

CPEC is flagship project of OBOR and regional game changer. Explain

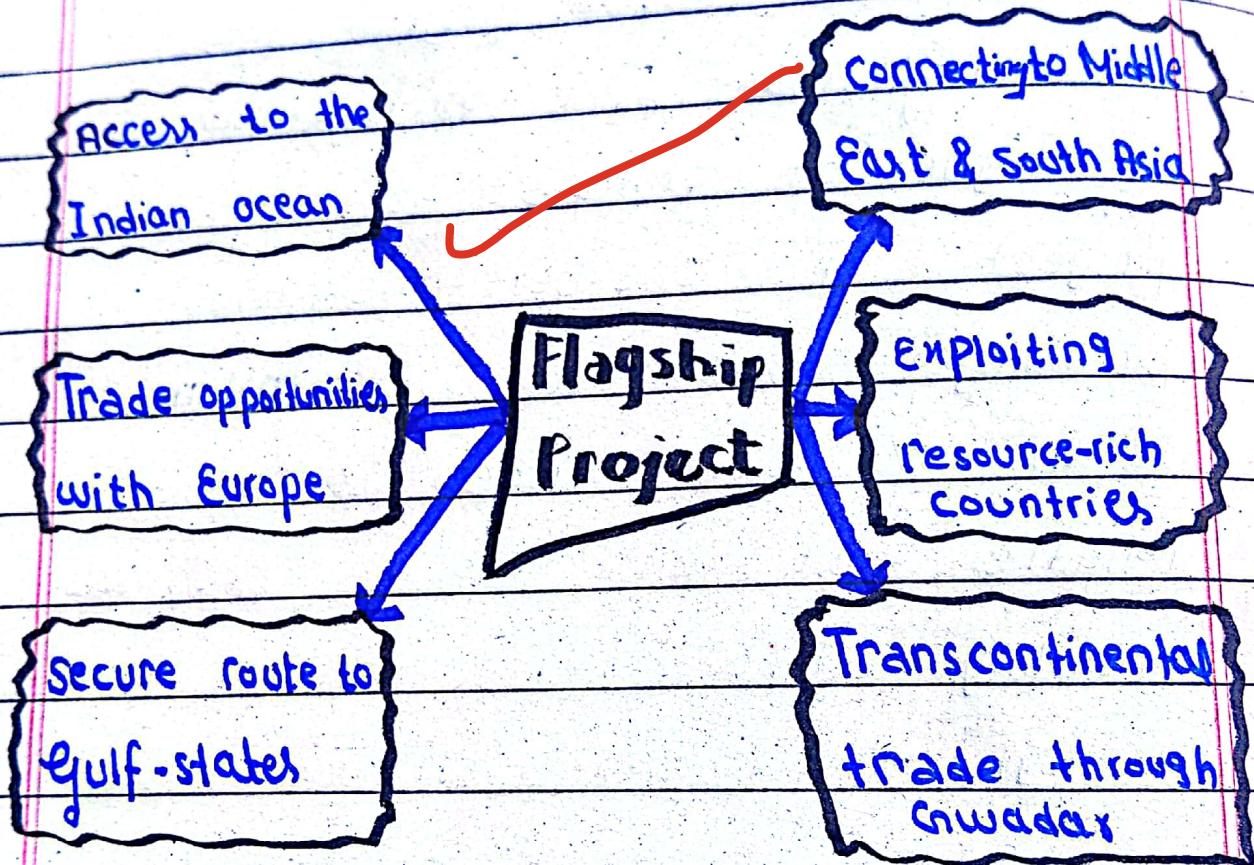
Introduction:

CPEC is 3000 km land-and-sea based project connecting the Gwadar port of Pakistan to Kashgar of China. It is a flagship project of One-Belt-one-Road, providing direct access of Indian Ocean to China, Access to the Middle East and South Asia, and enabling China to trade with Europe through land-based routes. This project has fostered regional connectivity, economic growth, socio-economic development, tourism development, increasing people-to-people interaction, increased investment opportunities, and enhanced regional security and stability.

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CPEC as a flagship project of OBOR:

CPEC is rightly said flagship project due to the following reasons:



i) Access to the Indian Ocean:

CPEC is providing a direct access of Indian ocean to china as it connects Kashgar of China to the Gwadar port of Pakistan.

"China's military and economic footprint in the India Ocean Region has been expanded over last two decades."

Source: Organization for Research on China and Asia.

This rising influence of China in the Indian Ocean has threatened India and USA and they had developed **QUAD** partnership to counter this influence.

ii) Connecting to Middle East and South Asia:

CPEC has offered land and sea based route to access to the Middle East and South Asia. China has variety of opportunities to engage with these countries to enhance trade volume of China and the regional countries.

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"CPEC has provided alternative route to import energy from the Middle East, avoiding the existing route of strait of Malacca between Indonesia and Malaysia."

Source: Council of Foreign Relations (CFR)

ii) Trade with Europe:

CPEC has provided opportunity to enhance trade with Europe.

"Deep sea port at Gwadar in the Arabian sea and robust rail and road network from Gwadar to Xingjiang in western China serve as shortcut enhancing trade opportunities between China and Europe."

Source: International Peace Research Institute (IPRI)

iv) Exploiting resource-rich Countries:

China has golden opportunities to exploit the resource rich countries like Iran in the Middle East, Central Asian Republics and Afghanistan through the secure and shortest route provided by CPEC.

"The energy imports of china from the middle east through land-and-sea based corridor saves \$2 billion per year of china." IPR

v) Transcontinental trade through Gwadar:

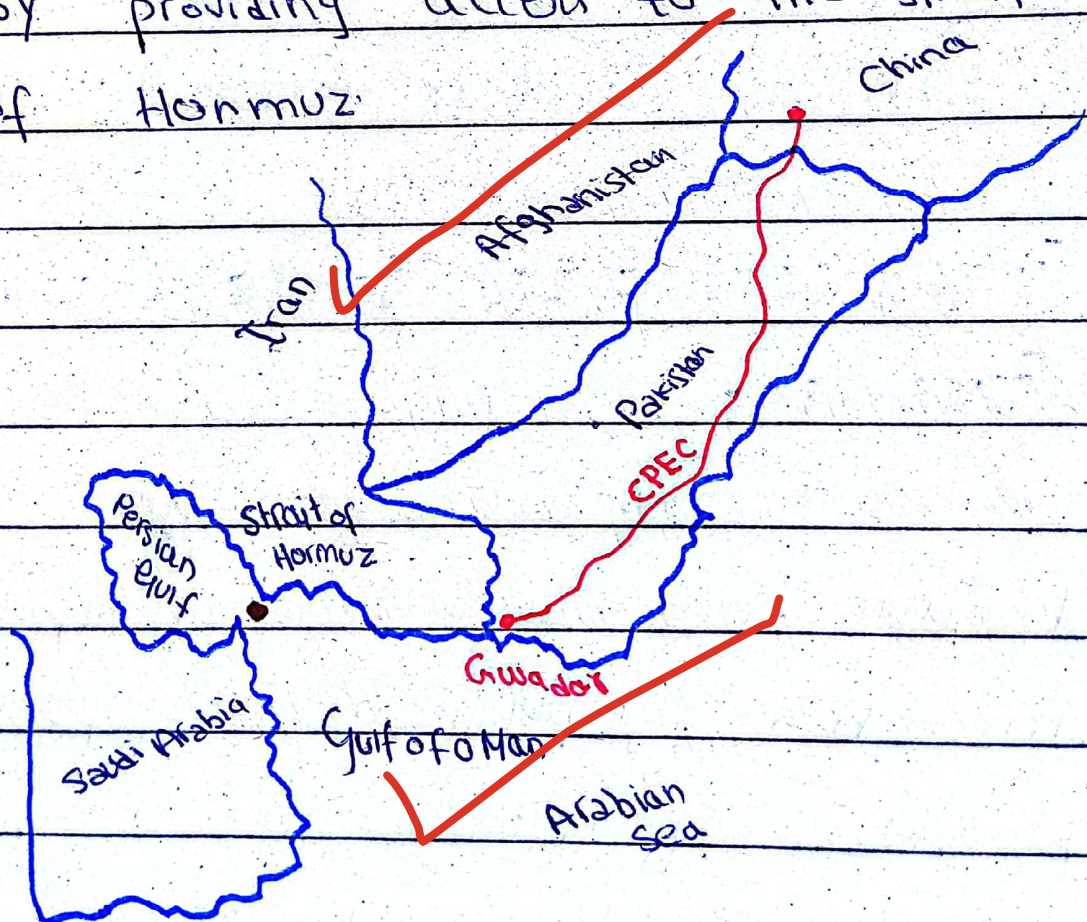
Gwadar's strategic location has become very important in the geopolitical landscape. It provides opportunities to the landlock countries like Central Asian Republics and Afghanistan.

to utilized the port and establish trade relations with the World.

"Gwadar has become trans-continental trade hub for the landlocked countries and the other World." source: ISSI

vi) Secure route to Gulf states:

CPEC is providing most secure route to the Gulf state by providing access to the Strait of Hormuz.

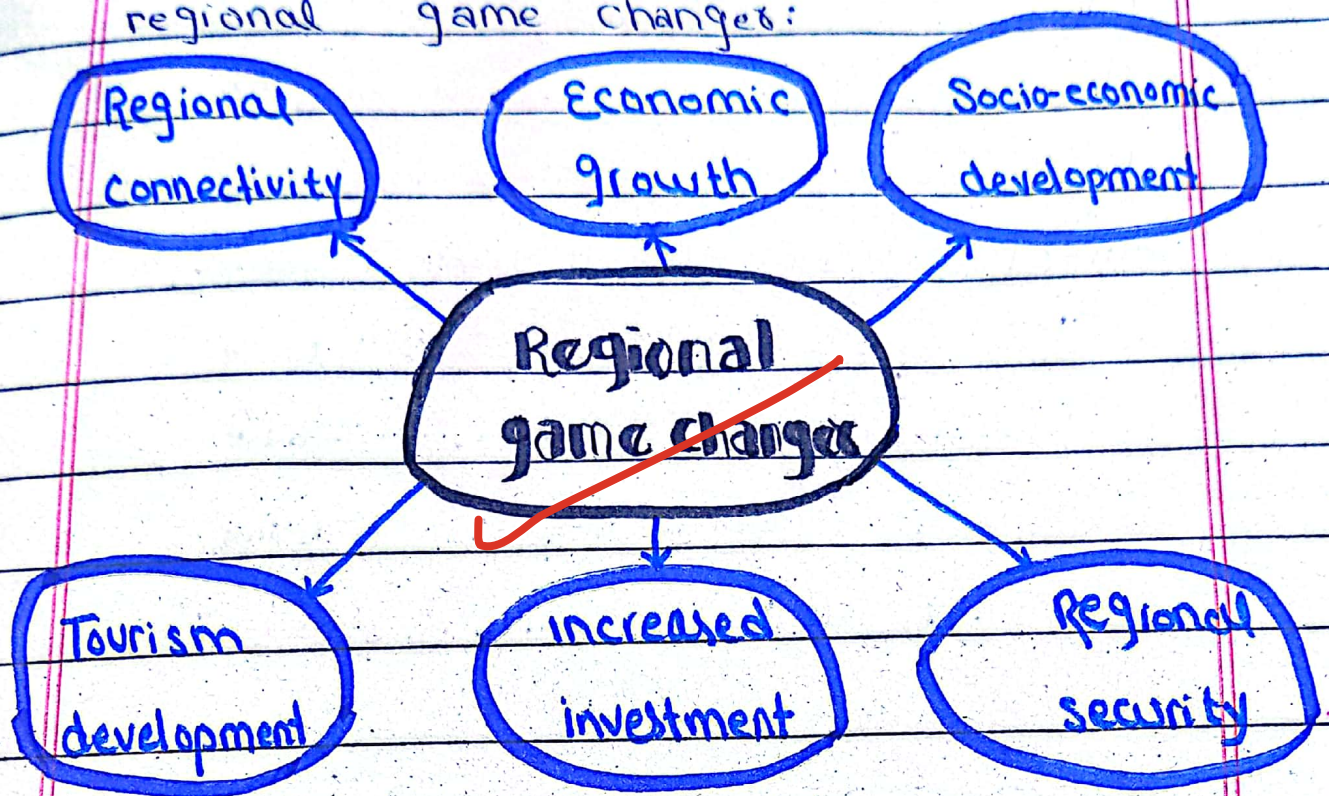


Source: Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad

CPEC as regional game changer:

CPEC has been proven

regional game changer:



i) Regional Connectivity:

CPEC has fostered

regional connectivity through the transport infrastructure projects.

"Ministry of planning, Development and special initiative has revealed that Central Asian Republics utilizing national Corridor for their trade purposes."

ii)

Economic Growth:

CPEC has not only enabled China and Pakistan to increase their economic growth but also the regional countries by providing direct access to Indian ocean.

"CPEC helps Pakistan to achieve growth rate of 6.2% because of the continuity of economic policy and stability." Source: ISSI

iii)

Socio-economic development:

CPEC has resulted into socio-economic development via providing employment opportunities, poverty alleviation projects, educational and vocational training projects and health care opportunities.

"Allama Iqbal Industrial City has generated employment opportunities for individuals."

Source: Ministry of Planning and Development

iv) Tourism Development:

Development of tourism sector especially the coastal areas is significant goal of the CPEC project to enhance regional connectivity and people-to-people interaction.

"China is investing in the development and improvement of Chawadar port to make it attractive for tourists."

Source: DAWN News

v) Increased Investment:

The development of CPEC and special Economic Zones (SEZs) has resulted into increased investment opportunities. This is improving growth level of regional countries.

"Rashkai Special Economic Zone (SEZ) has attracted the foreign investment in the country."

Source: Ministry of planning and Development

vi) Regional Security and Stability:

CPEC has resulted into regional security and stability through the engagement of regional countries into counter terrorism efforts.

"China has reduced the grievances of Kabul towards Islamabad ensuring regional stability."

Source: Islamabad Strategic Studies Institute (ISSI)

Conclusion:

In a nutshell, CPEC is flagship project of OBOR and regional game changer.

As it has increased the economic growth, employment opportunities and ensures the security and stability of the region.