The Mediator Roles

Pakistan has served as China's main bridge between Muslim countries. In 1972, Pakistan played a major role in bridging the communication gap between China and the West countries by facilitating the visit of Richard Nixon to China (News B. , Richard Nixon's historic visit to Communist China, 2017).



Source:

https://www.google.com.sa/search?safe=strict&biw=1366&bih=613&tbm=isch&sa=1&ei=YdrhWtOlGqeNmngWEwriQBA&q=China-Pakistan+trade+2017&oq=China-Pakistan+trade+2017&gs_l=psy-ab.3...146823.151414.0.151784.7.7.0.0.0.0.461.1585.2-3j1j1.5.0....0...1c.1.64.psyab..2.1.298...0i30k1j0i8i30k1.0.kMwzNOZLo1o#imgsrc=2n7FJYxB4BlyAM

Pakistan's ambassador has described the relations between Pakistan and China in very strong as well sweet endearments claiming it to be higher than the mountains, deeper than the oceans, stronger than steel, dearer than eyesight, sweeter than honey, and so on. The relationship is indeed a geopolitical grounding for both countries. Pakistan serves as China's closest friend both in South Asia and among Islamic countries (Economist, Pakistan and China: Sweet as can be?, 2011). Expectantly and with hope, China and Pakistan will stand together despite the consequences arising from any changes in regional and international situations and will make efforts to build a bright future for the China-Pakistan friendship.

The Western region of China has crossed the threshold into a novel significant period of financial and societal progress. Ever since the execution of the expansion approach related to West China, it has made enormous cost-effective and communal progression, specifically the province of Xinjiang (SWITZERLAND, 2009). The monetary power has extensively improved with enhanced

infrastructure, consequently leading the way to superior living standards of the common people. Kashgar, a main urban town of Xinjiang which has been opened to the external world, has gotten on board for swift financially viable and social progress. The transportation and communications network has been getting better all the way from Kashgar to Khunjerab Pass, offering indispensable back up for China-Pakistan commerce and trade exchanges through land (Guardian, 2017).

CPEC Future Goals

2020- By this time the CPEC should have taken the opening silhouette, key holdups to Pakistan's financial and communal growth should have been dealt with, while boosting the financially viable expansion in favor of both China and Pakistan (Ali M. , 2017). By 2025, the CPEC outlay endeavors to be essentially completed, the industrial organization roughly finished, key financial tasks brought utilized in the best possible way, the people's living standards working alongside the CPEC considerably enhanced, local fiscal expansion more objective, and

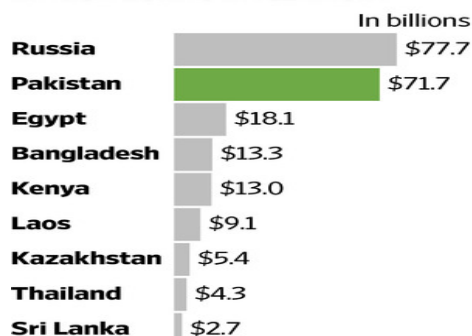
absolute goals of Vision 2025 accomplished (Kiani, 2017). By 2030, the CPEC structure attempts to be exclusively conducted, the extensive system for stable profitable escalation in position, the CPEC's function in motivating financially viable development in Central Asia and South Asia utilized to its highest advantage, and South Asia shall nurture into a worldwide economic region with comprehensive authority (Daily, 2017).

China has always provided support to Pakistan with no strings attached. Furthermore, it has played an active role in helping Pakistan build roads, ports, energy facilities and other major infrastructure projects in hopes that the country can stand on its own feet one day. Shortly after the Wenchuan earthquake, Pakistan sent all its tents in reserve to China. The Chinese people and the media, while recognizing foreign participation in the rescue operation found Pakistan as its most trusted and reliable friend coming to their help in the most quick and generous manner. Pakistan gave aid in cash of half a million dollars while the total aid was worth \$ two million

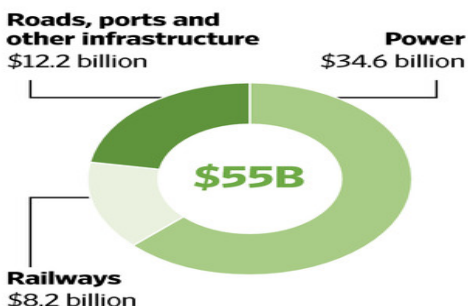
Building Ties

China has made Pakistan a key partner through infrastructure investment, much of it in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor projects.

Top recipients of Chinese infrastructure investment



Planned CPEC investment



Sources: BMI Research (recipients); Pakistan government THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

An economic analysis of CPEC with its effect on national economy was conducted. The total investment was fragmented into two classes ie, the local along with Chinese investment.

Table 10: Evaluation of Local Investment in CPEC

	Investment (US\$ bn)	Domestic Share	Domestic Share (US\$ bn)
Energy (Breakup is given below)	33.8		
Coal 7560 MW	8.8	20%	1.8
Wind 200 MW	0.5	20%	0.1

Hydel 1590 MW	4.2	50%	2.1
Solar 1000 MW	1.7	0%	0
Second Phase 6445 MW	9.5	20%	1.9
Mining Expenditure	9	50%	4.5

The driving force of the plan is actually the agriculture sector, opposing to the image of CPEC as an immense industrial and transport mission, linking power plants and highways. In this regard, the plan outlines a commitment that runs from one end of the supply chain all the way to the other. Beginning with supply of seeds and other essentials, like fertiliser, credit and pesticides, Chinese enterprises will also work on their own farms and processing facilities for fruits and vegetables and grain. Logistics companies will systematize sufficient cargo space as well as an efficient transportation system for agrarian produce, as stated by the plan in DAWN News (Hussain, 2017).

Science and Technology:

The other area of interest is expected to be information and technology. A comprehensive monitoring and inspection structure will be developed in cities from Peshawar to Karachi that will witness and document 24 hours videos on roads and full of activity marketplaces for the maintenance of law and order.

With the idea of “dissemination of Chinese culture”, a national fibreoptic line will be laid down for the country that will not only direct internet traffic, but also terrestrial distribution of broadcast TV(Hussain, 2017) .

If the original \$46 billion worth of projects are to be completed, it is estimated that the value of those projects would be approximately be equivalent to all foreign direct investment in Pakistan since 1970 (Rakisits, 2015), and would be equal to 17% of Pakistan's 2015 gross domestic product (Khan B. , 2015).

CPEC is seen as the main plank of Chinese President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative (Economist, Massive Chinese investment is a boon for Pakistan, 2017).

MordechaiChaziza in an article *China-Pakistan Relationship: A Game-changer for the Middle East*, stated that for years Pakistan has played an important part as a foundation of China's strategy for Central Asia and South Asia. Its geo-strategic position is vital as it serves as a gateway to the Middle East, where China seeks entrée to the energy-rich Persian Gulf region (Chaziza, 2016).

Collaboration in Science and Technology- 1976:

Both the countries decided to collaborate in the fields of science and technology. This was done by signing the Framework Agreement on Science and Technology which consisted of 17 protocols (Express, 2017).

China Pakistan Nuclear Alliance- 1986:

In 1986, an official agreement detailing the nuclear collaboration between the two countries was signed. 1986 was noteworthy in this regard, as it came at the peak of the Cold War conflict in Afghanistan.

Pakistan recognized its leading role at being in the front line for the Islamic world. (Pattanayak, 2011)

The 1986 agreement was the foundation of a vigorous transfer nuclear technology which was already in progress between the two countries.

According to letters written by Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan, who is considered as the father of Pakistan's nuclear program, in which he stated that serious nuclear collaboration between the two countries can be acknowledged as early as 1982(R. Jeffrey Smith & Warrick, 2009). Deng Xiaoping stepped down as Chairman of the Central Military Commission in 1989, and retired from politics in 1992 (Archives, 1997). The post-Deng management sustained his policies. Thus, Sino-Pakistan relations continued to strengthen in the post-Deng Period on the guidelines set throughout the Deng rule(Ali G. , Fifty-Fifth Anniversary of Sino-Pakistan Relations:An Appraisal). In this period China stuck to the policy of stabilizing its links with all the countries in the adjoining regions.

Nuclear Explosions 1998:

Despite of elevating US pressure, China continued its support to Pakistan in areas of nuclear technology. Pakistan carried out its nuclear explosions on 28 and 30 May, 1998 followed by the series of Indian nuclear tests on 11th and 13th May. This was seen upon with great concern by the entire world as a strategic disparity occurred in South Asia(Chandra, 2016).

The then Prime Minister of India blamed China for motivating Pakistan to carry out its nuclear explosions. China retaliated by stating that it was indeed India who had broken the trust and had started the race for nuclear superiority in the region (Fazal-ur-Rahman, 1999).

Defense deal with China- 2006

On May 23, 2006, Pakistan stamped a U.S. \$ 600 million deal with China with respect to security and defense. It was agreed upon that China would build four frigates for the Pakistan Navy, develop improvements in the Karachi dockyard and transfer the expertise for aboriginal manufacture of a modern

surface armada for the Navy. Under this treaty, it was ascertained that three frigates will be developed in Shanghai, while the fourth would be manufactured at the Karachi dockyard. The deal was signed was acknowledged as a landmark in Sino-Pak defense cooperation particularly in Navel division(Tribune, 2006).

Defense Collaboration- 2009-2010:

Some major events took place in 2009 and 2010 in the fields of defense and security that greatly showed the level of collaboration between the two countries. The PNS Zulfiqar (the first of 4 F22-P frigates from China) was officially introduced in Pakistan navy (Vladimir, 2009).

The first lot containing two of six Z-9EC helicopters were conveyed from China to Pakistan (Pike, F-22P PNS Zulfiqar / Type 053H2 Jiangwei-II, 2016).

The development of a third and fourth nuclear power plant at Pakistan's Chashma nuclear complex was initiated by China. The China Nuclear Industry Fifth Construction Company and the CNNC China Zhongyuan Engineering Corp, which focuses on foreign nuclear projects, arranged to work jointly on the third and fourth plants at the Chashma complex (Buckley, 2010).

The first regiment of JF-17 Thunder aircraft was inducted in the Pakistani Air Force (Talk, 2010).

China and Pakistan performed a joint anti-terrorism drill in Qingtongxia in northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region. The drill was code-named "Friendship-2010," (Nation, 2010)

Donations to flood hit areas 2010:

China pledged \$250 million in flood support to Pakistan and also sent rescue and medical teams to help in the most affected areas. China also promised to

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Share of Four Provinces under CPEC:

The Deputy Chief of Mission, Zhao Lijian, gave details regarding the allocation of projects to the provinces' of Pakistan.

Table 2- Division of CPEC Projects:

Balochistan	16
KPK	8

Sindh	13
Punjab	12

Table 3- CPEC Projects in Baluchistan

1	Khuzdar-Basima Highway (N-30)
2	I.Khan-Quetta Highway (N-50)
3	Hubco Coal Power Plant
4	Gwadar Power Plant
5	Gwadar-Nawabshah LNG Terminal and Pipeline
6	Gwadar Eastbay Expressway
7	Gwadar New International Airport
8	Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan

9	Expansion of Multi-purpose Terminal including Breakwater & Dredging
10	Wastewater Treatment Plants for Gwadar City
11	Gwadar Primary School
12	Gwadar Hospital Upgradation
13	Gwadar Technical & Vocational College
14	Gwadar Eastbay Expressway II
15	Fresh Water Supply
16	Gwadar Free Zone

Table 4- CPEC Projects in KPK

1	Joint Feasibility Study for Upgradation of ML1
2	Establishment of Havelian Dry Port

3	KKH II (Havelian-Thakot)
4	Upgradation of ML-1
5	KKH III (Raikot-Thakot)
6	I.Khan-Quetta Highway (N-50)
7	SukiKinari Hydropower Project
8	Optical Fiber Cable from Rawapindi to Khunjrab

Table 5- CPEC Projects in Sindh

1	Dawood Wind Farm
2	Sachal Wind Farm
3	Jhimpir Wind Farm
4	China-Sunec Wind Farm

5	Upgradation of ML-1
6	Thar Coal Block I & Mine Mouth Power Plant
7	Gwadar-Nawabshah LNG Terminal & Pipeline
8	Karachi-Lahore Motorway (Sukkur-Multan)
9	Joint Feasibility Study for Upgradation of ML1
10	Matiari-Lahore Transmission Line
11	Matiari-Faisalabad Transmission Line
12	Port Qasim Power Plant
13	EngroThar Power Plant & Surface Mine in Block II of Thar Coal Field

Table 6- CPEC Projects in Punjab

1	Optical Fiber Cable from Rawapindi to Khunjrab
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2	Haier & Ruba Economic Zone II
3	Karachi-Lahore Motorway (Sukkur-Multan)
4	Joint Feasibility Study for Upgradation of ML1
5	Upgradation of ML-1
6	Sahiwal Coal-Fired Power Plant
7	Rahimyar Khan Coal Power Plant
8	Karot Hydro-Power Plant
9	Lahore Orange Line Metro Train
10	Matiari-Lahore Transmission Line
11	Matiari-Faisalabad Transmission Line
12	Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park in Bahawalpur

(News P. , 2016)

Pakistan's Geo-Strategic Importance with Reference to Gwader Port:

The foundation of CPEC is based on its attraction towards the regional countries. This will result in regional collaboration leading to economic stability (Esteban, 2016). Traditionally, geopolitics, commerce, and transit have had a great impact due to Pakistan's unique position and locality in the (Ali, 2016).

Table 6: Overall Quality of Pakistan Infrastructure

Indicator	Rank (out of 139)
Quality of overall infrastructure	100
Quality of roads	72
Quality of railroad infrastructure	55
Quality of port infrastructure	73
Quality of air transport infrastructure	81
Available airline seat kilometers	48
Quality of electricity supply	128
Fixed telephone lines	115

Mobile telephone subscriptions	107
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Source: AyubMehar, "Infrastructure development, CPEC and FDI in Pakistan,"

CPEC foresees the founding of communication substructure connections, cost-effective zones along with expansion ventures all alongside the Corridor. Amid years of trusted and an all weathered friendship to back upon, both the countries consider that the Corridor will not just enhance financial collaboration between the two countries but will promote fresh promising regional support amongst South Asia, Africa and Europe, Middle East and Central Asia by amalgamating nearly three billion natives all around the world (Ahmed Z. , 2015).

The Fibre Optic Project under CPEC:

The Fiber Optic Project is currently in the construction stage wherein an optical fiber cable that is 820 kilometer in length is being laid amid the Khunjerab Pass situated on the borderline of China Pakistan and the town of Rawalpindi.

The project is being carried out a major as part of the Corridor at an anticipated value of \$44 million(Quint, 2016). The project was landmarked on May 19, 2016 in Gilgit(Times D. , 2016). The current update regarding the project is that 450 KM segment out of 820 KM has been finished and is anticipated to be entirely concluded by December 2018(Corridor, 2018).

The optical fibre line will hook up the Transit Europe-Asia Terrestrial Cable Network with that of Pakistan (Times D. , 2016), which presently broadcasts its telecom and internet interchange via four underwater fiber optic cables, while additionally three submarine fiber optic cables are in the construction process (Yusufzai, 2016). At its accomplishment, this back-haul fiber optic cable will endow Pakistan with an express telecom contact with China as well as Central Asian States and following to Europe onwards to the United States. The project will turn out to be an additional high-speed international association to accommodate the swiftly increasing Internet traffic requirements of Pakistan(Mughal k. , 2016).

CPEC and its Impact on Tourism:

CPEC will develop the eminence of tourism services between Pakistan and China with enduring impressions on socio-economic progression of the country.

Tourism is one of the most vital areas for the expansion of the country's economic conditions. It is hoped that with the commencement of CPEC, tourism factors within Pakistan would elevate in the coming years creating an attractive focal point for financial inputs in the tourism industry and hotel businesses.

Local stipulations for traveling within the country are increasing each year, with a projected figure of nearly 50 million native tourists as forecasted by the PTDC. This demonstrates extreme potential in the tourism industry (Pakistan, 2017).

Northern areas of Pakistan plus additional historical locations and towns have great allure for the revitalization of the tourism industry of Pakistan. CPEC will in time uplift Pakistani tourism, which was at its peak during the 1970s.

Numerous alluring tourist locations are present alongside the CPEC course, with bright prospects. The areas of Gilgit Baltistan magnetizes many hikers, as the

world's most famous peaks including K2 and the Nanga Parbat peak the inventory of hikeable mountains in this location. Tourism, nonetheless, is intensely associated with harmony and improved infrastructure (Ali S. A., 2017). Having discussed the major projects commenced and being implemented under CPEC that will highlight it as the Game Changer for the entire region, let us see a few implications it has for our country.

CONCLUSION

Through CPEC the harmony the Vision 2025 is to be achieved, which will connect the advantage of unique strategic setting of Pakistan at junction of Central Asia, South Asia and China for better socio-economic collaboration and expansion by strengthened regional linkages. It's being carried out by enhancing civic jurisdiction, strengthening infrastructure development and linking mutually the demographic advantages to accrue individual and societal resources, raise the industrialization intensity and extend aggressive information based financial system. The economics and funding setting for key

reciprocal ventures between China and Pakistan is quite adjustable; the promotion background for their industrial collaboration is heighten; and the prospects look more eager for the global territory to involve themselves in the CPEC undertakings and hence share the profits of the colossal scheme. The CPEC is not only a Multi-billion dollar economic alliance beneficial to Pakistan economic growth but also a landmark for the sovereignty of Pakistan and South Asia as an extension of the friendship of China and Pakistan.

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