

CHINESE INTERESTS IN SOUTH ASIA

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Abstract

South Asia possesses unique position in the arena of international state affairs. There are two nuclear states; Highly skilled manpower, abundance of natural resources; strategic importance of Indian Ocean, Central Asian States and security matters make South Asian region very important in international politics. China gives much importance to South Asia in its diplomatic and foreign policy relations. As India wants to create its hegemony in South Asia so China tries its level best to confront Indian hegemony. This paper explains that how China and Pakistan have developed friendly relationship to contain Indian dominance in the region. It has balanced the power (military and economic) and Indian threat has also been minimized. This paper also examines the role of other major powers especially USA and Russia towards Pakistan and India briefly.

Keywords: *Brownback ii, Osama Bin Laden, Nuclear submarines, Trinity, Shanghai Cooperation Organization.*

US Policy towards Pakistan

US attitude towards South Asia was quite indifferent before World War II. It gave much importance to this region after World War II. The only reason was to counter communism. Now not only USA but China and Russia also attach much importance to South Asia (Alamgir, 2011).

Pakistan expressed deep concerns about US security policy towards India after 9/11. According to Pakistan Indo-US military ties would disturb balance of power in South Asia leading to establish

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Indian hegemony in the region. When US approved Israel's arm deal with India, Pakistan showed its resentment about this deal (Nayak, 2005).

The 9/11 incident brought both Pakistan and US close to each other. Despite public opposition Pakistani government decided to side US in its war against terror. On the other hand US was also aware of the fact that this war could not be won without Pakistan's support. US's interests in South Asia are of wide range these include: stability in South Asia by normalizing the relations between India and Pakistan, restore peace in Afghanistan, to promote democracy and human rights, to combat terrorism threat and to check the nuclear weapons proliferation. With US military and economic assistance Pakistan is fully engaged in war against terror since 2001. US declared Pakistan 'a front line state' due to its geo-strategic importance. US needed airspace bases and logistic support to which only Pakistan was suitable while Pakistan needed economic help to shoulder its weak economy. On Pakistan's positive response US lifted all sanctions under Brownback ii. This war on terror proved completely different from the 1950s proxy war and 1979 Soviet war in Afghanistan as hundreds and thousands of innocent people were massacred due to suicide attacks by the militants. Although Pakistan gained billion dollars but the repercussions were quite catastrophic resulting in economic loss, downfall of several institutions and many questions arose about its sovereignty. Pakistan handed over the control of Shamsi, Jacobabad, Pasni and Dalbandin military bases to USA. Consequently, Al-Qaida and Taliban were removed from the scene. Pakistan deputed 35,000 troops on borderland and 420 terrorists belonging to Al-Qaida and Taliban were captured by law enforcing agencies. The war package given by US included: \$3 billion in economic aid and military training, writing off \$ 1 billion debt, \$ 1 billion grant and \$ 1.2 billion for arms. Despite receiving this economic aid Pakistan has to face bomb blasts and suicide attacks on daily basis. Pakistan increased the number of soldiers to 90,000 for

fighting and deployed 200000 at frontline. Till April, 2010 Pakistan suffered 8,141 incidents of terrorism. On the other hand economic assistance received by Pakistan was \$ 15 billion to \$ 17 billion. It was an average of some \$ 374 million per year. Whole country was under the flames of terrorism. Since 2002 US aid to Pakistan was \$ 8.5 billion and economic loss was \$ 43 billion (Akhtar, 2012).

US economic and military aid to Pakistan made Indian leadership suspicious so that it would not disturb balance of power in the region. After 9/11 US adopted same policy towards Pakistan as was during cold war. All sanctions imposed after nuclear explosion were lifted and restored economic and military aid to Pakistan to combat the threat of terrorism (Riaz, 2011).

Despite close relationship after 9/11 there are found some hurdles in Pak-US relationship which need to be addressed as early as possible. Due to hostile US attitude towards Pakistan a large number of populations in Pakistan often express anti-America sentiments. Drone attacks in FATA have taken lives of innocent people. Pakistanis showed resentment against these attacks. According to a survey report 60% Pakistanis deemed USA as their enemy. Raymond Davis incident in Lahore and CIA activities in Pakistan and Salala Check post incident of November 2011 in which 24 soldiers were killed raised hat redness among the Pakistanis against USA. Moreover, killing of Osama Bin Laden on 2nd May, 2011 in Abbottabad also cropped up mistrust between the two countries. Apart from this there is clash of interests between USA and Pakistan about the region. USA dislikes Pakistan's close relationship with China while Pakistan seems to be disturbed about growing Indo-US relationship. Pakistan agitated on Indo-US civil nuclear deal which may tilt the balance of power in Indian favour. Chinese interest in Gwadar Port is against US interest. USA opposed Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipe line project. USA also alleged Pakistan in transferring of nuclear technology to Libya, Iran and North Korea. Chinese cooperation to Pakistan in civil nuclear technology made USA quite

suspicious. Islamic militancy is also the cause of mistrust between the two. Pakistanis dislike anti-Islamic propaganda by America. All efforts made by USA to back hegemonic designs of India in South Asia create doubts in the minds of Pakistan. All the aforesaid factors are the main cause of mistrust between the two countries which should be resolved on top priority basis (Akhtar, 2012).

USA completely ignored Pakistan before the occurrence of 9/11 incident. However after 9/11 both became staunch ally to win war on terror (Zaib, n.d).

So these hurdles could be removed by taking several steps. People play an important role in binding the states in strong bond. At this juncture all mistrust and misunderstandings found in the minds of people should be removed. USA should adopt trade policy rather than aid to Pakistan as its policy towards India. USA should make endeavours to improve Pakistan's health system, educational system, and creation of job opportunities and strengthening of economy. USA should write off all debt due on Pakistan. The policy of dialogue should be adopted in tribal areas and Afghanistan. USA should provide help to Pakistan in curbing the menace of drug trafficking. All kind of modern weapon must be given to Pakistan to cope with militants and terrorists. USA should ease visa restrictions imposed after 9/11 to increase people to people contact. USA should adopt such policy in South Asia which could not disturb balance of power in the region (Akhtar, 2012).

US Policy towards India

The dawn of 1990s sought the end of cold war and both Washington and New Delhi decided to start a new era of strategic partnership. The whole scenario changed when India made atomic explosion in 1998 and US imposed sanctions on India. On parallel side efforts were continued to bridge the gulf and finally in 2000 Vajpayee announced a national alliance policy with US to deepen the India-

American partnership in tangible ways. However bilateral relationship got a new momentum when President Bush came to scene. He focused on strengthening strategic partnership with India. In November, 2001 a meeting held between President Bush and Prime Minister Vajpayee to enhance cooperation in various fields including: cooperation in civil nuclear and economic matters, space and scientific technology and regional security matters. US assured India that after 9/11 Pak-US close relationship would not affect US policy towards India. US lifted all sanctions from India imposed after nuclear explosion. India supported US in its war on terror and offered its bases for this purpose. Actually India wanted to get maximum benefits from US as it got from Soviet Union during cold war. These benefits in high technology later on known as “trinity” issues and steps taken in this regard were termed as the Next Steps in Strategic Partnership or NSSP. Several bilateral agreements took place between US and India regarding arms trade and defensive needs including: 12 counter-battery radar sets, a deal of arms sale in 2002 and combined military exercises. Keeping aside Pakistan’s resentment US continued its support to India ignoring the fact that would disturb balance of power in South Asia (Javaid & Fatima, 2012).

US-India strategic partnership took a new turn when Congress party came to power in India in 2004. Both agreed to strengthen military and economic bilateral relationship. Leadership of both the countries decided to enhance cooperation in these fields (Nayak, 2005).

As far as NSSP were concerned both US and India decided to make cooperation in high technology. For this purpose first agreement was taken place in 2004. Second step in NSSP was to make cooperation in the field of space technology. The most important step in this regard was Indo-US nuclear deal. President Bush signed this deal on October 8, 2008 paving the way for gaining more strategic benefits to India. After this deal India could seek the cooperation of Nuclear Supplier Group and became the member of

NPT without signing it. Pakistan severely criticized this deal as it would tilt balance of power in South Asia towards India. US ignored the criticism by saying that both countries have different histories and different needs (Javaid & Fatima, 2012).

Russian Policy towards Pakistan

Pakistan's policy towards Russia is over emphasized by Indo-centric approach, western dependence and historical legacies. Many ups and downs occurred in their bilateral relationship. There is found negative mindset in their cordial relationship. Western perception and Indo-Russian relationship determined Pakistan's policy towards Russia. There are many challenges found at regional and global level to which both countries could cope with effectively. Pakistan in the current scenario is looking for new opportunities to counter US challenges and western motives and Russia could help Pakistan to overcome these challenges. The geopolitical and strategic situation of the region demand good relationship of both the countries (Hussain, 2012).

After Indo-US nuclear deal and strategic partnership both Russia and Pakistan could come close to each other. Pak-US relations after this deal took new turn and this also disturbed power conundrum in South Asia. In 2012, President of Pakistan and army chief visited Russia to cement bilateral relationship on strong footing (Haq, 2012).

The relationship between the two could be improved and there is found a lot of potential if all the misperceptions and negative mindsets are removed. Both could enter in cordial relationship due to security matters found on regional and international level. Despite having no good relationship it is interesting to note that there is no any clash on any bilateral issue (Hussain, 2012).

Russia and Pakistan were on two opposite poles during cold war. Even after the fall of Soviet Union western motives in the region and rivalry in Central Asia widened the gulf between the two countries

(Haq, 2012).

After cold war Pak-Russia relations entered in new phase. Pakistan's policy of becoming strong ally of west in war on terror brought close to both Russia and Pakistan. Russia provided assistance to Pakistan in overthrowing Taliban from Afghanistan. Russian Prime Minister Mekhail Fradkov's visit to Pakistan in 2007 strengthened bilateral relationship. Agreements regarding improving of economic ties and promoting bilateral relationship were signed. A MoU regarding oil exploration took place on November 19, 2007 when Pakistani Petroleum minister visited Russia. However due to lack of political ties economic relationship is seemed to be sluggish and indifferent? It is shown from the annual trade which is only \$700 million. Also defense relations are very weak. A major breakthrough occurred in 2011 when Putin supported Pakistan's inclusion in Shanghai Cooperation Organization. He also assured Pakistan for giving assistance in the expansion of Steel Mill and uplifting of Guddu and Muzaffargarh power plants and developing the Thar Coal Project. Foreign policy makers in Pakistan should redirect and revise foreign policy so that mistakes committed in past be avoided. Pakistani leadership's visits to Russia in past proved very fruitful either it was Tashkent agreement in 1960s or making of Steel Mill in 1970. In June 2002, President Musharraf's visit to Russia was important in which emphasis was laid down on to institutionalize the relations. Several joint working groups were decided to establish to promote inter-governmental harmony, strategic stability and to counter terrorism (Hussain, 2012).

Pakistan through the platform of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) can cultivate good relationship with Russia. Both the countries are intended to enhance their bilateral and multilateral relationship (Khan, 2012). There are found various sectors on which bilateral relationship could be strengthened including: space technology, oil and gas, steel, energy and telecommunication (Hussain, 2012).

Although Pakistan is strong ally of USA in war against terror however it realized soon that this war could not be won without Russian support due to its influence in the region. President Musharraf's visit to Russia after Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto bridged the gulf and brought close to Russia and Pakistan (Khan, 2011).

Pakistan's policy of becoming ally of one power harmed it strategically, socially and economically. Its aligning towards USA could not fulfil all expectations and loosed other options to cite an example Kashmir issue. Moreover, it became more insecure against India who is becoming regional power in South Asia. Indo-US nuclear deal also tilted balance towards India. Despite US assurance Pakistan could not make its economy strong and stable. Pakistan's policy of ignoring Soviet Union to make its society progress and modern could not achieve the desired results rather it divided the whole society. In this regard Indian policy seems to be better who maneuvered the western democratic practices and norms in a better way. The situation could be improved if Pakistani decision makers follow a policy based on preserving national interest and rationality. All these facts demand redirecting and revising of Pakistan's foreign policy towards Russia. It should be devoid of lost opportunities and past mistakes. All the past misperceptions should be reversed. Certain objectives like Salala incident, the Afghan imbroglio, Indo-US nuclear deal and weakening of economy should be kept in mind while chalking out foreign policy towards Russia. The policy makers should give due weight age to new approaches, new readings, geo-strategic environment and geo-political situation of the region. It should be based on bold step and rational understanding. As no state in the world keep itself aloof from rest of the world so Pakistan must adopt rational approach and give importance to its national interest. While having good relationship with Russia, Pakistan must not underestimate west and USA who are playing a constructive role in Pakistan's economic development. Pakistan should realize its national security objectives and adopt even handed approach to all

great powers. There is no other alternative to Pakistan except to reform and re-visit its foreign policy towards Russia (Hussain, 2012).

Russian Policy towards India

Russia and India are good friends to each other after 9/11. Both have strategic partnership and are cooperating to each other in different sectors. Their relationship was beautifully explained by Prime Minister Manmohan Sing when Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin paid visit to New Delhi in March 2010.

“Relations with Russia are a key pillar of our foreign policy, and we regard Russia as a trusted and reliable strategic partner. Ours is a relationship that not only stands independent of any other, but whose significance has grown over time. Our partnership covers areas such as defense, civil nuclear energy, space, science and technology, hydrocarbons and trade and investment.” (Scott, 2011)

Russia fully supported India for getting benefits from Nuclear Suppliers Group and played role in making nuclear civil deal with other countries. In UN, Russia is staunch supporter of India for getting permanent seat in Security Council. Russia is providing all kinds of sophisticated weapons to India and all defensive needs of India are being fulfilled by Russia (Stobdan, 2010).

Both Russia and India have agreed to make Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission to strengthen trade and economic cooperation. Under which 11 joined working groups including pharmaceuticals, petroleum, coal industry, metallurgy, cultural cooperation, power and energy, cooperation with the regions, science and technology, the environment and natural resources and trade and economic cooperation are working (Scott, 2011).

As far as their trade relationship is concerned there is found diversification in their relationship. Russia is a good market for Indian exports. Russian technological and scientific advancement could be beneficial to India in different ways. India could be a great market for Russian raw material and energy resources (Stobdan, 2010).

In defense sector the relationship between India and Russia is very deep rooted. At that time India is using about 800 defense production Russian facilities. India has replaced China as number 1 arms importer from Russia (Scott, 2011).

Indian military has remained throughout its history under Russian influence. Under a deal India acquired Sukhoi from Russia. Several agreements took place to enhance the capability of Indian Navy at different stages. The range of defense cooperation was wide including transfer of technology to India, making of Indian equipment modern and Indian access to Russian arsenal (Foshko, 2011).

India got different kind of defensive equipment from Russia including: helicopters (Mi-17, Mi-18 etc), aircraft (MIG29SMT, SU30K, and SUMKI) and air defense system (AK630, 30mm, etc). According to another agreement Russia would provide 3000m for 42 Sukhoi-30MKI fighters. Russia also provided 230 aircraft and 50 fighters. Other equipment provided by Russia included: sensors, engines, artillery and armored vehicles (256M Tunguska) and variety of missiles. Maritime assistance included: nuclear submarines (Akula-2 lease), submarines (kilo/Sindhughosh), frigates (Talwar Stealth) and aircraft carrier. Russia not only provided various armaments rather made India self-sufficient in Brahmas missiles, radars, T72MI Tanks, anti-tank and anti-ship missiles (Scott, 2011).

Russia supported India in all its regional policies keeping in view its security objectives and geopolitical needs. India got full Russian

cooperation for the membership of SCO. There is found quite similarity on Afghan issue between both the countries (Foshko, 2011).

According to India only strong Russia could maintain power equilibrium in world politics and would pay the way for multi-polar system in the world. Under this system India could play crucial role and this seems to be main Indian 'Strategic Synergy' (Scott, 2011).

Chinese Strategic Interests in South Asia

China is fully involved in South Asian politics. Indian motives of becoming regional power are explicit to China. Therefore China supports Pakistan to keep balance of power in South Asia and to ensure peace and stability in the region. Apart from Pakistan and India other South Asian states are also very important.

As far as Chinese policy towards Afghanistan is concerned after 9/11, China gave less importance to Afghanistan which is shown on Chinese refusal to join the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). Apart from western interests in Afghanistan, China gave priority to security matters particular in Xinjiang and in general in Afghanistan. After 9/11 incident when US and its allied forces entered in Afghanistan China kept itself aloof from the Afghan issue. However China seemed to be worried about the security of Xinjiang due to its linkage with 'East Turkistan'. As Taliban and Al-Qaeda have influence in 'East Turkistan'. To China after withdrawal of ISAF International Community should support Afghanistan on five principles which are: efforts to promote Afghanistan ability to safeguard national stability and peace, backing of Afghanistan on its efforts for national reconciliation by itself, benefit and respect to all the states especially all the neighbouring states of the region, supporting Afghanistan in its efforts for strengthening its economy during this period and after 2014 and all support for Afghan owned and Afghan led process of reconstruction and peace. For the

economic revival of Afghanistan Chinese companies are taking active part. China provided assistance to Afghanistan in Aynak Copper, metallurgy, railways, steel, coal power plant, coal mines and oil and gas (Huasheng, 2012).

China and Bangladesh diplomatic relationship was established in 1975. The relationship which was weak at the early stage soon got strengthened with the passage of time. However after 9/11 China is providing all types of assistance to Bangladesh so that it could not come under Indian influence in South Asia. Actually India wants to counter Indian hegemony by developing close relationship with Bangladesh, Myanmar and Pakistan. At present China is supporting all types of arms to Bangladesh including Air Force's combat aircraft, navy's frigates and patrol craft and tanks and light tanks. Bangladesh is getting all types of military equipment from China after Pakistan. An important agreement on defense cooperation took place between the two in December, 2002. The aim of this agreement was to modernize Bangladesh military, supply of military hardware, defense production and military training. This agreement could be termed as 'Bangladesh-China Treaty of Friendship and Strategic Cooperation'. China is also developing Chittagong Naval Base. All these developments would lessen Indian influence in the region (Kapila, 2003).

China's policy towards Bhutan seems to be very cautious. Bhutan throughout its history remained under the umbrella of India. However culturally it is close to Tibet. Tibetan language and Buddhism have deep impact on Bhutanese. China is deliberately ignorant towards Bhutan for the sake of Tibet integration and stability. In this way India would not interfere in the internal affairs of Tibet (Einhorn, 2008).

China gives due consideration to all South Asian states. As far as China and Maldives relations are concerned both are agreed to curb terrorism on international level. Both are contributing to each other

in this regard. According to some reports China is taking Maldivian island Marao for twenty five years. To some quarters China would enhance its influence in the region by establishing Submarine base in this regard. When Tsunami affected Maldives China provided all kind of assistance. Several bilateral technological and economic agreements have been signed between both the countries. In spite of the fact economic relations seem to be sluggish but both are giving priority to develop tourism from 2008 (Fernando, 2011).

As Chinese policy towards Nepal is concerned Indian factor is very important. New Delhi has expressed serious reservations about increasing Sino-Nepal friendly relationship. Nepal is very important in Indian foreign policy circles. Nepal right from its beginning economically, politically and militarily remained under Indian influence. Indo-Nepal relationship got much importance due to Indian bad relationship with China and Pakistan. Indian role in Nepalese civil war put cracks in the relationship which ended in 2006 (Reilly, 2013).

The growing Sino-Nepal relationship created many apprehensions in the minds of Indian circle. China is giving military and economic support to Nepal to lessen Indian influence in the region. Contrary to India China is now becoming largest trade partner of Nepal. In 2011-12 trade between Nepal and China is USD 1.2 billion. The steps which have been taken place to gear up socio-economic relationship are: joint border management, hydropower projects and improving infrastructure and to enhance trade and tourism. Nepal relies much on China for the revival of its economy. China, on the other hand, is taking all these measure to counter Indian influence in the region (Kochhar, 2013).

Like other South Asian countries China also attaches much importance to Sri Lanka. Sri Lankan President Rajapaksa's official visit to China from 27 May to 30 May 2013 is very important. During his visit presidents of both the countries agreed on 'Strategic

cooperation partnership' between the two countries. Sri Lanka supported one China policy while China opposed the interference of any other country in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka. Several agreements relating to economy and trade were signed. These were including: agreement of free trade, Chinese easy access to Sri Lankan market, science and technology, fisheries, convention centre in Kandy and arts theatre in Anuradhapura (Asian Tribune, 2013).

Both China and Sri Lanka have entered in close military, diplomatic and economic relationship during the last few years. Sri Lanka applauded Chinese decision of supporting Sri Lanka as dialogue partner status in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). According to an agreement China would provide arms and fund for the construction of Hambantota port in Sri Lanka. In this way Chinese influence in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) would be increased manifold. Reports of Ross H. Munro and Booz Allen Hamilton in 2004 showed China is enhancing strategic relationship along the sea lanes and is making a string of pearls. The phrase string of pearls emerged after Malacca dilemma which showed Beijing's fear that in future oil routes through Strait of Malacca could be blocked (Samaranayake, n.d).

Pak-China relations in South Asia are very important. Both are strategic partner to each other. India tries to keep balance of power in its hands in South Asia. Under these circumstances China plays the role of balancer and supports Pakistan militarily and economically to restore balance of power in South Asia. Chinese pragmatic approach in this regard ensures peace and stability in the region. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif during his visit to China on July 5, 2013 said Gwadar deep sea port linking with Kashgar would usher a new era of economic development. Due to its importance it was named Pak-China economic corridor. Nawaz Sharif declared it a "game changer" for the region. China deemed it very important from strategic point of view. Beijing is taking interest in this plan to get easy access to Indian Ocean. Economically this project would be

beneficial to both the countries. China will easily import oil from Middle East and Gwadar port will be used for its exports to Europe and Africa. Now its control has been handed over to China so that it could be made operational as early as possible. Through Gwadar port Pakistan would easily export its commodities to Central Asia and Russia (Dawn, 2013).

There is found similarity of view on Afghan issue between Pakistan and China. Both have expressed deep concern over the withdrawal of US and its allied forces from Afghanistan after 2014. The civil war going on in Afghanistan could destabilize Pakistan. Both China and India seemed to be busy in investing in billions in Afghanistan to increase their influence. Pakistan is not worried about Chinese activities however India could manipulate its influence against the stability and integrity of Pakistan. Apart from this the growing Indo-China relationship would not affect Pak-China friendship. Pakistan is playing a significant role in Chinese South Asian strategy and protects Chinese strategic interests in the region. Any effort on the part of India to break Pak-China friendship would widen the gulf between Beijing and New Delhi. Pakistani government could use Chinese influence for the preservation of its strategic motives in the region (Iftikhar, 2013).

For regional peace and stability China deems it necessary to enter in pragmatic military cooperation with Pakistan under the circumstances of regional and global situation in the world. Prime minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif applauded China for investing billion dollars in Telecom and energy sectors in Pakistan. According to Nawaz Sharif Gwadar-Kashgar trade corridor which will pass through Kashmir and Xinjiang would usher a new era of prosperity in the region. He said this corridor is strategically very important as it would connect Central Asia to South. Chinese defense minister termed "all-weather" friendship of China and Pakistan as strategic choice of the two sides. Nawaz Sharif said defense cooperation between China and Pakistan would continue in future. According to

him Pak-China friendship is due to convergence of views on regional and global level, excellent cooperation and strong mutual test (The Indian Express, 2014).

Since 2002 several round of talks between China and Pakistan held for security matters and mutual defense. An important agreement took place in 2008 on military security cooperation. General Tariq Majid during his visit to China saw the progress of JF-17 Thunder Aircraft Project and construction of F V 22 P Frigates for Pakistan Navy (Awaz, 2008).

As far as defense cooperation is concerned both China and Pakistan have a time tested friendship that has stood the vicissitudes of global changes since the last many decades. Their defense cooperation is very comprehensive and deep rooted encompassed to various areas of defensive and strategic needs. China is giving all kind of assistance to modernize defense industry of Pakistan. JF-17 Thunder aircrafts made with Chinese assistance have made Pakistan Air Force very strong to combat with the challenges of modern times. To equip JF-17 fighters Pakistan got Chinese radar systems and SD-10 mid-range homing missiles. China is also providing assistance for the enhancement of the Fighter China-1 (FC-1). F-6 plans are being prepared in Pakistan with Chinese assistance. Pakistan got A5, F-7P, FT5, K-8 and F-7PG aircraft from China. China also gave Air Force Awacs aircraft, Air Force JF-17 Thunder, FC-20 aircraft and Pakistan Navy F-22P frigates. PAF is interested in to buy Chinese airborne warning and control system (Awacs) and J-10 fighters. All these facts show China and Pakistan have strong military and defense cooperation (Khan, 2014).

Thus it is only China which can play the role of balancer in South Asia to ensure peace and stability in the region. The circumstances after Indo-US nuclear deal also demanded this role of China in the region. Pakistan takes China as savior and appreciates its positive and constructive role to check hegemonic designs of India in South

Asian region. Nevertheless India tries its best to weak Pak-China friendship through propaganda machinery but its efforts ended in fail badly. Both China and Pakistan are quite aware of the fact that India is spending huge amount on purchasing of lethal weapons which would disturb balance of power and paving the way for establishing Indian hegemony in the region. India is also manipulating all its resources to persuade USA and West to hold its supremacy in South Asia (Sukhanver, 2013).

Conclusion and Recommendations

In South Asia China's policy towards India is also very important as far as its strategic interests are concerned. China seems to be well awarded about Indian aspirations of becoming global power. On global level Indian ambitions include: getting of legitimate status of nuclear power, permanent membership of UN Security Council, enhancement of its prestige at global level and economic development. Chinese reaction on these issues is different. China positively supports India's role in UN affairs however it is not clear about supporting India in getting permanent seat of UNSC. On nuclear issue China does not support Indian stance of becoming member of nuclear club. Keeping in view geo-political condition of the region and Indian desires at global level are also in the mind of China. To settle border dispute several round of talks held but ended in fail (Li, 2010).

The relationship between China and India is uneasy at present due to nuclear and missile program. China showed its resentment on Indian quest for nuclear capability, long range missiles Agni-V and Agni-V1 and control over Indian Ocean. There is found 4000 Km disputed territory between the two. All these facts compelled China to forge close relationship with Pakistan while forced India to become close friend of Russia. Despite Chinese opposition on nuclear issue India concluded nuclear civil deal with USA. According to China this deal would disturb power equilibrium in

the region and would lessen Chinese influence in South Asia. On the other hand Indian point of view was that this deal was necessary due to Chinese continuous support to Pakistan which had disturbed balance of power in South Asia. India showed its reservations about Chinese “String of Pearls” politics, its growing relationship with Pakistan and construction of bases in Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Bangladesh. To counter Chinese influence India cultivated good relationship with South Korea, Japan, Singapore and United States. All issues including geo-political condition of the region, oil exploration, sea route and other matters depict there is found cold war between India and China as it was between Soviet Union and United States (Basrur, 2013).

To India China’s growing relationship with Pakistan is the main hurdle in good relationship of India and China. India takes Pak-China relationship to check Indian hegemony in South Asian region. Also this strategic partnership is against India. However facts show more Chinese inclination towards Pakistan than India. China has deep rooted and strategic partnership with Pakistan. There is also competition between China and India to enhance their influence among the other countries of the South Asia (Li, 2010). It becomes clear that China is very important country who is playing an important role not only in South Asia rather at the international level as well. Various factors enable it to perform this role. China has got tremendous progress in different sectors that paved the way for its gigantic role in the regional as well as international level. As far as US policy towards South Asia is concerned it revolved around US national interest. Pakistan in this region remained strong ally of USA either it was the matter of cold war or terrorism. However, facts revealed that US used Pakistan only for its national interest. On the other hand Russia always gave much importance to India in South Asia as compare to other countries of the region. India enjoyed good relationship with Russia during cold war and also after the end of cold war. It is recommended that regional politics

should be promoted. China, Pakistan, India and other regional countries should take steps to make it economic zone like European Union. So, tax free zone will be more effective in this regard.

Pak-Russia relations could be made better if all mistakes and errors committed in past be averted. Pakistan should focus on the lost opportunities and manipulates all the resources to enhance bilateral relationship.

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