



RESEARCH PAPER

Rethinking Regional Hegemonic Order: Nexus of BRI and SCO in Central Asian Region

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ABSTRACT

The study traces the patterns of changing paradigm of the geopolitical nature of the region. Central Asia historically remained pivotal in hegemonic battles of great powers and now china's enhanced regional involvement through BRI and SCO is changing traditional regional paradigm. Historical and descriptive methodology with comparative analysis of qualitative data obtained from secondary sources is used to analyze geopolitical developments for predictions. Decade long journey of BRI has helped Asian GDP substantial growth as a sign of economic development and SCO nexus of Central Asian states under Chinese patronage has shown enhanced cooperation with accelerated connectivity. Geopolitical environment is tilted in favor of Chinese regional hegemony particularly in central Asian region only if china is able to maintain regional security. Global and regional stakeholders ranging from states, business, IGOs, and NGOs should reap the benefits of BRI materialization by venturing business deals with ongoing projects.

KEYWORDS BRI, Paradigm Shift, Central Asia, Geopolitics, Hegemony, SCO

Introduction

Due to the British and Russian empires' expansionist policies, Central Asia served as the chessboard for their imperial conflict. "The Central Asian region, including Afghanistan, was a significant battleground between the British-Indian Empire and the Russian Czars in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In what was known as the "Great Game" at the time, these powers were vying for control of the area. In order to put an end to the Great Game, Russia and Britain attempted to limit one another in Afghanistan and Central Asia and delineate the border between the two regions in 1884. Afghanistan became the focal point of strife as a result of British India and Russia, two powerful nations, coexisting on opposite sides. Russians were afraid that British would undermine them in Central Asia, either through the Muslim tribes in the region or the rulers of Kokand and Bokhara. British Balochistan relied on Turkmen Heart and Kandhar to reach warm water. As a result, this great game was fought to prevent future Russian and British expansion, but the current great game is being fought to get access to the wealth or resources of Central Asian Republics. There are now more than two players, including China, the United States Russia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, and Iran. All major players in the Great Game need the energy resources that Central Asian States have to offer. The USA is functioning as the only super power and is battling to maintain its position as the global hegemon; Russia has the capacity to resurge. China is gaining strength and strives to become an economic powerhouse. India wants to become a regional power and has a huge market. Iran wants to be the dominant regional force in the Gulf. Afghanistan is crucial for the transportation of resources from Central Asia to the rest of the world. Being a nation at the intersection of Central and South Asia, Pakistan is a crucial state for having warm water ports and energy transportation routes to India and China (Shah, et. al., 2020).

China has emerged as one of the superpowers of the world after the end of Cold War. China wants more supremacy, power and authority even more than before, particularly in

the region of South and Central Asia. In the context of the neoliberal age, when the concept of superpower has moved from military force to economic potential, one cannot understand China's ambitions for South and central Asia region in isolation. China faces accusations of initiating Belt and Road project, which it is building to obtain access to multiple countries, and of using debt-trap policy against smaller states in an attempt to acquire influence over them. Finally, Beijing is able to expand investment and infrastructure, as well as promote international trade and connection, thanks to this policy, which positions China as an Asian economic hub. International diplomatic relations are supportive of the People's Republic of China concurrently. Countries in fortunate locations strategically may profit from these advantages.

21st Century Developments

Central Asian and South Asian geographical region is of prime importance in 21st century. China has largest interest regionally in this area because of its border being shared with Pakistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. China's interest can also be weighed because of its mega projects such as Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), CPEC across Silk Route. China is even a greater investor than Russia at this point of time. Russia's involvement is crucial because of her century long rule in the area and interest. Although USSR dismembered in 1989 but her interests are still very important in this region. Possibility of Russia's intensions to regain power in the above mentioned region is vivid. Recent role of China and Russia in the region is very active and in the limelight on media. Pakistan having a warm sea on one side has great importance for Central Asian states and China alike to link to middle-east and rest of the world. Central Asian countries do have opportunity to link through Iran through various proposed port to have access to warm waters for trade. (Muzaffar, et al. 2016).

This link through Iran and Pakistan warm water is closest and convenient to central Asian states as compare to other routes towards Europe which appear longer and expensive. Pakistan access to this region until Ukraine is either possible through Afghanistan or through Tajikistan but Pakistan doesn't have any direct land route with Tajikistan. There is a small land strip of Afghanistan in between Pakistan and Tajikistan which is mainly highland terrain. Industrial development in Europe brought infrastructure, communication and cultural advancements as well. These developments left a long lasting impact on modern world by creating gap in rich and poor countries of haves and have not but coupled with concept of enlightenment which supported cultural and social openness. Both of above mentioned states are the outcome of development. Asian continent is witnessing a rapid progress in all spheres of its life. GDP growth is highest in recent years compared with rest of the world regionally. Belt and Road Initiative, China Pakistan Economic Corridor and multiple other projects would bring people closer and cultures mixed. Is Central Asian region capable of digesting such speedy progress to its strongly rigid heterogeneous community with the features of lack of tolerance, fundamentalism, radicalism and extremism?

Today, the Belt and Road Initiative is a major geopolitical and economic project for the twenty-first century. The current political and economic systems might be put in jeopardy through BRI. Knowing it would help one of the most populous regions on Earth. The convergence of more than half of the world's population with the three nuclear powers Pakistan, India, and China could lead to a change in the existing balance of political and economic power. Pakistan's influence may be strong because of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a wealth symbol and tremendous potential for the country. In order to do this, Pakistan would also need to change its policies more significantly, which may convince other regional alliances to re-evaluate the limits of their own possible future expansion. This article reflects verified findings after examining the need and role of a regional organization SCO that would likely be responsible for dispute settlements and

motivation for stakeholders. It also evaluates the strengths as well as limitations of the success of SCO in its functioning.

Moreover, it predicts after keen observation of changing patterns and the modifications to directives and potential big shifts in the regional and international power structures. Success and failure in certain developmental projects highlight the futuristic features of those endeavours. Quick reactions are widely watched to examine the various countries policies which are changing on regular basis to correspond with their applications. New connections that are stronger and the resuscitation of existing ones indicate bigger things in future. This article may serve as a valuable source for researchers as well as for policy makers to articulate their conceptual frameworks and make judgments based on the findings. China can be most important country to initiate land links and give passages to bordering states. These routes and regional role of SCO is crucial in this decade to bring countries to benefit from each other. A biggest hurdle in the development of the region is the unrest of more than 4 decades of international clash in the region.

Literature Review

Lama (2007) a well-known Indian professor explains in his writings that energy security of the highly resourceful region would increase the economic growth of the Asian continent in general. Geopolitics have seriously hampered the exploitation of plenty of hydro and other energy resources which can be best utilized with increased cooperation in a secure environment for regional development.

Saber (2016) argued that economic growth is linked with decisions of business community under state guidance. Businesses play key role in bringing investment which causes economic development. Businesses do consider certain elements before entering into a venture. Demographic geopolitical structures are of great concerns for business to make decision. In order to make Asian region suitable for business, careful study of elements which attract business to operate is needed. Time, space and demographic composition are business focus.

The fate of the central Asian region has changed from the 'forgotten region' to a 'great game' with its rich oil and energy resources and strategic location. World outside Russia has discovered this huge market recently after the soviet control is lost in these states. China as the very next economic and military giant of the region wants to benefit and exploit the situation more than anyone because it considers it more rightful neighbor to benefit. (Zabortseva, 2012)

China is already the world's largest economy in terms of purchasing power, the world's largest exporter, the world's largest importer of minerals and energy, the world's largest trading country, the world's largest manufacturer, and the main trading partner of 130 countries. Meanwhile, its military spending is rising sharply; as a result, some observers argue that China represents a deeper threat to US importance than the Soviet Union. (Wesley, 2017)

Gauttam, Singh, and Kaur, (2020) they explained, the use of health diplomacy as an instrument for soft power, or the ability of one country to dominate others, is increasingly essential. In the present setting, health diplomacy serves the dual purposes of promoting health while preserving and enhancing international ties overseas. The world has witnessed an extraordinary shift under the leadership of the current president, Xi Jinping, as China strives for dominance in its foreign policy. He first examined how China has included health diplomacy into its soft power strategy and second, examined how the latter offers China a geopolitical chance to strengthen its dominance. The majority of the receivers of medical help were in South Asia. Similar to this, China has gained significant political and geographic clout in EU member states by offering medical aid during the Cod-19 health crisis

A symposium in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in March 2018 was organized to support the Afghan peace process. A resolution on "Strengthening international and regional cooperation to ensure sustainable development, stability and peace in the Central Asian Region" was then adopted at the UN. Foreign policy was given top emphasis throughout this reform wave, especially with regard to Uzbekistan's neighbors in Central Asia. (Muzaffar, et. al. 2016). The new administration took swift action to settle border and water-related conflicts and adopted a much more supportive stance towards regional cooperation initiatives. This suggests that for Central Asian cooperation to succeed and involve all five post-Soviet regional states, it must be progressive, flexible, and a kind of coordination that cannot be mistaken for a "bloc" of any kind. This Central Asian reform agenda is closely related to the present trend of regionalism. In fact, they realize that significant reforms were required unavoidably brought to light the opportunity cost associated with the lack of significant regional collaboration. Leaders in Central Asia now seem to have a common desire to revive some sort of institutionalized regional cooperation (Khan, et. al 2022; Cornell, 2018)

The development of the Shanghai Five and eventually the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) proved to be more promising, nevertheless. The SCO, made up of China, Russia, and the four Central Asian Republics always has a broader geographic focus. The conflict in Afghanistan has dominated US strategy in Eurasia since 2001. Washington's outreach to other regional actors, including India and Russia and those with which Afghanistan shares borders, was greatly influenced by its Afghan strategy. Simultaneously, "America's approach to Afghanistan and Central Asia as a whole was strategic rather than organized," and it proposed the concept of a "Greater Central Asia Partnership" for US regional foreign policy. However, since the idea was introduced in 2005, Washington has made no significant changes to its regional strategy (Muzaffar, et. al. 2020; Zakharo, 2019).

In Central Asia and Southeast Asia, which both emphasize the idea of sovereignty and maintain a cautious approach to integration, the foreign major powers are looking to exert influence. According to neorealist interpretation, external major powers have vested interests in pursuing and expanding their sphere of influence outside of their borders and have institutionalized their influence in both regions, whether by forging security alliances or constructing international economic systems. The US has played a significant role in fostering security cooperation and ideological proximity in Southeast Asia, while China's Belt and Road Initiative has pushed for regional economic integration. Both the major economic initiatives that strengthen its regional influence and the pooling and coordination of national resources and personnel in the security realm contribute to regional integration and cooperation, which would have hardly materialized if outside forces hadn't pushed for it. In order to gain leverage, nations in both regions strategically move between and interact with foreign great powers. Beijing has been concentrating more and more on fostering asymmetrical interdependence within institutional frameworks in these two regions, potentially undermining the influence of the status quo hegemony while gaining respect from weaker states that participate in multilateral regimes where policy coordination and economic cooperation are fostered (Wu, 2018)

According to Alan Lee Boyer (2006), the US objective of creating a New Silk Route is hindered by high investment amounts of regional differences that need a great deal of work and backing from governments and from fiscal institutions. This is concerning for the interests of the US and Western nations. (Boyer, 2006)

According to Boucher (2006), United States Departmental policy in the energy quest has led the country and her allies to reconstruct Afghanistan, enabling them to fully utilize the country's potential to once again act as a bridge connecting the vast steppes of Kazakhstan and behind with the major ports of the Indian Ocean and with the greater Asia

According to Verma (2006) Ten years ago, China, India, and Pakistan were energy-deficient. He believes that these nations are in competition with one another in their pursuit

of gas resources. In addition, Shiv believes that they would soon have to contend with the United States and other western nations in the struggle for dominance over energy bases.

Wu and Storey's (2008) study indicates that China's growing needs in the areas of energy and security for energy have led the Chinese to prioritize these matters and have impacted the country's foreign policy. The term energy security describes the most affordable, reliable, and low-cost energy source. The first of the four main aspects of energy security, the economic one, calls on governments to enact liberal policies that would eliminate obstacles to the effective working of markets

According to Ishida (2012), trade corridors are just another term for economic corridors. Economic corridors link economic players along a specific geographic path, but they also function as a part of larger economic hubs, such as value chains and regional and international industrial networks. In addition to linking the supply and demand spheres of market, it makes use of transportation. These corridors link the metropolitan landscapes of several states by acting as centres of economic activity and resources

As stated by Chinese President Xi Jinping, Suryanarayana (2015) argues that China's nowadays deed of kindness for Pakistan signifies a change from their long lasting friendship to all weather planned cooperative relationship, which is mirrored in the Silk Road plan. He goes on to discuss the significance of two land and sea routes, which are the 21st-century maritime Silk Route and the Economic Belt, respectively.

According to Ahmed (2011), Pakistan's prospective connections with India and Afghanistan and its present trade-oriented infrastructure are similar. Additionally, he has highlighted the business deal on transit via Pakistan

According to Liang and Wang (2020), terrorist actions have affected both the Chinese region of Xinjiang and Pakistan as a whole. He believes that dangerous Afghanistan is susceptible to potential risks of regional unrest because to the decades-long, massive inflow of weapons and terrorists from all over the world

According to Smith (2009), there has been violence and instability in the northwest Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR), which might raise the possibility of terrorism in the future. China and Pakistan have suffered greatly because of terrorist attacks, which are mostly focused in these areas

Chung (2003) notes that the hazards are becoming more obvious, despite all the benefits this big project would provide, which is what has truly spurred the desire to start it. He claims that China is a multicultural nation that might experience instability in the future. China is aware of the situation in Xinjiang, where the three threats that transcend international borders are separatism, terrorism, and extremism

Mushtaq (2011) noted that the three interrelated sub-continent ways of the Grand Silk R through Trans-Kashmir route were essential tools for fostering greater dialogues among people of different faiths and cultures. Prior to the creation of the independent countries of India and Pakistan in 1947 and the line of control, that divided the two nations in 1949, which severed ties. These avenues opened up new job opportunities and promoted the exchange of knowledge, concepts, and skills among various social groups. Mushtaq refers to the conflicts that China, India, and Pakistan waged between 1960 and 1970, which put an end to the long-standing shared advantages amongst these nations. Together with the Grand Silk Route, these regions also suffer from lost benefits

China is using SCO with the help of her member states which are rich in resources. China's role is also mediatory by bringing old central Asian states in cooperation and harmony with Russia. This would ensure mutual benefits for Russia and China. China sees SCO as a tool for her peaceful rise (Caroll, 2011).

China sees its durable presence in Afghanistan as it is essential for geo-economic growth. US and Russian presence in Afghanistan limits the easy possibility of Chinese peaceful economic rise in the region. China's Afghanistan Policy (CAP) is an important foreign policy measure of China in the recent decade. (Dhaka, 2014)

Hypothesis

"Increased Chinese influence through SCO as an Asian leader will cause opposition by regional stakeholders and would limit its role."

Material and Methods

Qualitative data through secondary source is used which includes survey reports, newspapers, articles, statistical data and research works. Qualitative method is used for the purpose of analysis and collection of data.

Results and Discussion

Central Asia

With the advent of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) or Chinese New Silk Road project in 2013, interest in Mackinder's heartland theory has re-emerged. Given the vast connections of continental powers in Central Asia, many analysts have found similarities between Mackinder's theory and the BRI. To understand the Chinese politics of the BRI project, the Heartland model is now considered the relevant reading grid. Significant research has emerged on the relationship between space and power, and research by authors such as Halford Mackinder and Nicholas Spykman in 20th century is an important part of it. The BRI has also clarified major development corridors, in which, according to Mackinder's analysis, major trans-Asian railway projects are now changing ground power conditions. The Trans-continental Railway only affects the land of the closed heart of Euro-Asia. Russia's rail expansion in Central Asia and Eurasia has been cited as a threat. After the Cold War, hostility to the Eurasian heartland once again points to the historic return of the Mackinder Heartland Theory. A new geopolitical situation in the region developed as a result of the collapse of the old USSR and the birth of newly founded Central Asian governments, all of which have a majority Muslim population. Developments in Central Asia and the surrounding areas have a direct impact on South Asia because of its geographic proximity to Afghanistan, Pakistan, China and India as well as the fact that it is a separate geopolitical entity (Warikoo, 2010).

Central Asia is blessed with the vast reserves of natural resources. The most important are oil and gas reserves. This region is reported to have been hosting the second largest energy reserves. In this region, precious metals like gold, magnesium, uranium and silver are also prevalent. These natural resources expanded the geopolitical significance of Central Asia. Regional and international organizations are putting regulations in place to manage these energy reserves in an attempt to further their own interests.

There is a growing awareness of Central Asia's geopolitical value, as well as the abundance of natural resources available for exploration and joint ventures. By November 2011, it was evident that Pakistan's regional vision could no longer be restricted, supposing that Afghanistan is a sizable territory and indeed the "Heart of Asia." A number of other nations, including Iran, Russia, India, China, the CA, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey, contributed significantly to the stabilization of Afghanistan. To broaden the Afghan-Pak strategy and incorporate several states, a new idea has to be developed. This led to the notion that Afghanistan stood for the "Heart of Asia," (Shahrbanou, 2012).

Sino Belt and Road Initiative

The project is of great importance to the Communist Party of China (CPC), so it will continue to provide full financial support. By the time China completes 100 years of independence (2049), the project will have achieved its potential according to the analysis of all partners. It will play an important role in regional connectivity and integration through Europe, Asia and a few other sub-projects in Europe. This is a difficult and complex task because it covers different nations and regions with many differences and different views on the project as South Korea and Japan see it as a strategy to gain a foothold in Asia. The purpose of the CPC is to facilitate countries in need of economic assistance to improve their performance in the global economy. Moreover, the BRI has proved to be important for China to assume global leadership. Xi Jinping continuous selection as Chinese leader in recent elections in 2023 since his first office day is a public approval for the vision carried by Xi 21st century China. Thereafter, better business and political relations with neighbouring countries will be established through equal attention both externally and globally, and land and sea links between the West and the East will be further enhanced. The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is backing the project with 103 members globally and India is its second largest shareholder. The Energy Development Fund is also providing financial support to private Chinese firms.

There has been a lot of unrest on the Asian continent in the current era. Because central Asia was accessible to the outside world, many individuals profited from the freedom of many nations from the communist international system. Realizing their prospects, states in Central Asia decided to forge new connections. War claimed lives, property, morale, and ideals for decades. Restoring each of these constituents became essential when the Soviet Union disintegrated. Being China's immediate neighbor, it already has legal interests on the international scene that set it apart from all other foreign parties. China's economy will expand if it gains an equitable share of this sector. It has a strategic advantage in terms of the military, economics, and geography due to its good location and plenty of resources. Afghanistan's central Asiatic position is a source of great worry for China. It might be the most challenging barrier to establishing and maintaining connections across different trade channels. Other significant stakeholders exist in Afghanistan, and the presence of these stakeholders might obstruct the peaceful economic growth of China. The two significant Asian regional powers Russia and China are with the capacity to control developments and events in the Asian region. It is also undeniable that America has traditionally affected the region. The major powers' economic and geopolitical systems have changed dramatically in the last several years. Growing stronger and creating, a functioning order in this region is by the SCO as a regional organization. A reduction in US influence can also be evident by nations like China and Pakistan participating in the long-term mega project known as the BRI and CPEC, which were launched without an agreement with the US. China has become the dominating economic power because of her rapid climb to prominence in the global economy and her consistent investment in the Asian region, which seem to be a very firm basis for the regional supremacy. However, it seems that Russia is ready to reclaim its previous splendor (Rahim, et al. 2018).

Pakistan, China, and India are the three nuclear powers that share close borders on the Asian continent, which is home to about half of the population of the world. They are now extremely active and it's necessary in recent days for them to settle disagreements. China actively participates in regional affairs and is becoming a more significant regional and international player. Despite long-standing doubts about India's contribution to regional security, Pakistan's strategic and geographical position has made it a vital country for the superpowers in past years. Both the security and the stability are the essential components of any expansion. The dissolution of Bangladesh, the uprisings of the Tamil Tigers, the separatist activities in Baluchistan, the despotism in Kashmir, the support of terrorists in Afghanistan, the problems in Maldives and the issues in Nepal are just a few historical events that highlight India's negative influence on the region. Based on these involvements regionally India often seems to be a conceited country willing to sacrifice others to achieve its own goals. It is necessary to examine India's future aspirations for the

region. There is an assistance provided at many occasions for distortion. India's past reflect efforts to heighten tensions and to raise conflicts as compare to progress and prosperity of the region. It is also worth discussing that what will be India's response towards the new Asia. In case, India chooses to take the region on a course that leads to unprecedented levels of development, stability, and prosperity or stays on the current one. This will determine how India reacts, positively or negatively to the SCO's growing power. The only way for development in the region to advance at fast pace progress is for China and India to reconcile. Afghanistan is becoming a secure zone for terrorists hoping to undermine surrounding countries as objected and highlighted by many states. The Muslim province in China like Xinjiang (Sinkiang) continues to face threats from terrorist organizations in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. China has highly appreciated Pakistan's support in combating terrorism as well as in sharing security-related data to protect the region. As planned, the TAPI will connect Afghanistan and Tajikistan. Cooperation between India and Pakistan might provide a significant economic opportunity, but many obstacles stand in the way. If Central Asia requires access to warm seas and a trading route to the Middle East, Africa, and Europe, then Pakistan and Iran are important nations to deal with.

Iran is building massive infrastructure initiatives as part of a regional agenda, most importantly highways, pipelines, and railroads. Tehran believes that by building these infrastructural projects to link Central Asia with world, Iran will emerge as a key hub for energy production and transportation. Iran has been successful in reaching its objectives because it has strategically taken use of its advantages and made use of its location as a regional advantage. One initiative to draw nations from Central Asia is the Iran-India linked Project in Chabahar and concurrently IPI The construction of the projected gas pipeline linking India, Pakistan, and Iran would be another new progress. Russia's engagement in Ukraine and with other neighbouring nations is evidence that it is the party with the greatest interests. Russia may have less influence over Muslim republics in Central Asia because of the instability in Chechnya.

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

The China led Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has its origins in this region. SCO is a vibrant regional organization, which rejects Western rule and supremacy in favour of establishing a new type of world relations. With the help of SCO, China has carried out these plans and provided a variety of regional activities. Beijing now has access to Central Asia's major gas and oil reserves, including those in Kazakhstan and in Turkmenistan because of multiple bilateral and multilateral agreements through SCO forums. The building of regional new pipelines to the east has accelerated due to the rerouting of this energy supply.

Due to their disparate ideologies and goals, the Asian continent's multi-cultural and multi-religious variety exacerbates conflicts between different civilizations. Its vast riches, which satisfy the needs of the whole world, have also drawn attention from other international powers. Due to several wars and other military conflicts, the region has been exhausted for a very long period. Afghanistan evolved from the bipolar globe's battlefield of mutual containment. Afghanistan is acting as a go-between for the governments of South Asia and Central states, with all of its neighbours caught up in this superpower contest. There was tension across the area because of this regional foreign dispute.

Now, China and Russia have to cooperate to address security problem in order to achieve regional economic development. The first step towards long-term development growth is to analyse security situation and the solutions available in this field. The advantages and disadvantages of other security regimes, such as the Consociational Security Order (CSO), mainly associated with Chinese plans, will also cover. The primary issue is confronting the SCO's disagreement between China and Russia on the direction the organization should take in the future. Ever since SCO is founded, Moscow has seen the SCO less as a security alliance and more as an instrument of its larger geopolitical strategy to

maintain Russia's leadership in the area and prevent other powers, first the US then NATO, from encroaching on Central Asia by creating a new anti-western organization.

Over the last ten years, Moscow has reinforced its initial security posture as the gap between its economic development and military capability which is reflected in her recent military actions twice by invading Ukraine. China's regional role in this case has widened. China, meanwhile, has started to voice doubts on Moscow's capacity to oversee security in any region of the nation. China has spent billions of dollars there because they believe it will be a significant step in preventing unrest similar to that in Afghanistan from spreading to Western China. As a result, the "new regionalism" is seen as working with rather than against the existing systemic framework and as a way for nations to mediate or manage the difficulties brought on by many transnational processes referred to as globalisation. The creation and functioning of the SCO closely resembles the criteria in which it demonstrates both soft (promotes a feeling of regional group) as well as hard (regional formalised by inter-state agreements) parts of regionalism.

The SCO is an institutional organization that has increased trade between member countries through economic cooperation. According to China, it is a weapon to counter possible US hegemony and China will never use it to undermine the security and sovereignty of other countries. The SCO seeks China's peaceful rise and use to maximize diplomatic influence and economic ties. China wants to resolve real or potential conflicts within the newly independent Central Asian states. It is using the SCO to thwart Russia's attempts to maintain its influence, especially in those states. China is trying to bring Russia and these states together with a new concept of security, so as to build trust by reducing common concerns and threats. In Chinese terms, 'Shanghai Five' was added to the SCO to compete with the 'Three Evils' separatism, terrorism, and extremism in Chinese terms. (Carrol, 2011). SCO's commitment against three evils does attract the regional states for status Quo. If these targets are achieved then regional peace can offer great deal of regional development to the area as well business activity to global trading community. China's economic aspirations with its soft power diplomatic approach under the enhanced role of SCO for regional cooperation reflect the signs of prosperous central Asia.

China, however, does not generally seek to play the "Great Game" in Central Asia and does not enjoy the "Great Game" repeating itself in the regions past. China's objectives and desire for periphery stability run counter to such rivalry and conflict between big powers in Central Asia. China has often stated that it is prepared to work with the United States to establish positive, lasting bilateral ties in this area. China thinks, two nations can work together to fight terrorism, stop drug smuggling, resolve regional disputes, and ensure energy flows and regional stability since both the countries have several shared interests in Central Asia. Sino-US bilateral trade and joint economic endeavours remained a symbol of possibilities of cooperation on multiple fronts. The same can be witnessed with increased volumes of trading cooperation in central and south Asia in future.

The SCO's agenda is framed by the ideas of China's new Security concerns, which emphasizes concepts like sovereign equality and refraining from meddling in the domestic affairs of other members. This highlights China's dominant role in the organization. This may be seen as Beijing's rhetorical window-dressing, but it nonetheless represents Beijing's choice of engaging Central Asian region on the grounds of similar interests in accordance to advance its strategic goals and avoid overt enmity from the area. (Clarke, 2011)

Conclusion

To sum up, without complete security, financial success is almost not possible. The foundations of progress are energy, safety, and security. All are essential for industrialized nations. A nation must establish plans for the energy as well as for security inputs needed for development before putting any idea or strategy into action. Unfortunately, there has long been a lack of security in the area rich in resources. An efficient structure is necessary

to promote peace and increase security. Conflicts emerged as a result of the UN's inability to keep the peace and security in a number of locations. Nowadays, there is a global search for more potent organizations to act as mediators in conflict resolution. By actively participating in dispute resolution and promoting close national collaboration, the SCO may be able to reduce the gap. There are many options, and with the US power, waning emerging international players could now be able to take the best seat for China.

SCO has been actively involved in several projects recently to help Asian countries solve regional disputes. Its rapidly expanding sphere of influence is indicative of a significant shift in China's and her allies' cooperative policies. In order to legitimate China's actions with stakeholders' approval, China would undoubtedly need to turn to an international body, much as the US, the world's hegemon, did with UN assistance during her military as well as economic expansionary endeavours. Without initially doing a feasibility study and creating a solid strategy, it is not possible to go ahead with several economic corridors and large investment amounts. The SCO's growing influence, the BRI, China's Silk Road Initiative, and the CPEC are all connected projects. The US's engagement in the area for its bigger interests may have had a greater influence on the UNO's inability to settle regional concerns, but the SCO has tried to fill the gap.

SCO seems to be fostering economic growth and conflict resolution. Over the last several years, there has been a noticeable change in federal policy toward Asia as the centre of economic activities. China will continue to maintain its dominating, more cooperative, and less confrontational posture in the area as long as it continues to participate in and support SCO decisions.

The satisfaction of other investors who have had vested interests in the area for more over 50 years is the largest obstacle to the SCO's smooth operation under China's patronage. India's hostile role might have a significant effect in a project's success or failure. The opposition of the US and its allies would also determine the destiny of the central Asian area, given their capacity to obstruct any action. International relations developments are happening minute by minute.

States are rapidly modifying their laws to take these shifting circumstances into account. In order to reduce conflicts and have roundtable discussions more often, the SCO has to concentrate more on effective mediation in bringing opposing governments closer together. Nonetheless, implementing protective measures is crucial for any business endeavour to succeed. If the global business community is unable to invest in a safe and stable environment, nothing will happen. For the vast and varied Asian area, the SCO's capacity to act as a unifying factor is essential. China's cooperation with Russia and India is critical to a sustainable and prosperous future. China's progressive philosophy and positive image might inspire these nations to seek prosperous economic development that benefits everybody. It will establish regional dominance and open the door for a worldwide regional system to potentially develop in the next decades.

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