

Pak Affairs

Q: 4 ESS 2017

CPEC is a flagship project of one Belt one Road (OBOR) and a regional game changer. Explain

Introduction

China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a billions of dollars mega economic project, is actually the leading manifestation of the Chinese one Belt one Road (OBOR) vision.

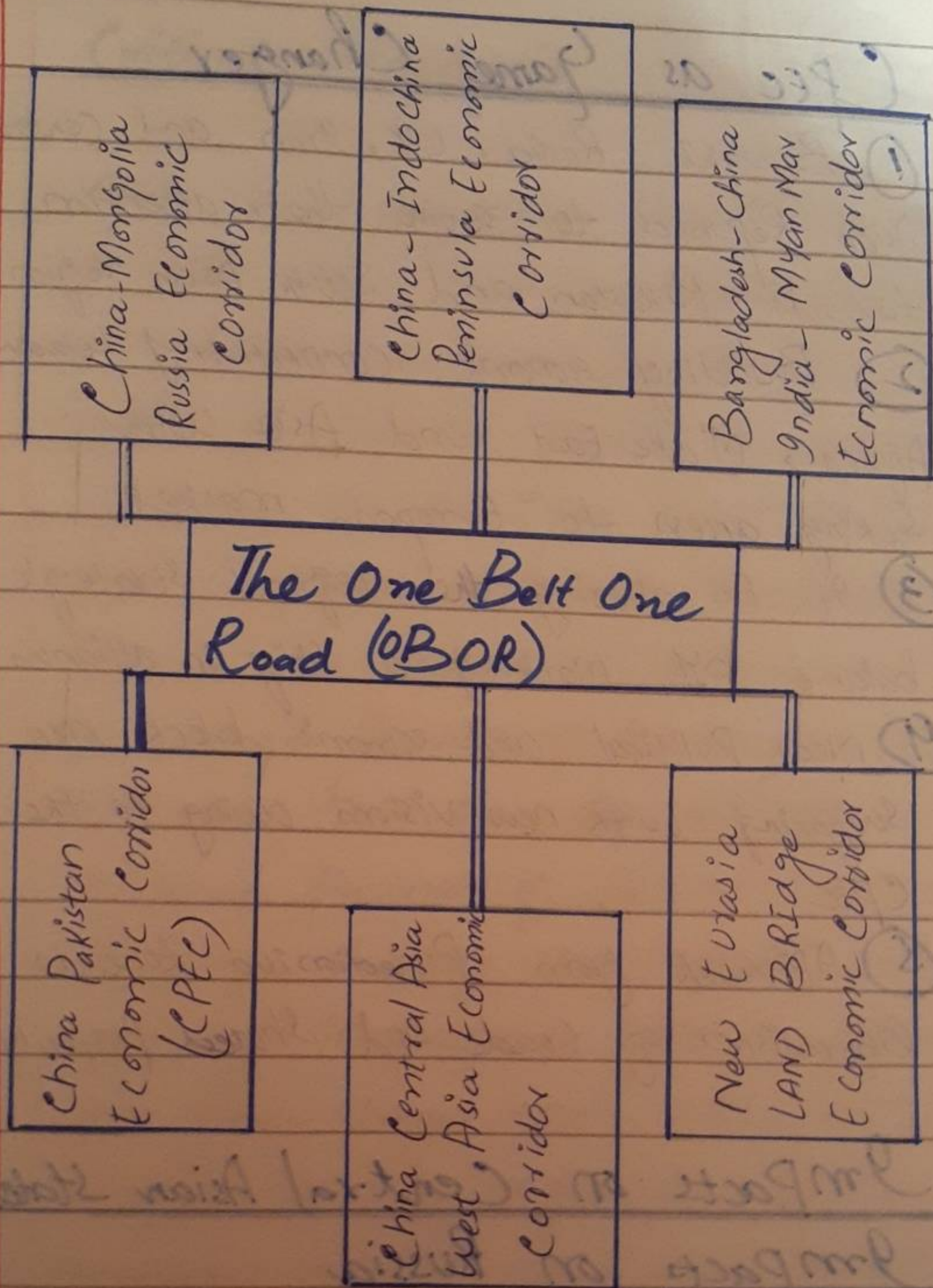
OBOR is a development strategy proposed by the Chinese government that focuses on connectivity and cooperation between Eurasian countries. Being the first of its form and now almost in practice,

CPEC not only brings the dream of OBOR into reality but also changes the economic, strategic and political status quo of regional relations.

“CPEC is an epoch-making project going to put Pakistan-China friendship and their economic cooperation to new heights”

An overview of CPEC

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is an assortment of infrastructure projects currently under development in Pakistan. The cumulative value of all CPEC projects is \$62 billion with future projects expected to amplify the valuation considerably. CPEC intends to massively improve the Pakistan economy by rapidly enhancing the country's infrastructure including modern transportation networks, energy projects, and Special Economic Zones. CPEC has significant strategic and economic importance of China and Pakistan as it links China with markets in the Middle East, Africa and Asia. Launched in 2015, CPEC is the flagship project of BRI, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) will deliver an estimated \$5 trillion worth of investment into the infrastructure of 52 countries.



CPEC as Flagship of OBOR

- ① China to reach the markets of Africa middle East and Europe
- ② Providing shortest link between three continents.
- ③ CPEC stand out to be first project that has been materialized in no time

CPEC as Game Changer

- ① Brought Russia, UK, Iran and Central Asian Republics to revive their attention towards Pakistan and South Asian region
- ② Building economic connectivity between Africa, Middle East and Asia with seeking access to European market.
- ③ It is altering the regional strategic balance by marking a shift in alliances
- ④ New Political and economic blocks are surfacing with new visions owing to the CPEC
- ⑤ Approach from Protectionism towards Liberalism of trade and Shared Prosperity.

Impacts on Central Asian States

Impacts on Russia

Impacts on Afghanistan

Impacts on Iran and Gulf States

Critical Analysis

CPEC is a long-term Plan continuing to 2030 with a total investment amounting to 54 billion US dollars. The strategic location of Pakistan provides a considerable significance to the CPEC Project because, after completion, it will remarkably improve the economic, commercial and geostrategic position of the region. It will also help the deprived and underdeveloped provinces of Pakistan via reducing poverty, lowering unemployment and reducing inequalities. CPEC is regarded as game-changer and win-win project in the region because it will generate massive trade and economic activities that will bring progress and prosperity to both countries.

Conclusion

OBOR is the long-term economic and strategic vision of the Chinese People while CPEC is the leading Practical manifestation in this regard. With its apparent benefits to China, Pakistan and other regional countries; CPEC stands out to be a game changer as well altering the regional alliances and shifting the balance of power.

Outlines

1 Introduction

2 Historical Background of Center

Province relations

3 Nature of Center-Provinces Relations
in the Constitution of 1973

4 Amendments in Constitution of
1973 regarding Center Province
relations

① 8th Amendment

② 13th Amendment

③ 17th Amendment

④ 18th Amendment

5 Change in nature of Center-Province
relations through Amendment in
1973 Constitution

① Abolishing the Power of President to dissolve Parliament

② Allotting legislative and economic Autonomy of Provinces

③ Upgrading the Council of Common Interests

④ Enhancing National Finance Commission (NFC)

⑥ Conclusion

Pak Affairs

Question 3: 2019

How far has the nature of Center - Province relations changed under various amendments to the 1973 Constitution. Evaluate.

Introduction:

Pakistan has been a federal state since the day of its creation. However, the power and authorities of the center and provinces have been a matter of debate. The constitution of 1973 was a great step towards balanced center-province relations but this constitution was not adopted in its true sense. The 8th, 13th, 17th and 18th amendments have directly or indirectly impacted the bilateral relations between the center and provinces. The latest amendment in this regard was the 18th amendment which has played a key role in bettering the center-province relations.

Historical Background of Center Province relations.

Pakistan adopted a Federal system of government after its independence but the Federation had minimal Provincial autonomy. During the independence movement of Pakistan, Muslim League supported the idea of Provincial autonomy and decided to adopt a Federal system of Pakistan. The constitutions of 1956 and 1962 assumed a Federal system of government for Pakistan. However, it was difficult to properly implement it as the land of Pakistan consisted of two territories separated by India. Moreover, many ethno linguistic factors also proved to be a hurdle towards a true Federation in which provinces have maximum autonomy. These State-Center tensions manifested themselves in the form of the separation of East Pakistan from West Pakistan in December 1971.

"Pakistan has become a laboratory for constitutional experiments" G.W Chaudary

Historical Background of Center

To overcome future problems, the constitution 1973 was designed by Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto to give maximum autonomy to the provinces. However, many amendments were introduced in the constitution from time to time that centralized and decentralized the power and hindered cordial relations between the center and provinces. The latest amendment in this regard is the 18th Amendment which has given maximum power to the province

"There are great tasks to be accomplished and great dangers to overcome; overcome them we certainly shall, but we shall do so much quicker if our solidarity remains unimpaired and if our determination to march forward as a single united nation remains unshaken. This is the only way in which we can raise Pakistan rapidly and surely to its proper worthy place in the community of nations."

Muhammad Ali Jinnah

Nature of center Provinces Relations in the Constitution of 1973

The former Prime minister of Pakistan Zulfikar Ali Bhutto drafted the constitution of 1973 which was ratified on 14 August 1973. The federal system of government was retained in the constitution of 1973. The differences between the 1973 constitution and previous constitution was that it had a bicameral legislature consisting of a Senate and national Assembly. The Senate had equal representation of the four provinces. While the seats of the national assembly were divided on a population basis. The constitution clarified the legislative relations and separation of powers between the center and provinces.

"The theory of Pakistan guarantees that the federal units of national government would have all the autonomy that you will find in the constitution of the United States of America, Canada

and Australia. But certain vital powers will remain vested in the central government such as the monetary system, national defense and federal responsibility".

Muhammad Ali Jinnah Amendments in constitution of 1973 regarding center province Relations

8th Amendment:

In March 1985, 65 articles of the constitution were amended gave the president the authority to unilaterally dissolve the National Assembly and elected governments. As a result, the center was made more powerful and the power of provinces was compromised.

13th Amendment:

The 13th amendment reverted the 8th amendment and empowered provinces with maximum authority. Under this amendment, the provincial governor was given the power to dissolve the provincial assembly.

17th

Amendment: In 1999, martial law was

enforced. Once again in Pakistan by General Pervez Musharraf. He staged a coup d'etat against the elected government of Nawaz Sharif. The 17th

Amendment was passed in 2003 which again vested the President with the right to dissolve the legislative assembly and provinces were once again deprived of their autonomy.

18th

Amendment:

The 18th Amendment has tried to rectify the mistakes made in the federal structure. It was passed by the National Assembly in 2010.

This amendment removed the power of the President to dissolve Parliament and provinces are once again empowered. Health, education, environment, and other areas were handed over to provincial assemblies. This amendment also empowered provinces financially by allocating shares for each province to the National Finance Commission (NFC).

Change in nature of Center Province relations through Amendment in 1973 Constitution.

Abolishing the Power of President to dissolve Parliament:

This amendment removed the power of the President to dissolve Parliament unilaterally. This was a major step that restored Pakistan from a semi-presidential to a momentary republican state.

Allotting legislative and economic Autonomy of Province:

The 18th Amendment has given several legislative and economic powers to provinces. Province are handed over 47 subjects including health, education, environment, and population for legislation. This has proved to be a major step towards provincial autonomy.

Upgrading the Council of Common Interests:

Council of Common (CCI) is a balanced forum that offers equal

representation to Provinces and provides a platform to discuss matters of national importance like the construction of dams, generation of electricity, education, health, and social issues. The role of the CCI was upgraded to discuss the matters of dispute with Provinces and resolve conflicts between them. Before the 18th amendment this body worked under the Cabinet Division but the amendment transferred it to the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination. Prime ministers, Provincial Chief ministers, and Cabinet members get the membership of CCI.

Enhancing National Finance Commission (NFC)

Under the 18th Amendment, the financial autonomy of Provinces was also enhanced. Each Province has been provided with a specific share in the NFC according to its population.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, relations between Provinces and the center remained complicated in Pakistan because despite being a Federal State, the Provinces were not given the autonomy which was promised before independence. However, in the recent time period, the 18th amendment tried to give Provinces their due rights and developed a support mechanism between the center and Provinces to make Pakistan a true Federation. Despite all these efforts, the relations between the center and Provinces remain volatile on this day.

"Federalism has a strong Predisposition towards democracy"

Daniel Alazar