

CPEC and its socio-economic Implications for the region and The world.

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INTRODUCTION

While peace and prosperity connect people, better transportation and communication infrastructure facilitate them under CPEC. Similarly, when peace becomes common good, ^{free} trade becomes the final goal. The underlying reason behind free trade and maximum benefits lie in access to markets far beyond the region. CPEC, albeit a pilot project of BRI, translates this dream of many people into reality. Similarly, interconnectedness of the three continents would uplift the socio-economic conditions of people. Better ~~stand~~ living standards, high purchasing power, and social progress and development eliminate social evils such as social alienation and crimes. In other words, social progress guarantees peace; peace increases trade and economic activities; which in turn, promotes interconnectedness. Besides from the regional incentives, altering the regional order creates divergence of greater power interests. Hence, extension and expansion of CPEC for the inclusion of more major regional actors would increase participation of their role in decision-making process, thereby, promoting cooperation over competition.

CPEC is a rail-road and pilot project of BRI that would connect three continents of the world: Asia, Africa, and Europe. The project aimed at revival of ancient silk route to facilitate affordable trade activities and flow of goods. Owing to its geo-strategic significance, Pakistan hosts Gwadar port, which would become a hub of economic activities under CPEC. Additionally, its first phase of construction of rail-road infrastructure has also benefited Pakistan while its second phase has been completed successfully. Similarly, for China, it is not only the shortest route to the resource-rich Middle East but also the revival of ancient civilizational heritage. Thus, China's investment in CPEC under BRI promotes development and social progress in such a way that it would uplift many underdeveloped rural areas apart from projecting its power beyond the region. From security point, it would prevent Malacca dilemma by using Pakistan's route. Meanwhile, the route wouldn't be used only for the Chinese export or import but other Chinese trading partners would use it too, culminating in the economic growth and increased trading activities. As a result of interdependence on Pakistan's route for trade, regional actors would prefer peace, thus, deterring proxies from creating regional instability.