

Date: 19 May 2024.

Title: China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and its socio-economic implications for the region and the world.

Outline:

1- Introduction:

Thesis Statement: China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a corridor of opportunities. Its socio-economic implications are multi-dimensional for South-Asian region especially for Pakistan. Moreover, its widened scope and implications have posed threat to world's global powers.

2- CPEC: A corridor of socio-economic opportunities

(a) - CPEC is a pathway towards integrated ~~social~~ social and economic growth.

(Working Paper Series by Asian Development Bank)

3- Socio-economic implications of CPEC for the South-Asian region in general and for Pakistan in particular.

(i) - CPEC's socio-economic implications for South-Asian region.

(a) - CPEC is a saviour for landlocked Afghanistan. ^{trade}

(Peshawar-Kabul Motorway)

(b) - CPEC guarantees massive opportunities for Iran.

(Iran-Pakistan gas pipe line projects)

(Pak's Gwadar Port and Iran's Chabahar port).

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(c) - The participation of India in this enterprise can lead towards regional integration (Turkmenistan - Afghanistan - Pakistan - India pipeline (TAPI)).

(ii) - CPEC's socio-economic implications for Pakistan.

(a) - CPEC investment in energy sector is a relief from power shortages.
(Solar, Winds and Thermal Projects.)

(b) - CPEC investment in infrastructure development will lead towards decline in poverty.
(Development of Gwadar Port)

(c) - CPEC investment in IT sector will open avenues for employment.
(Cross-border optical fibre cable system).

(d) - CPEC investment in transportation sector will lead towards revival of railway sector.
(Construction ~~and~~ ~~upgradation~~ of Railways lines from Karachi to Peshawar - ML-1).

(e) - CPEC investment in agriculture sector is a step towards agricultural advancement.
(Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation system)
(Seed development Programs).

(f) - CPEC investment in industrial sector will attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)
(Establishment of Special Economic Zones - SEZs).

(g) - CPEC investment in Gwadar port will open opportunities for shipping industries.

4- The Global Power perspectives and Challenges for CPEC:

(a)- US perceives CPEC as an economic competitor to challenge its influence in south-asian region.

(Report by Centre for Strategic and International Studies - CSIS)

(b)- Washington views CPEC as a tool to counter US-India partnership.

(Indian Ocean: Highway for International Maritime trade).

(c)- India's efforts to destabilise CPEC to counter Pakistan and China engagement.

(Arrest of Kulbhushan Yadav).

5- Way forward:

(a)- Joint trade and commercial activities will open doors for collective socio-economic growth.

(b)- Multi-lateral projects among countries will promote regional integration.

(c)- CPEC is an opportunity for mutual benefit and win-win situation.

5- Conclusion:

Introductory Paragraph:

As the great Henry Ford once ~~said~~ ~~that~~ "if everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself." When he was writing this statement, he was not aware that in future one of the greatest economies of the world will precede this slogan narrative of Ford in form of CPEC. CPEC is a flagship project of BRI. It is not only a mere transport connections along which people and goods move but also a corridor of socio-economic growth and opportunities for the entire globe. CPEC has multi-dimensional socio-economic implications for the South-Asian region in general and for Pakistan in particular. Furthermore, it is a friendly corridor to cater the trade issues of landlocked Afghanistan. In addition, it is equally beneficial for the economic growth and regional connectivity of Iran and India. Moreover, the different phases of CPEC will not only tackle the energy issues of Pakistan but also address the infrastructure, transportation and agricultural sectors problems as well. Besides, the establishment of special industrial zones will be vital to attract

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foreign investors and to provide employment facilities. ~~Not with~~ Notwithstanding all this socio-economic cooperation and integration, some of the global powers of the world notably United State of America and India are considering CPEC as ~~a tool to count~~ an economic competitor. Washington and New-Delhi ~~are viewing~~ view CPEC and its implications for the region as a tool to counter Indo-US partnership. However, this pilot project of OBOR (One Belt, One Road) Initiative i.e. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a corridor of opportunities. Its socio-economic implications are multi-dimensional for South-Asian region especially for Pakistan. Moreover, its widened scope and implication have posed threat to world's global powers.