

Date: 27/8/2024 China-US Race & Pak's Future

The US-China competition is also referred to as US-China rivalry and an important situation for world countries to join either camp. Especially developing countries like Pakistan has its own geopolitical significance. After 9/11, when US and its allies were busy in Afghanistan, the Chinese government quietly focused towards economic growth and projects. Initiatives like Belt and Road Initiatives in 2015, now 150 plus countries have joined this project world wide.

However, US sees this development as China's bid to challenge its global hegemony. No doubt, US has still influence in world politics, but the scenario is now changing. There's a difference between the US security policy and the Chinese policy. Both have separate goals and ways to lead the world. American's policy interest are 'America First', 'Protecting the homeland', 'Economic prosperity' and 'Military focus'. While China's policy shows 'Chinese dream', 'National interest', 'Regional cooperation', 'Political way' and 'Economic growth'.

The US security strategy 2022 declared China as the only major threat to its global power. And the Nato also declared the Chinese growing economic and military power as a dangerous factor to the US and Europe.

On the other side, China is investing through BRI in different regions of the world. SCO & BRICS are the platforms to reach or cover the global economic power and establish its footprints and establishing blue water navy. According to IMF, China is now 2nd largest economy in the world and it will beat the US by 2030. Chinese defense budget rose from \$65bn to \$175 in last 10 years. So, China is gradually becoming assertive and avoiding confrontation.

The Russia-North Korea defense deal and their alliances with China is clearly complicating the situations for the US. Russia-China bring together, their economic and military strengths, dedollarization aim are badly damaging the US hegemony. India is playing its cards very carefully, being a strategic partner of US, their deals with Russia and

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recently visits of European countries, to show their presence without joining a specific camp. These all efforts are increasing the chances of colobur 2.0.

Grappling with the issues of inner cohesion and fragile economy, Pakistan cannot afford a camp politics as done in the past. China and US, both are trade partners of Pakistan. Majority of imports are directly linked with china and US as largest exporter.

So, Pakistan cannot choose one country. To navigate this complex geopolitical landscape, safeguard its interest, Pakistan should use pragmatic, dynamic and flexible approach. It should build relations with every country independently. It should prioritize, states interest first and its economic condition. Pakistan must actively participate in the regional and international forums to promote its interest and build wide partnerships.